

Sr Rosalie and the Revolution – Junior Vinnies Activity



Sr Rosalie Rendu worked tirelessly for the poor in Paris during the first half of the 19th century. Her experience and guidance were essential for the young students who were starting their work as the newly formed Society of St Vincent de Paul. She directed their mission, warned them of dangers, and showed them where to find families in need of food clothing and shelter. Afterwards, she helped them to reflect on their experiences as they worked among the poor. Without her support and guidance, they may not have been able to reach as many people in need.

Rosalie was a holy woman but she was also a woman of great courage. When the French Revolution occurred, violence spilled through the streets of Paris. Yet Rosalie did not hide away in a convent. She went out on the streets and began rescuing soldiers who were injured. She even climbed the famous barricades looking for anyone wounded or bleeding, regardless of which side they were fighting on.

In the revolution, the workers of Paris decided to fight against those in power. Imagine how Rosalie must have felt when she ran into the streets where the battles were going on. She would have been terrified but knew that God wanted her to reach out to the suffering soldiers.

Write Sr Rosalie's diary from a day where she climbs the barricades looking for wounded soldiers to help. Make up some details of who she helps and what she does to save them.

Think about what she would hear (gunfire, shouts, screams) what she would see (crowds of people, chaos, blood) what she would feel (worried, afraid, determined)

An example is given below to get you started.

Dear Diary,

By the Grace of God, I am glad to be safe in bed tonight. Today the fighting escalated. I ran out into the street and could hear.....