

Introducing Your Partners in Faith—the Saints in *Cristo en nosotros*

In *Cristo en nosotros*, children are introduced to seven strands of spirituality by some of the giants of the Catholic mystical tradition. Each of these saints becomes a spiritual guide, taking children by the hand and leading them through prayers and practices that increase in depth and dimension with each grade level.

Catechists and parents are also given a fuller view of the prayers, reflections, and daily practices that make for a full and active spiritual life. Various forms, expressions, and language of prayer, as defined in the fourth pillar of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, are woven into *Cristo en nosotros*.

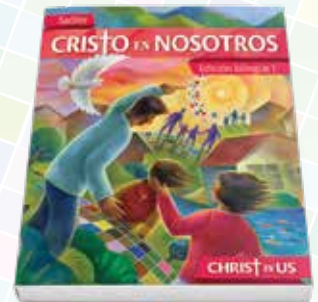
Each grade also features a saint that helps guide children and families to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Meet the Saints

Grade One: Saint Francis of Assisi

“While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.” —Saint Francis of Assisi

While often associated with his love for animals and the gifts of God’s creation, Saint Francis of Assisi was equally dedicated to helping those who were poor and shunned by society. Throughout the year, Grade 1 children will learn about the life and work of Saint Francis of Assisi and his model of holiness, simplicity, and service to the poor. As first graders grow in a deeper awareness of God’s love for themselves and their families, they start to expand that circle of love to include others.



Grade Two: Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

“What matters in life is not great deeds but great love.” —Saint Therese of Lisieux

Saint Therese of Lisieux is one of the world’s most beloved saints. Her practice of what she called “the little way” is a simple and yet profound way to grow more loving, kind, and attentive to God’s presence each day. As such, she is a wonderful source of inspiration for children who are able to put her little way into practice in age-appropriate ways. Throughout Grade 2, children will learn about Saint Therese’s life and her example of holiness.

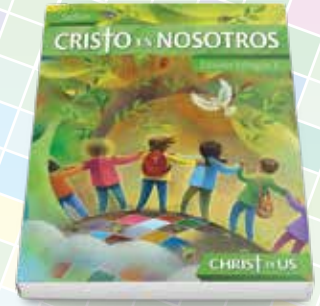


Grade Three: Venerable Pierre Toussaint

“ Jesus can give you nothing so precious as himself. ”

—Venerable Pierre Toussaint

Venerable Pierre Toussaint exemplifies what it means to live generously and compassionately. While he might easily have focused solely on his own needs, he consistently shared what he had with others. Throughout the year, third graders will learn about the way in which Venerable Pierre Toussaint showed love and concern for those in need. As they come to understand what it means to be part of the wider church, this model of faith and spiritual goodness will inspire their own efforts in being the face of Christ to others.



Grade Four: Saint Teresa of Ávila

“ The important thing is not to think much but to love much. ”

—Saint Teresa of Avila

Saint Teresa of Avila shows us how saintliness need not be a solemn or joyless experience. Her love of life and sense of humor, coupled with her desire to enter into deep communion with God, makes her one of our most revered saints and a Doctor of the Church. Throughout this year, fourth graders will learn more about Saint Teresa of Avila and discover a preliminary understanding of the meaning and practice of contemplative prayer.



Grade Five: Saint Ignatius of Loyola

“ Never say or do anything until you have asked yourself whether it will be pleasing to God, good for yourself, and edifying to your neighbor. ” —Saint Ignatius Loyola

Saint Ignatius recognized the power of religious imagination to awaken us to the presence of Christ in our midst. Through his spiritual practices and the Examen, he provides a pathway towards the wonders of the Divine all around us. As fifth graders learn about Saint Ignatius Loyola and Ignatian practices throughout the year, they will also open themselves to the ever-present love of God in their lives.



Grade Six: Saint Dominic de Guzman

“ We must sow the seed, not hoard it. ” —Saint Dominic de Guzman

Saint Dominic's spirituality is based on four pillars: prayer, study, preaching, and community. These encapsulate how, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to increase our knowledge and understanding of our faith, expand our hearts in love, and serve others through acts of charity and justice. Throughout this year, sixth graders will learn more about Saint Dominic de Guzman and use their preliminary experiences of these pillars to share the Good News of Christ with others.



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