

# For Intermediate Grades

## Materials Needed:

- Costumes and props *(optional)*
- Reflective music for prayer time
- Small strips of paper and pencils or pens
- A basket
- A statue or image of Mary *(placed on your classroom prayer table)*
- Half sheets of poster board *(one per young person)*
- Glue sticks or glue and heavy tape
- Small-sized recyclable materials such as paper goods, bottle caps, plastic silverware, tin foil, cardboard boxes, packaging, and so forth

## Faith Connection

### Before Telling the Story

Ask the young people if they've ever found a treasure in the trash or on a sidewalk or in a parking lot. What was the treasure? Why did they want to keep it? Do they still have their treasures?

### Telling the Story

Tell in your own words the stories of Our Lady of Good News. These would be excellent stories to dramatize, with costumes and props as suggested by the text.

### After Telling the Story

1. Invite volunteers to name the treasure that the traveler discovered. *(The board with the image of Our Lady of Good News)*
2. Ask what was special about the treasure. *(Welcome all replies, but emphasize that the man could not break it, the treasure became more beautiful as the archbishop cleaned it, and prayers were answered and miracles happened for many people who prayed before the image.)*
3. Ask the children what is the message of the story of Our Lady of Good News for us today. *(Welcome all responses, and suggest messages such as: hard work pays off, always stop to take a second look at something before you just get rid of it, and you never know what you'll find.)*

### Putting Faith into Action

1. Ask the young people when in the story the image became its most beautiful. *(When the archbishop put extra effort into cleaning it even more than the traveler had)*
2. Invite the young people to suggest what we can learn from the archbishop's example. *(Welcome all responses, and suggest: see the beauty in all things; arriving at what is truly beautiful takes time and effort; treat what is precious with respect and care.)*
3. Play some reflective music and ask the young people to spend time in prayer, thinking about things in their lives—and people in their lives—they need to give more care and attention to.

4. Invite the young people to write their prayers on the slips of paper you have provided, and to place their prayers in the basket at the foot of the image of Mary on your prayer table.
5. Conclude by inviting a young person to hold the basket of prayers high as you pray, "Our Lady of Good News, pray for us!"

## Curriculum Connection: Art

### After Telling the Story

1. Display all of the recyclable materials you have gathered for today's project.
2. Recall with the young people that the image of Our Lady of Good News was originally in a pile of scrap wood, meant to be burned. Explain that all of the recyclable materials are things that are normally thrown out too.
3. Remind the young people that just as the scrap piece of wood turned out to have a beautiful image of Our Lady of Good News, the recyclable materials before them can turn out to be something beautiful.
4. Invite the young people to use poster board as a base for making original creations from the recyclable materials.
5. Display the finished creations, labeling the display, "Give it a Second Chance!"

### And Furthermore . . .

Just for fun, have the young people work in groups of four or five. Invite each group to choose three items from the recyclable materials table. It is fine if groups choose the same or similar items. Give the young people fifteen minutes to identify five to ten uses for each of the recyclable items they chose. Invite the small groups to share their suggestions with the entire class.