

## FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 28

Ages 8+

### SAINT STUDIES for OCTOBER!

- 1. Who is Saint John XXIII?** He was known as "The Good Pope" and a father figure to the entire world during his pontificate. Born Angelo Roncalli, he was the 4th of 14 children, son of a poor Italian farmer. He served in the WWI as a military chaplain and helped thousands of persecuted Jews to flee from the Nazis. He was elected Pope in 1958 and only served 5 years. **What is he remembered for?** He is remembered for his visits to prisoners and orphanages, schools and hospitals. He is also remembered for calling the Second Vatican Council. This was a type of meeting that was held over the course of a few years where the Church's Bishops and Cardinals planned how to modernize the Church. **What else do we know about him?** He kept a spiritual diary called Journey of a Soul. His [Daily Decalogue](#) is a particularly popular prayer and inspiration! **What is Saint John XXIII the patron saint of?** Christian unity and the Italian army. **When is his feast day?** Saint John XXIII's feast day is on October 11, which is NOT his death date, but the anniversary of the Second Vatican Council.
- 2. Have you heard of Saint Callistus I?** St. Callistus I was the 16th Pope. He was a slave who became educated by his Christian owner. He was a failed businessman but he worked hard and eventually became a great influence to Pope Zephyrinus. **Did you know that his tomb can still be seen today?** He was buried in the cemetery of Calepodius. **What else do we know about him?** He was not a popular Pope! Other theologians, especially Hippolytus, disagreed with him and even tried to have him replaced. In fact, most of the Church's knowledge about this saint comes from pamphlets written by Hippolytus. **How did he die?** Tradition holds that Saint Callistus I was killed by an anti-Catholic death in the year 222. We remember this Pope, Saint and Martyr on October 14th.
- 3. Who do we celebrate on October 15th?** St. Teresa of Avila! St. Teresa was a Spanish Carmelite nun. One of her greatest missions was to reform her order back to simplicity and prayer. **What was special about Teresa of Avila?** St. Teresa had a life of incredible mental prayer. She prayed for hours, contemplating Jesus and even experiencing visions. **What else did she do?** She wrote books to help people with prayer. She founded a convent and her ideas for reform of religious life were adapted throughout the world. She was named a Doctor of the Church. **What does it mean to be a Doctor of the Church?** A title given by a Pope, a Doctor of the Church is somebody who lived a holy life while teaching the faith and deepening our understanding of our Catholic faith.

4. **Who is Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos?** Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos was a German priest who came to North America as a missionary! While he was studying in Germany, he became concerned with the German immigrants in America lacking spiritual care. He applied to the Redemptorist Order and sailed to America and was ordained a priest in Baltimore Maryland. **What did he do as a priest?** He was a parish priest in Pennsylvania, under St. John Neuman. He also preached missions and was loved as a confessor. He said "I hear confessions in German, English, French, of whites and blacks." People traveled far for his spiritual direction. **What else did he do?** He was the Pastor and Prefect of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Annapolis. He was known for being kind, happy, accepting, and having a spirit of sacrifice and apostolic zeal. **How did he die?** He was assigned to a parish in New Orleans but after caring for victims of yellow fever there, he also caught the disease. He died on October 4th, 1867. **What is the difference between Blessed and Saint?** A Blessed is part of the process for canonization, or sainthood. There are many steps. "Blesseds" are those who have been beautified, meaning they have at least one miracle attested to them and allows for the person to be venerated by their local church.
5. **Did you know that St. Teresa of Avila's spiritual director is ALSO a saint?! St. Peter of Alcantara** was a reformed Franciscan, known for his holiness and austerity. **What does Austerity mean?** He was plain in the way he dressed and simple in the way he lived. He was also very stern and serious when it came to his faith. Sometimes he only slept two hours a night, praying the rest of the time! **What did he do?** He worked to renew penance among the Franciscans. He was a big part of the Spanish Counter-Reform, a time where there were many heretical (false) methods of reform. He also wrote a book, a spiritual classic called *A Treatise on Mental Prayer*, still very popular today! Because he was a good preacher and a good leader, his presence was desired by Kings and Emperors! He chose instead to be unimportant, living around and preaching to the poor. His feast day is October 19th.