

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
The Most Holy Trinity • Year B • May 26, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—DEUTERONOMY 4:32-34, 39-40

Although the word is not used in this passage, *obedience* is clearly the message. The people are to obey God's commands to them. Hearing his commands and keeping them will maintain the good relationship they have with the Lord God.

SECOND READING—ROMANS 8:14-17

Saint Paul writes that when believers surrender to the Spirit, they become true children of God. This filial relationship, made possible in Christ, is sustained when we lean into and follow the promptings of the Spirit. Thus we are able to call God "Abba," or Father.

GOSPEL—MATTHEW 28:16-20

This section is entitled "The Great Commission." It takes place on the mountain, a setting in Matthew's Gospel that indicates its great importance. Here the Twelve (minus Judas) are commanded to heed Jesus' authority and make disciples throughout the world.

Church Teaching

Early in the Matthean Gospel account, Magi come from afar, from Gentile lands, to worship the Christ Child. This Gospel clearly stresses the universal scope of Jesus' mission, a world-embracing mission that is placed into the hands of his disciples. They are to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are to teach others about the Triune God and his Good News message of Salvation, forming them into a Trinitarian faith so that all believers might live uprightly and at the end of their lives experience total union with that Blessed Trinity.

Additional Background

Links – Saint Patrick and the Teaching of the Trinity
Symbols for the Trinity
Icon of the Trinity

Music – "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name," Gott, GIA, OCP, WLP
"How Wonderful the Three-in-One," Wren, GIA
"Sing Praise to Our Creator," Westendorf, WLP

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a white cloth, a white candle, and a symbol that reflects the Trinity, such as a shamrock or an icon.

Discover

Ask the following questions:

What did you notice about the environment in the worship space for this weekend? What did you notice about the music?

What word, phrase, or image from our celebration of the Liturgy of the Word stays with you?

What is the message that you hear in that word, phrase, or image?

Summarize the sharing. Then ask:

When you hear the word "Trinity," what comes to mind?

What do you already know about the mystery we name Trinity?

What questions do you have about this mystery?

Summarize the responses.

Deepen

Pray the Glory Be:

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

Discuss with participants these points:

- The prayer summarizes the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.
- God has no beginning or end—God is and always will be.
- The feast celebrates God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We sign ourselves in the *name* of the Father, Son, and Spirit—God, who is Three Persons.

Pray

Pray the Glory Be again.

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Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Sunday Word

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

Psalm 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22

Romans 8:14-17

Matthew 28:16-20

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. Then ask sponsors, team members, and spouses what they understand about the mystery of the Trinity.

Engage

- Discuss the connection between last Sunday's solemnity, Pentecost Sunday, and this Sunday's solemnity, the Most Holy Trinity.
- The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity is always celebrated the Sunday after Pentecost.
- The feast came to be celebrated in the Middle Ages. From the early Church to today, one of our foundational dogmas is the Holy Trinity.
- Name or display symbols/signs used for the Trinity such as the shamrock, triangle, or an icon of the Holy Trinity.

Proclaim the Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20.

Discuss

- The recurring focus on the mission to evangelize
- Jesus' promise that he would be with the disciples till the end of the age
- The disciples' zeal to carry on the mission of Jesus With the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost

Teach

- The Trinity is a central teaching (dogma) of our faith.
- It is a mystery that we will never totally understand; we will never totally understand God. We grasp a sense of it, but never fully. Compare it to the mystery of love. We know love, we grow in love, but we never totally understand love. We cannot explain love, but we know when we are loved.
- So, too, the Trinity is the mystery of God—One God, Three Persons, three manifestations of God. Each is completely God. God is not divided equally into three parts.
- The Trinity is community par excellence! It is a union and communion of Three Persons in One God.

Highlight key points from the participant handout's Catholic Doctrine: The Triune God. 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...

Remind the catechumens/candidates and their sponsors that when we make the Sign of the Cross as we enter the church, we remember that we are called to carry the Good News out to the world. Invite them to discuss how they can be the "good news" this week.

Pray

Use the Prayer of Blessing 97F from the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.