

HOLY MARY

My dear children, today is the sixth day of the novena, as we walk this journey in order to understand the goodness of Mary and learn from her. Today, the fifth standard is animating the liturgy for us. The theme chosen for this day is Holy Mary. Let us pray that as we celebrate this novena, as we come closer to Mary, we might imitate her and also become holy in our own lives. And so, let us ask the Lord's forgiveness, so that free of our sins, we might become a little more holy like Mary.

Children, have you heard of emojis? Yes! I can see all your faces brighten up. Ok, so we are going to ask the emojis to teach us a little bit about holiness. All of you send Whatsapp messages, even the younger ones. Sometimes, we add an emoji – the little faces that express our feelings and emotions. So we're going to ask these emojis to teach us how to be holy, like Mary was holy. Do you think emojis can teach us anything? Let's see.



So the first question is: **Do you want to be HOLY like Mary?**

One sign of holiness is this object I have in my hand.



What is this that we see on the heads of the saints? A halo!

So if you want to be holy, you can come up, answer a question and you will get a halo.

We are going to see what it means to be holy, and which halo you would want.



Have you ever seen a sad saint? Do you think a holy person should be sad? No!

Pope Francis said, 'If you want to be holy, don't like a person who is coming from a funeral'. Always have a happy face. And so, we remove the halo from this sad emoji.



Next we have a suffering emoji. All of us are suffering, right? But do you have to be a suffering saint to have holiness? No! All of us have our sufferings in our daily lives. But a suffering person with a sad and miserable face all the time cannot be called holy. And so we take away the halo from the suffering-face emoji.



Next is a proud person. Can we have a proud holy person? Did Mary show off her holiness?

Did she say, 'Look at me, I'm the holiest person in the world'? No! She said, 'I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me according to your word'. Mary was not proud, although she was going to be the mother of Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

A proud person cannot be holy, and so we take off the halo from the emoji.



Angry! Can we be angry and still be holy? Fighting with everybody and always with a red face?

No! We cannot be angry, causing problems at home and at school, and say we are holy.

Mary could have been angry at one time. You remember Jesus stayed back in the temple, and Joseph and Mary were searching for him for three days. They could have got angry with him and shouted at him. But they were loving and understanding. And so, we will take away the halo from the angry-faced emoji.



Next, a complaining person. Do you always complain to the teacher about your friends? Can we have a complaining saint? No! The one who points a finger at others has three fingers pointing back at them. So we must check ourselves before complaining about others. We remove the halo from the complaining emoji.





Lazy! Can a lazy person be holy? – doing nothing, sitting always at home, letting everybody else work while I am relaxing *aaram se*. Can we have a lazy, *aaram se* saint? No. Is a holy person lazy? No. Was Mother Mary a lazy person? No. She worked hard in the home, cooking, cleaning the house and caring for Jesus. So, no lazy saints. Take off the halo from the lazy emoji.



OR... Let us see what kind of saint or holy person we should become.



Not sad but **HAPPY**. Who wants to be a happy saint? Someone from the fifth standard, come up. How can you be a happy holy person? (Child: ‘By smiling at others’). I think we can give you a halo. All of us must be happy people to become saints, holy like Mary.



Suffering, yes, but **JOYFUL IN SUFFERING**. When we have to study, we get fed up and start grumbling and become sulky. Those who want to be holy must be joyful even in suffering. There are times when we are sick, and we make a suffering face so that everyone has to feel sorry for us. Who would like to be a joyful saint? Come, tell us how you will be a joyful saint even in your suffering. (Child: ‘We can think about the good things we get through our suffering’). When we think about the good things that happen in our suffering, we become stronger to face suffering. Very good! We give you a halo too.



Not proud but **HUMBLE**. Who would like to be a humble holy person? Are you proud or humble? (Child: ‘Half-half’). You are like me then! So how can you be a humble person? (Child: ‘By telling the truth’). That’s right. Telling the truth instead of keeping silent also makes us humble. Ok, one halo for you.



Not angry but **PEACEFUL**. Do you get angry sometimes? (Child: ‘Yes’). Whom do you get angry with? (Child: ‘My brother’). Ok, instead of being angry the next time, can you be peaceful? Suppose there’s a fight, will you make peace? (Child: ‘Yes’). Ok. Shall we give her a halo too? Yes.

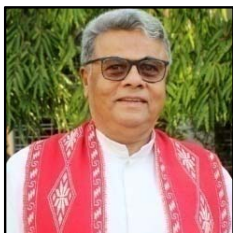


Next one: not complaining but **APPRECIATING**. From the back row, come. Do you complain a lot: Mummy, there’s too much salt in the curry; Mummy, I don’t like this boy in the class; Mummy, I don’t like this teacher? (Child: ‘No’) Ok, so what is appreciating? (Child: ‘Saying good things’). Very good! You see good things in others. Shall we make him a saint also? Yes.



Last one, now! Not lazy but **HARDWORKING**. Ok, everybody here is hardworking. I have only one halo left. All of you are hardworking saints. Very good!

So, if we want to be holy like Mother Mary, we must be happy; when we are suffering, we must still be joyful; don’t be proud but always be humble; don’t be angry but be peaceful; don’t complain but appreciate; don’t be lazy but be hardworking. And then all of us will become like Mother Mary – Holy Mary. Do all of you want to be like Mother Mary? Yes, good! So we have so many holy saints in St. Pius X Parish!



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