

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 28

Ages 3-8

SAINT STUDIES

- 1. What does it mean to be a martyr?** A martyr is someone who was killed for defending Jesus. Many of the early saints were martyrs. Saints Denis, Rusticus, and Eleutherius (or Saint Denis and Companions) are three Saints who were martyred around 258 AD. Saint Denis is the most well known of the three men- the other two were thought to be St. Denis's priest Deacon. St. Denis was a very active missionary in Gaul (which is now known as France.) **What is a missionary?** It is someone who spreads the Word of God and teaches others about Jesus and Christianity. St Denis converted many people to Christianity. The feast days of St Denis and Companions are celebrated on October 9th. They are the Patron Saints of France, against frenzy, strife, headaches, and rabies. *St. Denis and Companions, pray for us!*
- 2. St Francis Borgia's feast day is celebrated on October 10th.** He was born into a very powerful family and he became the Duke of Spain at a young age. He was a very devout Christian man though- he and his wife, Eleanor, had 8 children. After his wife died, however, he decided to change his life drastically. He gave up his position as Duke, donated all his things, and became a Priest in the Society of Jesus (also known as the Jesuits.) **Who are the Jesuits?** Just like the Franciscans, the Jesuits are an order of priests. The St. Francis Borgia was very helpful in spreading the Society of Jesus across the world- especially in Spain and Portugal and eventually in Mexico, Peru and Florida. Although he was very successful, he remained humble and devoted to Christ's calling in his life. He is Patron Saint of earthquakes and Portugal. *St. Francis Borgia, pray for us!*
- 3. Did you know there are many steps to becoming a Saint?** There are three steps to becoming a Saint. First the person is given the title "Venerable", then "Blessed" and finally "Saint." In order to be considered "Blessed," the person must have performed one miracle that the Church has approved. **Blessed Carlo Acutis** is an example of someone in the process of becoming a Saint but is not quite there yet! Carli Acutis was born in 1991 and lived in Milan, Italy. After making his First Holy Communion, he went to Mass as often as he could, he loved praying the Rosary and

went to weekly Confession. He was an extremely kind boy who made a point to defend kids at school who were getting picked on, especially children with disabilities. He loved soccer and video games. He was very talented on the computer and made an entire website dedicated to his love of the Eucharist, specifically Eucharistic Miracles. He said: "the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven." He is a patron for computer programmers and youth and his feast day is celebrated on October 12th.. *Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us!*

4. **Who was Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos?** Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos lived from 1819-1867. He came to the United States in 1843 from Germany and was ordained a priest in 1844. He worked in parishes all over the US- the East Coast and in the midwest, as well as in Louisiana. He was a huge blessing to German immigrants who did not speak much English. He had a special passion for serving people- especially the poor and destitute. Blessed Francis was very well loved by his parishioners. He is the Patron of immigrants to the US. His feast day is celebrated on October 12th. *Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, pray for us!*

5. **Did you know that some Saints are called "Doctors of the Church?"** It's true. These "Doctors of the Church" are Saints who have had teachings and writings that have been extremely helpful to Catholic doctrine and faith. It is a very special title and there are not many Saints who have been given it! Saint Teresa of Avila was the first female Saint to be given the title. St Teresa of Avila was born in Spain and lived from 1515-1582. She was a very beautiful young girl and cared a lot about boys and her appearance. However, when she was 16, her Father sent her away to a convent, and slowly, she began to fall in love with the religious life. She became a Carmelite nun and with God's guidance, started new convents as well. She was a great leader to the other nuns and she was always obedient to God and his plans for her life. St Teresa's feast day is on October 15th. She is the patron Saint of headache sufferers. *St. Teresa of Avila, pray for us!*