



Christian Education

Bulletin Insert

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This Bulletin Insert is available monthly for distribution in churches to give families information and ideas for engaging children in faith building activities at home.

September 14, Holy Cross Day

This is the day when we especially remember the cross of Jesus and what it means to Christians everywhere. The cross is the central symbol of our faith because it is through the cross that we are forgiven and death is conquered and we are shown just how far God was prepared to go in his love for us. The date of September 14 was chosen because it was on this day in the year 335 that the Emperor Constantine's new Church of the Resurrection, built on the site of the crucifixion, was dedicated. During the excavation for the church, a large beam was uncovered. It was thought to be part of the cross on which Jesus died and parts of it were placed near the altar of the church.



Children may enjoy making a cross tessellation. Use squared paper to make a pattern for a cross about 6 cm long and wide - the arms all being of equal size. Then use the pattern to cut several crosses out, each one from different coloured or patterned paper. Paste the crosses onto another piece of paper, fitting them together in all directions to make a pattern.

September 17, St. Hildegard of Bingen (1098 - 1179)

Hildegard was born into a noble family and given a good education. She became a nun and eventually the abbess of a large convent on the River Rhine in Germany. She was very talented and used her talents to serve God. She was a naturalist,

playwright, poet and mystic. She also wrote several books. Among them were one about the world around her, the plants, animals, fish and birds, and one about medicine and the plants which could be used to treat sick people. Hildegard also loved to sing and she composed many songs in praise of God. Some of her songs have been recorded recently and may be available from your local library.

Go to the vegetable section of a supermarket or to a garden centre and see if you can find herbs for sale. You can probably find parsley, thyme, oregano and basil. These herbs are used in cooking, but see if you can find out how Hildegard might have used them to make sick people better. For example, thyme was used as an antiseptic to treat cuts, and made into a gargle for sore throats. It could also be used as a cough medicine.

September 21, St Matthew

Many people think the gospel of Matthew was written by the Matthew who was one of Jesus' disciples. Before Jesus called him he was a tax collector, a profession hated by his fellow Jews as many of them were cheats. They were paid a commission on the money they took in and often charged more than they should have done. The money they took in went towards maintaining the Roman army which occupied Israel, which was another reason for the Jews to dislike tax collectors. In calling Matthew Jesus showed his love and concern for those who were outsiders in society.

Older children may be interested in exploring the web sites of organizations devoted to fair trade. Try www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/kidsweb/index.htm www.serrv.org This site has an online catalogue but also much interesting information about the craftspeople and farmers they help.

www.tenthousandvillages.com/index

Back to School Fun

What did the pencil sharpener say to the pencil?

Stop going in circles and get to the point.