Courageous Advocacy.

Key Question KS2: Should people of faith be Courageous Advocates?

1. Choose a person from further history, this might be a religious person, such as a saint (saints before the dissolution of the monasteries are still recognised as saints in the C of E Church) or a different historical person. Here are suggestions for some saints, but you might like to look at other historical figures such as Joan of Arc. Research and collect information about your chosen historical advocate:

Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys

1. Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, the first female saint from the Catholic Church in Canada, was a Religious Sister who helped care for and educate many Native Americans and Canadian colonists. Her feast day is January 12. The trailblazer also founded one of the first uncloistered religious orders for women in the world. But her great accomplishments, which served God, couldn’t have been achieved without courage.
2. In order to establish schools for immigrants and children in the 1600s, she faced grave dangers. In addition to making three voyages to France, where she was born, to recruit Sisters to minister in hospitals and teach, she endured stark poverty, attacks from Native Americans and the dangers of what was then the Canadian wilderness. She also had to peacefully stand her ground against the Church’s desire to make her order into a cloistered one, where they would not be able to go out and minister to the sick or teach.

### Saint Teresa of Calcutta – Mother Teresa

1. Another saint who found the strength and courage to live in dangerous conditions among the poorest of the poor is Saint Teresa of Calcutta. The saint shared God’s mercy and compassion with people around the world. She has also inspired many to follow in the compassionate footsteps of Jesus – our ultimate Teacher. Her feast day is September 5.
2. Saint Teresa of Calcutta didn’t shy away from people with contagious diseases, and she didn’t fear the stress and sadness that can come from constantly living with and serving people who suffered because of extreme poverty. She found the bravery she needed in her faith. She once told her Missionaries of Charity, “The cup of water you give to the poor, to the sick, the way you lift a dying man, the way you feed a baby, the way in which you teach an ignorant child, the way you give medicine to a leper…your attitude and manners toward them – all this is God’s love in the world today.”

## **St. Francis of Assisi**

1. St. Francis was born in Italy to a wealthy family. He served as a soldier. During war he was captured as a prisoner of war and held for ransom, which his father paid after nearly a year of imprisonment. During his imprisonment St. Francis began receiving visions telling him to build God’s church. After his release from prison he abandoned his life of luxury to spread the word of God. Later in his life legend says that he received a vision that left him with “the stigmata of Christ”, meaning marks that resemble the wounds Christ suffered at his crucifixion. St. Francis is the first recorded person to receive the stigmata.
2. St. Francis is known for his compassion and for his deep connection to all beings particularly the animal kingdom. During his lifetime he cared for the sick and the poor. St. Francis traveled the country side delivering sermons to humans and to the animals. He believed all creatures were his brothers and sisters under God.
3. St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment.