



## Our Lady of Abundance

# ACTIVITIES



## For Primary Grades

### Materials Needed:

- Costumes and props (*optional*)
- Nine half sheets of poster board, each containing one letter of the word “Abundance”
- An envelope containing small pieces of paper with the letters of the word “abundance” (*one letter for each child; duplications are fine*)
- Large sheets of drawing paper, one per child
- Paints or crayons and markers

### Faith Connection

#### Before Telling the Story

1. Ask the children if they know the meaning of the word abundance.
2. Invite the group to brainstorm things they have in abundance. List their thoughts on the white board or flip chart.
3. Explain to the children that today’s story is about Mary, Our Lady of Abundance. Invite them to listen to the story.

#### Telling the Story

Tell in your own words the story of Our Lady of Abundance. This is an excellent story to dramatize, with costumes and props as suggested by the text.

#### After Telling the Story

1. Invite volunteers to name their favorite parts of the story of Our Lady of Abundance.
2. Recall the role the women of Cursi played in the story. (*They began to pray to Mary for help.*)
3. Recall the role the shepherd, Baglio Natali, played in the story. (*He listened to Mary; he shared Mary’s message with the pastor; he changed his way of life so that he could serve the Church.*)

4. Recall the role the pastor played in the story. (*He believed what Baglio told him; he gathered the members of the parish to process to the place where Mary had appeared to Baglio.*)

### **Putting Faith into Action**

1. Explain that all of the people in the story put their faith into action. The women prayed. Baglio listened, shared the message, and changed his way of life. The pastor believed and led his parishioners to the spot where Mary had appeared. And at that spot, all of the parishioners knelt and prayed.
2. Invite the children to recall what happened because all of the people had faith and prayed. (*It rained; the crops filled the barns to overflowing.*)
3. Ask what the people did to show their thanks. (*They built a church at the place where Mary had appeared to Baglio, and when the church burned down, they built a new church.*)
4. Brainstorm with the children ways they can and do put their faith into action too. (*Pray, go to Mass, help others, read the Bible, receive the Sacraments, and so forth.*)
5. Create a poster or bulletin board titled “We Put Our Faith into Action” that contains a list of all of the suggestions the children offer.

## **Curriculum Connection: Math and Language Arts**

### **Before Telling the Story**

1. Before telling the story, play a game of “True or False.”
2. Invite volunteers to come to the front of the group and state, “I have an abundance of \_\_\_\_\_.” Allow the volunteers to decide what word they will use to fill in the blank—cats, stuffed animals, marbles, patience, money, pencils—the goal is to stump the group.
3. Invite the group to guess whether the volunteer’s statement is “true” or “false.”
4. Play until all who wish have had a turn or two.

### **After Telling the Story**

1. Recall the meaning of the word abundance.
2. Write the letters of the word abundance on the white board or flip chart.
3. Brainstorm things that begin with the letters, such as apples, bananas, umbrellas, nickels, and so forth. Write the children’s ideas on the white board or flip chart. After adding each item to the list, ask, “Can you have an abundance of (*apples*)?”
4. Invite each child to draw a letter from the envelope (*see Materials*).
5. Explain to the children that they are to think of something that begins with the letter they have chosen, using ideas listed on the white board or flip chart, or ideas of their own. Then they are to use the drawing paper and art supplies (*see Materials*) to draw an abundance of their chosen item. When they finish their drawings, they are to count how many of their items they drew (*for example, 27 apples or 104 nickels*), but to keep their counts a secret.
6. While the children are drawing, post the poster board letters of the word abundance, leaving space for the children to hang their finished artwork near the appropriate letters.
7. Invite the children to share their drawings with the group, and to invite the others to guess how many of items each child drew.
8. Display the artwork.

### **And Furthermore . . .**

Review with the children the list of things they have in abundance (*see Before Telling the Story*). Suggest taking up a collection of some of those things—especially toys and games, books, and clothing—for a parish or community outreach to children and families.