



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October 2018

The Mission of Religious

Pray for men and women in religious life to be excited about spending time with people who are marginalized, poor, and ignored.

GRACE MAZZA URBANSKI

You've probably seen paper like this before, with a little red line down one edge. The line marks off the margin of the paper. Normally the margin area is off limits; no one writes in the margin.

This month Pope Francis asks us to pray for the marginalized, people who live at the edges of our communities. These people are often poor, sick, or just different from us. Sometimes we are tempted to think of these marginalized people as off-limits, but Jesus shows us a better way.

Jesus spent a lot of time with marginalized men and women. He talked with people everyone

else ignored or made fun of. He ate dinner with people we might call "losers." Jesus treated everyone with love. In the heart of Jesus, there are no margins.

Men and women who make religious promises try to live like Jesus. With Jesus' help, they pay attention to each person's heart.

Those in religious life are thankful when we pray for them. This month, we pray for them

to find real excitement in their promise to live alongside people who are marginalized, poor, and ignored. The more we pray, the more our own hearts will grow closer to Jesus, too.

Let's pray

Dear Jesus, help religious men and women look forward to serving people who struggle through life. Help us all to be more like you every day.

Think About it!

- Who makes you feel important?
- How can you make other people feel important?
- Why should you be kind to someone who is different from you?



GRACE MAZZA URBANSKI is the author of *Pray with Me: Seven Simple Ways to Pray with Your Children*.

These reflections are courtesy of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer

Network. See PopesPrayerUSA.net.

Activity One way to make others feel welcome is to ask questions. People are pretty good at asking, "How are you?" but it takes practice to ask deeper questions such as, "Why is math your favorite subject?"; "What is it like to have three brothers?"; or "What is your favorite room in your house?" This month's activity is Twenty Questions, a fun game that helps us learn to ask better questions. Play with two people or with a group.

■ The Answerer thinks of an object — anything in the world, really!

- ▶ Once the Answerer has chosen an object, he or she cannot change to something different.
- ▶ The Answerer must always tell the truth when answering questions.

■ The Questioner(s) asks yes-or-no questions to try to guess the object. Each question has to be answered simply with yes or no, without details.

- ▶ Some people like to allow "maybe" answers.
- ▶ If there is more than one Questioner, they take turns asking questions.

■ If the Questioner guesses the object, he or she picks a new object and becomes the Answerer in a new round.

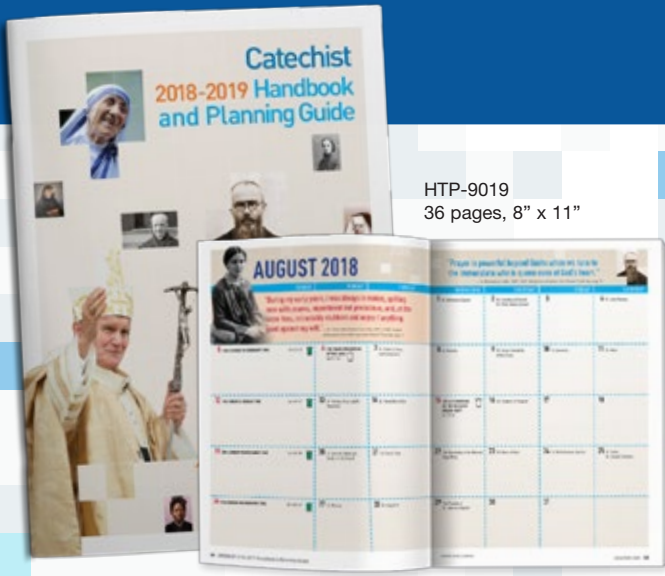
■ Keep track of how many questions are being asked! If the Questioner can't guess the object after twenty questions, the Answerer chooses a new object and remains the Answerer in a new round.

The questions usually start out general — "Is it bigger than a bread box?" or "Is it alive?" After a while the questions get more and more detailed. This game is good practice for learning to ask questions to meet new friends and help others feel welcome!

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