

Hermits of the Church & Examples

Outcomes:

By the end of this lesson, the teens are able to:

1. Relate monastic life to abandoned love of God.
2. State the vows of the monastic life.
3. Show knowledge about the 3 types of monasticism and their characteristics.
4. Appreciate the life of hermits as a higher model of full dedications to God.

Reference Book: The hermit Fathers: By Samaan El Soriany

Published by COPT 1993 (English)

Pages[3-20; 90-91; 101-103; 107-117]

Verses: Heb. 11:36-39; 12:1-5

Notes to the Servants:

- Check the knowledge of the teens about monastic life, monks, the aim of consecration of the heart and life to the Lord. If they lack it, please start with this.
- Create in them –and through the inspirations of the Holy Spirit and the grace of our Lord- the eagerness to start the way on the same fast steps of our forefathers.
- Consecrate on Jesus Christ our saviour who attracted those saints, guide them in the way, help them in their struggle, strengthen them in fasting, praying...and at the end crown them with glory and honour.
- Highlight the fact that they are a part of the cloud of witnesses, a part of the Body of Christ, which is the Church in which all of us are members and Christ is the head.
- There are biblical references to prophets & saints, who fast 40 days and 40 nights and carried by clouds as Moses Elijah's Phillip refer to Exe 24:18, 1kings 19:8, 1kings 18:12, Acts 8:39.
- Try a week to acquire – through struggle and the grace of our Lord- a new experience in prayer and for fasting and /or discovering of the “Word of God” and share it with the teens.
- Hang an icon of one of the hermits in the classroom and lit a candle in front of it and ask the intercession of the saint for victory in our spiritual struggle.

Practical Exercise:

- agree with the teens to practice any spiritual virtues that was in the life of the hermit you choose as:
 - Continuous prayer “Arrow Prayer”
 - Sharing in the need of the others e.g. sponsoring a child, donating to a specific cause.
 - Pray together as a group at a certain time.
 - Sacrifice one of my desert devices for the sake of the Lord.