

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Hallowed Be Thy Name

Catechist Preparation

Clarifying the Essentials

Jesus gave us an example of glorifying the Father. He prays that his disciples will likewise glorify God.

- ◆ God's glory and our lives intersect when we reflect the holiness of God (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC] 2813).
- ◆ God's name is sanctified throughout the world when we, as disciples, pray and work toward that sanctification (see CCC 2814).

This particular petition in the Lord's Prayer is fulfilled by the prayer of Christ.

- ◆ Our prayers are efficacious only insofar as they are linked or joined to Christ's prayer for us to the Father (see CCC 2815).
- ◆ By proclaiming the holiness of God's name, we enter into God's plan for the universal salvation of all in Christ (see CCC 2858).

Why Is This Important?

We have a definite role to play in God's plan of salvation. Striving for holiness in our lives is not merely for our own benefit. We are to become living signs of the saving God. Configuring our own lives more closely to Christ, we take on our true name, living up to the appellation of "Christian." Inasmuch as we become more like Christ in our words and deeds, we can show to all the world the Father's holiness and saving love.

When the Savior declares that he has made known the name of God the Father, it is the same as saying that he has shown the whole world his glory. How . . . ? By making himself known through his wonderful works.

SAINT CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA

Doctrinal Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Arrange chairs in a circle. Place in the center a candle, an open Bible, a rosary, and prayer booklets. Have nametags and refreshments available.

Welcome

Greet people as they arrive. Check in with everyone to find out how they are doing.

Pray

Sing or listen to a recording of the hymn "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name."

Engage

Begin with the *Insight* and *For Reflection* sections of the participant handout. Then ask, *What words describe what it means to be holy?* Then summarize the discussion.

Teach

Begin with the *Church Teaching* section. Continue with a discussion of these points:

- ◆ Hallowed means holy; so God's Name is holy. God's Name is holy because God is holy!
- ◆ God revealed his name to his people as "I AM." This means not only that God is, but also that God *will be there* for his people.
- ◆ The Hebrew people did not say the name of God aloud. It is written as YHWH. It appears in Scripture as "Adonai" which is translated "LORD."
- ◆ God reveals himself: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a communion of persons. We treat the name of Jesus with the reverence because he is God the Son.
- ◆ In Baptism, we are given the name Christian. We are called to reflect the holiness of Christ in word and deed. Thus we are called to holiness.

Apply

Ask participants:

- In what ways am I affirmed in my understanding?*
- What insight into this Church teaching did I gain?*

Pray

Sing or listen to a recording of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) used most frequently at Mass.