



## Our Lady of Good News

# ACTIVITIES



## For Primary Grades

### Materials Needed:

- Costumes and props (*optional*)
- Reflective music for prayer time
- Drawing paper and crayons or colored markers
- Small odds and ends of colored papers and trims; odds and end buttons and bottle caps; any small bits of potential collage materials that might be considered not worth keeping
- Half sheets of poster board (*one per child*)
- Glue sticks or glue and heavy tape

### Faith Connection

#### Before Telling the Story

Ask the children 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, as is appropriate for the age of the children you are teaching. The stories of Our Lady of Good News 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 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 that one message might be to always take a second look at things, including people!*)

### **Putting Faith into Action**

1. Remind the children that God created everything that is, including people. In the Bible, in the Book of Genesis, it says that as God created each part of creation, "God saw that it was good." (*See Genesis 1:10.*) God asks us to see everything he created as good too!
2. Play some quiet, reflective music and invite the children to quietly think about all of the beautiful things God has created and all of the beautiful people who are a part of their lives.
3. Have the children draw one of the things or people they thought about.
4. Invite volunteers to share what they have drawn, and display the drawings in the classroom or in the hallway. Label the display, "God saw that it was good!"

## **Curriculum Connection: Art**

### **After Telling the Story**

1. Display all of the art materials you have gathered for today's project.
2. Recall with the children 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 art materials they see are things that would normally be thrown out too.
3. Remind the children that just as the scrap piece of wood turned out to have a beautiful image of Our Lady of Good News, the scrap materials before them can turn out to be something beautiful.
4. Invite the children to use poster board as a base for making beautiful pictures and images and creations using the art materials that would normally have been thrown away.
5. Display the finished creations, again labeling the display, "God saw that it was good!"

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

Just for fun, challenge the children to choose one item on the art materials table or from the classroom recycle bin that would be something they would normally throw away. As a class, brainstorm three to five ways that item could be reused or repurposed. Invite several volunteers to choose items, and continue the brainstorming session.