



Jubilee of the Poor

Resources for Teachers, Catechists, or Families

BACKGROUND

The Jubilee of the Poor is an opportunity to honor the inherent dignity of all God's people and to recommit to the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. The Church invites us to celebrate the contributions every person makes to our world.

During this Jubilee of Hope, we can look to the many saints as Christ's witnesses of hope in the world. Included in this Jubilee resource pack you will find three such saints. Each saint is a role model for us on how to be holy companions for the poor:

- Saint Martin de Porres is a role model for young children in the primary grades. He dedicated his simple life to serve like Jesus.
- Saint Louise de Marillac is a role model for children at the intermediate level. She took on the Beatitudes to care for the poor.
- Saint Óscar Romero is a role model for junior high-aged young people. He imitated Christ in living out the Works of Mercy, even at the expense of his own life.

Collectively, these saints and all the others exemplified Christ's call to love and serve God and one another. They encourage us to do likewise as holy companions to the poor and vulnerable.

The Jubilee of the Poor will be held on Sunday, November 16, 2025. You may choose to use these resources this month or throughout the year.

**“[T]he greater the love for the poor,
the greater the reward from God.”**

Pope Leo XIV, *On Love for the Poor* 45

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Community Blessings

Activity for Primary Grades

This prayer from the USCCB invites us to reflect on the Catholic values of justice, human dignity, and solidarity, which are central to celebrating the Jubilee of the Poor. In this prayer, we acknowledge responsibility to our community, especially to those in most need. The imagery within this prayer emphasizes our need to embody Christ and see him in others. This activity encourages children in primary grades to honor the dignity of the poor and be Christ-like to them.

Take on a Beatitude

Activity for Intermediate Grades

This activity begins with a crossword puzzle to help children at the intermediate grade levels recall part of the Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12). Each clue corresponds to one of the Beatitudes, encouraging the children to reflect on the spiritual values of humility, mercy, peace, and righteousness. Once the puzzle is completed, the children are invited to take on one beatitude to help them grow in empathy for those who are poor or vulnerable.

Living Out Works of Mercy

Activity for Junior High Students

This activity invites junior high children to reflect on the Corporal Works of Mercy, which are actions that help meet the physical needs of others. The list is included and serves as a reminder of Christ's call to serve those in need. Upon reflection, the children are then invited to live out one of those Works of Mercy with their family, group, or class.

Holy Companions for the Poor

Saint Martin de Porres

MARTIN DE PORRES loved God. The Holy Spirit helped Brother Martin to live as a disciple of Jesus. Brother Martin served people with a joyful heart.

Martin was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579. His father left his family when Martin was eight. This left Martin and his baby sister and their mother very poor. But Martin still gave away whatever he could to other hungry and poor people.

Brother Martin worked with poor people. He opened a home for children whose parents had died or could not care for them. He opened a hospital and schools. He also took care of animals that were sick or hungry.

