

Chapter 7

The Church Faces a More Hostile World

[*Cloud of Witnesses* by Br. Mickey McGrath]

This assignment extends from Br. McGrath's painting. Have students consider the lives of the disciples featured in comparison to some of the disciples the students know from personal experience. First, share some brief information about the following disciples:

St. Francis de Sales

Bishop of Geneva during the Counter-Reformation. He is a Doctor of the Church and wrote spiritual classics like *Introduction to the Devout Life*.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Known for her devotion to the "little way" of discipleship. Her life is known through her spiritual autobiography, *Story of a Soul*.

Servant of God Black Elk

A respected Oglala medicine man who converted to Catholicism. He devoted his life to sharing his new faith and blending it with his Oglala heritage.

Venerable Augustus Tolton

Born into slavery, he was the first openly African American priest in the United States. He worked for the poor and discriminated against in Chicago.

Servant of God Dorothy Day

The co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, she was a committed pacifist who spent her life advocating for peace and justice.

Servant of God Thea Bowman

A Franciscan nun, she used her talents as a catechist and musician to break down racial barriers and to promote the gifts of Black Catholics in the United States.

Encourage the students to think of their own peers as disciples. Display several photos of former students around the classroom. Tell the current students some things about these former students: what they were like in high school, what they have accomplished in the years since, what you learned about life and faith from them, what legacy they left the school, etc. If possible, have one of the former students speak to your class on these topics. Connect the bond the current students and former students share with the bond we all share as disciples of Jesus Christ.