



Living Stones

Grades 1–8

Materials:

Stones (paperweight size), smooth and clean, any shape, 1 per student	Poster, gouache, or acrylic paints
Brushes	Newspapers
Shirts, smocks, or aprons to protect clothing	Optional: Felt and glue



FAITH CONNECTION

St. Peter wrote about Jesus in the Bible as the “living stone” who was rejected by the people in power but approved and precious in God’s eyes. We, too, are “living stones” (1 Peter 2:4–5). We are God’s building stones of the Church, with Jesus as the cornerstone. God wants to build Church with you and me. Let the stones with our names on them remind us of all the saints who have lived before us. We, too, should strive to become good and loving persons.

If possible, obtain a copy of Butler’s Lives of the Saints or some other book on saints. Have the students read about the saints after whom they were named. Children are delighted to find out about their patron saints. This will help make the rock project more meaningful for the students. You may wish to put the Scripture verse 1 Peter 2:4–5 on the chalkboard.

Before Class:

Wash stones and let them dry so there is a clean surface on which to paint. Make sure the stone has at least one smooth surface.

Directions:

1. Have the students study their rocks and find the best place to paint their names.
2. Let the students’ creativity and imagination flow as they paint and decorate their personal “name stones.”
3. Optional: Glue felt to the bottom of the stone.
4. Let the students look up their patron saints and read about them while the rocks are drying. Grades 1 and 2: While they are painting, tell the students personally about their patron saints.