

Saint Junipero Serra Skit (Part 1)

You can access the blackline master for this activity on the catechist portal.

Have students perform the Saint Junipero Serra Skit. It can be performed as a whole class or in groups of eleven at minimum.

Casting notes for catechist:

Roles with lots of reading and action—good for strong readers and active students who like attention:

- NARRATOR 1: strong reader
- NARRATOR 2: strong reader
- JUNIPERO: Strong reader and listener

Roles with one line—good for average-to-struggling readers. Encourage them to practice reading the line many times until they master it:

- SUPERIOR
- COMPANION 1
- COMPANION 2
- NATIVE PERSON 1
- JOSE DE GALVEZ
- SOLDIER 1
- SOLDIER 2

All others may participate as Native People, Companions, or Soldiers (appearing with Jose de Galvez). You may have as many of these characters as you choose.

Suggestions:

- Begin by introducing the story of Junipero Serra.
 - Summary: Junipero Serra was a Franciscan priest in the 1700s. He left his role as a teacher at a university in Spain to be a missionary in Mexico and California, which was called “the New World.” He shared Jesus with the people native to those lands and baptized them. He started many missions for them. He helped put protections in place to try to stop Spanish conquerors from harming and stealing from the native people. He followed the will of the Holy Spirit and led many people to God because of it. Pope Francis canonized him in 2015.

Saint Junipero Serra Skit (Part 2)

- Some extra details:
 - He was bitten by a poisonous insect when he first arrived in the New World. He walked with a limp for the rest of his life.
 - On the way to California, Jose de Galvez and his companions almost ran out of food and turned back. On day nine, a relief ship arrived, and they continued.
 - He carried a foot-long crucifix with him from the moment he arrived in the New World until he died.
- You may choose to do a reading of the script. In that case, choose a strong reader to read stage directions in italics.
- You may give creative ways to carry out stage directions. For example, walking around the perimeter of the classroom to show a long journey or pretending to row a boat across the front of the classroom to show the journey to the New World.
- Use costumes, props, etc., at your discretion.

Perform the skit about Saint Junipero Serra (hoo-NI-per-o SEH-ruh) with your class.

NARRATOR 1: As a young priest-in-training, Junipero Serra read about missionaries in the New World.

NARRATOR 2: For years, he prayed every day and listened to the Holy Spirit.

JUNIPERO: *(Kneeling)* Holy Spirit, I want to be a missionary. If that is from You, I will obey!

NARRATOR 1: As the Spanish missions continued, he realized the Holy Spirit was calling him. So he asked permission to go.

JUNIPERO: *(Speaking to SUPERIOR)* Father, may I be a missionary in the New World?

SUPERIOR: You must listen to the Holy Spirit.

NARRATOR 2: Junipero and his companions traveled to Mexico.
(JUNIPERO and COMPANIONS sail across the sea.)

COMPANION 1: We made it!

COMPANION 2: Where do we go next?

JUNIPERO: Mexico City, 250 miles away.
(They walk.)

Grade 2, Chapter 11

Saint Junipero Serra Skit (Part 3)

NARRATOR 1: They walked the long, dangerous journey. Finally they arrived.

JUNIPERO: Let me tell you about Jesus Christ!

NATIVE PERSON 1: Who is that?

(NATIVE PEOPLE gather around COMPANIONS.)

NARRATOR 1: They baptized people in Mexico. They started churches called “missions.”

(JUNIPERO and COMPANIONS baptize NATIVE PEOPLE.)

NARRATOR 2: After eighteen years, the mission changed.

JOSE DE GALVEZ: Father Junipero! I am Jose de Galvez. Join me on the quest to California.

JUNIPERO: I will go for the souls who do not yet know God.

NARRATOR 1: They took the nine-hundred-mile trip north.

NARRATOR 2: Junipero started many missions all over California.

NARRATOR 1: But he started hearing about terrible things happening in the missions.

SOLDIER 1: *(To SOLDIER 2 with JUNIPERO listening nearby)* The military are hurting the native people. They treat them like they aren’t humans.

SOLDIER 2: There’s nothing we can do . . .

JUNIPERO: There’s something I will do! *(He walks.)*

NARRATOR 2: He walked hundreds of miles back to Mexico City. He was weak when he arrived.

JUNIPERO: In the name of God, stop mistreating the people in the missions!

NARRATOR 1: He stood up for the native people when no one else would.

NARRATOR 2: Junipero Serra loved the people in California as a father.

JUNIPERO: In California is my life. And God willing, there I hope to die.

(JUNIPERO lays down holding his crucifix. ALL gather in a semicircle around him.)

NARRATOR 1: He died at one of the missions. He had baptized five thousand people and confirmed six thousand.

NARRATOR 2: He followed the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Saint Junipero Serra, pray for us!