

# Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA  
Sixth Sunday of Easter • Year B • May 5, 2024

## Catechist Preparation

### Scripture

**FIRST READING**—ACTS 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

The act of “falling at his feet” indicates that Cornelius is submitting to the authority of Peter. It also implies a type of adulation or “worship,” the kind of prostration widely practiced in oriental courts.

**SECOND READING**—1 JOHN 4:7-10

God is the source of all love. His loving initiative in Jesus Christ leads us to love one another. That is also why the author points out that those who do not love do not know God. Those believers who love others reveal divine love. In their own loving conduct, they show that they know God.

**GOSPEL**—JOHN 15:9-17

This passage is set within the discourses Jesus delivers at the Last Supper. Jesus makes clear that he takes the initiative, he chooses the disciples as the ones who will be sent out to be effective witnesses to the Good News (see verse 16). The ongoing mission of Jesus has been placed in their hands.

### Church Teaching

The apostolate is not some added extra onto the Church. The Church is, by its nature, apostolic. Therefore everything that its ordained members, religious order members, and lay members do to promote the Kingdom of God by word or deed can be characterized as apostolic. As such, the apostolate is a very broad category that encompasses many worthy activities and efforts that are being engaged in throughout the world by members of the Church. The apostolate is as wide and deep as is the influence of the Holy Spirit, who pours God’s love into our hearts.

### Additional Background

**Links:** USCCB document *Go And Make Disciples*  
Pope Paul VI’s Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*  
Diocesan Plan for Evangelization

**Music:** “I Have Loved You”, M. Joncas, GIA, OCP  
OCP “Ubi Caritas”, Taizé Community, GIA, WLP

## Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

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

### Discover

Ask the participants to sit quietly with their eyes closed as you reflectively read these or similar words and phrases from today’s Liturgy of the Word:

*God shows no partiality.*

*The gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.*

*Love one another.*

*Love is from God.*

*In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us.*

*Abide in my love.*

*Love one another as I have loved you.*

*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.*

*You are my friends.*

*You did not choose me, but I chose you.*

Ask:

*What is the message of today’s liturgy?*

*Who would be consoled by the message? In what way?*

*Who would be challenged by the message? In what way?*

Invite participants to share their responses with another person.

### Deepen

Proclaim the Second Reading, 1 John 4:7-10. Discuss

- The importance of love
- How God calls us to love as he loves
- How Jesus came not only to redeem us but to reveal God to us
- How we are to respond to such a great gift of love
- How love is to be shared; we are to love one another
- Ways that we share love as families, a parish, a community, and a nation

### Pray

Use the prayer from the participant handout.

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## Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

### Sunday Word

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Psalm 98:1-4

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

### 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

Begin a discussion using these or similar questions:

*When you hear the word mission, what words, phrases, or examples come to mind?*

*Have you ever been sent on a mission?*

*If so, when, where, what? How did you know that the mission had been accomplished?*

Proclaim the First Reading, Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48.

Discuss

- Peter's role
- The mission of the Apostles
- The role of the Holy Spirit

Summarize the discussion.

### Explore

- The Apostles are sent out as witnesses to the Good News of Salvation.
- Paul also claims that he is an Apostle sent out to the Gentiles to proclaim Jesus Christ to them.
- The whole Church is apostolic. Like the first Apostles, we too are to be the messengers of the Good News to the whole world.

- Through the work of evangelization, the Good News is proclaimed in word and in deed in every strata of humanity.
- The Church is to carry on the mission of Jesus. The Church does not seek to serve itself.
- Every member of the Church has an apostolic vocation. We are the Church, called to carry forth the mission of Christ so that all will know that they are first chosen and loved by God.
- God's love is communicated to us through Jesus Christ. Such an abundant gift must be shared. We are all to work for the honor and glory of God by serving the needs of others. This is integral to the life of the Church.

Highlight key points from participant handout's Catholic Teaching: Love, the Soul of the Apostolate. Also highlight the Key Terms and Voices of Faith.

### Apply

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...*

Share with the group the various ways that the parish and diocese seek to live out the mission of the apostolate—ways that God's love is communicated in word and deed.

Encourage the catechumens and candidates and their sponsors to discuss an activity they will do together this week as their apostolic witness.

### Pray

Use Prayer of Exorcism 94D from the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.