

Stained-Glass Windows!

A Sample Lesson-plan Incorporating ArtHouse™ and a Fun Hands-On Art Activity

Purpose:

This lesson starts with students researching specific saints, and learning what symbols have historically been associated with them – or making up their own representations based on lives and deeds. Students will learn and practice interesting and fun techniques for presenting their ideas artistically. ArtHouse provides a wonderful three dimensional context for displaying and presenting student artwork. This lesson demonstrates that ArtHouse also provides a unifying group-study activity and a memorable educational experience. Teachers can direct this very open-ended artistic activity efficiently by providing basic templates and guiding suggestions.

Supplies and Tools Needed:

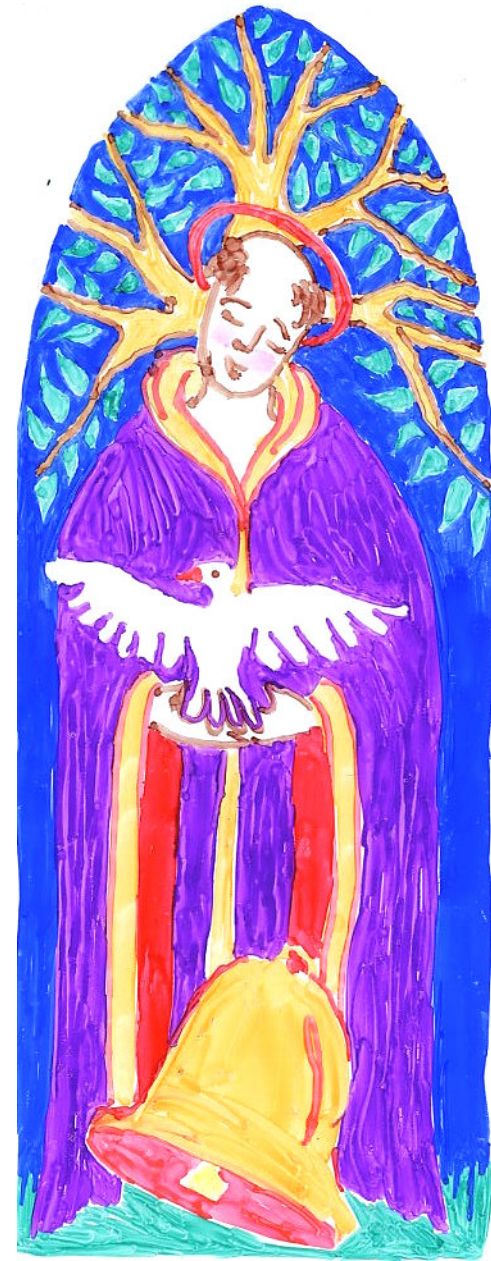
- plain paper for walls,
- overhead transparency film for windows,
(Note: the write-on variety is most economical, but any kind of transparency will work.)
- pencils for sketching & crayons or colored-pencils for decorating walls,
- permanent markers in a variety of colors for coloring the windows,
- scissors to cut window openings in the walls,
- photocopier.

The Art Technique:

1. Photocopy the back side of this hand-out onto paper. This “window template” allows students to fast-forward to curriculum-oriented, creativity-inspiring parts of the lesson.
2. Sketch intended window contents on the paper template. We recommend students first sketch basic human forms, and add-in symbols associated with their chosen saints. Iconic items may be sketched at the feet of the saints, in their hands, or above and behind them. In sketching, we recommend challenging students to not use erasers, and instead to draw lightly and intuitively, then go back over and darken the best lines.
3. Overlay the transparency film onto the sketch. Students may prefer to tape the sheets down so the film doesn’t shift relative to the paper.
4. Trace over the sketches, on the transparency film, with magic-markers. Continue coloring to complete the window design. We find it’s best not to blend magic-marker colors, but interesting shading effects can be achieved by building up the thickness of colors.
5. Separate the film and paper, and set the film aside to dry completely.
6. Cut window openings in the paper using the pre-printed outlines as a guide.
7. Color the paper walls on both sides using crayons or colored pencils.
8. Display windows by sandwiching film back-to-back with paper within ArtHouse walls.

References:

www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm
www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/patrons.asp
www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php



*This illustration depicts Saint Kentigern,
patron saint of Glasgow Scotland.*

*Illustration courtesy of Lisa K. Kerans
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