

“From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s will in all things. From May we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ, her son and the son of God.” - St Pope John Paul II

PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH: Mary as our Role model

That we may always be open to serve God and others, as Mary said yes to be of service to God. That our hearts may always be open to receiving and sharing love.

FOCUS POINTS:

- ❖ Mary, Patroness of Humanity: Patron saint of all human beings, watching over them with motherly care due to her role as the mother of Jesus.
- ❖ Each person is precious, unique and loved by God, because God made us, that means we are all very special, and very important, no matter where we live, what we look like or what we have.
- ❖ God invites us to show his love to one another. We experience God through our friends, family and even those who seem different than us. This means we have to treat people with respect and fairness. *Love your neighbor as yourself.*

SAINTS OF THE MONTH (Refer to the *About the Saints* section for details):

- ❖ Mary, Mother of God
- ❖ 5th - Blessed Edmund Rice
- ❖ 11th - Blessed Matthew Gam
- ❖ 16th - St Andrew Bobola
- ❖ 28th - St Paul Hanh

ACTIVITIES:

- ❖ Paper Doll Chain
- ❖ Mary Grotto

EXTRA RESOURCES:

- ❖ [Caritas Australia Dignity of the Human Person Video](#)
- ❖ [CRS Lesson Plan: Life & Dignity of the Human Person](#)
- ❖ Gem Mine Simulation – Child Labor Awareness*

****Can be found in the Extra Resources section at rcbo.org/mca***



GEM MINES

In the Developing World, children mine a wide range of minerals – gold and precious stones, zinc, coal, mica, and bauxite for example.

Children are used in this work primarily because of their small size.

Rock quarrying, especially near booming cities and construction areas, are hubs of child labor, as well as bonded and forced labor.

The following activity is designed to mimic conditions faced by children who work in gem mines in the Developing World. We recommend contacting parents to inform them of your intentions to engage in this activity with your students.

Materials needed:

- + Long, narrow and sturdy cardboard box in which a child of about six or seven years could fit. Use a larger box if needed to correspond to the size of older students. Seal one end of the box while keeping the opposite end open.
- + River rocks of various sizes (available in craft stores)
- + Small basket or container
- + Gold paint to mark special rocks
- + Chocolate coins or candy to be used as payment
- + Stop watch or watch with a second hand

Procedure:

Place rocks (including only two that you have painted with gold paint), on the floor of the box toward the closed end. Dim the lights in the room. Ask one student to crawl into the box on his or her back (or belly), while carrying the basket / container and collect 10 rocks in 30 seconds.

The teacher (acting as “mine owner”), examines the rocks to see how many gold rocks were found. The student is “paid” (given chocolate) only for gold rocks; this fact is not divulged at the start of the activity. Repeat the exercise so that all students have an opportunity to “mine” for rocks.

Reflection Questions:

- + How does it feel being in a dark, enclosed space?
- + How did your motivation change once you learned you would only be rewarded for finding gold rocks?
- + In the Developing World, when children are not paid for this work, it often means that they and their family will go hungry for a day or more. How do you feel knowing this?
- + For further study or reflection ask students to go on a web quest to find out information about their favorite gem, birthstone or precious metal, seeking information such as its country of origin, how it appears in its natural state, how it is collected from the earth, and who gathers and / or mines for this material (children). Ask students to report on their findings.

