

# **THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE**

## **UNIT 2**

### **Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace**

#### **Lesson 7**

#### **Becoming a Saint**

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### Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace

#### Becoming a Saint

##### Lesson Overview

Students will learn the steps to being recognized as a saint in the Church and will learn about some Canadian saints – St. Brother Andre Bessette, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, St. Marguerite D'Youville, St. Kateri Tekakwitha

**Duration:** 80 mins

#### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

##### Religious Education:

Reflect on the saving story of our Christian faith and how we are to respond to God's gift of salvation;

Cherish and participate in the sacramental life of the Church as the gift of God's presence in our lives to nourish, restore, guide and form us as children of God;

Participate as an active member in the prayer life of the Communion of Saints to help those saints among us and those who have gone before us and who are in need of our prayers;

##### Literacy Connections:

**1.1** read a variety of texts

#### ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

It is our hope that students will be individuals who:

Recognize the contributions of various Canadian Saints and the steps to becoming a Saint

The **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations** evident in this lesson include:

**CGE1f** -seeks intimacy with God and celebrates communion with God, others and creation through prayer and worship;

**CGE2b** -reads, understands and uses written materials effectively;

Guiding Questions (coming out of the Big Idea)	
	<p><b>Big Idea:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The students will be able to identify the steps to canonization and some Canadian Saints.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Scripture Passages:</b></p> <p>Romans 1:7  <i>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</i></p>

LEARNING GOALS	
	<p>At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name at least 1 Canadian Saint and identify the steps to become a Saint</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Success Criteria</b>, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the “look-fors”) in relation to curriculum expectations.</p>

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT	
<p><b>Terminology:</b></p> <p>Communion of Saints          Servant of God          Venerable          Blessed          Canonization          Martyr          Cannonization</p>	<p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pens/pencils</b></li> <li><b>Lined paper</b></li> <li><b>Photocopies of appendix</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Internet Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YouTube video “How to Become a Saint”  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrWU1dgFUKg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrWU1dgFUKg</a>            A great video that discusses the process to become a Saint. (3 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><b>Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saints information sheet (<i>See Appendix A</i>)</li> <li>Biographies of Canadian Saints (<i>See Appendix B, pages 1 to 4</i>)</li> </ul>

## **MINDS ON**

- Establishing a positive learning environment
- Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences
- Setting the context for learning

Ask the students to name as many Saints they can:

St. Augustine, St. Paul, St. Michael – think of the names of our schools.

Have the students brainstorm ways they think that a person can become a Saint.

## **ACTION**

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided → independent)

### **Part 1: How to become a Saint (40 minutes)**

View the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrWU1dqFUKg>

Distribute or project *Appendix A*. After you and the students have done a guided reading through the information sheet, have each student select a saint who has gone through the process and research to identify how they met each step.

*\*Differentiated instruction – Some students may use assistive technology and/or work in pairs.*

*Teacher may provide names of saints for some students.*

### **Part 2: Canadian Saints (40 minutes)**

Canada has a variety of Saints. Some of the more well-known are St. (Brother) Andre Bessette, St. Marguerite D'Youville, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha. Brief biographies of these Canadian Saints can be found in the appendices.

Introduce the four Saints by name. Divide the class into four groups to explore the life and works of these Saints. Invite each group to draw one or more symbols to represent that saint.

## **CONSOLIDATION**

- Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection
- Helping students demonstrate what they have learned

Have the students present what they have learned to the class.

What symbols did they choose to represent each Saint? Why?

If they could take three things away from each Saint, what would those three things be?

## **CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Further extensions to this lesson might include:**

Researching the religious orders associated with these saints; the Ursuline Sisters, the Congregation of Notre Dame, the Congregation of Holy Cross, the Jesuits.

### Appendix A –

#### Saints

It is important to note that the Catholic Church does not create saints. A saint is a man or women who has lived their life according to God's will and became saints when they entered heaven. When a person is made a saint, it is the Church's way to acknowledge that the individual has entered into heaven.

#### **Individuals who are identified can become a saint in 4 steps.**

**The first Step** – is the person needs to be dead for at least 5 years. There are exceptions, the Pope may wave the 5 year wait like he did with John Paul II. When a person is being thought about for sainthood, a Bishop is placed in charge of a group who will examine the individual's life. If the Bishop rules that the person is a good candidate. The Vatican (where the head of the Catholic Church is located) will grant a "Nihil Obstat", it is a Latin word that means "nothing hinders". At this point the person is considered a "Servant of God"

**Step Two:** The Vatican appoints a person to be a Postulator. The Postulator job is to give reasons why the candidate is a good choice to be a Saint. They will look over the candidates life and point to specific examples where the person demonstrated virtues worthy of sainthood. They use things like journals, oral history and other documents to support the candidates case. The evidence is presented at the Congregation For the Causes of Saints in Rome. If a candidate is approved, then he/she earns the title of "Venerable".

