



Our Lady of the Abandoned Ones ACTIVITIES

For Primary Grades

Materials Needed:

- **Ten or more 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)
- **A copy of *The Elves and the Shoemaker*** (several age-appropriate versions are available)

Faith Connection

Before Telling the Story

1. Ask the children how many of them have statues or images of Mary in their homes. Invite them to describe the statues or images and to tell where those statues or images are located in their homes.
2. Show the images of Mary you have prepared. Ask the children to name their favorites and to tell why those are their favorites.
3. Explain that statues and images of Jesus, Mary, and the saints remind us that they are with us, praying for us, and watching over us.
4. Invite the children to enjoy the story about the statue 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 children 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. Invite the class to say together the name of the statue described in the story.
(*Our Lady of the Abandoned Ones*)
2. Ask a volunteer to tell the meaning of the word abandoned. (*Left behind; deserted*)
3. Ask why a statue of Our Lady of the Abandoned Ones was important for the home.
(*It was a home for abandoned children; the statue was a reminder that Mary was with them, protecting them and watching over them*)

Putting Faith into Action

1. Remind the children that the teens in the story had no money to offer the home, but they had talents to share to help the home.
2. Invite the children to think about the talents God has given to them. Encourage the children by pointing out the talents you see in each of them too.
3. Ask the children how they can use their talents to help others and to serve God.

Curriculum Connection: Math and Language Arts

Before Telling the Story

1. Take the children on a walk through your parish church, school, or religious education center.
2. Invite the children to work with partners to count the number of images of Mary they see while on the walk.
3. When you return to the classroom, compare counts.
4. Invite the children to name and describe their favorite images.

After Telling the Story

1. Read aloud the story of The Elves and the Shoemaker.
2. Draw two columns on the white board or flip chart. Name one column "Alike" and the other column "Different."
3. Ask the children to think about the stories of Our Lady of the Abandoned and The Elves and the Shoemaker. How are the stories alike? How are the stories different? Record their responses in the columns on the board.
4. Review the children's responses.

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 children 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!