



Our Lady of the Candles

ACTIVITIES

For Primary Grades

Materials Needed:

- Costumes and props (*optional*)
- Internet examples/demonstrations of the Whistle Language still used on the Canary Islands

Faith Connection

Before Telling the Story

1. Ask the children if they've ever found or seen something and wondered, "How did that get there?" Encourage them to share their experiences. Be sure to share an example of your own.
2. Invite the children to listen for two things that got to the island without anyone knowing how they did so. (*"How did that get there?"*)

Telling the Story

Tell in your own words the story of Our Lady of the Candles, as is appropriate for the age of the children you are teaching. The story of Our Lady of the Candles would be an excellent story to dramatize, with costumes and props as suggested by the text.

After Telling the Story

1. Invite volunteers to name their favorite parts of the story of Our Lady of the Candles.
2. Invite volunteers to name the two things that got to the island without anyone knowing how they did so. (*The statue and the candles*)
3. Ask the children who they think were the beings of light. (*Welcome all suggestions.*)

Exploring Our Catholic Faith

1. Explain that many think the beings of light in the story were angels of God.
2. Invite the children to share what they know about angels. (*Welcome all responses.*)
3. Remind the children that God gives every person a guardian angel. Guardian angels protect us and guide us.
4. Teach or review with the children the Angel of God prayer. Encourage them to pray this prayer often.

Curriculum Connection: Language Arts

After Telling the Story

1. Share with the children that the Canary Islands are known for many things, including the use of a Whistle Language.
2. Play for the children examples of this language (*several examples are available online*).
3. Ask if they would like to speak using a whistle language, and why or why not.
4. Explain that the language was developed so that people far away from each other could hear each other. (*Whistles carry, spoken words do not.*) If it's a beautiful day, take the children outside and prove this theory by having a child speak to your group from a distance and by having that child whistle to the group. Which is more easily heard?
5. Work together to develop a whistle code for a few simple words and sentences, such as, "It's time to eat," "Walk the dog," or "Do your homework!"

And Furthermore . . .

Just for fun, develop a whistle code for the words, "Yes," "No," "Please," and "Thank You." Use these whistle codes for the remainder of the lesson, or for the remainder of the week! Encourage the children to teach the whistle codes to their family members, and to use the codes with their families.