

# Lesson 17 – Honoring the Saints, Relics, and Images

Grades 6-8

## Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 17 in the Baltimore Catechism. You will need to have a Bible for this session. Also, be sure to print and copy the sheets for the lesson opening and activity.

## Opening Prayer

Scripture: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.” Luke 1:46-49

Leader: Lord, You have made us part of your mystical Body, along with the Saints in heaven. We are grateful for their prayers, and we seek to glorify You as they did. Amen.

Together: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Opening:

Using the attached sheet, have the students look at examples of Catholic art. Allow them to share what they think of the paintings. What makes them beautiful? How might they help us to pray?

When God gave the First Commandment, He also said, “You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them and worship them.” Exodus 20:4-5

In this lesson, we will see how honoring the Saints, and creating religious art, including statues, does not violate God’s command, and are actually very important.

## Watch the Lesson 17 Video on Catholic Brain

**Comprehension Questions:** *Note: These questions are asked after the video, just to check student comprehension. They are not discussion questions, but be sure students understand the answers to these questions before moving on*

1) Should we honor the Saints?

*Yes*

2) How do we honor the Saints?

*Imitating their love for God, praying to them, respecting them*

3) When we pray to a Saint, what are we asking?

*We are asking them to pray for us, just as we might as a member of the mystical Body of Christ on earth to pray for us.*

4) Which Saint deserves the greatest honor?

*Mary*

5) Look up and read about today's Saint on Catholic Brain.

**Discussion Questions:** *Note: These questions are for student discussion. The students should consider these questions and comment on them. There are some key points included in this lesson, after each question, that you can use to help guide their discussion toward truth. It's important that the students think about and discuss these things, but that they don't leave the discussion with false impressions about what is true.*

1) Why should we honor the Saints?

*We honor God when we honor the Saints. We also acknowledge God's power to overcome death and unite us to all the members of His mystical Body.*

2) Why does honoring the Saints not take away from God's honor?

*We do not give the Saints the worship that is due to God, but we honor them because of what God has done in their lives, and we look to them as examples of how to love and serve God.*

3) How can we develop a relationship with Mary?

*Answers will vary, but may include things like the Rosary, honoring her feast days, and joining her confraternities.*

## **Go Deeper:**

Read the following Bible passages and discuss what they tell us about using images properly, in the worship of God, as well as honoring Saints and angels, and their prayers for us.

Exodus 25:18-20

Mark 12:26-27

Hebrews 13:7

Revelation 8:3

## **Activity:**

Using the attached sheet, decide which of the scenarios are allowed and which are forbidden by God's command not to worship graven images.

## **Closing Prayer:**

Leader: Lord, we thank You for the work You have done in the lives of the Saints, and for what You do in our lives. In honoring them, we acknowledge your greatness. Amen.

Together: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.