

Answers to Requirements

- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Judgment, Reverence, Courage, and Awe.
- Martyr - From the Greek word "martyrs" or witness. A martyr, or witness of Christ, is a person who is so firmly convinced of the truths of the Christian religion, that he gladly suffers death rather than deny it.
- Father Juan de Padilla was born in Spain. He was killed in present-day Kansas in 1542. He went to Kansas to preach to the Wichita tribe of Native Americans and establish a Catholic church.
- His martyrdom is significant because he is considered the protomartyr ("first martyr") of the United States.
- The North American Martyrs, also known as the Canadian Martyrs, were Jesuit priests from France who journeyed to the frontiers of North America near Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River in what is now northern New York and southern Ontario.
- The North American Martyrs ministered to the Huron Nation, sometimes referred to as the Wyandot People, a tribe of Native Americans.
- The North American Martyrs were executed by the Iroquois who were at war with the Huron. The Iroquois called the priests Blackrobes and considered them to be sorcerers.
- The feast day of the North American Martyrs is September 26 in Canada and October 19 in the United States.
- "Cristero" is Spanish for "Followers of Christ". The Cristero War was a rebellion in central-western Mexico against the secularist, anti-Catholic, and anticlerical policies of the Mexican government. The Mexican president believed the Church's teachings were a threat to the government. Approximately 90,000 Catholics were killed from 1926-1929.
- In 1926, the government fined priests for wearing religious vestments. All public worship was suspended and administration of Church sacraments was prohibited. Many priests disobeyed the orders and were martyred while celebrating mass or administering the sacraments, either by being shot or beheaded. The government executed the priests publicly in an attempt to discourage other priests from participating in politics.
- The feast day of the Cristero Martyrs is May 21.

Visit www.nccs-bsa.org for information on how to order patches for any of our religious activities.

Frequently Asked Questions

May only Catholics or Scouts earn this? Who may earn this activity patch?

Any youth or adult – Scouts or non-Scouts, Catholic or non-Catholic, male or female, American or International – all are welcome to participate in the program.

Is this activity considered a Religious Emblem and may a Scout receive a religious knot after completing this activity?

No. This activity is considered a Religious Activity, not a Religious Emblem program. Scouts may not receive a religious knot for earning this activity patch.

Will there be more International Activity Patches?

Yes. There will be new International Activity Patches after the 2021 BSA National Jamboree.

Who may serve as an adult mentor for this activity?

Any parent or adult who meets the standard BSA and diocesan safe environment requirements.

Is there any time requirement?

Only that the grade-specific requirements need to be completed while in the respective grade level.

Do the answers need to be submitted?

No. The answers should be reviewed by an adult. The Order Form and patch fee are the only things that need to be submitted.

Whom do I check with once I complete the requirements for my grade level?

Any knowledgeable parent, Scout leader, group leader, priest, religious or catechist.

International Scouting



Martyrs of Canada, United States and Mexico Activity Patch



Content developed by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

Learn more about Catholic Scouting



CatholicScouting.com

About This Activity

The goal of this Religious Activity is to learn about and share the lives the Martyrs of Canada, United States and Mexico. Youth and adults will learn how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit can help them to “take up their cross daily.” The activity will encourage participants to be good citizens of the world.

Requirements for Martyrs of Canada, United States and Mexico Activity Patch

All – Read about these martyrs. You can find information at www.Catholic.org, www.americancatholic.org, www.newadvent.org and. Feel free to use other sources.

1st thru 5th Grades - Complete Requirements 1 through 3, plus three other requirements. Complete three Activities.

Youth 6th Grade and above – Complete Requirements 1 through 3, plus five other requirements. Complete Activities 1 and 2, plus three other Activities.

Adults – Mentor two or more youth to earn the Martyrs of Canada, United States and Mexico Patch

Requirements:

- 1) Read Luke 9:23-24.
- 2) List the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) What is a martyr?
- 4) In which country was Father Juan de Padilla born? In what year and where did he die? Why did he go there?
- 5) Why was he executed?
- 6) Who are the North American Martyrs?
- 7) To whom were the North American Martyrs ministering?
- 8) Why were they executed?
- 9) What is the feast day of the North American Martyrs?
- 10) What was the Cristero War?
- 11) Why were the Cristero Martyrs executed?
- 12) What is the feast day of the Cristero Martyrs?

Activities:

- 1) Discuss with your family or counselor the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Which of those gifts would allow someone to defend their faith and why?
- 2) Read Luke 9:23-24. In your own words, what does that scripture passage mean? Give an example of how you take up your cross daily.
- 3) Tell the story of Father de Padilla to your family or friends.
- 4) Select and read about one of the North American Martyrs who has been canonized. What are some of the values that you admire most about him? What is he known for? How can you be more like him?
- 5) Create a collage or draw a picture of the other martyrs who were canonized with the North American Martyr you selected. Share the collage or picture with your family.
- 6) Select and read about one of Cristero Martyrs who has been canonized. What are some of the values that you admire most about him? What is he known for? How can you be more like him?
- 7) Create a collage or draw a picture of the other martyrs who were canonized with the Cristero Martyr you selected. Share the collage or picture with your family.
- 8) Watch the movie “For Greater Glory,” with your parents’ permission.
- 9) Write a prayer asking God to make you more like one or more of the martyrs you studied.

Requirements for Adults:

- 1) Assist the youth with this Activity.
- 2) Share your thoughts with the youth about these martyrs.
- 3) Review the responses to the requirements of each youth participant to confirm their accuracy and to ensure his/her understanding.
- 4) Complete the order form for this American Saint Activity and submit it with payment for the patch to NCCS.

For more information about these Martyrs, check out the websites below.

- <http://catholicism.org/eight-na-martyrs.html>
- <https://catholicgene.wordpress.com/2012/05/27/mexicos-forgotten-history-the-persecution-of-catholics-and-the-cristero-war/>