

Y4 RE: Pentecost

Lesson 2

Since the time of the Apostles people have been spreading the Good News throughout the World.

Saints Around the World

Choose one of the following saints from around the world to read about (information on the following pages, only choose one!):

Saint Augustine

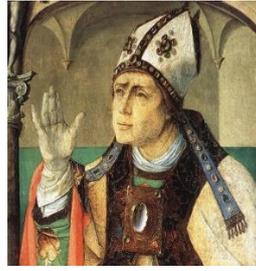
Saint Bernadette

Saint Francis

Now, create a fact file about your chosen saint, including:

- Name
- Picture of the saint
- Country they were born
- In what ways have they proclaimed the Good News about Christ?
- How did the Holy Spirit inspire and direct their life?
- Why do you think the lives of saints can help those who follow Christ today?

Saint Augustine



If you met a person who used the title 'of Hippo' after their name, you might assume that they work at a zoo or a wildlife park. However, the word hippo in ancient languages was the name used for a harbour for ships, and many cities had it in their names.

One city, Hippo Regius (pronounced re-gee-us), had a particularly famous bishop, or Christian church leader, named Saint Augustine of Hippo. He wrote a number of works on Christianity about 1600 years ago that have become very well-known, and influenced church teachings for many years after.

A Roman Citizen

Saint Augustine was born in northern Africa in 354 CE, while it belonged to the great Roman Empire. His birth name was Aurelius Augustinus.

His family wasn't poor, but they didn't have enough money to educate anyone except him, meaning his brother and sister didn't get to go to school. While it may sound great to not have to go to school, it meant that they had to do hard work instead of learning.

After completing his schooling, he decided he wanted to teach others, instructing them in debate and public speaking. He caught the eye of the Roman Emperor and got a very good-paying job as a head instructor. However, he lasted only two years before he got tired of it and looked for a life change.

Becoming Holy

The transition from Aurelius Augustinus to Saint Augustine began when he was in his 30s and joined the church, which at the time was the religion of the entire Roman Empire. He became famous for being able to write very persuasive books about religion, while also giving sermons, or religious speeches, that common people could understand, even if they did not have an education. By the age of 40 he became the bishop of Hippo, where he would remain for the rest of his life.

Saint Bernadette



Saint Bernadette Soubirous was born on January 7, 1844 into a very poor family in France. She had a pleasant personality, very poor health, and bad asthma. Bernadette helped her mother around the house and took care of her siblings. She once said, "I was nothing and of this nothing God made something great."

The Beautiful Lady

Throughout Bernadette's childhood she had visions of Our Lady and she would pray the Rosary to her. Our Lady appeared to Bernadette more than 17 times in her early life. Our Lady promised Bernadette happiness not in this world, but in the next. During the sixteenth appearance, on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, Our Lady revealed who she was.

The authorities and the clergy didn't believe Bernadette, but she remained determined, loving, and courageous despite the hardships.

Life After the Visions

On January 18, 1862, the Church declared Bernadette's visions authentic and supernatural.

In 1866, when she was 22 years old, Bernadette entered the Sisters of Charity of Nevers and spent the rest of her life praying for sinners, serving as a sacristan, and helping out in the infirmary. She died when she was only 35 years old.

Thirty years later, Bernadette's body was dug up. When her coffin was opened, there was no order and she was found to be in perfect condition. Year later, Bernadette was dug up once again and her incorruptible status was confirmed. She was placed in a gold and glass coffin and her body can still be seen today in the Chapel of Saint Bernadette in Nevers, France.

A Great and Humble Saint

Saint Bernadette is forever remembered for her perseverance in suffering, childlike trust, and humility. She is the patron Saint of shepherds and shepherdesses and of people who are persecuted or ridiculed for their faith. Her feast day is celebrated on April 16, but in France and Canada, she is remembered on February 18.

Saint Francis



Saint Francis of Assisi was a Catholic friar who gave up a life of wealth to live a life of poverty.

Early Life

Francis was born in Assisi, Italy in 1182. He grew up leading a privileged life as the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. Francis loved to learn and sing songs as a boy. His father wanted him to become a businessman and taught him about the French culture.

About the age of nineteen Francis went to battle against the nearby town of Perugia. Francis was captured and taken prisoner for a year before he was freed by his father.

Visions from God

Over the next few years Francis began to see visions from God that changed his life. The first vision was when he was sick with a high fever. At first he thought God had called him to fight in the Crusades but he had another vision that told him to help the sick. Finally, when praying in a church, Francis heard God tell him to "repair my church, which is falling in ruins."

Francis gave all his money to the church. His father became very angry with him. Francis then left his father's home and took a vow of poverty.

The Franciscan Order

As Francis lived his life of poverty and preached to people about the life of Jesus Christ, people began to follow him. By 1209, he had around 11 followers. He had one basic rule which was "To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps".

Francis was a devoted follower of the Catholic Church. He and his followers travelled to Rome to get the approval for their religious Order from the pope. At first the pope was reluctant. These men were dirty, poor, and smelled bad. However, eventually he understood their vow of poverty and blessed the Order.

Francis became spent the last few years of his life mostly blind. He died in 1226 while singing Psalm 141. He was declared a saint of the Catholic Church only two years after his death.