



PRIESTHOOD

“He summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.” - LUKE 9:1-2

ACTIVITY

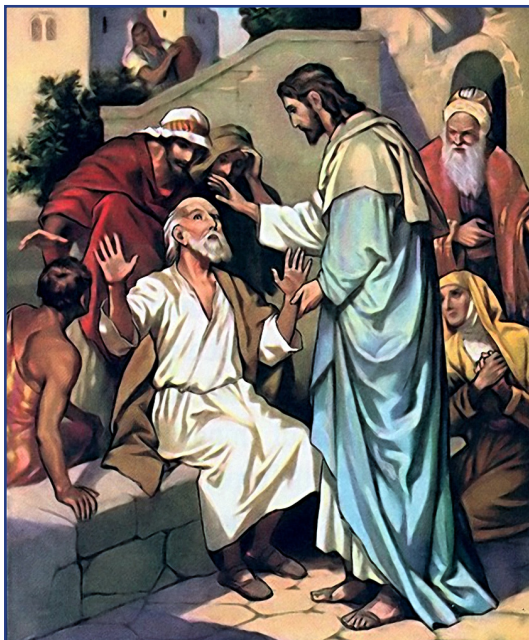
JESUS HEALS

Think of some of the miracles in the Bible where Jesus heals people. With a few other students, pretend to act out the miracle.

Here are a few examples:



Jesus heals a paralyzed man (Luke 5:18)



Jesus heals a blind man (Mark 10:46)



Jesus raises a girl from the dead (Luke 8:40)



READING

THE POPE OF LITTLE CHILDREN

Excerpted from Saints of the Eucharist by Father Francis

“Oh, Father, thank you for these new shoes!” cried Beppo. This was Beppo’s first new pair of shoes in twelve years. No wonder he was so happy. “I shall always take good care of them, too,” thought Beppo. “And they will last longer if I carry them to school. I can put them on when I get there. No one will know I walked to school barefooted.”

And so it was that on warm days little Beppo would often be seen walking the four miles to school carrying his shoes.

Each morning Beppo started the day right by going to Mass...

One could often hear him whisper this prayer, “Mother of God, I love you. Please help me to be a priest some day. I wish to bring all people and all things to Christ, your Son. I know He would be happy. So please help me, dear Mary!”

Little Beppo loved the Mass so much that he even made an altar at home. Here he was often found playing “priest.” He tried to say Mass as the parish priest did. His little brother and sisters would come to his Mass. But how carefully they watched and prayed!



A little boy pretends to celebrate Mass.

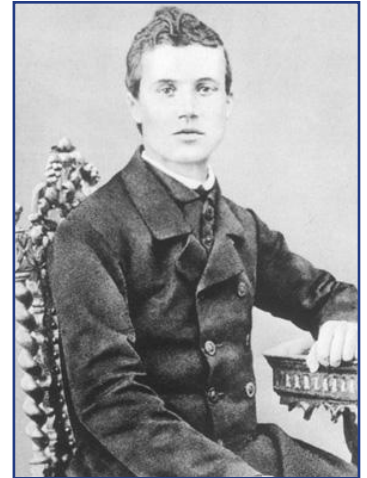
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Like many other boys and girls of long ago, Beppo had to wait long to make his First Holy Communion. Sometimes he would joke with the other children saying, “When I am Pope someday I will change that rule. I will allow children to receive Jesus even when they are very young. Jesus will make them strong and keep them pure.” Then he would run away laughing at his funny thoughts. Little did Beppo dream that someday God would really make him a pope—the pope of little children.

Soon Beppo went to study to become a priest. The people of his town helped to pay for all he needed. They knew how poor his family was....

The big day came. Beppo was now a priest. How happy his family and friends were! ... Father Sarto, as he was now called, loved to teach little children about

God. He loved to prepare them for their First Holy Communion. He would often say, “What pleases me most is to see people coming up to receive Jesus.”



A young Fr. Sarto

Many years passed by and soon Father Sarto became a bishop. Not long after, he was made pope. He cried when he got the news because he did not think he was holy enough. Beppo chose the name Pope Pius X. Now he was ruler of the whole Catholic Church.

One day a man brought his little son to see the pope. “Dear Holy Father, my little son heard the good news about receiving Holy Communion. He wishes to receive his First Holy Communion, too, but he is only four years old.”

The Holy Father picked up the little boy and put him on his lap. “Let us see what you know, little one.” The pope asked, “Who comes to you in Holy Communion?”

“Why, It is Jesus!” said the boy quickly.



A boy receives First Communion from the pope.



PRIESTHOOD

READING *continued*

“And who is Jesus?” the Holy Father asked again.

“He is God and I love Him,” said the little boy.

“Your little boy is old enough to receive Holy Communion,” the pope said, turning to the little boy’s father. “Bring your little boy to my Mass tomorrow morning. I myself will give him his First Holy Communion. He is ready.”

Pope Pius X did many great and holy things. Even while he was alive God let him work some miracles....

A father carried his little son to the pope. His boy had never walked or stood up in his life. He was this way since he was born. The poor father wanted Pius X to help his little boy.

“Let me hold your little son,” asked the pope as he took the boy. “I will pray to God to help him.”

After a short time the boy asked the pope to let him down. He began to run around the room calling, “I can run! I can run! Oh, thank you, dear Holy Father!” Everyone in the world heard about this miracle, too.

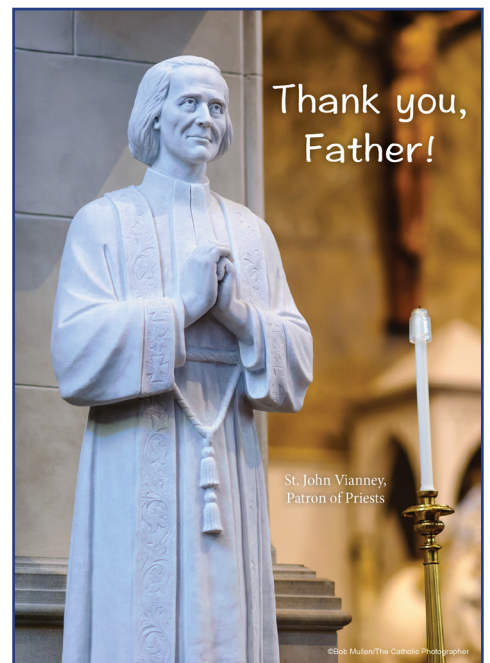
Now Pope Pius X is Saint Pius X.



Pope Saint Pius X.

EXPLORATION

Write a note of encouragement or draw a picture for one of your local priests.





VISUAL ART



"Institution of the Eucharist," by Fra Angelico

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

"Now there is in Jerusalem ... a pool ... with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk." Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked."

– JOHN 5:2-9

PRAY TOGETHER

Vocation Prayer

I say yes like Mary,
And give you my heart.
To follow you Jesus,
I will do my part.
Help me follow your will
No matter the call.
Whatever vocation,
I promise my all.
AMEN.