

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Third Sunday of Easter • Year B • April 14, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19

The healing episode occurs, followed immediately by Peter's preaching to the people about it. This dual material (miracle and teaching) highlights how the Apostles are now doing what Jesus had done: healing and preaching.

SECOND READING—1 JOHN 2:1-5A

In the original Greek, the address *my children* of the opening verse is actually in the diminutive, more properly translated as *my little children*. There is an endearing, almost intimate tone to the language here.

GOSPEL—LUKE 24:35-48

Since they believe they are seeing a ghost-like figure, the Lord invites the disciples to look upon his hands and feet. Jesus goes on to say that a ghost does not have "flesh and bones" (verse 39). The idiom used echoes Genesis 2:23, suggesting that he shares humanity with them, a kind of kinship or close relationship.

Church Teaching

Being an evangelizer does not necessarily mean that one must engage in or pursue extraordinary activity. On the other hand, being an evangelizer more often than not means that the believer acts in small ways that are less dramatic but nonetheless world-changing, in that his or her speech and actions consistently uphold the kingdom values of love, justice, peace, and reconciliation.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 785, 863, 904

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 135–137

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 80, 172, 190

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a white cloth, a blooming plant, a candle, and an open Bible.

Discover

After a few moments of silence, invite the group's responses to these or similar questions:

What stays with you from today's Liturgy of the Word?

What is the mood of the season? Of today's liturgy?

What do you understand to be the reason for using the sprinkling rite at the beginning of each liturgy during this season, as many parishes do?

Deepen

1. Lead the group in a reflection based on the Responsorial Psalm, using these or similar words:

"When I call, answer me; hear my prayer."

When do you call upon the Lord?

In what way do you experience the Lord answering you?

"Lord, let your face shine on us."

When, where, and how do you experience God's presence?

How do you respond?

2. Pause to allow for quiet time. Gather some insights after all have had an opportunity to share some of their reflection with another person.

Pray

Play, sing, or pray the Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9.

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Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Sunday Word

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9

1 John 2:1-5a

Luke 24:35-48

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. Proclaim the Gospel, Luke 24:35-48. Then discuss what words or phrases stand out by asking the following questions:

What specifically are you called to witness?

When do you witness to your faith?

How do you witness to your faith?

To whom do you witness faith?

Is there ever a time when you fear or hesitate to be a witness to your faith? Why?

2. Discuss with the participants the following:

- ◆ Their understanding of evangelization
- ◆ Their experiences of evangelization
- ◆ What it means to them to be sent out to the world as a witness to the faith

Explore

1. Elaborate on how the Good News of Jesus is meant to be shared by using the following points:
 - ◆ The word *gospel* means *good news*.
 - ◆ The Good News of the Gospel is that God so loved us that he sent his only Son, Jesus, who not only lived among us but also freely suffered

death for us. Jesus was raised from the dead and opened the way to eternal happiness with God in Heaven.

- ◆ Such Good News is a source of comfort and strength when we face tough times.
- ◆ In Baptism, we become followers of Jesus Christ. His mission becomes our mission—“to go out to the whole world and spread the Good News of salvation for all.”
- ◆ We are to be EVANGELIZERS!
 - All are called to evangelize. We are part of the Body of Christ—we are never alone, though we may give witness as individuals.
 - All are part of salvation history—a living history, a living testimony of our all-loving and faithful God.
 - It is in the ordinariness of living that we give witness to God’s love and faithfulness, though there may be dramatic occasions when we are called to be his witnesses.

2. Highlight key points from participant handout’s Church Teaching: Bearing Witness. Also highlight the Key Terms and Voices of Faith.

Apply

1. Encourage the catechumens and candidates to complete these statements:

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. If possible, share the practical ways to evangelize given to us in the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, page 137.

Pray

Celebrate the Rite of Anointing of the Catechumens, RCIA 98–103, or use the prayer from the participant handout.