MARTYRS OF THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND MEXICO

About this activity
The goal of this activity is to learn about and share the lives of the Martyrs of the United States, Canada and Mexico. Youth and adults will learn how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit can help them to “take up their cross daily.” The program will encourage participants to be good citizens of the world and emphasize the importance of their participation in the World Scout Jamboree that will be co-hosted by the Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada, and Asociación de Scouts de México at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in 2019.

A beautiful 3-inch patch is available for this activity.

Who can work on this program?
All youth and adults—Scouts or non-Scouts, Catholic or non-Catholic, male or female, American or international—are welcome to participate in the program.

How long will this program be available?
The Martyrs of the United States, Canada and Mexico program will start at the BSA National Jamboree in 2017 at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, run through the 2019 World Scout Jamboree, and conclude at the BSA National Jamboree in 2021.

For more information about this activity, check out the websites below.
- www.Catholic.org
- www.AmericanCatholic.org
- www.newadvent.org
- www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly
- www.catholic.com
- www.catholicism.org

Feel free to use other resources.
The answers to the requirements can be found here.

2. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Judgment, Reverence, Courage, and Awe.

3. Martyr - From the Greek word “martys” or witness. A martyr, or witness of Christ, is a person who is so firmly convinced of the truths of the Christian religion, that he gladly suffers death rather than deny it.

4. Father Juan de Padilla was born in Spain. He was killed in Kansas in 1542. He went to Kansas to preach to the Wichita tribe of Native Americans and establish a Catholic church.

5. His martyrdom is significant because he is considered the protomartyr (“first martyr”) of the United States.

6. The North American Martyrs, also known as the Canadian Martyrs, were Jesuit priests from France who journeyed to the frontiers of North America near Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River in what is now northern New York and southern Ontario.

7. The North American Martyrs ministered to the Huron Nation, sometimes referred to as the Wyandot People, a tribe of Native Americans.

8. The North American Martyrs were executed by the Iroquois who were at war with the Huron. The Iroquois called the priests Blackrobes and considered them to be sorcerers.

9. The feast day of the North American Martyrs is September 26 in Canada and October 19 in the United States.

10. “Cristero” is Spanish for “Followers of Christ”. The Cristero War was a rebellion in central-western Mexico against the secularist, anti-Catholic, and anticlerical policies of the Mexican government. The Mexican president believed the Church’s teachings were a threat to the government. Approximately 90,000 Catholics were killed from 1926-1929.

11. In 1926, the government fined priests for wearing religious vestments. All public worship was suspended and administration of Church sacraments was prohibited. Many priests disobeyed the orders and
were martyred while celebrating mass or administering the sacraments, either by being shot or beheaded. The government executed the priests publicly in an attempt to discourage other priests from participating in politics.

12. The feast day of the Cristero Martyrs is May 21.

Requirements & Activities

- 1st - 5th Grades - Complete Requirements 1 through 3, plus three other Requirements. Complete three of the Activities.
- Youth 6th Grade and up - Complete Requirements 1 through 3, plus five other Requirements. Complete Activities 1 and 2, plus three other Activities.
- Adults - Mentor two or more youth to earn the Martyrs of the United States, Canada and Mexico Patch.

Requirements

2. List the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
3. What is a martyr?
4. In which country was Father Juan de Padilla born? In what year and where did he die? Why did he go there?
5. Why Father Juan de Padilla’s martyrdom significant?
6. Who are the North American Martyrs?
7. To whom were the North American Martyrs ministering?
8. Why were they executed?
9. What is the feast day of the North American Martyrs?
10. What was the Cristero War?
11. Why were the Cristero Martyrs executed?
12. What is the feast day of the Cristero Martyrs?

Activities

1. Discuss with your family or counselor, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Which of those gifts would allow someone to defend their faith and why?
3. Tell the story of Father de Padilla to your family or friends.
4. Select and read about one of the North American Martyrs who has been canonized. What are some of the values that you admire most about him? What is he known for? How can you be more like him?
5. Create a collage or draw a picture of the other martyrs who were canonized with the North American Martyr you selected. Share the collage or picture with your family.
6. Select and read about one of the Cristero Martyrs who has been canonized. What are some of the values that you admire most about him? What is he known for? How can you be more like him?
7. Create a collage or draw a picture of the other martyrs who were canonized with the Cristero Martyr you selected. Share the collage or picture with your family.
8. Watch the movie “For Greater Glory”, with your parent's permission.
9. Write a prayer asking God to make you more like one or more of the martyrs you studied.