

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 30

Ages 8+

SAINT STUDIES for OCTOBER!

- 1. What is an order?** An order is a community of consecrated religious men and women. You may have heard of the Jesuits or the Franciscans- those are examples of different orders. **Have you heard of the Claretians?** The Claretians are also known as the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This order was founded by St. Anthony Mary Claret. **Who was St. Anthony Mary Claret?** He was born in 1807, on Christmas Eve, in Spain. He became a diocesan priest, meaning he was assigned as pastor to a church, but became restless. He considered different orders but felt called to travel and preach. His bishop gave him permission to be a wandering missionary. He was devoted to the Blessed Sacrament and to the Blessed Mother. He traveled all over Spain- preaching, hearing confessions and leading retreats. He was known for miracles and prophecy! One place he served was all the way in Cuba! As the archbishop, he worked tirelessly for church reform. **Did you know that he was confessor to the Queen of Spain?** Yes! St. Anthony Mary Claret was Queen Isabella II's confessor in Madrid. While there he started a publishing house, producing Catholic books and pamphlets. **How did he die?** A revolt in Spain forced Queen Isabella into exile in France, and St. Anthony Mary Claret went with her. During that time he traveled to Rome to participate in the First Vatican Council. He died in a monastery in France upon his return. His feast day is October 24th.
- 2. Who is the patron saint of lost causes?** St. Jude is the patron saint of lost or impossible causes! **Who was St. Jude?** St. Jude, also called Thaddeus, was an apostle of Jesus. His brother James was an apostle, too. He is also the author of an epistle, or a letter. He wrote this epistle to the Churches of the East, against heresies that were occurring in some of their communities. St. Jude preached the Gospel in places like Syria, Mesopotamia and Judea. He was eventually martyred. **Why do we invoke him for lost or hopeless causes?** For one, his epistle encourages Christians to persevere in harsh and difficult circumstances. It also comes from pilgrims who came to pray at his grave. Many of these pilgrims said St. Jude was a powerful intercessor. In fact, two saints, St. Brigid of Sweden and St. Bernard, had visions from God, instructing them to pray to St. Jude as their help for desperate intentions! **When is his feast day?** October 28th.
- 3. Have you heard of Blessed Carlo Acutis?** He is a modern day example of holiness for us all! Born in 1991 to an Italian family who had fallen away from the Catholic faith, he attended a Catholic kindergarten and fell in love with the Church. He

asked to make little visits to Jesus anytime his mother drove past a church and he went to confession weekly. He was very devoted to both the Blessed Sacrament and the rosary. He was also known for his kindness and defended helpless peers who were subject to bullying. He spent time volunteering with the homeless. **What other interests did Blessed Carlo Acutis have?** He was a self taught computer programmer. He was passionate about the internet and how it could help to spread the gospel and be used for God's glory. At the age of eleven he completed a massive project- a website dedicated to cataloging Eucharistic miracles throughout the world! **How can we relate to Blessed Carlo Acutis?** He loved nutella and ice cream and video games! He practiced temperance, knowing how addicting video games could be, and only allowed himself an hour a week. We can pray to him for help in regulating our own technology use. **How did he die?** He died of a cancer called Leukemia when he was 15 years old. He offered up his suffering for the Church and the Pope. His feast day is October 12th. *"The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven"*

4. **Do you love getting outdoors and playing sports?** So did St. Pope John Paul II! St. Pope John Paul II was the Pope from 1978 to 2005. That is a long time! He never outgrew his love for camping, hiking, kayaking and skiing. But he was more than just an athlete. He is said to have written around 3,000 pages a year as Pope, and he could speak 12 languages! He also traveled more than any other Pope, visiting 129 countries. **What do we remember about St. Pope John Paul II?** He canonized over 400 saints while he was Pope. This is important work, the lives of the saints inspire us! Like big brothers and sisters, they lead us and show us the way to holiness. He wrote the Luminous mysteries of the Rosary. He worked to spread the devotion of Jesus' Divine Mercy by founding Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter. It was fitting that he himself was canonized on Divine Mercy Sunday of 2014. St. Pope John Paul II also founded the World Youth Day, an event for Catholic youth that is held every 2 or 3 years. It is a massive celebration of faith and unity and young people's role in our Catholic Faith. **When is his feast day?** His feast day is October 22nd.
5. **Have you heard of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary?** This order was founded by Blessed Marie- Rose Durocher. Blessed Marie-Rose was born near Montreal in Canada to a large family. She was interested in becoming a nun, but she had poor health. **What did she do instead?** After her mother's death, she went with her father to her brother's parish in a city called Boloeil. She worked tirelessly there, even earning the nickname Saint of Boloeil. She was a housekeeper and a hostess and a parish worker. Her spiritual director urged her to found her own community of nuns, but initially she resisted, devoted to her father and brother. Eventually she found a teaching community with the help of two friends. They opened a boarding school for girls and taught the faith to the poor. **Is this**

order only in Canada? No, it spread to Oregon in 1959 and now can be found worldwide. Unfortunately, the six years Blessed Marie-Rose lived and worked as a nun were very trying. She was sick and poor and the work was hard. She was known for being very strict with herself and her community. She practiced penance out of great love for the crucified Jesus. She died in 1849. Her feast day is October 6th.