

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Second Commandment: Reverence for God's Name

Catechist Preparation

Clarifying the Essentials

At Baptism, we are sanctified through the Trinitarian name of God and our given name is declared.

- Christian given names can be the names of saints or names expressing a Christian mystery or virtue (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2156).
- God calls each of us by name, thus each person's name is sacred and demands respect (see CCC 2158).

The name of God is holy, because through it he communicates who he is.

- When Christians make the Sign of the Cross, they dedicate themselves to God and call upon God's name for grace and strength (see CCC 2157).
- In God's kingdom we will bear the Holy Name as a mark of honor as our own names shine forth (see CCC 2159; cf. Rev. 14:1).

Why Is This Important?

Names are important. They express identity and relationship with others. They convey, in written and spoken words, our very selves.

Through Divine Revelation, God entrusts to us his name. God gives us a glimpse of his divine mystery, not impersonally but intimately. He is a friend yet also remains our God, the One who sanctifies and names us. There is no greater honor than to bear the name of Christ, the name "Christian." God commands us to honor his name and bear it at all times in a Christlike manner.

*Do not swear whether by the Creator,
or any creature, except truthfully,
of necessity, and with reverence.*

SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Doctrinal Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Have the space prepared with chairs in a circle and a prayer space with a candle and an open Bible in the center. Supply name tags and refreshments.

Welcome

Greet people as they arrive. Take time for introductions. Pray Psalm 43:1-7 together.

Engage

1. Begin with the **Insight** section of the participant handout. When everyone has reflected and shared on the two **For Reflection** questions, discuss the importance of names.
2. Create a list of names or qualities that we associate with God, including those designated for the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Ask the participants what these names tell us about who God is.

Teach

Read and discuss the **Church Teaching** section. Then discuss the following:

- God knows each of us by name; each person's name is to be respected.
- God has many names and all of them are to be respected. God's name is not to be used frivolously, or to utter a curse.
- Taking an oath is very serious; we ask God to be our witness that what we say is true.

Apply

1. Ask the participants to complete this statement:
From the prayer, discussion, and study for this topic, I want to remember that . . .
2. Invite them to identify ways they can live the Second Commandment during the coming week. After a time of quiet, invite them to share their responses.

Pray

Sing or listen to one of the hymns listed as a music suggestion for this session.