

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A • November 15, 2020

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—PROVERBS 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31

In this passage from Proverbs, we learn about the ideal wife, to whom her husband entrusts his heart. She cares for her husband and tends to her household.

SECOND READING—1 THESSALONIANS 5:1–6

In this section of his letter, Saint Paul addresses the question of Christ's Second Coming. He exhorts the community to stay alert and remain as children of the light.

GOSPEL READING—MATTHEW 25:14–30 (OR 25:14–15, 19–21)

This third parable in a series highlights the proper attitude toward the Second Coming of Christ. It underscores responsible activity over laziness and fear.

Church Teaching

Many theological concepts intersect with the theme of Christian stewardship. Some include urgency in the face of the Second Coming, judgment, the beneficence of God, our responsible use of gifts in preparation for the kingdom, interdependence, a spirituality of creation, adherence to the Great Commandment of Jesus, and being taught by Mother Church so that we mature in our following of Christ. These are some of the themes explored since the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Stewardship is an appropriate theme to wrap up this series of Sundays as we prepare to celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 951, 1878, 1911–1912, 1937

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 450–454

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 56, 64, 420

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a green cloth, a candle, and a Lectionary or Bible.

Discover

Invite everyone to reflect on today's liturgy quietly for 1–2 minutes. Then have participants respond to these questions:

- ◆ *What is the tone of today's readings?*
- ◆ *How are you preparing for the end of time?*
- ◆ *In what ways are you responsibly using the gifts and blessings given to you by God?*

Deepen

1. Proclaim the Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 5:1–6). Then discuss the following points:
 - ◆ Live today since you do not know about tomorrow.
 - ◆ Do not worry about tomorrow since you cannot change tomorrow.
 - ◆ You are children of the light, stay alert and be ready for the day of the Lord.
2. Invite each participant to explain what they think is meant by being “children of the light.”

Pray

Use Prayer of Exorcism RCIA 94E from the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

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Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Sunday Word

Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31

Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5

1 Thessalonians 5:1–6

Matthew 25:14–30 (or 25:14–15, 19–21)

Welcome

Welcome everyone who is present, including sponsors, team members, and spouses who join the group. Invite one or two people to share some of the key points from the Dismissal Session.

Engage

1. Provide everyone with an index card. Invite each person to write five talents/gifts that he or she has been given (e.g., listener, organizer, dependable, speaker, etc.).
2. Have each person then choose one talent and share one way he or she has used that talent to help others.
3. Proclaim the Gospel (Matthew 25:14–30). Discuss, asking the following questions:
 - ◆ *Who would be challenged by this Gospel passage? In what way?*
 - ◆ *How might you respond to people who say that they have no talents or gifts?*
 - ◆ *What do you think is the Gospel's message? How would you share this message with another?*

Explore

1. Highlight key points from the participant handout's Church Teaching: Stewardship, using these points:
 - ◆ God is generous. Everything we have is a gift from him. All gifts are to be used for the preparation and building up of God's kingdom.

- ◆ God lavishly bestows upon each person gifts that are needed; no one person has all the gifts. We are called to put our gifts together in service of others.
- ◆ God gives to us lavishly, so we are to give to others abundantly, not out of what is left over, but out of all that he has given to us.
- ◆ Together in the Church, we prepare ourselves for the Kingdom of God.
- ◆ God will hold us accountable for all that we have been given, and how we have used it for his glory and in service to others.
- ◆ Our gifts and talents are not to be hidden nor denied. They are to be acknowledged for preparing us for the Kingdom of God.

2. Highlight the Key Terms and Voices of Faith sections.

Apply

1. Invite the catechumens and candidates to complete these statements, and share responses with a partner:

From the prayer, discussion, and study for this Sunday, I understand the Church's teaching to be . . .
I am challenged to live the message of this Sunday by . . .

2. Invite two or three parishioners to share how they live their commitment to stewardship.

Pray

Use the prayer found on the participant's handout.