

## **Lesson Plan 1: Introduction to Marian Apparitions (Grades 3-4)**

### **Basic Information**

- Subject: Religious Education/Catholic Studies
- Duration: 40-45 minutes
- Materials: Cards from Apparition board game, whiteboard/chalkboard, journals

### **Standards and Objectives**

- Standards: Demonstrates knowledge of significant events in Catholic history
- Objectives: Students will be able to identify 3-5 Vatican-approved Marian apparitions and describe basic details about apparitions

### **Vocabulary**

- Blessed Virgin Mary - the mother of Jesus
- Our Lady of (geographic name) - a naming convention used for Marian apparitions
- Apparition - an appearance of a holy figure
- Seer - a person who witnesses an apparition
- Vatican - the central governing body of the Catholic Church
- Miracle - wonders performed by God (e.g. the dancing sun at Fatima, healing water at Lourdes)

### **Anticipatory Set (10 minutes)**

- Ask students: "Has anyone heard of a time when Mary appeared to people on Earth?"
- Record student responses on the whiteboard
  - If minimal responses, ask for a show of hands if they've ever heard of Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Guadalupe, or Our Lady of Fatima
- Using the QR code for Lourdes, read to the class the "Summary for Young Children" of the apparition (also found here: [www.HigherCallingGames/Mary](http://www.HigherCallingGames/Mary))
- Tell students that Lourdes is similar to many other apparitions by Mary in that She chooses to appear to children or young teenagers
- Ask students: "Why do you think Mary often appears to children instead of adults?"

### **Direct Instruction (10 minutes)**

- Name the 10 Vatican-approved apparitions featured in the game (gold rimmed cards)
- Share that Mary has appeared to people throughout history and the world

### **Guided Practice (10-15 minutes)**

- Divide students into 10 groups
- Provide each group with all 10 cards for one apparition (e.g., all cards for Pontmain)
- Guide students to notice: the types of people Mary appeared to, what messages She shared, how She appeared
- Have students examine the cards and discuss what they find interesting

### **Independent Practice (5 minutes)**

- In their journals, students illustrate or write about their group's apparition
- Ask them to include the apparition name, location, and seer name(s) and what they found most interesting

### **Closure (5 minutes)**

- Have students share one new fact they learned about Marian apparitions

### **Assessment**

- Journal entries will be checked for accurate information
- Participation in group discussion

### **Reward / Incentive**

- Offer the class the opportunity to play the Apparition game upon achieving a certain goal determined by the teacher
- Offer the top performing students to take the game home to play with their parents, siblings and friends over a weekend

## **Lesson Plan 2: Mary's Apparition Messages (Grades 4-5)**

### **Basic Information**

- Subject: Religious Education/Catholic Studies
- Duration: 60 minutes
- Materials: Apparition board game, chart paper, markers, template for a newspaper article

### **Standards and Objectives**

- Standards: Connects religious history to Catholic values and practices
- Objectives: Students will analyze and interpret messages from Marian apparitions and explain their relevance to Catholic life

### **Vocabulary**

- Message - information or requests Mary shared during apparitions
- Conversion - turning one's heart back to God
- Penance - acts done to make up for sins
- Prophecy - prediction of future events

### **Anticipatory Set** (10 minutes)

- Show images of different communication methods (letter, email, text message, phone call)
- Ask: "If you had an important message for the whole world, how would you share it?"
- Connect to how Mary has chosen to appear to certain people to share important messages

### **Direct Instruction** (15 minutes)

- Focus on the Apparition cards that feature what Mary said
- Select 3 apparitions with clear messages (e.g., Fatima, Lourdes, Guadalupe)
- Read and discuss the messages, noting similarities and differences

### **Guided Practice** (15 minutes)

- Using the message cards, students record Mary's messages in a class chart
- Guide discussion: What common themes do you notice? Why might Mary have different messages for different times and places?

### **Independent Practice** (10 minutes)

- Students create a "headline news" article (3-4 sentences) about one Marian apparition

### **Closure** (10 minutes)

- Gallery walk of headlines
- Discussion: If Mary appeared today, what message might she have for us?

