

# Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA  
Thy Kingdom Come

## Catechist Preparation

### Clarifying the Essentials

The invitation to participate in the kingdom of God has been issued to everyone.

- ◆ No one is excluded from the calling to become a member of the messianic kingdom (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC] 543).
- ◆ Those who are poor and lowly, that is, humble and open of heart, welcome the kingdom into their lives (see CCC 544).

Sinners have a place at the table of God's kingdom, yet repentance is required.

- ◆ Turning away from sin and relying on the mercy of God characterizes membership into the kingdom (see CCC 545).
- ◆ The Eucharist is a pledge and foretaste of the heavenly banquet and anticipates the fullness of the kingdom (see CCC 1403).

### Why Is This Important?

In praying "Thy kingdom come" we proclaim that we are forward-looking. We are disciples fixing our gaze on the fullness of the kingdom which will be brought to us by Christ the Lord. Envisioning that glorious future, we are energized to work toward it now. We humbly contribute to the building up of God's kingdom in both small and large ways. Because our hearts and minds are permeated by the vision of Gospel justice, peace, and love, everything we do is potentially transformative during this in-between time in which we live.

*Christ himself, dearest beloved,  
is the kingdom of God, whom  
we day by day desire to come, whose advent  
we crave to be quickly manifested to us.*

SAINT CYPRIAN

## 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. Guide people to share in smaller groups whenever possible.

### Welcome

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

### Pray

The Sign of the Cross

### Engage

1. Begin the discussion with this question: *Describe the commitment necessary for the realization of dreams and hopes.* After a few minutes of quiet for personal reflection, invite sharing among pairs.
2. Continue with the ***Insight*** and ***For Reflection*** sections of the participant handout.
3. Ask participants to describe the commitment Christ made for the realization of God's plan of salvation. Invite them to share with another person. Gather feedback from their sharing.

### Teach

Begin with the ***Church Teaching*** section, making these points:

- ◆ We are called to live the kingdom of peace, justice, and love now as preparation for the kingdom to come.
- ◆ All are invited to the kingdom of heaven; but not all will accept the invitation. To accept the invitation means to conform one's life to the Gospel.
- ◆ Every Eucharist is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come.

Allow some time for questions and clarifications.

### Apply

Ask participants, *What insight into this Church teaching did I gain?*

### Pray

Sing or listen to a recording of "Bring Forth the Kingdom" (Haugen, GIA Publications).