

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • February 11, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—LEVITICUS 13:1-2, 44-46

The community shuns those who seem to be infectious. It is a harsh reality but one that proves effective in restricting disease.

SECOND READING—1 CORINTHIANS 10:31-11:1

In the same way that he seeks to emulate the example of Christ, Saint Paul urges the Church of Corinth to live that example for others.

GOSPEL—MARK 1:40-55

Jesus ignores the Law of Moses and touches a leper in order to heal him. He instructs the leper to offer proof to the Levites of his cure. Instead, the healed man himself becomes proof of Jesus' healing power.

Church Teaching: Anointing of the Sick

Jesus showed compassion for those who were sick and exhorted them to believe in the goodness and healing power of God, the Most High. While Jesus did not heal everyone throughout Galilee and Judea, his miracles signified the fullness of the coming kingdom, when all manner of things will be made well and whole.

The Church continues the healing mission of the Risen Lord by taking care of those who are ill, praying for them, and celebrating the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This sacrament strengthens our faith and trust in God when we are seriously ill, dying, or weak because of old age.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1500, 1504, 1509, 1511

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 19 (Anointing the Sick and the Dying), especially the section entitled, "Importance of the Sacrament for the Community," page 256

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: pages 80-81

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a candle, a green cloth, an open Bible, and—if possible—the Oil of the Sick and the ritual book *The Pastoral Care of the Sick*.

Discover

- Ask the children to raise their hands if they have ever had:
 - a rash
 - hives
 - the flu
- Continue the discussion by asking:
 - *How did you feel?*
 - *What did you look like?*
 - *How did other people treat you?*

Deepen

- Prepare the children to hear the Gospel reading by taking time to explain the terms *leprosy* and *leper*.
 - Leprosy was a common disease at the time of Jesus.
 - A person with leprosy was considered unclean and made to live outside of the village. They had to either ring a bell or call out to announce themselves if they came near other people.
 - Lepers lived on what they received by begging.
 - The priest of the synagogue declared a person unclean and not allowed in the temple or synagogue. He would also declare a person clean and able to rejoin the rest for worship.
- Ask the children to consider: *In what ways are our experiences of illnesses the same or different?*
- Proclaim the Gospel, Mark 1:40-45.

Pray

Invite the children to join you in praying for the sick. Begin by praying for those in the parish whose names are in the bulletin, or who are being prayed for in the Prayer of the Faithful. Then invite the children to pray for those they know who are in need of healing.

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Supplies

In addition to the prayer table setup, you will need the participant handouts.

Sunday Word

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 11

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Mark 1:40-45

Welcome

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

Invite

1. Proclaim the Gospel, Mark 1:40-45.
2. Highlight the following discussion points:
 - The faith of the leper who believes that Jesus can cure him
 - Jesus' willingness to break all the laws by reaching out and touching the leper. In doing so, Jesus made himself unclean.
 - The exuberant joy of the cured man who goes out and tells everyone that Jesus has healed him; he is no longer an outcast.

3. Ask:

If today you were cured like the leper was cured, how would you respond?

Whom would you tell?

What would you say?

What would you do?

What difference would being cured make in your life?

Teach

1. Explain that the Church has a special care and concern for the sick and their loved ones. The Church expresses this concern through the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

2. Ask whether any of the children have seen a celebration of the Anointing of the Sick. If so, invite them to share who was there and what they remember about the celebration.
3. Tell the children that the book you have placed on the prayer table today, *The Pastoral Care of the Sick*, contains the ritual and prayers used in the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick. (Note: You may wish to choose a prayer or two from the ritual book to share with the children.)
4. Explain that the celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick begins with the reading of Scripture. Then the priest lays hands on the person who is sick and anoints his or her hands and forehead with the Oil of the Sick.
5. If you were able to bring the Oil of the Sick, remind the children that this is kept in the ambry in the Church and is one of three oils the Church uses in the celebration of the sacraments.
6. Conclude the discussion by reviewing with the children the Key Teachings on the participant handout.

Faith Words

Review with the children this week's Faith Words: *Anointing of the Sick* and *Oil of the Sick*.

Challenge

Explain that visiting the sick is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Encourage the children to make a get-well card for someone they know who is sick or to make encouragement cards or place mats to be used at a local nursing home. If your parish bulletin contains the names of those who are sick, point this out to the children and invite them to include the names in their prayer.

Pray

Sing together a song about healing, such as "Hands of Healing" (Marty Haugen/GIA Publications).

In accord with the *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby grant the *Imprimatur* ("Permission to Publish")

regarding the publication of *Young Apprentices: A Resource for the RCIA*.

Most Reverend Joseph R. Binzer, Auxiliary Bishop, Vicar General • Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio • December 3, 2014.

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