**Step Three:** Time for a miracle. In order to be considered "Blessed", the candidate needs to have one miracle attributed to them. It is not the person doing the miracle, but God granting the miracle after the Saint prays for intercession.

**Fourth Step:** In order to be Canonized as a saint, a second miracle must happen after the person is "Blessed" A miracle is not required for a martyr to become "Blessed" but is before they become a Saint. A martyr is a person who has died for their faith. Once the second miracle has been made, the Pope can declare the candidate a "Saint"

#### **What is the Communion of Saint?**

The Communion of Saints is what brings all Catholic together. Chances are that you probably have heard the Communion of Saints referred to during mass. The communion of saints is the union of all the Christian church, the living and the dead, those on earth and in heaven. We come together as one "mythical body", where Christ is the heads, and we are all responsible to share and bring the good news to all.

Belief in the communion of saints is affirmed in the Apostles' Creed.

### Appendix B-1 Biography of Canadian Saints

#### **Brother Andre – Feast Day January 7**

Brother Andre was known as the “Miracle Man of Montreal.” He was born in 1845 and named Alfred Bissette. When he entered the Congregation of Holy Cross he took the name Andre, in memory of the priest who had introduced him to the idea of religious life.

Brother Andre was originally assigned to be a door keeper at College Notre-Dame and took care of a prayer house on Mount Royal (Montreal). He welcomed thousands of visitors who were looking for help during their difficult times. Brother Andre is widely liked because he is considered a simple man. Brother Andre would listen to the needs of the people and would recommend that they pray to St. Joseph. Miracles began to appear as people turned their faith towards God. He would not accept credit and always said that the miracles were the work of St. Joseph.

Brother Andre died in 1937 and is credited with assisting in the healings of thousands. Brother Andre is buried in the Church of the Crypt at the Oratory at the bottom of Mount Royal.

Even though Brother Andre did not benefit from higher education, he had a firm understanding of what is essential in the Catholic faith. Pope Benedict said “he showed boundless charity and did everything possible to soothe the despair of those who confided in him”.

He was declared "venerable" by Pope Paul VI in 1978 and beatified — declared "blessed" — by Pope John Paul II in 1982 after a case of healing in 1958 was recognized officially by the Vatican as a miracle. He was canonized on October 17, 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI.

### Appendix B-2 Biography of Canadian Saints

#### **St. Marguerite Bourgeoys – Feast Day January 12**

Marguerite was born in Troyes, France, in 1620 and was the sixth of twelve children. Her parents were devout people and lived holy lives. When Marguerite was nineteen, her mother died. Marguerite took care of her younger brothers and sisters. Then her father died when she was twenty-seven.

The family was now raised and Marguerite prayed to know what to do with her life. The governor of Montreal, Canada, was visiting France. He tried to find teachers for the New World and he invited Marguerite to come to Montreal to teach school and religion classes. She said yes.

Marguerite gave away her all her money and belongings to other members of the family. They couldn't believe that she would really leave their civilized country to go to a wild new country across the ocean. But she did.

She sailed on June 20, 1653, and arrived in Canada in mid-November. Marguerite began the construction of a chapel in honor Our Lady of Good Help in 1657. Then in 1658, she opened her first school.

Marguerite needed the help of more teachers. She returned to France in 1659 and returned with four companions. In 1670, she went to France again and brought back six companions. These brave women became the first sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame.

St. Marguerite and her sisters helped people in the colony survive when food was scarce. They opened a vocational school and taught young people how to run a home and farm.

St. Marguerite's congregation was growing. By 1681 there were eighteen sisters. Seven were Canadian. They opened more missions and two sisters taught at the Indian mission. St. Marguerite herself received the first two Indian women into the congregation.

When Mother Marguerite was seventy three years old, she handed over her congregation to the new superior Marie Barbier, who the first Canadian to join the order. St. Marguerite's religious rule was approved by the Church in 1698.

Marguerite spent her last few years praying and writing an autobiography. On December 31, 1699, a young sister lay dying. Mother Marguerite asked the Lord to take her life in exchange.

By the morning of January 1, 1700, the sister was completely well and Mother Marguerite had a very high fever. She suffered for twelve days and died on January 12, 1700.

Marguerite was canonized by the Catholic Church as the first female saint of Canada; the process began nearly 100 years before in 1878, when Pope Leo XIII gave her the title of "venerable" via papal decree. In November 1950, Pope Pius XII beatified her, giving her the title "Blessed Marguerite Bourgeoys." On April 2, 1982, Pope John Paul II issued the Decree of Miracle for a cure attributed to her intercession; on 31 October that year, she was canonized as Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys.

### Appendix B-3 Biography of Canadian Saints

#### **St. Marguerite d'Youville – Feast Day October 16**

St. Marguerite d'Youville is the first Canadian to be made a Saint. She was born on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1701 in Quebec. Her father died when she was 7 and the family grew up in poverty. Luckily, she was able to study for two years with the Ursulines in Quebec. When she returned home she helped with the education of her brothers and sisters.

She married François d'Youville in 1722. She was pregnant with her sixth child when François became seriously ill. She faithfully cared for him until his death in 1730. At the age of 29, she had already suffered the loss of her father and husband. Four of her six children died in infancy.

Her suffering brought her closer to God. She felt that God loved all persons and could be trusted in. She educated her two sons, who would later become priests. She had a great concern and compassion for the poor. She and three others would become the founders of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, "Grey Nuns".

Marguerite always fought for the rights of the poor and broke with the social conventions of her day. It was a daring move that made her the object of ridicule and taunts by her own relatives and neighbors. She persevered in caring for the poor despite many obstacles. She was in weakened health and mourning the death of one of her companions when a fire destroyed their home. This only served to deepen her commitment to the poor. On February 2, 1745, she and her two early companions pledged themselves to put everything in common in order to help a greater number of persons in need. Two years later, this "mother of the poor" as she was called, was asked to become director of the Charon Brothers Hospital in Montreal which was falling into ruin. She and her sisters rebuilt the hospital and cared for those in most desperate human misery. With the help of her sisters and their lay collaborators, Marguerite laid the foundation for service to the poor of a thousand faces.

In 1765 a fire destroyed the hospital but nothing could destroy Marguerite's faith and courage. She asked her sisters and the poor who lived at the hospital, to recognize the hand of God in this disaster and to offer him praise. At the age of 64 she undertook the reconstruction of this shelter for those in need. Totally exhausted from a lifetime of self-giving, Marguerite died on December 23, 1771 and will always be remembered as a loving mother who served Jesus Christ in the poor.

Pope John XXIII beatified Marguerite on May 3, 1959 and called her "Mother of Universal Charity" - a well-merited title for one who continues to this day to reach out to all with love and compassion. Marguerite d'Youville can sympathize with the unfortunate and painful situation of so many orphans, with adolescents worried about the future, with disillusioned girls who live without hope, with married woman suffering from unrequited love and with single parents. But most especially, Marguerite is a kindred spirit with all who have given their lives to helping others. The power of Marguerite's intercession before God was clearly evidenced when a young woman stricken with acute myeloblastic leukemia in 1978 was miraculously cured. This great favor opened for Marguerite the door to the official proclamation of sainthood.

[http://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/saints/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_19901209\\_youville\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_19901209_youville_en.html)



### Appendix B-4 Biography of Canadian Saints

#### **St. Kateri Tekakwitha – Feast Day July 14**

Known as the “Lily of the Mohawks”, Kateri Tekakwitha was born in 1656 in Ossernenon (today Auriesville, New York) to a Catholic Algonquin mother and a Mohawk Chief. When she was four years old, her parents and brother died of smallpox. Kateri was also affected by the disease, which left her almost blind and badly scarred her face. She was taken in by her aunts and uncle, who was strongly opposed to Christianity.

When she was 10 years old, her village moved to Caughnawaga (today Fonda, New York). In 1667, her village was visited by the Jesuit missionaries. From them, she received her first knowledge of Christianity. Despite his misgivings, her uncle allowed her to be baptized as long as she remained in the village. Following her Baptism, Kateri lived a pious and faith-filled life, spending hours in prayer and fashioning crosses out of twigs. She also refused to marry, believing that she was married to God and that no man could take God’s place in her heart. Her beliefs were met with ridicule, hostility and threats. Thus, two years after her Baptism, she fled to St. Francis Xavier Mission, a Christian Mohawk village in Kahnawake, Quebec.

There, she received her first Communion on Christmas Day 1677. She also made a vow of perpetual virginity on the Feast of the Annunciation in 1679. In Kahnawake, Kateri was known for her faith and holiness. She taught prayers to children, cared for the elderly and the sick, and would often attend mass at sunrise and sunset.

Kateri’s health deteriorated in the last years of her life. She died of tuberculosis on April 17, 1680, shortly before her 24<sup>th</sup> birthday, and was buried at St. Francis Xavier Mission. Her final words were: “Jesos Konoronkwa” (“Jesus, I love you”). Witnesses report that within minutes of her death, the smallpox scars vanished from her face, which then radiated with beauty.

It is believed that since Kateri's death many miracles have been performed through her intercession, with the sick being cured and many prayers being answered. Kateri was declared Venerable by Pope Pius XII on January 3, 1943, and beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980. On December 19, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI signed a decree officially acknowledging another miracle attributed to her intervention. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 21, 2012, in Rome. She became “the first native North American to be raised to the glory of the altars”.