

HOME PROJECTS FOR OCTOBER

REVERENCE—showing your deepest respect for God and the things of God

Grades Pre-K-2—Saint Hyacinth

1. Take a tour of the church when it is empty. In a whisper, point out the statues, sanctuary, altar, tabernacle, sacristy, windows, etc. Practice showing reverence to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist by genuflecting facing the tabernacle.
2. Discuss the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Practice making a *Spiritual Communion*.
3. Discuss why bowing is a sign of reverence. Practice bowing gently at some of the following times: before receiving Holy Communion, when entering the sanctuary, when passing before the tabernacle, when saying Jesus' Name, when saying the *Glory Be*, during the *Creed* at the words "by the power of the Holy Spirit. . . became man".

Grades 3-5—Saint Tarcisus

1. Ask a bishop, priest, or deacon about their ordination, or a religious about the day he or she professed vows. If you are related to someone who is ordained or a religious, ask your relative.
2. Discuss how sacramentals open our hearts to grace. Discuss the proper reverence to be shown for blessed objects (never place them on the floor, never throw them away but when they are worn out or broken, burn or bury them). Choose one of the following sacramentals and practice using it this month to open your heart to grace:
 - Blessings: blessing before meals, blessing oneself with holy water, signing one's children with the Cross at night or before leaving the home
 - Blessed objects: Bible, holy water, rosaries, scapulars, medals, crucifixes, statues, images, relics
3. Acknowledge the presence of Our Lord by making the *Sign of the Cross* whenever you pass a Catholic church this month.
4. Learn to pray the *Angelus* or the *Stations of the Cross* to show reverence for the Incarnation or Redemption.

Grades 6-8—Saint Margaret Clitherow

1. Decide on some new ways to keep the Lord's Day holy. Remember that holy means different, or set apart from the ordinary. Some ideas could include spending extra time with your family, appreciating creation, preparing for Mass by looking up the readings, preparing special meals and/or using nice dishes, doing your homework on Saturday, praying together as a family, giving up worrying or complaining on Sunday, abstaining from whatever consumes you (videogames, TV, texting, internet), calling relatives, sending cards, etc.
2. Learn about how clergy, religious, and laity pray the Liturgy of the Hours to sanctify the day. Try it out a couple times this month. See the free features on www.ebreviary.com.
3. Break the habit of using the Lord's name in vain. If you forget, make the *Sign of the Cross* as a reminder.
4. Practice reverence for Our Lady during the month of October. Pray the rosary or the *Memorare* this month.
5. Pray this month for yourself and for our society to grow in reverence for persons as images of God, for the miracle of life, and for mothers.
6. This month take the time to really listen to those who speak with you. When they talk to you, don't multitask. Give each person your full attention. Do you notice a difference?