

Re-build my church challenge – inside school space / hall

- Read the story about St Francis dream and message from God to re-build God's church
- Students are to be as creative as possible and think outside of the box
- They are to use resources provided to create re-build God's church

Re-build my church challenge

Francesco Bernadone was a restless young man, unable to find his calling. His dreams of being a heroic knight had turned into a bit of a nightmare after spending time as a prisoner of war. His father, Pietro, wanted his son to follow in the family business, but that didn't interest Francesco, either.

Francesco found himself wandering about the outskirts of his home town of Assisi in the hills of Umbria – breathtaking vistas at every turn, but he seemed to hardly notice. Until he came upon San Damiano, a little church in need of a good bit of repair. He entered and knelt down underneath a large wooden crucifix painted in the Byzantine style of an icon.

The open eyes of Jesus on the cross seemed to lock him in a stare that was both intimidating and beckoning at the same time. He couldn't look away as feelings of doubt and fear, guilt and desire welled up within him. "Lord, what do you want me to do?" he asked. "Show me what you want me to do with my life."

And the Lord answered! A voice as clear as the day responded: "Francis, go and rebuild my church which, as you see, is falling down."

That was all he heard. That was all he needed to hear.

It took a bit longer, however, to realize that Jesus wasn't asking him to physically rebuild San Damiano as well as a few other rundown churches near Assisi. He did that, of course, but it gradually dawned on him that his vocation was to rebuild the human element of the church.

- **What should church look like?**
- **What should church feel like?**
- **How can we make church more human?**

Your challenge is to design and build a church with the resources provided. You are encouraged to be as bold and creative as possible!