Saints of Many Colors

“After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every race, nation, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb.” – Revelation 7: 9

Instructions: Match the saints to their descriptions. You may need to research the saints in order to answer correctly.

Saints

A. St. Juan Diego
B. St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception
C. St. Charles Lwanga
D. St. Kateri Tekakwitha
E. Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton
F. St. Rose of Lima
G. St. Oscar Romero
H. Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman
I. St. Paul Miki
J. St. Josephine Bakhita

Descriptions

___ 1. Kidnapped and sold into slavery, she joined a religious order and is the patron saint of Sudan.
___ 2. Born a slave, he escaped from slavery with his mother and went on to become the first African-American priest.
___ 3. A member of the Mohawk tribe, she joined the Catholic Church at the age of 19 and is the first Native American saint.
___ 4. Raised in the Aztec tradition, he converted to Catholicism and had a series of visions of Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe.
___ 5. An archbishop in El Salvador, he was killed for his efforts to lift up the poor in the face of violence and injustice.
___ 6. Born in Peru, this young woman lived a life of prayer and sacrifice and is the patron saint of gardeners and florists.
___ 7. The son of a Japanese military leader and known for his preaching, he was killed with 25 others during a persecution of Christians in Japan.
___ 8. From an early age, she dedicated her life to her faith and endured a variety of health issues before dying at the age of 36. She is the first Indian saint.
___ 9. He dedicated himself to teaching Christianity to the people of Uganda, going against the wishes of a corrupt king. Because of this, he was killed along with several others.
___ 10. Born in Mississippi, she dedicated herself to addressing racism in the Catholic Church. She was the first black woman to address the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Extension Activity: Choose one of these saints and research his/her life. After you have researched the saint, write a paragraph or draw a picture to show what you discovered.
In November 2018, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops released Open Wide Our Hearts, a pastoral letter against racism. Inspired by this letter, the Diocese of Green Bay launched the Open Wide Our Hearts photo exhibit last year. This exhibit features photos of Catholics from various racial and ethnic backgrounds alongside written narratives that document what life in the church of the Diocese of Green Bay has been like for them as a person of color. The exhibit is now accessible virtually at openwideourheartsgb.org.

Instructions:

• **Go to the virtual exhibit – openwideourheartsgb.org.**

• **Read the opening page before entering the exhibit.**

• **Enter the exhibit and take 10-15 minutes to read the stories.**

• **Answer the following questions as a discussion or as a journaling activity.**
  
  o What did you read that was new to you? What did you learn from reading these stories?
  
  o What were your reactions as you read the stories? How did they make you feel? How might God be trying to speak to you through your reactions to the stories?
  
  o What story will stay with you? What would you share with a friend about the stories you read?
  
  o How do you see yourself in these stories? Have you had experiences similar to the people in the stories?
  
  o Choose one of the stories and write a short letter responding to the author sharing how his/her story affected you.
  
  o What is one actionable step that you can take based on what you read? How can you help make our schools, churches, and communities places that are welcoming to all people?

• **Check the list of suggestions on the Take Action page of openwideourheartsgb.org.**
“God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” – Genesis 1: 27
Instructions:

- In the picture box, have the students draw a portrait of themselves. As they are drawing, talk to them about their unique physical characteristics such as eye color, hair color, height, hair length, etc.
- Under the picture, have each student list three personality traits they have.
- Under the picture, have each student list three gifts/talents they have.
- After the students have completed the activity, have them share with a partner or the whole class, sharing what they have in common and how they are different.
- Discuss the following questions with the students:
  - Who gave you the unique characteristics you have?
  - Why do you think God made each of us unique and different?
  - What would life be like if everyone looked the same or had the same personalities or the same gifts and talents? Would you like to live in a world like that? Why or why not?
  - Is it right to treat some people better than others based on how they look, or their personality, or their gifts and talents? Why not?
- Together with the students, read one or both of the following Bible passages. You may want to find a translation that is meant for kids so that it is more easily understood. After reading the passage(s), ask the students to share what the passage teaches us about ourselves and our relationship with others.
  - Psalm 139: 13-16
  - 1 Corinthians 12: 12-20