



Saint of the Month



Saint Drogo of Sebourg April 16

Goal: To provide a lesson for children about a saint or saints who exemplify a deep relationship with God and the ability to share it with others

Materials Needed: This lesson plan, accompanying story, and any necessary materials for follow up activities

Objectives:

1. To assist children in developing the understanding that all of God's people are called to a life of holiness
2. To help children respond appropriately to the question: What is a saint?
One who:
 - lives like Jesus
 - is proclaimed by the Church, after their death, to have lived a life of holiness
3. To introduce one of our Church's saints, Saint Drogo of Sebourg, (say DRŌ-gō) telling as much of the story that you feel will interest the children at your grade level.
4. To learn that Drogo was a saint because he lived in a way that respected the Gospel of Jesus
5. To learn that we are called by God to share the Gospel with our lives
6. To help the children develop listening skills

Procedure:

1. Prepare the children to listen to Saint Drogo of Sebourg's story.
2. Read, or have read, the attached story of Saint Drogo. Elaborate/abbreviate as necessary for time constraints or age level of listeners.
3. Use the follow up questions (below).
4. Present follow-up activity below (optional). Any follow-up activity can be substituted.

Saint Drogo of Sebourg

While it is true that God made some of us physically beautiful and most of us average looking, we can all agree that our looks alone won't get us through life—even the most attractive super model needs a good business manager, make up artists, stylists, and others to be successful in their field. All of us are called to take what God has given us and transform ourselves into the person He has called us to be.

Take St. Drogo of Sebourg as an example. Born to a Flemish noble family, Drogo's mother died giving birth to him. He grew up without the love and tenderness many of us associate with our Moms. When he was 10 years old, he learned the true circumstances of her death and felt a very heavy guilt. No one could convince him that his mother's death was not his fault. He prayed constantly to be relieved of this burden. A few years later, Drogo's father died, leaving him an orphan.

Instead of letting this destroy him, he turned to God in prayer for answers. It was then that Drogo made a life-altering decision: he gave all his family's wealth to the poor and walked to Sebourg France where he became a shepherd, working for others. Although spiritually fulfilling, going from being a rich man to a poor one was very difficult for Drogo. Prayer became the way to fill the void in his life. As Drogo came to love his life as a shepherd, people were drawn to his inner joy and deep connection to God; this trait shone through in his daily life. They sought him out for help and advice, often rewarding him with gifts. He was careful to give each one away so as not to become attached again to the material world.

Drogo liked to make pilgrimages—holy, prayerful journeys—especially to Rome. On one of them, Drogo was

afflicted with a disease that severely deformed his face. When he returned to Sebourg, he found that the townspeople could not look at him without being frightened. Instead of being angry and railing against them, he simply took up residence in a tiny cell attached to the church. It had no window, just a small slot in the wall attached to a church that enabled him to receive Communion and a slot on the other side through which he could receive a small daily ration of food and water. Still, the townspeople flocked to him for advice, making him an Anchorite—someone who withdraws from society to lead a life of Eucharistic centered prayer and devotion. He lived as a hermit for the last 40 years of his life.

During these times of “social distancing” because of the corona virus and Covid19, it may be hard to understand that some very holy people choose to separate themselves from others so that they may draw closer to God. Saint Drogo shows us that whether we are ill or not, we can rely on God’s friendship and love and through daily prayer can draw ever closer to the One who loves us, no matter the circumstances.

1. ***Pray: Saint Drogo, although your life was one of wealth, you had many hardships thrust upon you at an early age. Instead of becoming bitter, you turned to God. Help us to do the same. We ask for your intercession when we are tempted to judge others by how much money they have or by their looks. Help us to understand that we all have burdens to bear, some of the seen, some unseen. Show us how to be joyfully kind to all as you were. Help us to turn to God in prayer as we remember that we are never really alone. Amen.***

Follow-up Questions: (add, omit, re-word as appropriate for your grade level)

1. Saint Drogo felt guilty that his mother had died giving birth to him, even though this was not his fault. How do we tell the difference between something that we should take blame for and something we should not?
2. Saint Drogo gave up everything he owned and became a pilgrim, traveling to the world’s holy places. While it sounds exciting, what challenges would he have had to face along the way?
3. As a shepherd, Saint Drogo had to “know the smell of his sheep.” Recently, Pope Francis asked us all to do this as well, as God’s missionaries. What does this phrase mean to you and the way you treat others?

Follow-up Activities:

Younger students:

1. Saint Drogo had to walk about 33 miles to get from his small village of Epinoay to Sebourg where he became a shepherd. Take 33 minutes and pray the World Mission Rosary. Ask Saint Drogo for advice on how to reach out to others while you are at home.
2. Because of his deformed face, Saint Drogo ended up living away from others so as not to frighten them. Write a paragraph about how you would feel if people judged you by how you looked.

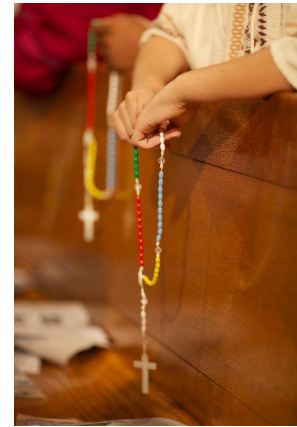
Older students:

1. One of the things that Saint Drogo was known for was his miraculous ability to bilocate—be in 2 places at the same time. These days, our culture might call that having a “superpower”! If you could have one superpower to use to help others, what would it be? Illustrate that power in art, music or drama.
2. Spend one Saturday acting as Saint Drogo—eat very little, pray constantly (use your rosary!), and do work for others. All the while, be joyful about it! Keep a journal about your experiences and how the people around you react. Share this with your family or online with friends.

All students:

1. Saint Drogo made many pilgrimages to Rome and other holy sites of our Church. Research where the shrines and other holy sites of the Archdiocese of Boston are located by going to this website: www.bostoncatholic.org. Click on Parishes/Schools/People, then search by city name to find one. Choose a shrine and pray for all the people who are unable to attend Mass there during these times. Remember to pray to Saint Drogo for inspiration in choosing the shrine!
2. Make a Spiritual Communion every day. Remember, there are people in the missions who receive communion only a few times a year because of a lack of priests or access to churches. Pray in solidarity with your brothers and sisters who go without the Eucharist on a regular basis. Fill your mite box to help them as you pray!

When you cannot receive
Communion, you can say this
prayer, asking Jesus to come into
your heart.



My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.