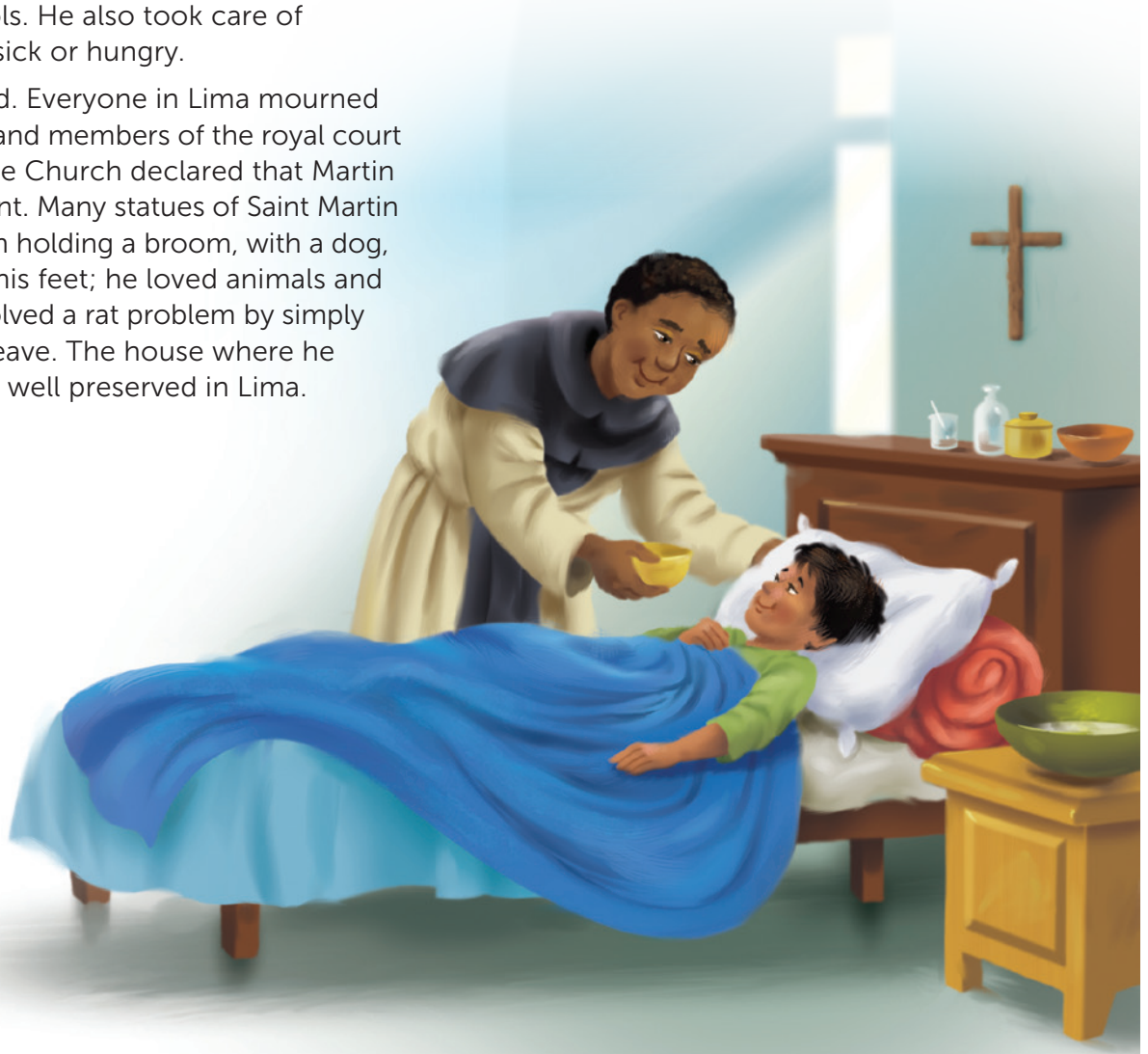
In 1639, Martin died. Everyone in Lima mourned him, even bishops and members of the royal court in Lima. In 1962, the Church declared that Martin de Porres was a saint. Many statues of Saint Martin de Porres show him holding a broom, with a dog, cat, and mouse at his feet; he loved animals and was said to have solved a rat problem by simply asking the rats to leave. The house where he was born has been well preserved in Lima.

Saint Martin de Porres is the patron saint of persons of mixed race and of those who suffer from discrimination.

