

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • June 30, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—WISDOM 1:13-15; 2:23-24

The book begins by advising the reader to pursue and love justice because this, in turn, leads to wisdom. Wisdom, here, is another way to describe God. Wickedness consists in pursuing evil, which leads to death.

SECOND READING—2 CORINTHIANS 8:7, 9, 13-15

One of the points Saint Paul makes in this letter (and in verses 13-15) is that if the message of Christ is preached and acted upon by the individual believer, it will lead to a better life for all believers. In other words, believers are responsible for one another.

GOSPEL—MARK 5:21-43 (OR 5:21-24, 35B-43)

In both of these miracles, the scene begins with someone who is searching out Jesus. The impact of the double-structured miracles in this passage underscores that Jesus heals and that, in the light of his coming, we are to embrace faith in him and be unafraid.

Church Teaching

We dare not act as if we humans are the authors of life, either our own or another's. We are not. God is. Therefore, morality consists in upholding the life that God gives each person, reverencing that life, protecting it, and nurturing it. We cannot ignore the threats to life found in this world. We must seek to reduce and eventually eliminate those threats such as extreme individualism, hatred, violence, injustice, inequality, poverty, physical harm, impairment, and the killing of the innocent.

Additional Background

Links: Wisdom Literature

Humanae Vitae

Right to Life Movement

Music: "Psalm 30: I Will Praise You, Lord," P. Inwood (GIA, OCP)

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart," O. Westendorf and R. Kreutz (GIA, WLP)

"The Eyes and Hands of Christ," T. Kendzia (OCP)

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a candle, a green cloth, and an open Bible or Lectionary. If possible, have available the front page of several newspapers.

Discover

1. Invite everyone to reflect quietly for one to two minutes on the Liturgy of the Word just celebrated.

2. Ask:

From our Liturgy of the Word, what word, phrase, or feeling stays with you?

What does the word, phrase, or feeling convey to you?

What questions does it raise for you?

3. After a few minutes of quiet, invite participants to share with one other person.

Deepen

1. Proclaim the First Reading, Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24.

2. Ask:

How does this passage explain the reason for death?

What had been God's original plan?

What does the passage tell you about God?

3. Summarize the discussion.

Pray

Invite participants to close their eyes and picture their loved ones who have died. After a few minutes, close with the prayer found in the participant handout.

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Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Sunday Word

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mark 5:21-43 (or 5:21-24, 35b-43)

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. Invite participants to offer their responses to and their questions about statements such as:
 - All life is sacred.
 - Cherish life from womb to tomb.
 - The “seamless garment of life”
 - Abortion and capital punishment are against the teachings of the Catholic Church.
2. Proclaim the Gospel, Mark 5:21-43 (or 5:21-24, 35b-43).
3. Discuss:
 - Both Jairus and the woman with a hemorrhage sought out Jesus.
 - Both believed that Jesus had the power to intercede on their behalf.
 - Jairus hoped for healing for his daughter.
 - The woman, whose affliction rendered her unclean and thus an outcast, sought healing for herself. To this point, she had not been allowed even to enter the Temple or synagogue with the other women to pray.
4. Use the following or similar questions for reflection.

Think of a time when you beseeched God for help for a loved one. What was the circumstance?

What was your hope or expectation of God?

What happened? How did you respond?

5. Have catechumens and candidates share with their sponsors.

Explore

1. Highlight the following discussion points:
 - God is the author of all life.
 - Morality consists of upholding the life that God bestows upon each person, caring for people in all aspects—physical, spiritual, and psychological.
 - As believers, we are called to challenge systems and governments that do not uphold the dignity of every person.
 - The Catholic Church teaches that all life is sacred—from womb to tomb. We are called to uphold the right to life of every human being.
 - The Church teaches that life begins with conception and continues to natural death.
 - We are to avoid all forms of violence and killing.
 - In Scripture, Jesus also warns us about anger, hatred, and vengeance.
 - The Church challenges us to be advocates for the poor, the marginalized, the unborn, the weak, and the aged.
2. Highlight key points from the participant handout’s Catholic Teaching: The Sanctity of Human Life. 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. Invite representatives of the parish Right to Life ministry to share what they do to support the sanctity of life.

Pray

Use the Blessing of the Catechumens, RCIA 94G, or celebrate the Anointing of the Catechumens, RCIA 98–103.