

Models of Faith



INSTRUCTIONS

To earn this patch, learn about Pope John Paul XXIII. Although you may want to add this page to your Girl Scout or Camp Fire journal or scrapbook, you do not need to write out the answers. If you are working together as a group or troop, hold discussions and activities together. If you are working individually, include your family. If you are an older girl or boy, learn about Pope John Paul XXIII and teach younger children.

Once earned, you may place this patch in the appropriate location on your uniform. Once you have learned about Pope John Paul XXIII, your leader, advisor, or parent may order the patch for you by visiting the website, www.catholicreligiousrecognitions.org, and clicking on the link to the NFCYM Online Store.

Pope John XXIII

For All

- What else can you find out about Pope John XXIII?
- The pope is also known as the Bishop of Rome and the successor to St. Peter, one of the apostles of Jesus. Read Matthew 16:13-20 to learn about how Jesus made St. Peter "the Rock" for building the church.
- What were some world events that were taking place in the years that Pope John XXIII was Bishop of Rome?
- Talk to an adult who knows about the changes that were put in place after Vatican II and learn about some of these changes.

Pope John XXIII

Pope John XXIII was born Angelo Roncalli, November 25, 1881, to a poor farming family in Italy. With special support from his family and parish, Angelo became a priest. Fr. Angelo was called to work as a teacher in a seminary, a school where men study to become priests.

He was ordained Bishop Roncalli in 1925 and served in several countries as a special representative for the church. During World War II, Bishop Roncalli used his influence in foreign countries to help many people travel to safety and escape persecution. He was named a cardinal—one of the special leaders of the church—in 1953, and thought he would live out his service to God as a teacher. In 1958, however, at the age of 77, he was elected pope, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, and chose the name John XXIII.

Many amazing changes in everyday life took place during Pope John XXIII's lifetime, such as the use of automobiles and airplanes for travel, and radio, movies, and television for communication. He called for the Second Vatican Council in 1962, which brought church leaders together from all over the world to discuss how the church could continue Jesus' command to spread the Gospel, even as the world continued to see big changes.

Pope John XXIII passed away in 1963 while the Council (called Vatican II) was still underway. Honored for his deep love for all people and for his generous, humble heart, Pope John Paul II declared him "Blessed" Pope John XXIII in 2000.

LEARN AND TAKE ACTION

Create Your Own Activity

Pope John XXIII inspired many people, both Catholic and non-Catholic, with his message of peace and hope for the whole world. He promoted peace in his speeches and his writings, and he also met with people in all walks of life, from world leaders to factory workers and farmers. Consider this sentence from his famous message: "Concern yourself not with what you have tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."

What are some activities you could do, both on your own and with others, that would promote peace and hope in your troop, school, or community? For example, you might consider acts of kindness toward others, making a special time to pray for peace, or creating something that will make others think about peace and hope. Then tell at least one other person about what you chose to do and what happened when you completed the activity.

Why Is It?

Popes and bishops wear Zucchettos and a pectoral cross. What do these symbolize?

A Man of Peace

Pope John XXIII wrote two special letters, called encyclicals, which include the important ideas of what is now known as Catholic social teaching. The encyclicals are known by their Latin titles, *Mater et Magistra* ("Mother and Teacher") and *Pacem in Terris* ("Peace on Earth").

- Pope John XXIII talked about how he thought of the Catholic Church as "Mother and Teacher" in his encyclical *Mater et Magistra*. In what ways do you think the church is like a mother? In what ways do you think the church is like a teacher?
- Find a list of the ideas, called "themes," of Catholic social teaching. Learn about one of these themes and teach others about it by drawing a picture, writing a song, story, or poem, or in some other special way.

The Power of Joy

- Pope John XXIII was especially known for his playful sense of humor, his joy in everyday life, and his message about God's love for all people.
- Think about three things that bring you joy and happiness. Talk to some adults in your family or at your school, club, or troop, about the things that have brought them joy in their lives. Were you surprised at what they said?

Catholic Identity Patch Program is a project of the
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