



Saint of the Month: Heaven's Heroes



Saint Guido Maria Conforti, s.x.
November 5

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:
 - is proclaimed by the Church, after their death, to have lived a life of holiness
 - teaches others about Jesus by their example
 - lives like Jesus
3. To introduce one of our Church's saints, Saint Guido Conforti, s.x. telling as much of the story that you feel will interest the children at your grade level
4. To learn that Guido 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 Guido's story (Have map posted or globe available)
2. Read, or have read, the attached story of Saint Guido Conforti, s.x. . Elaborate or abbreviate as necessary for time constraints or age level of listeners
3. Pray this prayer written by Saint Guido: ***Oh God of goodness and love, you desire the salvation of all: I beseech you with all my heart to grant me the grace of final perseverance. Help me to resist all the assaults of my spiritual enemies and always respond to the gentle influence of Your grace, so that I might reach the degree of perfection You want from me. Amen***
4. Use the follow-up questions (below)
5. Present follow-up activity below (optional). Any follow-up activity can be substituted

Saint Guido Maria Conforti, s.x.

Born the eighth of ten children, Guido Maria Conforti was a young man who's future had been determined by his successful father—he would get a good education at the local Christian Brothers' school in Parma, Italy and grow up to run the thriving family farming business. It seemed that Guido, with God's inspiration, had other ideas.

Every day after school Guido would stop by his local parish, The Church of Peace, and pray before a large crucifix. He felt he was in a deep conversation with Jesus. Guido later said, "I looked at Him, He looked at me, and He said many things to me". It was before this crucifix that the young boy decided that he wanted to be a priest.

Whenever he spoke about this new found vocation at home, his father dismissed it. There was already a plan in place for Guido's life. Guido persevered, however, and entered the seminary, causing his father to have little

contact with him and to cut off financial support.

Guido began to read about the great missionary, Saint Francis Xavier and was inspired to help bring the Catholic faith to China as his hero had. After he was turned down by various missionary orders and even had his own diocese postpone his ordination due to a form of epilepsy from which he suffered, he was eventually ordained a priest. Though only twenty-three years old, he decided he should start his own order of missionary priests to proclaim the Gospel and asked permission from the Vatican Office of the Propagation of the Faith. With the Cardinal's approval, on the feast of Saint Francis Xavier, he opened the doors to his new institute—The Xaverian Fathers—with the motto: The love of Christ impels us. Though facing many difficulties, both in finding funding and personnel, Guido showed his life-long trait of perseverance and eventually sent missionaries to the Far East though he himself had been named a bishop and stayed in Italy at service to his local Church.

In 1928, Bishop Guido Conforti's wish to reach China finally came true. As Superior General of the Xaverians, his ship sailed into Shanghai so that he could better learn the scope and need of his missionaries.

Xaverian Fathers and Brothers serve today in many countries including Japan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Mexico, Brazil, and Columbia.

Canonized on World Mission Sunday in 2011, Saint Guido Maria Conforti's feast day is November 5.

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

1. Saint Guido was known for his perseverance, even when people were against him, including his father. When have you shown that same trait? Was it easy or hard? How so?
2. Does it surprise you that Saint Guido was so young when he founded a new order of missionaries? Why or why not?
3. Saint Guido prayed daily and had a close relationship with Jesus. How can you develop the same habit?

Follow-up Activities:

Younger students:

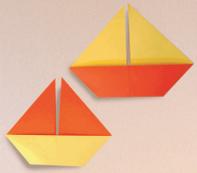
1. Saint Guido sailed to China, realizing his dream of going to the missions. Make origami sailboats with the attached instructions. Write prayer intentions on them and put them on a bulletin board. Pray for them daily.

Older students:

1. Xaverian missionaries have been at service to the people of many countries torn apart by civil war. Many children in these countries have been used as child soldiers. Missionary Childhood is helping to rehabilitate some of these children mentally and physically. Research this problem in Sierra Leone or Burundi where Xaverians serve. Write a poem or essay about what you learn.
2. Saint Guido was a young man of action. You, too, can take action for the missions. Ask your pastor for permission to speak for just three minutes at the end of Mass one weekend in your parish about the importance of our local church being open to the world. Talking points are available through our office.

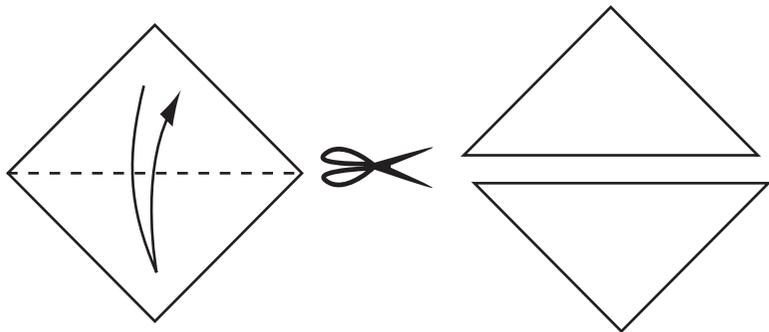
All students:

1. If Saint Guido travelled today, he would fly to China from Parma, a distance of about 5,633 miles. Collect \$56.33 (5,633 cents!) per class by doing extra chores or giving up a treat and donate it to MCA in Saint Guido's honor.
2. Watch this great eleven minute video on Saint Guido Maria Conforti, s.x. and the work of the missions: <http://bit.ly/1RvVzGe>
1. The Xaverian Father and Brothers have a presence in the Archdiocese of Boston at the Fatima Shrine in Holliston. Invite a speaker to your class to talk about their founder and the work that that Xaverians are doing around the world today to help children in the missions. Contact Father Rocco Puopolo, s.x. at 508-429-2144 or email frocco@xaviermissionaries.org.

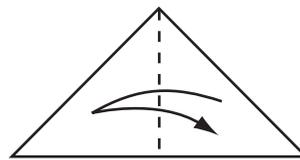


Origami Sail Boats

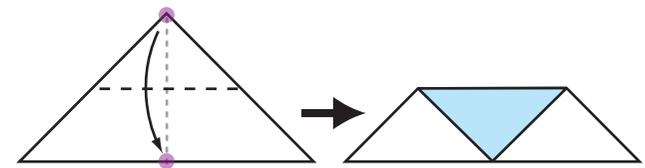
origami-fun
www.origami-fun.com



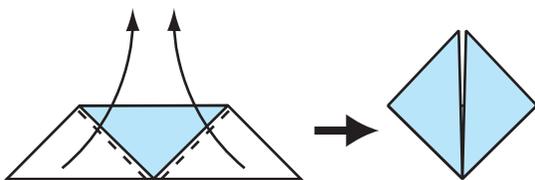
1. Start with a square piece of paper, white side up. Fold the paper in half, then open. Cut the paper in half along this crease.



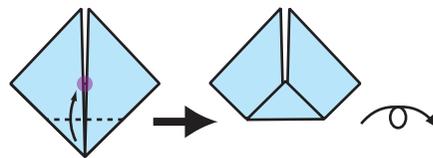
2. With one of the triangles, fold in half, and open.



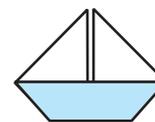
3. Fold the top corner downwards to meet the bottom edge of the triangle



4. Fold the two bottom corners upwards to meet together in the middle.



5. Fold the bottom corner up to the centre of the model. Then turn the model over.



Finished Sail boat.

Now you can make another one with the other triangle!

