

For Junior High

Materials Needed:

- The “Recycle” page from the Laudato Si’ Catholic Resource at rclbenziger.com
- Supplies (if needed) for the “Recycle” activity you choose (from *Laudato Si’*)
- Recyclable materials such as aluminum cans, bottles, paper goods, bottle caps, plastic silverware, tin foil, cardboard boxes, packaging, plastic bags, and so forth
- Glue, strong tape, paper clips, twine, and brads
- Paints and markers (optional)
- Additional art supplies (optional)

Faith Connection

Before Telling the Story

Ask the young people if they’ve ever gone through their belongings and found a treasure—something precious to them that they’d forgotten they had. Invite them to share their experiences, and ask if they still have their treasures.

Telling the Story

Tell in your own words the stories of Our Lady of Good News.

After Telling the Story

1. Invite the young people to share the most interesting or unusual details they heard in the stories.
2. Ask the young people what lessons we can learn from the stories of Our Lady of Good News. (*Welcome all responses, and suggest: we can find treasure—something of meaning and value—anytime and anywhere; sometimes we don’t know what we have; sometimes it takes effort to find what is truly beautiful and precious; and we need to treat what is beautiful and precious with care.*)

Putting Faith into Action

1. Explain to the young people that one of God’s greatest, most precious gifts to us is the gift of creation, especially the gift of people. God gave us the responsibility of caring for all that he created.
2. Further share that Pope Francis wrote about caring for creation in his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si’*.
3. With the young people, do the activity or activities you have chosen from the *Laudato Si’* Catholic Resource at rclbenziger.com.

Curriculum Connection: Art

After Telling the Story

1. Recall with the young people that from a dirty board meant for firewood came a beautiful image of Our Lady of Good News. Remind them that uncovering the full beauty of the image took the extra effort of the archbishop.
2. Explain that the recyclable materials, like the board, were meant to be discarded. Invite the young people to work in groups of three to discover what beauty can come out of the recyclable materials.
3. Instruct the young people to create sculptures out of the materials, using the clips, brads, tape, glue, and twine to hold together their creations. They may use paints, markers, and other art supplies (*if available*) to decorate their work.
4. Once the sculptures are completed, invite the young people to name their sculptures and to share the Good News their sculptures are bringing to the world today. Encourage them to be creative!
5. Invite the small groups to share their creations and their stories with the entire class.

And Furthermore . . .

Use mural paper or butcher paper to create a graffiti wall in your classroom. Invite volunteers to write the heading “Good News” somewhere on the graffiti wall in large letters. In the coming week, encourage the young people to write on the wall any bits of good news they hear—a compliment, a Scripture quote, something they read, a news headline, a song lyric. At the end of the week, take time to share together the Good News recorded on the graffiti wall. Conclude by praying, “Our Lady of Good News, pray for us!”