### **Assessment**

- News article accurately represents the message from a specific apparition
- Participation in game and discussion

### **Reward / Incentive**

- Offer the class the opportunity to play the Apparition game upon achieving a certain goal determined by the teacher
- Offer the top performing students to take the game home to play with their parents, siblings and friends over a weekend



## Lesson Plan 3: Bringing Marian Virtues Into Our Lives (Grades 5-8)

### Basic Information

- Subject: Religious Education/Catholic Studies
- Duration: 75 minutes (could be split across two sessions)
- Materials: The 10 Evangelical Virtue cards from Apparition board game, journals

### Standards and Objectives

- Standards: Applies Catholic teachings to everyday life situations
- Objectives: Students will identify Mary's 10 Evangelical Virtues and create personal action plans to practice 2-3 virtues in their daily lives

### Vocabulary

- Virtue - an outstanding trait that helps us live a holy life
- Evangelical - living your life in agreement with the four Gospels
- Emulate - to copy or imitate someone
- Character - an attribute or feature that make up a person

### Anticipatory Set (10 minutes)

- Ask students to write the names of people they admire and why (in one sentence)
- Discuss characteristics or traits makes for someone to be admired
- Introduce Mary as the ultimate role model for Catholics

### Direct Instruction (15 minutes)

- Review each of Mary's 10 Evangelical virtues using content from [www.highercallinggames.com/virtues](http://www.highercallinggames.com/virtues) (or use the QR code on each Virtue card)

### Guided Practice (25 minutes)

- Segment the class into either groups of 10 (give 1 Virtue card) or 5 (give 2 Virtue cards)
- Ask each group to identify as many examples as they can of how someone could show that virtue today
- Create a class chart of the virtues with examples

### Independent Practice (15 minutes)

- Students select 2-3 virtues they want to develop in their own lives
- In journals, create a personal action plan:
  - Which virtues did you choose and why?
  - How can you practice these virtues at home? At school? With friends?
  - What challenges might you face in practicing these virtues?
  - How can you overcome these challenges?

### Closure (10 minutes)

- Students share one virtue they selected and one action they will take
- Close with a prayer asking for Mary's help in developing these virtues

### Assessment

- Journal entries showing understanding of selected virtues
- Personal action plans with specific, realistic steps
- Participation and discussions

### Extension Activities

- Create virtue posters for the classroom
- Weekly virtue check-ins where students share progress

### Reward / Incentive

- Offer the class the opportunity to play the Apparition game upon achieving a certain goal determined by the teacher
- Offer the top performing students to take the game home to play with their parents, siblings and friends over a weekend



## Lesson Plan 4: Saints Devoted to the Virgin Mary (Grades 5-8)

### Basic Information

- Subject: Religious Education/Catholic Studies
- Duration: 70-75 minutes (could be split across two sessions)
- Materials: The 18 Saints cards (red rimmed) from Apparition board game, journals

### Standards and Objectives

- Standards: Applies Catholic teachings to everyday life situations
- Objectives: Students will explore the lives and devotion to Mary of 18 saints

### Vocabulary

- Devout - An outstanding trait that helps us live a holy life
- Marian Scapular - A piece of cloth worn around the neck, symbolizing devotion to the Virgin Mary and a commitment to live a Christian life. Scapular colors represent different devotions.
  - The Brown Scapular symbolizes devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
  - The Blue Scapular is associated with the Immaculate Conception
  - The Black Scapular represents the Seven Sorrows of Mary
  - The Red Scapular is linked to the Passion of Christ
  - The White Scapular signifies the Most Holy Trinity.
- Mystic: An individual who has been touched by the divine and has a unique ability to connect with the spiritual realm
- Stigmatist: A person who bears five visible wounds corresponding to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus Christ

### Anticipatory Set (10 minutes)

- Ask students why do they think Catholic saints often devote themselves to the Virgin Mary
- Note their answers on a whiteboard and discuss commonalities

### Direct Instruction (15 minutes)

- Review the 18 quotes on the Saints cards
- Read one saint's life story, particularly their Marian devotion, at [www.highercallinggames.com/saints](http://www.highercallinggames.com/saints)

