

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God

Catechist Preparation

Clarifying the Essentials

As disciples of Jesus, we want to lead others to him and his kingdom.

- Jesus called twelve disciples, the Apostles, to be associated with him in a unique relationship, to learn from his teaching and his example, and to share in his authority (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 551).
- After the Ascension of the Risen Christ, the Apostles and other disciples witnessed to Christ and the Kingdom of God (see CCC 664).
- At the heart of the Good News proclaimed by the Apostles stands the Paschal Mystery of Jesus—his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension (see CCC 571).
- The Church, which continues the same ministry as the Apostles, also proclaims the saving Paschal Mystery of Jesus (see CCC 571).

Why Is This Important?

We are not left by God to our own resources to continue the work of Christ. Joined to Christ at Baptism, we are invited into an intimate friendship with Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. This friendship is mediated by the Church, for it is the Church who is the Body of Christ on earth.

We are capable of conversion, or entering into a deeper and deeper relationship with Christ and with the members of the Body of Christ. Through our union with Jesus and his Church we are given many brothers and sisters in the faith who assist us in becoming more like Christ every day, and worthy of the name *Christian*.

*For if we love our parents
because they have produced us, how
much more ought we to love the Creator
of our parents and our own Creator!*

SAINT AMBROSE, *DE FUGA SAECULI*

Doctrinal Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Have the space set with chairs, and provide a focal point with a candle and a Bible. Provide name tags and have some refreshments available. You will also need copies of the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (available at usccb.org).

Welcome

Greet the participants as they arrive, and take time for introductions as the session begins. Then invite everyone to pray silently for the Spirit to open their mind and heart to God's message.

Engage

Invite the participants to read and reflect on the story in *Insight*, share their response to the story, and explore the *For Reflection* questions together. Conclude by asking them to respond to the questions: *Who makes you a better person? How does that happen?*

Teach

Summarize or invite the group to read *Church Teaching*. Then discuss the following:

- The heart of our Christian faith is a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is the Savior, the Messiah, the Son of God, and Lord. He redeemed and saved us through his Death and Resurrection.
- Jesus revealed how much God loves us and he taught us how to love God and our neighbor.
- Jesus established the Church to continue his mission.

Apply

Encourage the participants to complete these statements and share their thoughts:

*From the prayer, discussion, and study for this topic,
I understand the Church's teaching to be . . .*

I am challenged to live the message of this teaching by . . .

Pray

Jesus willingly died on the Cross for our sins. One way the Church honors his great act of love is to refer to his heart as the Sacred Heart. As a closing prayer, pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart together.