

## Information about St. Nicholas<sup>1</sup> of Myra for Instructors of Young Children:

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### **IMPORTANT EDITOR'S NOTE:**

This sheet is for instructors only and is offered purely as background information about this saint. Do not read this information to your students, as some of it may be too graphic for them.

While this background information will help you to be better prepared to discuss the life of the saint, we recommend that you limit the details of the discussion with your students to the information included in the attached "Facts for students ..."

The *Touching Safety* program will feature two saints per year—one female and one male—to bring to life the lessons provided through this program. Each lesson is designed to provide students with awareness about certain behaviors that are inappropriate and/or blatantly wrong. Our purpose for including information about a saint in each lesson is to provide positive reinforcement—by giving children and young people examples of role models for "rightdoing" in relationships. We strive to provide an appropriate balance of both elements in each lesson for students.

Though we recommend including information about the featured saint in the lesson for your students, the saint material is an optional part of this program and is not required.

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Nicholas of Myra was known for his generosity to the poor, his protection of children, and for encouraging thieves to return stolen goods and to change their ways. He protected children from being forced into hard lives and dangerous situations. And, he took children under his wing and treated them with great care and love.

### **Nicholas' life teaches us two important things:**

1. One of our roles on earth is to give generously to help those in trouble—not for the personal glory, but because it is right and a Christian thing to do.
2. We are called to love one another as children of God. We should help others who are in danger. And, we should stand up to those who behave inappropriately and who encourage others to sin.

### **Here's how you'll use this information during the lesson:**

- Read the *student handout* aloud to your class. Then, ask for a few student volunteers to describe what they learned from the story about Nicholas of Myra.
- The key to this exercise is reinforcing the points that St. Nicholas teaches us about taking responsibility for our actions, apologizing to God and to those whom we have harmed, and helping those who are in danger. These are important characteristics of people who care for each other.

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<sup>1</sup> 1999-2003, Catholics on Line, [www.catholics.org/saints/](http://www.catholics.org/saints/).



## **Facts for students about St. Nicholas of Myra<sup>1</sup>**

- He was a special protector of the innocent and the poor.
- He really cared about children.
- He helped save many children from harm.
- When people did something bad, he helped them see that it was a sin and to say that they were sorry.

### **St. Nicholas' life teaches us to:**

- Give generously to help those in trouble.
- Love one another and help others who are in danger.
- Refuse to harm others or steal from others, and to return what we took.
- Apologize whenever we behave badly.

<sup>1</sup> 1999-2003, Catholics on Line, [www.catholics.org/saints/](http://www.catholics.org/saints/).