

## Saint John XXIII



### In Advance

Gather supplies, display the Saint Poster, and stock your presentation area. Study pages 10–11 of the *Finding God Together* guide for general directions on facilitating the Saint Station, which should last 30 minutes. Use the following directions to introduce your saint.

### Welcome

Welcome participants and introduce yourself. Invite participants to introduce themselves.

Direct the group's attention to the poster and introduce Saint John XXIII. Invite children to share what they see on the poster.

**Say:** *A long time ago, some people used letters to write numbers. These letters were called Roman numerals. The letter I was used for the number 1; the letter X was used for the number 10. Putting together the letters XXIII is how you would write the number 23 using Roman numerals. We still use Roman numerals today.*

**Say:** *Some popes choose the same name. Ask:* How many popes do you think chose the name John before Pope John XXIII? (22)

**Say:** *Saint John XXIII was the 23rd pope to take the name John. Let's learn more about Saint John XXIII.*

### Carry Out the Activity



Read aloud the following information:

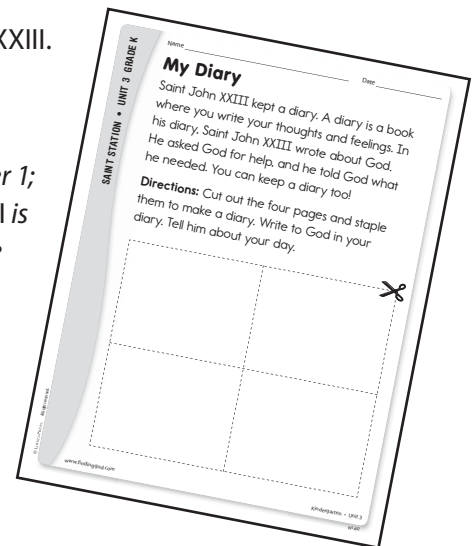
**Say:** *Saint John XXIII was born in Italy in 1904. His parents named him Angelo. Angelo was a happy and gentle person. He served God's people all his life. Angelo became pope in 1958, and he chose the name John. Pope John XXIII served others and the Church in many ways. He brought God's love to many people. He visited children who were in hospitals. He visited people who were in prison. He helped those in need.*

**Ask:** *How can you help people who are in need?* (visit them; make them a card; donate food, clothes, and toys)

**Say:** *Pope John XXIII wrote a letter about peace on earth. He wanted people to live in peace. What can you do to live in peace with your family?* (obey my parents; not argue with my siblings)

### Materials

- Pages 10–11 of the *Finding God Together: An Intergenerational Events Guide: Saint Stations*
- Poster of Saint John XXIII
- Copies of the Blackline Master (go to [www.loyolapress.com/IGFE](http://www.loyolapress.com/IGFE))
- Art supplies
- Stapler



# Directions for Saint Station Leader

Arrange the participants into small groups. Distribute the Blackline Master and other supplies.

**Say:** *Saint John XXIII kept a diary. He wrote prayers and letters to God in it. You can keep a diary too! You can write to God in your diary.*

Invite adults to help children put together their diaries. When they have finished, **say:** *Saint John XXIII shows us that writing in a diary can help us pray. Take your diary home and write in it to help you pray and be closer to God.*

## Wrap-Up

Bring the activity to an end and prepare the participants for prayer.

**Say:** *Prayer was very important to Saint John XXIII. Let's pray together. Please fold your hands, bow your heads, and close your eyes.*

Pray the Sign of the Cross together. Pause for a moment and then pray aloud the prayer as the participants pray silently.



*Dear God, thank you for helping us get to know Saint John XXIII. He shows us how we can be more like your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

