October GIFT

The Call of the Saints

**Hospitality**

Instructions on power point to get food, pray the table prayer together, and do the table discussion. (Table prayer will be on plastic table stands.

Table Discussion during the meal:

 Everyone share: What in your life gives you joy? What kinds of things do you do that make you feel happiest?

**Welcome**

Welcome to October GIFT!

*Facilitator should introduce himself/herself*.

The theme for GIFT this year is “Called during the Liturgical Year.” Our entire community will be thinking about how each of us is called by Jesus in all times of our lives. Jesus is always calling us to be closer to him. He calls each of us in different and many ways. We will spend the GIFT sessions thinking about what it means to be called by God, how we respond, how calls affect our lives and how important it is to listen to God calling us every day.

To begin this year, we are going to think about some important people who were called – the saints. The Catholic Church celebrates All Saints Day every November 1st, which is a holy day of obligation for all Catholics.

The feast of All Saints is a celebration of Christians who heard God’s call, found their gift and shared it with the world. Each of us is called on All Saints Day and every day, to discover our unique gift, to treasure it, and to give it away.

So, today we are going to look at what saints are and we are going to learn more about 2 of our newest saints – Archbishop Oscar Romero and Pope Paul VI, and about our patron saint – Charles Borromeo.

Let’s begin our time together with prayer… please stand for our opening song and then remain standing for our opening prayer.

**Opening Prayer**

**Prayer Leader**: Let us begin our prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Prayer Leader**: Lord, you have always called men and women, adults, teens and children to incredible work here on earth. You have asked them to follow you, to preach the gospel, to be prophets, to live differently, to change the world and to be faithful to you. May we be inspired and challenged by their lives and seek to live more like them. We pray this in your name, Amen.

**Prayer Leader**: Saints are people, just like you and me. They learned to listen to the voice of God and find joy and meaning in their calling. We are each made for a purpose on earth and only we can find that purpose by prayerfully paying attention to God and to the people who love us. Let’s ask God for guidance in becoming the people we are meant to be. Please respond, Here I am Lord. Please stand.

**Reader :** Who will care for the lost and lonely?

All: Here I am Lord

**Reader :** Who will forgive those who have hurt, bullied, embarrassed or humiliated others?

All: Here I am Lord

**Reader** : Who will create new ways to care for the earth, to conserve the earth’s resources and challenge people to live more simply?

All: Here I am Lord

**Reader** : Who will turn away from violence, hatred, and discrimination?

All: Here I am Lord

**Prayer Leader**:

We have much to do in our world. The saints have shown us that it only takes a willing, or even a not-so-willing disciple to make the world a better place. Give us courage, hope, and joy as we look for the way we too can be saints today.

We pray this in the name of Jesus our brother and friend. Amen.

(invite all to be seated)

**Opening Activity:**

**Facilitator:**

 We are going to begin today by thinking about what a saint is. Let’s start with a short video. After the video, there will be some discussion questions on the screen to do together.

[***https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-eZjWeRUnw***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-eZjWeRUnw) ***-saints***

***Discussion Questions:***

1. What is a saint?
2. How does someone become a saint?
3. What are some qualities of a saint?
4. Can you name some of the saints?

**Facilitator:**

On the Feast of All Saints, the readings will be the Beatitudes. The beatitudes are blessings. A blessing is God’s gift in our lives. Some may think that blessings are things like family and home and health. And those are blessings. But, we can be homeless, family-less, and in the hospital, and still be very, very blessed. When we follow Jesus, God strengthens us and gives us peace and we are blessed. We are blessed when God is with us.

We are now going to do our first Table Activity. Will one person from each table come forward to get a folder. The instructions you will need are in the folder.

