

SACRED STORY

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: THE CHILD IS INVITED TO DISCOVER HOW HE OR SHE IS PART OF THE LARGER STORY OF THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: THE MYSTERY OF PENTECOST SHELF, TOP SHELF, TO THE RIGHT OF THE MYSTERY OF PENTECOST**
- **PIECES: BASKET OF SAINT FIGURES, WOODEN CIRCLE OF THE CHURCH YEAR (FROM THE FOCAL SHELF)**
- **UNDERLAY: A RUG (FROM THE BOX OF RUGS IN THE CLASSROOM USED BY THE CHILDREN DURING WORK-TIME)**

BACKGROUND

Every part of the Christian tradition has its special people who are looked up to and respected as examples of what each denomination or group best exemplifies. These heroes are called by different names. The classic term used to identify such people is to call them *saints*, which is the term we use here.

We realize that this term, *saints*, may be strange or even objectionable to some. Please don't let this terminology problem get in the way of enjoying the stories of the remarkable people included in the lessons on the saints. You may want to add the special people from your denomination to those celebrated here and we encourage that. You may also want to add your own special people; the lessons on the Story of the Child's Own Saint and the Story of the Child's Own Life are available for you and the children to do just that.

The most important point about the lessons on the saints is to develop a larger sense of saints—living and dead, known and unknown—of which you are one. Thanks be to God for you and for this community that can be so life-giving in times of celebration and sadness.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

This lesson is told on a rug from the box of rugs in the classroom used by the children during work-time. This lesson shares a tray with the lesson called the Expanded Introduction to the Communion of Saints. The tray sits on the top shelf of the Pentecost shelf, to the right of the Mystery of Pentecost. The tray holds a small basket containing the 12 figures needed for this lesson and other materials used for the Expanded Introduction to the Communion of Saints. You will also use the wooden Circle of the Church Year material that sits on the Focal shelf.

SPECIAL NOTES

This lesson serves as an introduction to the communion of saints' for children new to Godly Play. It could be told on All Saints' Day (celebrated in early November), after telling the Mystery of Pentecost, or anytime during the season of Easter. There is a saint for each month of the secular calendar.

A NOTE ABOUT DATES FOR THE SAINTS

There is scholarly debate about the dates for the lives of many saints. We have had to make decisions about these dates for pedagogical reasons. We hope the children will continue to learn more about the saints all their life long, including their dates. The basis for the dates used in the lessons on the saints is how they are remembered liturgically. This has been established by custom in the Roman Catholic, Anglican and other traditions. We usually follow the dates that are found in the Episcopal publication called *Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2006*. This book is also a reference for remembering saints for most days in the year and for children (and adults) to continue to learn more about the saints, using this liturgical orientation.

You can order this book at www.Cokesbury.com
or by calling: 1-800-672-1789.