### Guided Practice (25 minutes)

- Provide one saint card to each student (if more than 18 students, then two students can share a card)
- Ask each student to read aloud the quote about Mary on their card
- Ask the class what key item(s) from the quote to write on the whiteboard
- After all quotes are read, discuss common themes from the whiteboard

### Independent Practice (10 minutes)

- Students select two of their favorite themes from the whiteboard and write why they are most attracted to those

### Closure (10-15 minutes)

- A couple of students share one theme and what they wrote about it
- Close with a prayer to Mary found in the diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska:
  - "Sweet Mother, unite my soul with Jesus, for only then will I be able to persevere in all the trials and tests; only in union with Jesus will my little offerings please God. Sweetest Mother, instruct me on the spiritual life, may the sword of suffering never crush me. O pure Virgin, watch over my heart and pour courage into it"

### Assessment

- Journal entries showing engagement and thoughtfulness
- Participation and discussion

### Extension Activities

- Adopt these 18 saints for the class and display a different quote from each on the whiteboard



## Lesson Plan 5: The Virgin Mary's Most Ancient Names, Epithets & Invocations (Grades 7-8)

### Basic Information

- Subject: Religious Education/Catholic Studies
- Duration: 65-75 minutes (could be split across two sessions)
- Materials: The 10 Epithets, 10 Invocation and 10 Ancient Names cards (silver rimmed) from Apparition board game, journals

### Standards and Objectives

- Standards: Applies Catholic teachings to everyday life situations
- Objectives: Students will be able to understand and identify Marian epithets and invocations

### Vocabulary

- Epithet - A term used as a descriptive substitute for the name or title of a person (e.g. in sports, we hear an athlete called "the G-O-A-T"... the Greatest of All Time)
- Invocation - The act or an instance of asking, especially an appeal to a higher power for assistance
- Mediatrix - In Catholic theology, it means that Mary intercedes for people, bringing their prayers and needs to Jesus

### Anticipatory Set (5 minutes)

- Throughout history, hundreds of names and titles have been given to the Virgin Mary
- What epithets do we use to refer to the Virgin Mary?
- What invocations have you heard for the Virgin Mary?

### Direct Instruction (15-20 minutes)

- Read the brief histories of Marian epithets, invocations and ancient names found here:  
[www.highercallinggames.com/epithets](http://www.highercallinggames.com/epithets)  
[www.highercallinggames.com/invocations](http://www.highercallinggames.com/invocations)  
[www.highercallinggames.com/ancient](http://www.highercallinggames.com/ancient)
- Read the explanation / story behind one Epithet, Invocation and Ancient Name

### Guided Practice (25-30 minutes)

- Provide one Epithets, Invocations or Ancient Names card to each student
- Using these cards, Epithets (e), Invocations (i), and Ancient Names (n) cards, ask the class to categorize each into one category (track these on the whiteboard knowing the titles can arguably be in multiple categories):
  - Motherly: Mother of God (n), Our Lady (n), God Bearer (n), Blessed Mother (n), Seat of Wisdom (e)
  - Regal: Queen Mother (n), New Eve (n), Ever Virgin (n), Gate of Heaven (e)
  - Protective: Mediatrix (n), Advocate (n), Joy of the Just (e), Prompt Succor (i), Mercy (i)
  - Help: Miracles (i), Good Counsel (i), Perpetual Help (i), Good Success (i), Help of Christians (e), Destroyer of Heresy (e)
  - Symbolic: Star of the Sea (n), Untier of Knots (e), Morning Star (e), Mystical Rose (e), Ark of the Covenant (e)
  - Historic Events: Victory (i), Pillar (i), Seven Sorrows (i), Rosary (i)
- After all quotes are read, discuss common themes from the whiteboard

### Independent Practice (10 minutes)

- Students select 2 of their favorite Marian titles from the whiteboard and write why they are most attracted to those

### Closure (10 minutes)

- A couple of students share one title and what they wrote about it
- Close with the Litany of Loreto prayer (you can find modified versions to fit the time available)

### Assessment

- Journal entries showing engagement and thoughtfulness
- Participation and discussion