

# For Intermediate Grades

## Materials Needed:

- **Several images of Mary** (under various titles, such as *Seat of Wisdom, Star of the Sea, Our Lady of Guadalupe*; statues; stained glass windows; *Madonna and Child* from various cultures; icons; *Immaculate Heart of Mary*; and so forth)
- **Costumes and props** (optional)
- **Print or internet access to copies of recent and current parish bulletins and diocesan newspapers**
- **Internet access or print resources on Catholic Campaign for Human Development** ([usccb.org](http://usccb.org)); **Catholic Relief Services** ([crs.org](http://crs.org)); **Unbound** ([unbound.org](http://unbound.org)); **Maryknoll missionaries** ([Maryknoll.org](http://Maryknoll.org)); and **your diocesan Social Justice, Family Life, and/or Migrant Ministries offices**

## Faith Connection

### Before Telling the Story

1. Ask the young people if they have statues or images of Mary in their homes. Invite them to describe the images and to tell where the images are located.
2. Show the images of Mary you have prepared (see *Materials*) and name the title of Mary depicted in each image. Invite the young people to discuss how the titles are reflected in the artistic representations.
3. Remind the young people that images and statues of Jesus, Mary, and the saints remind us that they are praying for us and watching over us, and that we are all a part of the Communion of Saints.
4. Invite the young people to listen to a story of Mary, honored by the title of Our Lady of the Abandoned Ones.

### Telling the Story

Tell the story in your own words, as is appropriate for the age of the young people you are teaching. This would be an excellent story to dramatize, with costumes and props as suggested by the text.

### After Telling the Story

1. Ask volunteers to explain why a statue of Our Lady of the Abandoned Ones was important for the home. (*The home was for abandoned children; the statue was a reminder that Our Lady was watching over them and protecting them.*)
2. Invite the young people to say who they think the three teenagers could have been. (*Welcome all suggestions.*)
3. Ask the group what messages the story teaches. (*For example, the importance of religious images, how our prayers are answered in unexpected ways, how our talents can be used for the glory of God, how Mary watches over us all, and so forth*)

## Putting Faith into Action

1. Invite the young people to work with partners. Give each pair of students at least one copy each of a parish bulletin and diocesan newspaper, or invite them to access the materials on the internet.
2. Have the young people search the bulletins and diocesan papers for examples of ways the Church is caring for the abandoned ones of today—those in need of homes, food, medicine, and care. Invite each pair of students to prepare a short report on their findings.
3. Invite the sharing of reports. Lead a class discussion of the students' findings.
4. If possible, decide on a class outreach that would benefit abandoned children, such as a toy drive or book collection for a local orphanage, children's home, or family shelter.

## Curriculum Connection: Math and Social Studies

### Before Telling the Story

1. Take the young people on a walk through your parish church, school, or religious education center.
2. Invite the young people to work with partners to count the number of images of Mary they see while on the walk. Have them organize their count according to the types of artistic representations: statues, icons, stained glass windows, paintings, tapestries, and so forth.
3. When you return to the classroom, discuss the types of artistic representations the young people saw and compare counts.
4. Invite the young people to name and describe their favorite images. Ask what images they saw that they have never noticed before.

### After Telling the Story

1. Invite the young people to work in small groups to research one Catholic outreach that ministers to the abandoned ones in the world today. Assign each group a ministry, such as your diocesan Social Justice, Family Life, or Migrant Ministry office; Catholic Campaign for Human Development ([usccb.org](http://usccb.org)); Catholic Relief Services ([crs.org](http://crs.org)); Unbound ([unbound.org](http://unbound.org)); and Maryknoll missionaries ([Maryknoll.org](http://Maryknoll.org)).
2. Ask the groups to prepare ten- to fifteen-minute presentations on their chosen or assigned ministries and to include what the ministry does, what countries it serves, what ages it serves, and ways that young people can help the ministry. Encourage the young people to prepare a digital display or poster that shows some of the people served by the ministry and some of the projects currently supported by the ministry.

### And Furthermore . . .

Mount several of the images of Mary (*see Materials*) on foam board or poster board. Place different images on your classroom prayer table throughout the year. Each time you present a new image, remind the young people of the title of Mary depicted in the image. Use that title in classroom prayer. For example: Our Lady of the Abandoned Ones, pray for us!