



## **Primary Grades 1-3 Lesson Plan**

*"I live, now not I; but Christ lives in me." Gal. 2:20*

### **Purpose:**

1. Students will understand the definition of a hero and the qualities that it takes to be a hero.
2. Students will be able to draw connections between 'superheroes' and the 'heroes' of the Catholic Church, the saints.
3. Students will start to understand the importance of knowing about Catholic saints.

### **Supplies:**

1. Crayons
2. Drawing paper
3. **The Story of St. Tarsicius**

### **Activity #1: Who is your hero?**

1. Have each student draw a picture of their favorite hero or their personal hero (these can be real people, comic book superheroes or superheroes that they make up).
2. On the back of their paper have them write three things that make that person a hero along with that person's super power (if it is a superhero).
3. Once the children have finished their drawings and their writing, ask the children to share the name of their hero as well as one of the qualities they wrote down. As they share their qualities, write them down on the board.

### **Discussion:**

1. Explain to the children that a hero is someone we look up to who can save us in times of need and who can show us what we should do when we get into difficult situations.
2. So, what makes a person a hero?
  - a. Often times, heroes have the same qualities about them. They are strong, happy, smart, brave, they stand up for what they believe in, they put other people first, etc.
  - b. When a person does what is right no matter what happens to them, they are often considered heroes.
  - c. We should all want to strive for greatness as these heroes have done.

### **Activity #2: Catholic Heroes**

1. Tell the students that in the Catholic Church we have lots of people who we can admire and who can help us when we need it. They can help show us the way out of difficult situations and help us to make difficult decisions. These are the heroes of the Catholic Church called the Saints. They lived very good lives and gave us great examples of how to live our lives.
2. Read **The Story of St. Tarsicius** (For a song about St. Tarsicius visit [www.ewtn.com/ewtnkids/home.asp](http://www.ewtn.com/ewtnkids/home.asp) and click on the Faith Factory. Follow the arrow to the Radio Room and find "Tarsicius" on the Song List. You can listen to the song and print the lyrics for your students as well.)



- a. Invite the students to identify the things that St. Tarcisius did which makes him a hero.
- b. How can this story help us in our lives?
- c. For second and third graders, why do you think St. Tarcisius did not want the pagans to get the Eucharist? *Hints can be found in the song from EWTN Kids.*

### **Discussion:**

1. St. Tarsicius is just one of thousands of heroes that the Catholic Church wants us to look up to. Each and every one of these thousands of people did great things in their lives and the Catholic Church wants us to see that.
2. We look at their examples when we are faced with decisions or tough tasks in our lives. When we know how they would act, it helps us to make the right decision.
3. When we know more about these people who lived good lives and the eternal rewards they received, then we will also want to be like them and receive the rewards ourselves.
  - a. How many of you want to win the World Series when you get older?
  - b. How many of you can't wait to win the Super Bowl?
  - c. How many of you wish you were just like Kobe Bryant or LeBron James on the basketball court; or Chad Johnson or Carson Palmer on the football field?
    - i. All of these people have the ability to do great things and still their treasure cannot go with them after they die. When we try to be like the great heroes of the Catholic Church like St. Padre Pio, St. Peter, St. Paul, etc. then we can take our prize all the way to heaven.
    - ii. That is what God wants us to do.

### **Further Suggestions:**

1. Have each child give a short report on their patron saint or a saint that they really like. Have them include pictures of that saint with their report.
2. Create lesson plans around the stories found in *Loyola Kids Book of Heroes* (ISBN: 082941584X) by Amy Welborn.
3. Hold a monthly prayer writing contest which asks each student to write a prayer that invokes the intercession of the patron saint of the school or a popular saint. The winning prayer will be prayed at the beginning of each school day for a month.
4. Find the patron saints of classroom subjects (e.g. Science, Math, Social Studies/History, etc.) and pray for their intercession right before tests in those subjects.
5. Celebrate All Saints Day with treats and saints costumes. Give out awards for most authentic costume or person with most knowledge about the saint they are trying to portray.