



# CONQUEST

7TH & 8TH GRADE  
WEEKLY ACTIVITY

**Instructions:** Print out a copy of a case for each squad.



## CASE #1



**Case:** During their vacation, three friends went out water skiing on a lake. One of their moms made a huge lunch for them (which they were not too happy about) so they got out on the water much later than they wanted to. There were a few guys on Seadoos making it really hard for them to water ski. Finally, after skiing for a good while, they grew quite tired, were really full and were fed up at the Seadoo guys so they decided to return back to their cottage. On their way back, the ski rope fell off the boat and became instantly wound up in the motor. The boat began to spin around out of control, and all three were thrown far away into the water. They were stuck out there for hours and it was getting dark, finally someone came by and helped them – a couple who were out canoeing and went to far and were coming home late.

**Where is the hand of God in this story?**



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## CASE #2



**Case:** A priest in a small parish in Poland was getting his Church ready for Christmas and a huge storm hit and a tree fell onto the Church, making a big hole behind the altar. He was upset because they did not have much money to fix it and Christmas mass was that evening. So he went down to the Church Christmas Bazaar and saw that the Youth Group was selling a white lacy table cloth that he could use to hang up over the hole. He did and it looked alright and kept the rain and wind from blowing out the candles. He was getting ready for Christmas mass when someone told him the table cloth had fallen down so he went out to fix it. On his way to the back of the Church, an old man stopped him and said, “What a beautiful table cloth. My wife and I had one like it 30 years ago. She crocheted it and it looks just like the one she made. I was taken to a concentration camp during WWII and we have not seen each other since. I have looked for her everywhere and I come back to this town every Christmas to see if she comes back too.” The priest thought that was nice and went to celebrate mass. About 3 hours after mass the priest came into the Church to turn off the lights and saw a woman praying in the front pew. She said “I missed mass because my street was flooded. That is my table cloth. I made it for my husband 30 years ago.”

**Where is the hand of God in this story?**

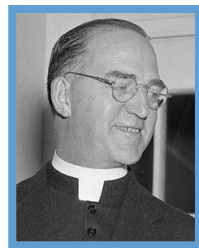


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## CASE #3



**Case:** Fr Flanagan was born in Ireland in 1886 and immigrated to the US when he was 19. He went to the university in Maryland and became a US Citizen shortly after. He then entered the seminary in New York and was ordained a priest. The first parishes he worked at were in Omaha and other parts of Nebraska. In 1921, Fr Flanagan founded Boys Town, right outside Omaha. Under Father Flanagan's direction, Boys Town grew to be a large community with its own boy-mayor, schools, chapel, post office, cottages, gymnasium, and other facilities where boys between the ages of 10 and 16 could receive an education and learn a trade. He believed shaping children's behaviors and ideals at a young age was the only way to guide them toward productive adult lives. He believed that children had rights and should be protected. These rights and this protection covered everything from basic necessities like nutritious food, clean clothes and a bed to sleep in. Making sure that every child received a quality education was perhaps one of Father Flanagan's greatest causes. He believed education was as essential as food, clothing and shelter in a child's life. Besides caring for children, Father Flanagan also was a staunch advocate of good parenting. Moms and dads across the country benefited from the valuable advice he shared in his numerous articles, booklets and books on child-rearing. He never hesitated to share his philosophy with others, speaking out against injustices through his writings and in newspaper and magazine articles, in speeches on radio and in person, and in discussions with top local and national leaders. Father Flanagan made visits to Japan and Germany to help lay the groundwork for the care of tens of thousands of children orphaned by the war. In Berlin, he suffered a heart attack and passed away at age 61. Based on his good works and ministry, an official cause for the canonization of Father Flanagan is underway. There was a movie about his life made in 1938 called Boys Town and it won an academy award. Some scenes from the movie were filmed at Boys Town, and Fr Flanagan reviewed the script prior to the filming.

**Where is the hand of God in this story?**





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## CASE #4



**Case:** Gianna Jessen was born April 6, 1977 in Los Angeles, California with cerebral palsy, a non-progressive, non-contagious motor condition that affects various areas of body movement. She was adopted at the age of four after living in foster care since infancy. Jessen's career as an activist began in 1991, when she was 14. At that time, her adoptive mother, Dianna DePaul, asserted that Jessen was born in the 30th week of pregnancy to a 17 year old girl during a failed saline abortion attempt. In 1995, four years after Jessen was placed in the national spotlight, author Jessica Shaver published a biography on Jessen. In early 1996, Festival of Light Australia sponsored an Australian tour, during which Jessen spoke at venues in all states and territories.

In December 2005 Jessen travelled to London to support a campaign to reduce the number of abortions under the UK Abortion Act and to speak at a parliamentary meeting at the House of Commons. Both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of Westminster indicated that they hoped her story would encourage Parliament to look again at abortion laws. In September 2008, Jessen went to Australia and helped influence the law about late term abortions.

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## AFTERWARDS

### Case 1:

**Hand of God:** The three guys could have been killed if they were thrown near the boat. They were out there together and were able to pray together while they waited. Their mom could have made a light lunch and they could have stayed out later and it would have been more dangerous if that happened in the dark. The guys on the Seadoos played their part by distracting them and making them not want to ski any longer.

**Afterwards:** They realized that they could have been killed and realized they only had one life to live. Today they work hard to extend the faith and have formed beautiful families. This helps them to overcome the difficulties they encounter in life.

### Case 2:

**Hand of God:** The Storm, the garage sale, the Church bazaar. The initiative and creativity of the priest to put a table cloth up there. The flooded street delayed the woman so she could see the priest.

**Afterwards:** The priest helped the woman track down her husband and they found each other.

### Case 3:

**Hand of God:** Fr. Flanagan was obviously very close to God and listened to his guidance each and every day to do his will. His whole life he gave of himself, only thinking of others thus God greatly blessed him and his work.

**Afterwards:** He is a great role model for all Christians and is in the process of being declared a saint.

### Case 4:

**Hand of God:** What started as very negative was turned into good and positive. She could have been made with God for her disability, but instead cooperated with God and his will and helped stop tons of abortions and saved lots of lives.

**Afterwards:** She is a great role model for people who have bad things dealt to them or happen to them. God always can bring about good out of bad things. Only he knows the plan, and we have to have faith and follow his will.