

All Saints Learning Activity: Saintly Feud

Activity Objective

To explore what it means to be a saint

This activity would work best for the following options:

- ✓ All Ages Learning Experience

Supplies and Preparation

- Scrap paper and pens (to record answers)

Activity Plan

1. [spoken text] Share with the participants this introduction in these or similar words:

The Catholic Church has been formally recognizing saints since the second century. At that time, individuals became saints based more on popular demand than any sort of formal process. Because of this, the list of saints grew quickly.

Since Vatican II, there are now three steps necessary for a person to become a saint. First, the person must be named Venerable, which means he or she exhibited heroic virtues in life. Before moving on to beatification, the person must have a miracle attributed to him or her. Once such a miracle is confirmed, the person is known as Blessed. For the final step before canonization, the individual must have yet another miracle attributed to his or her intercession – unless he or she was a martyr for the faith. Only then is a person canonized and added to the list of saints.

During this learning activity we are going to play a modified form of the old TV show, “Family Feud”, to explore together some familiar saints and some qualities of sainthood. Please note that the feud answers, the ranked responses, are the best guess of the author who created this game, NOT officially researched, polls of thousands of people, responses!

2. Explain that you will read out a question/statement, and the table group is to work together to guess the top 4-5 responses to each question. After each group has had adequate time to formulate their response, share the answer then proceed to the next question.

3. Question 1:

Who are the 5 saints that Catholics pray with most?

Answer:

1. St. Anthony
2. St. Jude
3. St. Christopher
4. St. Joseph
5. St. Francis

Tell participants to give themselves one point for each saint they had on their list.

Question 2:

What five qualities do you think are most common among saints?

Answer:

1. Prayerful
2. Faithful to God's call
3. Persistent
4. Obedient to God's will
5. Simplicity

Tell participants to give themselves one point for each quality they had on their list.

Question 3:

Name 4 saints, who were martyrs, that you think most Catholics would name as martyrs.

Answer:

1. St. Stephen
2. St. Paul
3. St. Joan of Arc
4. St. Thomas More

Tell participants to give themselves one point for each saint they had on their list.

Question 4:

Name the top 5 reasons Catholics pray to saints.

Answer:

1. To find something they've lost.
2. To find strength in a challenging situation.
3. For protection and safety.

4. For healing.
5. For courage.

Tell participants to give themselves one point for each reason they had on their list.

4. Invite the groups to shout out their scores and give a round of applause to the group with the highest score.

5. [spoken text] Close this activity by sharing the following in these or similar words:

- ⇒ *Saints challenge us to be more than we would be on our own. They show us daring, exciting, and noble things that can and should be done.*
- ⇒ *Saints inspire us. When life seems dull, saints add excitement – there are still good and exciting people around to admire!*
- ⇒ *Saints show us what to be and do. When we are confused about what we ought to be like or what we ought to do with our lives, saints give us examples to follow.*
- ⇒ *Saints encourage us. When we feel like failures, knowing that a saint we admire also struggled helps us realize there's still hope for us.*