



room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas

## Making Banners

Banners are an increasingly popular form of decoration. The nice thing, of course, is that banners are teaching tools as well as decoration. With words and images they convey a message.

Seen as teaching tools rather than simply as modern craft, banners have great evangelizing and catechetical potential in the home as well as in the classroom and parish. They can be hung in any room or hallway to proclaim your faith to all who view it.

Banners are very flexible. They can be any size or color, any style or image. They can be simple or ornate depending on your time, budget and ability. They can be made of almost anything and used for almost any occasion. In fact, they are so simple, yet potentially so powerful, that every family should consider making several to fit various family and liturgical celebrations.

Banners can be made of any firm cloth, or backed with a sturdy cloth to help them hang flat and straight. Felt, burlap and canvas are obvious choices, but moire fabric or light weight broadcloth (for an outside banner) are other good choices. Depending on the style of the banner and your abilities decorations can be drawn on with waterproof markers, fabric paint or acrylic paint, glued or sewn on. Images and letters can be made of buttons, ribbon, braid, strings of wool or anything else you might have. Since the variety is almost endless, I'll just outline a few of the possibilities and leave the rest up to you and your family's imagination!

### A Saint's Day Banner

A Saint's Day banner (once it's made) is an fast and easy special decoration reserved for such a family event. The banner can be hung as part of a Triduum (three day) preparation for the feast day, or could be brought out on the actual feast day. Any symbol of sainthood or heaven can be used on the banner - flames, doves, crowns. The symbols for each individual name saints could be added to the banner for a family portrait of saint's symbols, or interchangeable symbols fastened with velcro dots or a snap fastener could personalize the banner for each feast.

