

American Catholic History Badge

There is a prayer that goes “Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ to my left and Christ to my right.” America was founded on the principal of freedom of religion. Catholics from all over the world came to America so that they may be free to live out their faith. Many immigrants came to America with the above prayer constantly in their hearts.

Earning this badge works just like earning any other Behold Christ Club patches. There are ten activities that members can complete to earn badges. How many and which activities each club member must complete is up to the discretion of the parent and/or club leader. Unlike past badges, this badge is organized chronologically. Under each title there is a list of possible activities. Like other badges, easier tasks are listed first and harder ones will be listed last. Leaders and parents may feel free to modify the activities to fit the age of each child.

The badge does include books that are published by Behold Publication, LLC. For more information on these books and where they can be purchased please go to beholdpublications.com.

Boston Tea Party:

___ **Paint or decorate teacups or mason jars.** Some good places to find cheap ones of all different sizes and shapes would be consignment sales and good will. Salad dressing jars are great substitute to use as well. Be creative.

___ **Dress up as colonists and Indians and have a tea party/dinner** (for older children have them try to stay in character! This includes how you speak, eat, and walk!)

___ **Look up the representatives in your area.** See if you can visit your local courthouse or possibly even state senate building if you are close enough. In the early days of the colonies the people were upset because of “No Taxation without representation” they saw the taxes on tea and paper were not something that they wanted. Today it is considered a leading cause for the Boston Tea Party and the American Revolution. Do you agree with what your representatives are doing?

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Read *Kat Finds a Friend* (this book can be found at www.beholdpublications.com)

___ **Have a picnic with your family or Behold Christ Club** like Kat, Kitty and Mother Seton used to have.

___ **If you are close to the national shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes then consider possibly visiting it.**

___ **Create a basket of food** (make sure all the items are sealed) and give it to a family who you know will need it; try to remain anonymous if possible. If you are unsure to whom you should give it, spend some time praying about it.

St. John Neumann: Read *Thomas Finds a Treasure* (recommended for ages 7 and up this book can be found at www.beholdpublications.com).

___ **Paint stones with your favorite bible verses, images and other reminders of truth** that comes through the Church. Use stones that are flat are smooth and of interesting shapes. These stones are reminders of Father Neumann’s debate where he speaks about how the Church is the pillar and the foundation of truth.

___ **Find songs about the Erie Canal and sing it for all to hear** in your family or Behold Christ group. Try to have the songs be different if more than one of you are doing it.

___ **Look up how the locks work.** Create a diorama of the locks portion of the Erie Canal. Understand the importance of the locks on the Erie Canal.

Blessed Francis Seelos: Read *Willy Finds Victory* (recommended for ages 7 and up this book can be found at www.beholdpublications.com).

___ **Give a gift.** It can be a gift of your time, or of making something small for someone you know. At the end of the book, Willy is able to experience the great love of Our Lord in the Eucharist. Christ gave us the gift of Himself so that we may have an opportunity to one day be with Him in heaven. As you prepare your gift, think of Christ's gift.

___ **If you are close to a local battlefield or a site of the Underground Railroad, go and see what those places are like now.** Imagine what they would have been like 150 years ago. If you are not close to a battlefield or a site of the Underground Railroad, look up some of the sites mentioned in the book. Can you find them on the map?

___ **Take black-and-white photos or sepia photos of your family and friends and frame them.** Photography was a new technology during the Civil War. It brought the truth of what was happening on the battlefield home. Can you see the truth in your life in those photos?

American Saints in Progress: Read the *Iron Spy* (book recommended for ages 10 and up this book and can be found at www.beholdpublications.com).

___ **Research the Pinkerton Detective Agency.** Do a presentation or example of the training that the agents would have to go through before they could go into the field.

___ **Research the Molly Maguires who were convicted.** They may have been treated unfairly, but did they have the right to protest that the injustice the way they did? Create photograph timeline of one of the Molly Maguires and present it.

