

# Challenge Patron Saints

## HOW CAN YOU USE THE CARDS TO CREATE A NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION FOR YOUR CHALLENGE GROUP?

**IN GENERAL:** In this activity, saint cards are distributed randomly to girls. Each saint card displays a saint's picture, name and virtue for the girls to imitate for the rest of the year. An excellent time of the year to do this activity is at the end of the year in December, just before Christmas break or the new year. The emphasis here is to receive a saint to imitate for a whole year. It's a good idea to give girls female saints as a models so we have chosen 44 female saints for the Challenge Patron Saint Cards.

**STEP 1: PREPARATION:** Download the saint cards from the Adult Leader Resource Center. Print them. Then you'll have to cut them out. You can paste them to a nice cardstock or scrapbook type paper to make them a bit sturdier – or you can laminate them. Before the girls arrive for the activity, you'll need to prepare a table with all the saint cards and also seats for everyone. Have the saint cards face down on a table. You can invite a special guest like your parish priest or consecrated woman to help with this activity, or the team leader or club leader can do it.

**STEP 2: EXPLAIN THE ACTIVITY TO THE GIRLS:** Once the girls are all seated and ready, the explanation of the activity is very important! The Church gives us saints to imitate and to pray to for specific intentions. The saints want us to grow in our image and likeness of Christ. That's why each saint will help us with a specific virtue she lived during his or her life. A patron saint is a specific saint that you pray to for a cause or specific situation. These patron saint cards are to be YOUR patron for the year – specifically for you. We believe God has a hand in helping you pick someone who will help you this year. The Holy Spirit may choose exactly the virtue you need to work on! Keep this card with you, such as in your room and in a place where you'll see it often. Ask the saint to pray for you, especially for the virtue highlighted.

**STEP 3: LEADING THE ACTIVITY:** Once you've explained the activity, now lead a prayer to the Holy Spirit asking Him to guide each of us to the right virtue. Ask for volunteers to come up one at a time. As each one comes up to the table, they pick a saint card (face down, they don't see it) and point at it. The group leader picks up the card and tells the group what saint it is and its corresponding virtue. It's important to read the card out loud and then hand it to the person who chose it. The team leader can also ask each girl questions like if they have ever heard of the saint or are excited about that virtue?

**STEP 4: AFTERWARDS:** Encourage the girls to read about the life of that saint and really try to live that virtue during the year. You should keep track of which saints the girls received and send them an email or congratulations on the day of their patron saint.

**OPTIONS:** If you want to get fancy, you can buy 50 cent medals and attach to the cards for each girl.