2023 History Essay Contest
School 5th Grade Winner

The Life of St. John Neumann

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My class was asked to write an essay about a Catholic historical character that was born before 1950 and I found St. John Neumann to be the most interesting. St. John Neumann was the patron saint of immigrants and sick children. St. John Neuman was born on March 28th, 1911 in Prachatice, a town in the Czech Republic. He was born to Philip and Agnes Neumann. He had 4 sisters and 1 brother. When he was around ten his parents decided to let him keep going to school. I think it is because his parents knew he loved to read. He was actually really smart and at the end of his education he had to choose to either become a doctor, lawyer or a priest. When he was 25 years old he finished the seminary and was ready to become a priest, but there was a problem. There were too many priests in Europe already. So he decided to come to America in 1836.

St. John Neumann landed in New York and was ordained by the bishop of New York. He wanted to help the immigrants in America have God in their lives. St. John Neumann cared so much that he learned six different languages so he could preach to as many people as

possible. He was very helpful to his people and always busy doing god's work. Later he would

be recognized for caring for the sick, showing love to the poor and always being there for even

sinners. St. John Neumann was a true missionary. It was reported that he would walk hundreds

of miles every month by foot to visit the sick and poor.

St. John Neumann became the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. He is probably one of the

reasons that I'm able to be in a Catholic school today. He founded the first Catholic school. He

also built many churches, hospitals and orphanages. I also discovered that he was also the

founder of a religious order for women. When a group of them came to America from Munich,

he helped find them homes and basically jobs. St. John Neumann had them teaching in

Baltimore, Pittsburg, New York, Buffalo and Philadelphia. St. John Neumann had built schools

in those cities.

He did a lot of good things in his short life. He died of a heart attack on January 5th,

1860. He was only 48 years old. He was famous for being a very humble caring person. The first

miracle proven was from helping a eleven year old girl who was dying of acute diffuse

peritonitis. The girl woke up the next morning totally cured after praying to St. John Neumann.

Other miracles have been reported since then. He was canonized on June 19th, 1977 by Pope

Paul VI. Saint John Neumann became America's first male saint.

Bibliography

St. John Neumann - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online

https://stjohnneumann.org › our-st-john-neumann › ab...

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=70

Saint John Neumann children's book by Brenda and George Nippert