

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Sixth Sunday of Easter • Year B • May 5, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

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

Peter visits the house of a Gentile, Cornelius. He preaches the all-inclusive love of God. All are amazed that the Spirit descends upon the Gentiles present who live there.

SECOND READING—1 JOHN 4:7-10

John clarifies that just as God loves us, we must love one another. Our human love is only made possible because God first loved us.

GOSPEL—JOHN 15:9-17

The self-sacrificing love that Jesus has shown us in his Cross is not dour and somber. It is a joyful love, a divine love that makes us whole and complete.

Church Teaching: The Apostolate

The Greek term *apostolos* means *one who is sent out* or *messenger*. The Church is, by its nature, apostolic. Everything that its ordained, religious order, and lay members do to promote the Kingdom of God by word or deed can be characterized as apostolic.

The *apostolate* encompasses all of the activities and efforts that are being engaged in throughout the world by members of the Church. It is as wide and deep as is the influence of the Holy Spirit, which pours God's love into our hearts. Believers engage in the apostolate, radiating faith, hope, and charity. They put their lives at the service of the Reign of God and work to build up the Kingdom of Christ throughout the earth.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 858, 863, 871, 905

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 11 (Four Marks of the Church), especially the section entitled "The Laity," pages 134–135

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: page 58

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 or Lectionary.

Discover

- Invite the children to sit quietly with their eyes closed as you reflectively read the following (or similar) words and phrases from today's Liturgy of the Word:
 - God shows no partiality.
 - The gift of the Holy Spirit has been poured out on the Gentiles also.
 - Love one another.
 - Love is of God.
 - This is love: not that we have loved God, but that God loved us.
 - Remain in my love.
 - Love one another as I love you.
 - No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.
 - You are my friends.
 - It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you.
 - Love one another.

2. Ask:

Which of these phrases is your favorite? Why?

With whom would you like to share these phrases? Why?

Which of these phrases is challenging? Why?

Deepen

- Proclaim the Second Reading, 1 John 4:7-10.
- Love is meant to be shared. Discuss the ways that we share love
 - In our families
 - In our country
 - With our friends
 - In our world
 - In our school
 - In our parish

Pray

Use the prayer from the participant handout.

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Supplies

You will need the prayer table setup and copies of the participant handouts.

Sunday Word

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

Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

Welcome

Welcome everyone and invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the Dismissal Session.

Invite

1. Discuss with everyone these or similar questions:

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

Have you ever been sent on a mission?

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

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

3. Discuss

- What Peter said and did
- What happened to the people gathered
- The role of the Holy Spirit

Teach

1. Read and discuss the Key Teachings from the participant handout.
2. Continue the discussion, highlighting the following points:
 - The Apostles were sent out as witnesses of Jesus.
 - Paul also claimed that he was an Apostle—sent out to the Gentiles to proclaim Jesus Christ to them.
 - God’s love is communicated to us through Jesus Christ. Such an abundant gift must be shared.
 - It is the mission of the baptized, the Church, to share that Good News of God’s love with all.
 - The whole Church is *apostolic*; like the first Apostles, we are to be the messengers of the Good News to the whole world.
3. Review this week’s Faith Words with the children.

Challenge

1. Using the participant handout, review with everyone the Corporal Works of Mercy. Remind the children that these Works of Mercy give us ways to show our love for others.
2. Encourage the children to review the Corporal Works of Mercy handout with their families and to choose to do one or more of the suggested Works of Mercy activities in the coming weeks.

Pray

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