

HOME PROJECTS FOR MARCH

RESPECT—recognizing the dignity of all people

Grades Pre-K-2—Saint Jeanne Jugan

1. Dignity means that every single person is worth more than a *billion* dollars, because each one is made in the image of God and will live forever. Think of someone that it is hard for you to like. This month, pray for him or her and ask God to help you see what is good about that person. Tell your parents some of the things you discover.
2. Jesus said that whatever we do to others, we do to Him. Think of someone that it is hard for you to like. This month, when you see that person, imagine that they are Jesus in disguise, and treat Him well!
3. Ask your mom or dad to teach you about a different culture, and what they like about it. Maybe they will even make a meal for you based on that culture!

Grades 3-5—Saint Damien of Molokai

1. Differences make us unique. Sometimes, everybody wants to dress the same way or listen to the same music just because it's popular. If someone doesn't do those things, should they be less popular? Think of an example among your friends of something everybody does just to be popular, and find someone who doesn't do it because it's not what they like. Congratulate them on being themselves, and ask what kinds of things *they* like.
2. If we respect others, we keep boundaries: we don't make people do what we want, or try to find out things that are private, if we think that person has real dignity. Make a list of boundaries, rules of how you should treat someone if you respect them. Are there some items that you forget with certain people? Work on practicing those items this month.
3. Sometimes we tease and joke around with our friends to show affection and other times we tease in a way that has a mean edge to it, that cuts people like a knife. This month, be careful about "teasing". If a person isn't your friend, and you "tease" them, it is probably mean, so stop it this month. Or, if you only tease with your friends, take a private moment to ask one of your friends if the way you tease hurts his or her feelings. You might be surprised. If they say yes, ask forgiveness.

Grades 6-8—Saint John Paul II

1. How is prejudice related to ignorance? Think of a person or a group your friends have a habit of pre-judging, and work together to learn about them this month.
2. Are all stereotypes wrong? Are they all mean? Ask a friend to list stereotypes they think are mean, and those that they think are complimentary. Without looking at your friend's list, make your own list, and compare. In the light of faith, are there stereotypes your friends need to drop? Should you drop all stereotypes or not?
3. The popularity game is often a cruel one that disrespects others. Be honest and make an examination of conscience. Do you respect others less if they don't dress in the way you think is "right", talk, eat, play, etc. in the way you think is "right"? Who decides what way is "right" when it comes to preferences and styles? From your examination, come up with goal to help you grow this month in respect for the dignity of every person.
4. Lack of respect can be linked to poor boundaries. Is it hard for you to take the answer "no" from someone, or do you respect their right to say "no" to what you want? List verbal and non-verbal ways that people say "no". Notice them this month, and show respect by giving people the right to say "no" to you.