



The Story of Fr Ray. Interactive Lesson

Teacher's Notes: This lesson will tell your students about the story of a Redemptorist priest called Father Ray Brennan. Fr Ray began an orphanage in Pattaya, Thailand in 1970. The projects then grew to include a school for blind children, a school for deaf children, a vocational school for the disabled and a home for children living on the streets.

The Story of Fr Ray is a fun lesson designed to keep the children's attention and a great introduction to RE at KS 1&2 'How do the beliefs of Christians influence their actions'.

For further information on the projects mentioned in this lesson plan please see:

<http://www.thaichildrenstrust.org.uk/projects>

You Will Need:

A shoe box.

Gather as many items as possible to put inside shoe box:

A piece of silk (to feel)

Lemongrass (to smell)

Thai flag

A picture of the Thai king

A picture of a Thai beach

Thai fruit, (mango, dragon fruit etc), to taste!

A volunteer from the class to dress as Fr Ray

Baby dolls to distribute in the audience.

Thai music can download from <http://www.thaiclassicalmusic.com/ponglang/sample.html>

Objectives

- To learn that this Catholic Priest helped many people with different life experiences.

Introduction

Whilst students are entering the room play music in the background.

- Inform your students you are going to tell a story about a priest called Fr Ray who has helped many people in Thailand.
- Introduce Thailand by saying it is a very beautiful place and many people go there on holiday. (*Show and/or pass around picture of the beach*).
- Continue by saying that the people in Thailand make many beautiful things - Thai silk. They are able to grow many fruits, vegetables and rice on their land. (*Pass around box containing items listed above*).
- But! There are also many poor people in Thailand. Some families are so poor they are not able to take care of their children.
- One day a mother and father came to Fr Ray and asked him to take care of their baby, as they were too poor to look after their child properly themselves. (*Stand up pupil dressed as Fr Ray*).
- After a while more people came to ask Fr Ray to take care of their babies. (*Students 1 by 1 bring baby doll and give to FR Ray*).
- Fr Ray looked after so many children that he built The Thai Children's Trust. (*Show slide 1*).
- 10 years later the Orphanage received a boy who was deaf /hard of hearing, and visually impaired twins. Fr Ray realised that there was no school for them to go to so he built the School for The Blind and the School for The Deaf (*show slides 2 and 3*).
- In 1984 Fr Ray saw that many people that were disabled found it hard to get jobs. So he opened the Vocational School for the Disabled. This school now helps disabled young people to find employment and live independently (*Show slide 4*).
- In Thailand there are many children that live on the street. So in order to make sure they were safe and being fed Fr Ray also started the street kid's home (*show slide 5*).
- All because of the kindness of one priest The Fr Ray foundation now takes care and helps to educate over 700 Thai children. (*Show slide 6*).

Main Activity

Split the class into small groups. One student to be Fr Ray in the 'hot seat' they are to respond to questions from classmates, for example; 'Why did you want to help Thai children?' 'What do you like best about working with the orphans?' 'Did you ever imagine that you would be helping so many children?'

Aim for the students to identify with the Fr Ray encompassing as many details from the story as possible. Support students where necessary.

Plenary

Ask students what they think may have happened to these children if Fr Ray had not cared for them.

If appropriate to your school say a prayer for all children around the world who need someone to care for them.