The Korean Martyrs

Faith shared by a whole community

Ages about 7-11 | Video 4:55 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth God's love can grow through families, lay leaders, and priests who encourage one another in faith.

Learning goals Distinguish Andrew Kim's priestly role from Paul Chong Hasang's lay leadership; recall community prayer; identify safe faithful encouragement.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask who helps your parish grow besides priests. Invite examples of families, teachers, musicians, and other helpers.

Watch and notice

Notice families passing on faith, Andrew's studies and priesthood, Paul's encouragement and request for priests, and companions supporting one another.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What service did Andrew Kim offer?
He became Korea's first native-born Catholic priest and helped bring the sacraments and missionaries to his people.

2. Was Paul Chong Hasang a priest?
No. He was a lay leader who taught, encouraged believers, and sought help for the community.

3. How did people support one another during persecution?
The retelling shows prayer, teaching, and encouragement. Faith was shared through a community, not only a single hero.

4. How can you encourage faith safely?
Pray with family, thank a parish helper, or invite a respectful conversation. Get adult help when facing threats or pressure.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

The Korean Martyrs

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw community encouragement and a grateful response to a parish helper.

Read & Write Distinguish priestly and lay roles, then plan community encouragement.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: use family, teacher, and priest pictures; focus on thanking helpers.

Ages 9-11: discuss the lay origins of Korean Catholic community and how different roles work together.

A parish circle of helpers | Optional 4 minutes

Draw a circle with Jesus at the center. Around it draw a family, a teacher, a priest, and another parish helper. Choose one person to thank and one safe way to participate.

Look for understanding Look for the distinction between lay and priestly service and respect for all helpers. Do not portray all Korean people or rulers as one unchanging group.

Closing prayer Jesus, strengthen communities who face persecution. Help our families, priests, and parish helpers share your love. Holy Korean Martyrs, pray for us. Amen.

At home Thank someone who helps your parish. Pray for people whose faith is threatened, and discuss safe help with an adult.

Handout answer notes Andrew: priest and sacraments. Paul: lay teaching, encouragement, seeking priests. Present responses may include thanks, prayer, and approved help.

Teach with care

Preview imprisonment and martyrdom. Explain that persecution is wrong and that courage can include fear and asking for help. The video compresses different lives and persecutions into one sequence; the 103 canonized martyrs did not all die together. Use the correct names Andrew Kim Taegon and Paul Chong Hasang despite caption variations. Respect Korean culture and never turn witnessing to faith into seeking danger.

Words to explain Layperson: a baptized person who is not ordained. Sacraments: effective signs of God's grace. Martyr: someone killed because of faith in Christ.

Sources for the leader

Story source: Servus Dei video and English transcript

Vatican source: John Paul II: canonization of 103 Korean Martyrs