**Table Activity 1 - Saints and the Beatitudes**

1. Together, read the Gospel for the Feast of All Saints Day: Matthew 5:1-12
2. Read about each beatitude and do the activity with each one.
* **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven:** The poor in spirit know that everything is a gift from God. They know that they need God’s grace, and cannot rely only on their own efforts. They are able to ask for and receive help and they know when they succeed God and others have helped them.
* **Can you think of a hashtag for this beatitude?** (Ex, #caring) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Can you name someone who lives this beatitude?** How can you live this beatitude? *(You don’t have to write it, just discuss at your table!)*
* **Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted:** We feel pain when we are suffering. Feeling pain is part of healing, but it also helps us to know what others are feeling when they are hurting and we will want to reach out and be with them, comfort them, and help them to heal.
* **Can you think of a hashtag for this beatitude?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Can you name someone who lives this beatitude?** **How can you live this beatitude? *(You don’t have to write it, just discuss at your table!)***
* **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.** The meek have learned that real power does not belong to those who hit the hardest or who have the biggest, fastest weapon, or who can yell the loudest or be the biggest bully. The real power belongs to God. We should stop, listen, and try to understand before judging, speaking, and acting.
* **Can you think of a hashtag for this beatitude?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Can you name someone who lives this beatitude?** **How can you live this beatitude? *(You don’t have to write it, just discuss at your table!)***
* **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled:** these people want goodness and justice, especially for the poor. They want relationship with God to be right and they want human relationships to be right.
* **Can you think of a hashtag for this beatitude?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Can you name someone who lives this beatitude?** **How can you live this beatitude?** *(You don’t have to write it, just discuss at your table!)*

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* **Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy:** Those who choose to be kind and compassionate and show forgiveness are merciful.
* **Can you think of a hashtag for this beatitude?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Can you name someone who lives this beatitude?** How can you live this beatitude? *(You don’t have to write it, just discuss at your table!)*
* **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God:** To see with the eyes of God. To see each person as a beloved child of God. To see another person in a negative or judgmental way is a sign that one’s heart is not pure and one’s vision of the basic goodness of the other person is clouded.
* **Can you think of a hashtag for this beatitude?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **Can you name someone who lives this beatitude?** How can you live this beatitude? *(You don’t have to write it, just discuss at your table!)*

* **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God:** Peacemakers work actively to bring about the justice for which others hunger and thirst.
* **Can you think of a hashtag for this beatitude?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **Can you name someone who lives this beatitude?** How can you live this beatitude? *(You don’t have to write it, just discuss at your table!)*
* **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** Following these beatitudes and the Gospel message is not always the most popular way to live, but God promises to always be with us.
* **Can you think of a hashtag for this beatitude?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Can you name someone who lives this beatitude?** How can you live this beatitude? *(You don’t have to write it, just discuss at your table!)*

*After Activity 1*

Facilitator may invite sharing for each beatitude.

Introduce Activity 2:

For your homework this month, you learned about 3 saints. One is our patron saint, Charles Borromeo. We will be celebrating his feast day in November. The other two will be canonized this month. That means, we will have two new saints – Oscar Romero who was an archbishop in El Salvador and Pope Paul VI who was the pope in the United States in the 1960’s and 70’s. Our next table activity will be about these 3 saints.

Would one person from each table bring back the first folder and take a folder for our second activity.

**Activity 2**

 **Our Patron Saint and our Newest Saints!**

Choose **1** of the 3 saints you learned about – St Charles Borromeo, St. Paul VI, St. Oscar Romero. If you need to learn more about them, you can read the biographies in this folder.

After you choose your saint, do the following activity:

1. Create a poster for your saint. Start by putting your saints name it. Then, draw pictures that show what he stood for. Did he help the poor, was he a teacher? Think of how you can illustrate your poster to teach someone else about your saint.
2. Next, complete the following sentences and then write your answers on your poster:
* *(Saint \_\_\_\_\_\_) shared with the world the gift of ….*
* *If (Saint \_\_\_\_\_) were here today, he would tell us to….*
* *If we want to follow the example of* *(Saint \_\_\_\_\_), we should….*
1. Next, think about the Beatitude that your saint followed. Maybe your saint was a peacemaker, or was pure of heart?

 Think about how you could use that same gift in your own way in your daily life. On your poster write:

 “I can use the gift of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Facilitator**: Invite everyone to share their posters.

Reminders:

 Attendance

 Upcoming Events

**Closing Prayer Service**

**Prayer Leader**:

Let’s ask the saints to join us in prayer. Please respond: Pray for us

Blessed Oscar Romero - Pray for us

Blessed Pope Pious IV - Pray for us

St. Charles Borromeo - Pray for us

Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us. Our Father…

**Prayer Leader**: Let’s bow our heads for a blessing –

Lord, thank you so much for the gift of saints in our church. By their lives you show us that every life has purpose and can bring hope and change to the world. We pray for courage and strength to do what we are called to do in our lives. Bless us with joy, gratitude and hope. We pray this in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen.

Let’s close with our closing song which is our closing prayer: