

Foot Washing



Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida.

Sacraments at the Service of Communion

Directions: Read the paragraph below taken from the Church document called *Lumen Gentium*. This document teaches us about how the Catholic Church understands herself. Then answer the questions and create a symbol on the next page.

Those of the faithful who are consecrated by Holy Orders are appointed to feed the Church in Christ's name with the word and the grace of God. ...Christian spouses, in virtue of the sacrament of Matrimony ... help each other to attain to holiness in their married life and in the rearing and education of their children. ...From the wedlock of Christians there comes the family, in which new citizens of human society are born, who by the grace of the Holy Spirit received in baptism are made children of God, thus perpetuating [continuing] the people of God through the centuries.

–LUMEN GENTIUM, 11

1. How are those who receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders tasked by God to serve others?

2. How are those who receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony tasked by God to serve others?

Choose either Holy Orders or Holy Matrimony and create a symbol that represents God's unique calling within that Sacrament to serve others.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to draw a symbol representing God's unique calling within the chosen sacrament.

Saint Biographies

St. Monica



331–387

Feast Day:

August 27

Monica was born in Northern Africa. Her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan man, Patricius. Monica loved Patricius even though he sometimes said mean things to her and lost his temper. Patricius and Monica had three children.

Monica was Christian, and she wanted her husband and children to be Christian, too. She asked God to help her husband resist sin. She was patient and loving. After they had been married almost 20 years, her husband converted to Christianity and was baptized. He died one year later.

Monica's son, Augustine, went away to school. He started living a wicked life. She prayed for her son to believe in Jesus and be good. When Augustine went to Italy, Monica followed him. She introduced him to the bishop. They prayed for Augustine and taught him more about Jesus.

Monica learned to pray more simply. She gave what she had to the poor. She was grateful to God when Augustine converted to Christianity. Monica and Augustine were both happy. Monica told her son, "There was indeed one thing for which I wished ... and that was that I might see you a Catholic Christian before I died."

St. Gianna Beretta Molla



1922–1962

Feast Day:
April 28

Gianna was born into a Catholic Italian family. She had twelve siblings. When she was 20, she went to Milan so that she could go to school to become a doctor. When she graduated, she opened an office. Her patients were children.

When Gianna was 33 she got married. She and her husband had four children. While Gianna was pregnant with their fourth child, Gianna grew very sick. She had a tumor growing in her womb near her unborn daughter. A tumor is a growth of unhealthy cells in the body. Some tumors, like Gianna's, can be very serious. The tumor had to be removed.

Gianna had to decide what to do. Some of the ways the doctors could treat her would have killed her baby. Gianna did not want that to happen. She asked her doctors to take out the tumor, but to protect her baby.

The doctors took out the tumor, but Gianna was still sick. She knew that her doctors might have to decide between saving her, or saving her baby. She told her family she wanted her doctors to save her baby if they had to choose. Finally her little girl was born. Gianna lived for one more week and then she died. She was 39 years old.

St. Thomas More



1478-1535

Feast Day:

June 22

Thomas More was born in London. He went to good schools, and impressed his teachers. One of his teachers said he spoke Latin as easily as he spoke English!

More became a successful lawyer. He was also a great speaker and a great writer. He served in Parliament, which makes laws for England. Later he became a helper to the King of England, King Henry VIII.

The king wanted to divorce his wife. He tried to use the Bible to say divorce was okay. More knew that the king was wrong. The king decided to break England away from the Catholic Church and start his own church. The king told More he had to stop being Catholic and be loyal to him instead. More said no, and the king put More in jail. He took away More's property. The king even took More's writing materials so he wouldn't be able to send letters to his family. Finally, the king had More beheaded.

More's last words were: "I die the good King's servant, but God's first."

Pope St. John Paul II



1920–2005

Feast Day:
October 22

Karol Wojtyła was born in Poland. When he was a young man, a lot of evil things were happening in Europe. The Nazis were sending Jews, Catholics, and many other people to camps. At the camps those people were tortured and killed. Karol secretly went into seminary (a school that prepares men to be priests). He was made a priest soon after World War II ended.

Even though the war had ended, people in Poland were suffering. They were not free under a Communist government. Fr. Wojtyła was made bishop of Krakow (Poland) in the 1960s. When he was elected Pope, he chose the name John Paul II. He helped people of Poland free themselves from the Communist Party. Pope John Paul II also tried to help England come back to Catholicism.

Pope John Paul II founded World Youth Day. On World Youth Days, young Catholics from all over the world come together to be with the Pope and attend Mass he offers for them.

He wrote many important essays and books that helped people learn more about God. He died in April 2005. Thousands of people came to his funeral.

St. Ignatius of Loyola



1491-1556

Feast Day:
July 31

Ignatius was the youngest of 13 children of a wealthy Spanish family. He served as a courtier (a helper to the King) and a soldier. He hoped to win fame and popularity. When he was 30, a cannonball injured his legs. He was carried to the hospital in Loyola. During his recovery, Ignatius read books about the life of Jesus. He read about prayer and the lives of the saints. He was very inspired by the simplicity of the life of St. Francis of Assisi.

When Ignatius recovered, he spent time in a monastery devoted to prayer. He left his sword and armor in a chapel dedicated to Mary. He gave all his clothes to the poor and wore a sackcloth robe.

While a university student in Paris, Ignatius and 6 other students founded the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuit religious order. These 7 men took vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience to the Pope, and hoped to go evangelize the Holy Land. Ignatius and his companions were ordained priests. Ignatius wrote a Rule of Life for his community to live by and went to Rome to offer the services of the Society of Jesus to the Pope. The Pope welcomed them and wanted to send them out as missionaries. Ignatius's companions were sent around the world to Portugal, India, Japan, Ireland, Germany, and many other places to evangelize. Ignatius remained in Rome and directed all these men by writing letters to them. The missionaries founded schools, colleges, and seminaries as well as gathered more men into their order.

Inspired by his earlier readings about Jesus and prayer, Ignatius wrote the *Spiritual Exercises*. These exercises help people to pray. The missionaries had founded 100 religious houses, and the order had 1,000 members when Ignatius died.

St. Jean-Marie Vianney



1786-1859

Feast Day:
August 4

Jean-Marie lived with his parents and five siblings in a French village. When Jean was very young, France was at war. The government outlawed Catholicism. Catholic priests were forced to hold Mass in secret. Jean and his family traveled for miles to farmhouses where priests said Mass in rooms with windows covered to prevent the candlelight from being seen. Jean admired the priests who risked their lives to offer the Mass and hear confessions.

When Jean was 16, the French Revolution ended. He began studying for the priesthood. But he was soon drafted into Napoleon's army. As he walked to the army base, he paused to pray. A Catholic saw him and offered to guide him to the base, but instead led Jean to a hidden village where many Catholics lived. Jean started a school for the children in the village. When French soldiers came looking for Jean, he hid inside stacks of old hay. Several months later, he was able to return to seminary. Jean was ordained at age 39 and assigned to the parish of Ars.

Fr. Jean worked hard in his parish. He tried to revive people's interest in the Faith, for the Revolution had caused many people to feel suspicious or careless about being Catholic. Fr. Jean preached excellent homilies. He started a home for girls, and he heard the Confession of everyone who came to him. He sat in the confessional for up to 16 hours a day, every day, to listen, advise, and absolve the thousands of people who traveled miles to confess and receive his instruction. He heard confessions every day until he died at age 73.

Pope St. John XXIII



1881–1963

Feast Day:
October 11

Angelo Roncalli was born to a large Italian farming family. He completed his seminary studies and became a priest when he was 23. Fr. Angelo was assigned to work of secretary to his bishop.

During World War I, Fr. Angelo was drafted to serve as a sergeant, stretcher-bearer, and chaplain. After the war, the Pope appointed him to help spread the Faith in Italy. The next Pope had Fr. Angelo consecrated a bishop and sent him to work in dioceses in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Bishop Angelo helped thousands of Jewish and European refugees find safety.

When World War II began, Bishop Angelo was sent as Apostolic Nuncio (a person in charge of a diplomatic mission) to France. He helped save thousands of refugees, especially Jews, from the Holocaust. After the war, he was made a cardinal. Shortly afterward, he was elected Pope, and he took the name John.

Pope John XXIII visited children in hospitals as well as prisoners and young people in reformatory school. He wrote about marriage and divorce, illness and age. He wrote that each person is valuable and has the right to live, and that every person has the duty to care for other people. On October 11, 1962, he began the Ecumenical Council, Vatican II, in order to preserve, teach, and spread the truth of our Catholic Faith in our current age. He died of stomach cancer a few months later.

Saints at the Service of Communion

Directions: Read the Saint Cards given to you and complete the chart.

Saint	What was this saint's vocation or calling from God?	How did this saint work for the salvation of others?	What example did this saint give for your own call to holiness?

Choose one of the saints you studied and write a prayer asking for her/him to pray for you in a special way.

