

HOME PROJECTS FOR FEBRUARY

HONESTY—being trustworthy and true

Grades Pre-K-2—Blesseds Jacinta and Francesco Marto

1. Be careful! We never want to lie, but saying “Well, it’s *true!*” does not make it okay to say something hurtful. Practice saying one thing each day that is true and is a compliment to someone. Don’t say it unless you really mean it! Tell them something you like about the way they are or something they’ve done that day.
2. Discuss and practice respectful ways to tell the truth about how you feel when you are unhappy with something or someone, or don’t want to do what you’re told. Sometimes, we can tell the truth to Jesus in our hearts—without saying anything out loud—and offer it to Him as a sacrifice.
3. Do not tell any lies this month. That includes being sneaky and hiding things to avoid getting in trouble.

Grades 3-5—Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

1. Start a “No White Lies” club and promote it among your friends.
2. Start an Anti-Rumor league: it’s dishonest to spread stories that hurt someone’s reputation *even if they are true*, because it makes the person look worse than they really are. It’s even worse if the stories are false! Identify rumors for what they are and STOP them!
3. Analyze some of the ads you see on TV. How do they manipulate the truth?

Grades 6-8—Saint Athanasius

1. Discuss what it means that the truth “sets us free” (John 8:32). Look for movies with examples and watch one together.
2. Rather than doing what’s popular, dare to be yourself. Track how many times you defy the norm to be yourself and make it a contest between your friends.
3. Do you have any small pangs of guilt about hiding something or rationalizing something you know is wrong? Are there rules you know you’ve broken (for example, pirating movies or music, copying from a friend on simple homework assignments)? With a friend, list some common forms of dishonesty and make a pact to be counter-cultural in one of these, so as to become someone who is totally trustworthy.
4. Fight calumny, rash judgment, and detraction (see your workbook or the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2477 for definitions of these). Make a pact with your friends that this month you will say only what is true, kind, and helpful, and guard the good reputation of everyone.