FEAST DAY: November 3

CANONIZED: May 6, 1962

BEATIFIED: October 29, 1837

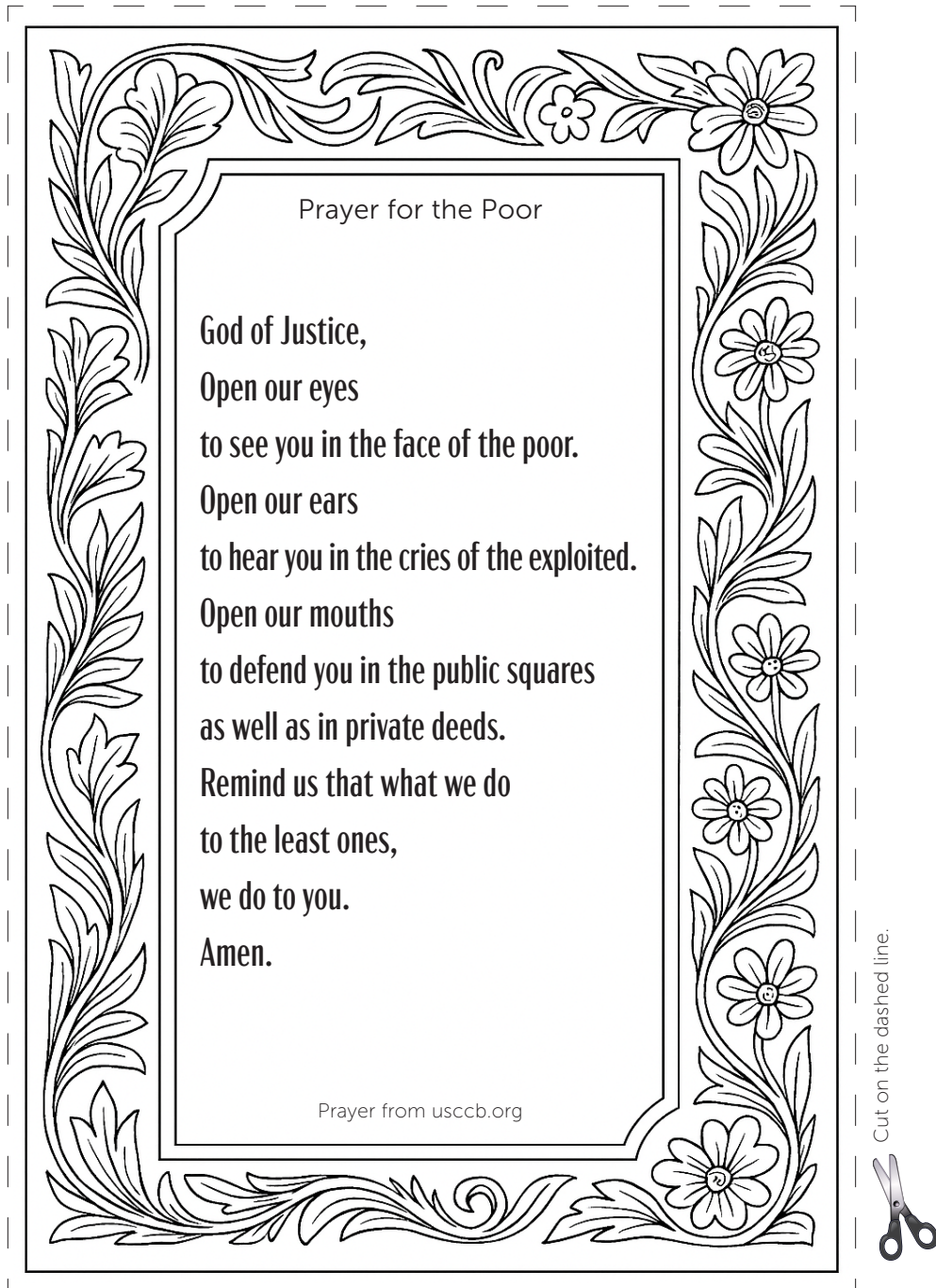


Community Blessings

An Activity for Primary Grades

All people, including the poor, are created in God's image and likeness. When we see the goodness in others, we honor their dignity. Use the following prayer to help you honor the goodness in others by being Christ-like to them.

DIRECTIONS: Color the prayer card below. Cut it out and read it aloud as a class or family.



Holy Companions for the Poor

Saint Louise de Marillac

LOUISE DE MARILLAC was born into a wealthy French family in 1591, but all the money in the world could not stop sadness from touching her life. Her mother died when she was young, and her father died when she was a teenager. She was raised by her aunt, a nun, and Louise felt called to religious life, but she was discouraged from it. Instead, her priest arranged for Louise to marry a young man named Antoine LeGras, who could provide her with a comfortable life.

Luckily, Antoine and Louise grew deeply in love. God blessed them with a son. The couple's joy turned to sorrow after Antoine became ill. Louise cared for him until his death, just twelve years after they were married.

Some time later, Louise met Saint Vincent de Paul. He became her spiritual advisor. She spent the rest of her life helping him to care for the poor and others in need. He had many helpers, but he needed someone to train the volunteers and to organize their work. He later said that Louise was the answer to his prayers. Soon Vincent and Louise had begun the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. Many women joined the order, and Louise was elected the Superior.

Louise found true happiness in her work. She established hospitals, schools, and orphanages all over France. By the time Louise died in 1660, forty convents of the Sisters of Charity had been established.

Louise was canonized in 1934 and is today the patron saint of social workers. She encouraged her beloved nuns to treat the poor as if they were serving Christ himself. Like Louise, we, too, can show our love for Christ by finding practical ways to help people in need.

FEAST DAY: March 15

CANONIZED: March 11, 1934

BEATIFIED: May 9, 1920

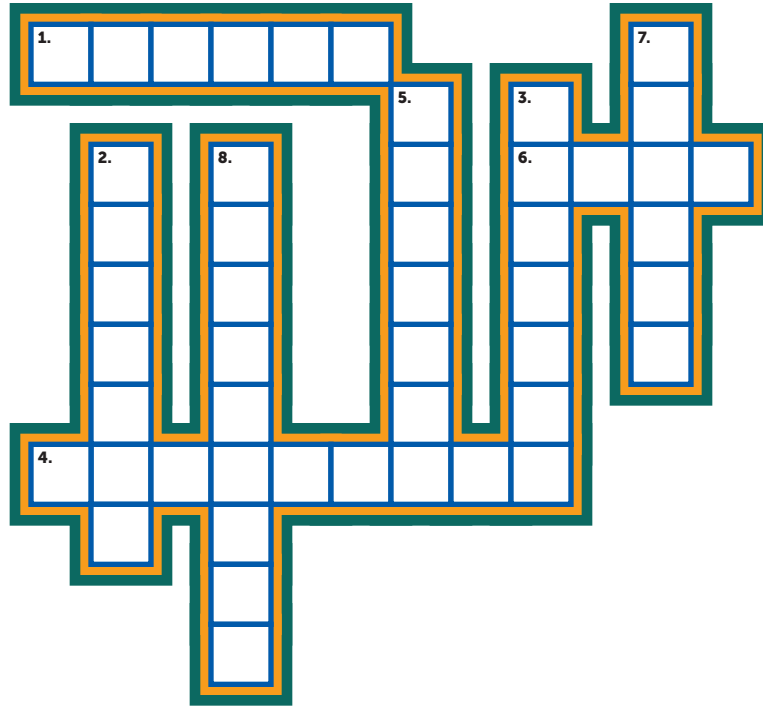


Take on a Beatitude

An Activity for Intermediate Grades

In each of the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches us one way to seek happiness. This happiness can also help us to have empathy for the poor and vulnerable.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the crossword puzzle by completing the four Scripture verses below. Then take time this week to complete the action item as a class or as a family.



"Blessed are the poor in _____,
(1 ACROSS)
for theirs is the _____ of heaven."
(2 DOWN)

MATTHEW 5:3

"_____ are they who mourn,
(3 DOWN)
for they will be _____."
(4 ACROSS)

MATTHEW 5:4

"Blessed are the meek,
for they will _____ the _____."
(5 DOWN) (6 ACROSS)

MATTHEW 5:5

"Blessed are they who _____ and thirst
(7 DOWN)
for righteousness,
for they will be _____."
(8 DOWN)

MATTHEW 5:6

ACTION ITEM:

Take on a beatitude
to help you grow in
empathy for the poor.

