



# St. Jose Sanchez del Rio STUDY GUIDE FOR PARENTS



# Thank you for purchasing our Glory Story on St. Jose Sanchez del Rio!

We hope you enjoy listening to this CD as much as we had fun creating it!

Like many parents or teachers, you may be wondering how best to use your newly-acquired audio CD. Never fear!

Here are 7 ideas on how to use your new St. Jose Glory Story:

## 1. During Car Rides or Road Trips

*"We love learning about saints, and my children ask me to play the Glory Stories over and over in the car!! They never get tired of hearing the stories!!" – Joanna from Friendswood, TX*

Play the Glory Story while driving to your next field trip or event! Kids will stay interested in the story and characters (instead of the next pit-stop!)

## 2. In the Classroom

*"It is great reinforcement for any reading you are doing on the Saints." – Mom of 5 from Albuquerque, NM*

Supplement your CCD or religious education classes with Glory Stories! Play small sections of the Glory Story to each class and pose a discussion question. Our suggested questions on page 3 suggest perfect stopping points in the CD to aid you in lesson planning!

## 3. Celebrating Feast Days

*"When your grandson calls you and is jumping up and down with joy over a gift you know you found the perfect item" – Diane from San Diego, CA*

Use the Glory Story as part of your feast day celebrations! Mark February 10 in your calendar, and plan a day dedicated to St. Jose Sanchez del Rio! Play his Glory Story, eat Mexican food for dinner, and have a conversation about his life and what we can learn from it as a family!

#### 4. Gifts for Birthdays or Receiving Sacraments

*"A great gift for a first Holy Communion." – Timothy from Washington, DC*

Have an enthusiastic altar boy? Is your grandchild receiving First Holy Communion soon? What better gift than a Glory Story to both further their religious education and let them know they are loved!

#### 5. Parenting Tools

*"Our whole family enjoys listening to the lovingly written & read stories. A great way to help us think like saints." – Michelle from Larkspur, CO*

Use the Glory Story to bring up important and relevant topics with your kids. Listening to the story can help start conversations about treating others with respect, telling the truth, and other virtues!

#### 6. Donations to Parish or School Community

*"I can't say enough on how great these CDs teach and entertain." – Jennifer from Quincy, IL*

Know people in your parish community who could use a Glory Story or two? Donate a copy to your parish library, Catholic school, or daycare!

#### 7. Afternoon Down-Time or Bedtime

*"A great way to use what would be wasted time; now we use it learning about God. Thank you!" – Homeschool Mom*

Give momma a well-deserved break and entertain the kids without having to turn on the TV! Kids will exercise their imagination, creativity, and listening skills while learning about their faith...it's a win-win! Or, pop in a Glory Story CD before bedtime to help kids wind down from the day.

# Discussion Questions

Not sure how to talk about the story with your kids? We've created a list of discussion questions for you! Of course, feel free to adapt or omit these questions based on your child's age, maturity, interests, attention span, etc.

Listed next to each question is the appropriate track number on the audio CD. Use these questions track by track, or discuss everything at the end!

In addition to these questions, go to [holyheroes.com](http://holyheroes.com) to find the companion coloring download to help your children better envision the story of St. Jose.

## **Track 1 (3:16 run time)**

1. Can you think of someone who is "one of Christ's heroes living among us" in your life?
2. Do you know the answer to Jose's Catechism question—what is the Fourth Joyful Mystery?

## **Track 2—Track 3 (6:23 run time)**

1. During the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, who is the "old man" who told Mary her soul would be pierced? What was he warning Mary about?
2. In the story of the Maccabees, Jose's mother explains the desecration of the Jewish Temple. What are some things that do not belong in Church with us? How can we honor God by being respectful in His house?
3. What are small ways we can strengthen ourselves now so that we can be strong in our faith when things get difficult?

4. What is the role of godparents in the Catholic Church?

#### **Track 4—Track 5 (6:32 run time)**

1. Jose displays great faith in God when he prays that God will send him wherever He wills. Jose's parents display great faith in God when they allow him to become a Cristero soldier. How can we grow in our faith so that we too can be confident in God's plans for us?
2. Jose sacrificed his own safety to make sure his General made it to safety, laying down his life for another. Can you think of other saints who have laid down their lives for another?

#### **Track 6—Track 7 (6:34 run time)**

1. Jose was imprisoned in the Church after being captured by the federal army. What would it feel to be imprisoned in the Church you had gone to Mass at?
2. It can be difficult at times to love our enemies, but Jose gives a beautiful example of forgiving those who have hurt and imprisoned him. Are we capable of this heroic virtue? Whom can we forgive and pray for today who may have hurt us?

#### **Track 8—Track 9 (6:31 run time)**

1. Why did Jose's godfather want Jose to be executed at night? What is he worried about and did his fear come true?
2. Jose's mother followed along his walk towards his execution. What did this remind you of? Can you think of another mother who followed alongside her Son as He walked to His death?
3. How did Jose's godfather help him get to Heaven? This is not the way we usually think of godparents helping their godchildren get to Heaven.

# Definitions to Know

Is your child struggling with an unfamiliar word? Here are a few of the harder terms to understand (and suggested ways to explain them)!

- Desecrated—to treat a sacred place with violent disrespect
- Padrino—Spanish word for “godfather”
- Cristero Army—Mexican rebels who fought against the government’s ongoing attacks against the Catholic Church.
- Viva Cristo Rey!—Spanish phrase that translates to “Long Live Christ the King!”
- Corpus Christ—Latin phrase that translate to “The Body of Christ”

# Activity Ideas

Help your kids retain the Glory Story through a fun activity! We recommend brainstorming some simple but fun ways your family or class can practice Jose's virtues.

Here are a few of our own! As always, adapt or create a project that is perfect for you!

- Share this CD (or look online for the bulk discount) with the parish altar boys. Lead a discussion group about how St. Jose's example of cleaning and reverence in the Church is applicable in their responsibilities as altar boys. What can they learn from St. Jose's example?
- As a soldier, St. Jose was separated from his family and friends for extended periods of time. This can be very lonely and disheartening. Find an organization that will send letters to soldiers away from family overseas and write letters thanking these brave men and women for their service.
- Visit, call or write your godparents and thank them for their witness to the Catholic faith.
- On his feast day (February 10), plan a special meal honoring St. Jose's Mexican heritage and have a family discussion about his life and how we can imitate his witness.
- Research some of St. Jose's letters. Many can be found online and are incredibly inspiring to read his actual words. This is an especially great activity for teenagers.

# Additional Resources

## This Glory Story pairs well with...

Fr. Leopold Celebrates Mass Lego Set

- Teach your kids about the vestibule of the Church and the Sacrament of the Eucharist!

*Guadalupe Mysteries: Deciphering the Code*

- This beautiful and engaging book explains the mysteries of Our Lady of Guadalupe to whom St. Jose had a particular devotion.

*The Catechism of the Seven Sacraments*

- Especially popular with middle school boys, this book teaching the Catechetical tenants of the Seven Sacraments. This will help kids know the answers to many of St. Jose's Catechism questions!