___ **Play Blind Man's Bluff.** We are not all have the ability to see; some, like Kathleen, are born blind or something happens that makes the person unable to see. She had to have a great deal of trust in God and in others in order to go about her everyday life. Play Blind Man's Bluff with friends or siblings as a reminder that we to must have that blind trust in God. Here is a good website for instructions: <http://spoonful.com/family-fun/blind-mans-bluff>

Mother Cabrini: Read *The Orphans Find a Home* (This book can be found at www.beholdpublications.com).

___ **Visit the Shrine to Mother Cabrini.** There are ones in Chicago, Colorado, and New York. Mother Cabrini's remains are in New York.

___ **Volunteer at a hospital or nursing home for an afternoon,** after reading the story of the "Good Samaritan" in Luke 6:17-26. Mother Cabrini and Maria talk about being a Good Samaritan. While at the nursing home try to find little ways to be a Good Samaritan.

___ **Look up your family tree.** How did your family come to America? A good place to start is with your last name. Have a younger child

look up the origin their last name. An older child can interview grandparents and look up family trees to see where your family has traveled from.

St. Katherine Drexel: Read *The People's Princess* (recommended for ages 7 and up this book can be found at www.beholdpublications.com).

___ **Research different Native American tribes and their culture.**

Younger children can research recipes and clothes. Older children can research hunting, religion, and artwork. Using this research, create a presentation and example to their club or family. See if you can make any of the recipes or replicas of the art work.

___ **Visit one of the many missions throughout the country.** How it was built? How big was it? Why was built where it was? Who built it? How long was it use as mission? Maybe it still is?

St. Miguel Pro: Read *José Finds the King* (recommended for ages 7 and up this book can be found at www.beholdpublications.com).

___ **Make *buñuelos* (cookies).** Mexican dishes that will give the children an opportunity to experience the culture. (*Capiritalda*, a Mexican version of bread pudding that is normally served on Good Friday. The bread budding is used to symbolize of the passion of Christ.)

___ **Host a Christ the King Party.** ¡*Viva Cristo Rey!* The translation to that is Long Live Christ the King! It was the message by which St. Miguel Pro lived. How is God the king in your life?

___ **Research relics.** What are relics? Why are they important especially to us as Catholics? Why do we value them? Are there any in your area? If so see if you can go see them one day. (Older children can look up what determines the three different degrees of relics).

Madonna: Read *Search for the Madonna* (recommended for ages 10 and up. This book can be found at www.beholdpublications.com)

___ **Play Sorry, Monopoly, or Scrabble.** All three of these games came out during the Great Depression and became very popular.

___ **Watch a movie from the early 1930s.** Movies were just starting to come out for the everyday person during the Great Depression. A couple of movies that came out during the Great Depression were *Gone with the Wind*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *King Kong*. Shirley Temple was a big name actress during this time. Find a movie that you and your family or Behold Christ Club would want to watch that came from that time period. Have a movie night.

___ **Have a Marian celebration** on one of her feast days to remind you that Mary is your star guiding you on the path to heaven. Part of the struggle with the Great Depression was that many people placed all of their hopes and dreams on money and not on God. What are your hopes for this coming year? Are you going to allow God to be the focus of those hopes? Will you be alright if they do not come true?

Fulton Sheen lived during a time when many people were afraid of being bombed; Archbishop Sheen reminded the country of the Faith and the value of trust in God during times of fear. Archbishop Sheen was the first to successfully and famously use media to teach the Faith. He used both the radio with his show *Catholic Hour* and television with a show called *Life is Worth Living For*.

___ **Create a skit about how your life is worth living for**, what makes it good, what makes you laugh and smile, what do you thank God for (older children can expand to how can you use the blessings and the difficulties in your life to share the Gospel message).

Create it with your siblings or friends and put it on for your family or Behold Christ Club. While producing your skit, see if you can film or videotape it (we would love to see it!)

___ **Can you find pictures of the different communist flags.** How they are different from the American flag? What does the Church teach about communism? What countries were communist during the 1950s? What countries are communist now?