*Empathy means
understanding how
someone else feels and
caring about them in
their particular situation.
It is like putting yourself
in their shoes so you
can imagine what they
are experiencing.*

Holy Companions for the Poor

Saint Óscar Romero

ÓSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO Y GALDÁMEZ

was born in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador, in 1917. From an early age, Óscar knew he wanted to be a priest. He left home at the age of fourteen, traveling by horse to the large city where he could study.

He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of San Salvador in 1942 and quickly became a popular, well-known parish priest. In 1967, he went to work for the bishops of El Salvador and soon became Bishop of Santiago de Maria.

One day in 1975, soldiers raided a village in his diocese and killed many innocent people. Bishop Romero was horrified. At the funerals of these villagers, he spoke about people's human rights and how the military was wrong in the things they did. He wrote to the country's president.

When he became Archbishop of San Salvador, the government began to persecute the Church and killed people who protested against the leadership. Archbishop Romero excommunicated the murderers, announcing they could not receive sacraments in the Church. Violent oppression continued. Despite support from other countries, Romero became the target of the Salvadoran government's anger.

On March 24, 1980, as he began to raise the Consecrated Host, he was shot and killed by an unknown assassin while celebrating Mass in a small hospital chapel. During his homily at that last Mass, Archbishop Romero said, "Those who give their lives in service of the poor through love will live like the grain of wheat that dies. The harvest comes from the grains that die. . . . I am bound by God's command to give my life for all the people of El Salvador, even those who want to kill me."

Archbishop Romero was a fearless defender of the poor, the vulnerable, and the persecuted. In 2018, Óscar Romero was named a saint of the Church.

CANONIZED: October 14, 2018

BEATIFIED: May 23, 2015

VENERATED: February 3, 2015



Content from *Be My Disciples* Second Edition, Grade 6 and [SaintsResource.com](https://www.saintsresource.com)
 ©Douglas Radamez Barahona, Giovanni Ascencio Ardón y Raul Lemus
 Grupo Cinteupiltzin CENAR El Salvador/Wikipedia

Living Out Works of Mercy

An Activity for Junior High Students

The Church has a long tradition of living out the Works of Mercy. Review the list of Corporal Works of Mercy below and the corresponding practical ways to live them out.

DIRECTIONS: Place a check mark next to each practical way that interests you the most. Then as a family, group, or class, choose one to complete this week according to the needs of your local community.

FEED THE HUNGRY

- ☐ Donate to a food pantry or food drive
- ☐ Cook a meal for someone in need
- ☐ Help prepare a meal for your family
- ☐ _____

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

- ☐ Get drinks for your family and/or friends
- ☐ Run a free lemonade stand in your community
- ☐ Donate to organizations that build wells
- ☐ _____

SHELTER THE HOMELESS

- ☐ Know where local shelters and safe places are that you can share with someone in need
- ☐ Raise money to support a homeless shelter
- ☐ Donate household goods to those in need
- ☐ _____

VISIT THE SICK

- ☐ Ask a priest to visit a sick person you know
- ☐ Make and send cards to hospitals
- ☐ Help a sick person with tasks
- ☐ _____

VISIT THE PRISONERS

- ☐ Ask a priest to visit a person in prison
- ☐ Pray for those imprisoned
- ☐ Donate to organizations that support the families of those who are imprisoned
- ☐ _____

BURY THE DEAD

- ☐ Attend funerals and/or visitations
- ☐ Make and send card(s) to a grieving family
- ☐ Pray for those who have died and their families
- ☐ _____

GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR/CLOTHE THE NAKED

- ☐ Donate clothes to a homeless shelter
- ☐ Collect baby items for expectant mothers
- ☐ Make hats and scarves to be donated
- ☐ _____

The Corporal Work of Mercy
we will live out this week:

