

## UNIT ONE: WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

### LESSON 4: The Church is Holy: A COMMUNION OF SAINTS [2]

#### CONTENTS OF LESSON:

This lesson is a follow-up of the one before. It is a time when the students can share their faith with each other. Through their own research they discover saints whom they have not previously had much knowledge of. The aim is to establish a real relationship with the saints so as to help them on their journey to heaven.

If the arrangements can be made, an inspiring movie about a saint could be shown. E.g. Brother Sun, Sister Moon.' (The story of Saint Francis of Assisi)

REFERENCES: 'Rome Sweet Home' by Scott and Kimberly Hahn.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Materials for group presentations.

#### I. STARTER:

- I would like to share with you the experience of a young mother who discovered her heavenly family at a time when she needed them the most.  
Kimberly was a young American mother who had just lost her baby through a miscarriage. After the surgery, she was lying in her hospital room suffering from intense pain from the cut and a deep feeling of loneliness. Her husband had gone home to look after their other children, and she could hear the sounds of healthy babies and their mothers from next door. This added to her loss and pain.  
As she cried out to the Lord, she remembered a Bible passage from Hebrews 12. It said, "Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses ...let us run with perseverance the race set before us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus..."  
The words made her picture an Olympic stadium: She was on the track, running the race; and there above in the stands were all the saints, those who had already run the race and had won medals. They knew how to win and were cheering for her and encouraging her.  
Suddenly Kimberly realized, "I'm not alone! I have friends right here in my hospital room: Saints who have lost their babies and children, whose husbands have not just gone home, but had died. They are here to help me and encourage me!"  
As she realized this, she asked for help, and immediately she began to feel stronger.

#### II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Every one of us is also a member of this same family, but we may not be very conscious of it. Let us now prepare to share with one another what we have found out about the saint we have chosen.

*[In groups the students prepare their presentation. The focus is the saint as a person, not just historical details. They should try to enact one story from the saint's life and give a few extra facts. A simple chart/poster could be made to bring the message across. Eg. John Bosco: The Friend of Youth! If possible, the students could make a power-point presentation. After each presentation, ask the audience to mention briefly what they learnt/ liked about the saint. ]*

#### III. INTERIORISATION/PRAAYER:

*[Have a litany to the saints. Each group writes a short prayer and the others respond. For example:]*

LEADER: Saint Francis of Assisi, you loved God more than wealth and you lived a life of poverty with so much joy. Pray for us also to value God more than material things.

ALL: St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us.

#### HOME ASSIGNMENT:

⇒ Find out the meaning of the expressions 'CATHOLIC' and 'APOSTOLIC' in the Creed.