

## St. Ann's Religious Education

### Grade 10 – April

#### *“Wholeness & Holiness: Saints and Our Challenge for Living”*

As the class thinks about making their confirmation, and they choose their confirmation names, a discussion of saints and the normal lives they led will be instructive in giving the students hope that they too can live their lives the way God intended. The saints were generally not perfect, and they had to overcome obstacles just like our students will as they grow.

Use these pages as a guide, but supplement your lesson with the attached lesson notes, as well as any other materials you may find yourself that will help you touch the hearts of the students one last time before confirmation.

Ok – we've talked all year. But how do you put it all together? How are you going to use what we've discussed during the rest of your life?

Will you put it all to good use? Or will you basically forget about it after you've received your confirmation?

Honestly, even if you don't incorporate the grace you receive right away, most of you will grow into a greater understanding of the gifts you have received, and you will grow into an increasing awareness of how to live the way you were intended to. It's a process that goes on during your entire life.

What does it mean to be holy?

Do any one of you believe that you are holy?

Why or why not?

Do you know any holy people? Why do you think they are holy?

Would you consider them “saints”?

Well, what are saints? What saints are you familiar with? Were they “saintly” their whole lives? Were they born saints? [No – they often did not receive their calling until well into adulthood.]

Do you think that saints of the past were "perfect" – they always behaved just the way they were supposed to? They weren't. They had to live in the world of their time just like you. They had to undergo temptation and hardship and make tough choices. More times than not, they did the right thing, but they did make mistakes. They just kept trying to get better, just like we all should.

Do you think you are a saint? Or could be?

Why not? You don't think you have it in you? You aren't strong enough? God has given you the strength and ability, you just have to desire it and work at it.

Oh, yes you are.

You most certainly can be a saint.

We all can. There has to be effort on your part – all the time.  
If you can't be a saint – can you at least be holy?

Can you set holiness as a goal, and take steps to be "holy". That doesn't mean "perfect" – it means striving to do what is right, all the time.

When you are at school, participating in academics, sports, music, or whatever else you actively participate in, you set goals and go after them. You figure out what you need to do to get better and succeed, and you do it. You figure out how. Sometimes you make mistakes, and sometimes you get tired of the practice, but those who succeed keep on going.

Living well and succeeding in whatever you try does not happen over night. You take steps, and move forward, judging your success by the long run, not the small steps.

# Biblical Stories of **STRUGGLE**

## **NICODEMUS** (John 3:1–12)

Nicodemus was a Pharisaic Jew who obviously wanted to hear what Jesus had to say. But he only came to see Jesus at night.

- Why do you think he only came at night?
- What was he afraid of?
- What was Jesus's message to him?

## **JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA** (Matthew 27:57–61)

Joseph was a "secret disciple." He appears only after Jesus dies. But it's obvious that he knew a lot of people who knew Jesus.

- Why may he have been reluctant to acknowledge his association with Jesus and his followers?
- Why did he eventually feel that he had to do it?

## **TIMOTHY** (2 Timothy 1:6–8)

Timothy was a disciple, actively living the Christian life and preaching the Gospel. But for some reason, he was struggling to find a reason to keep doing it.

- Why do you think he struggled?
- What was Paul's advice to him?

## **PETER** (Mark 14:66–72)

When challenged about his discipleship, Peter, the man that Jesus called his "rock," denied even knowing him.

- Why did he do it?
- How do you think he felt?
- What happened as a result?

(This resource is based on Drury, *Your Life As a Disciple*, page 43.)