

Doctrinal Session

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

*After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said . . .
“Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they
may be one, as we are one.”*

John 17:1a, 11b

Insight

Joe had been running errands and realized that Father’s Day was next weekend. He would have to express mail the card in order for it to get home on time. In spite of the fact that he had waited until the last minute, Joe had to admit he was somewhat sentimental during this time. So he took awhile to find that just right card for his dad. Joe and his dad loved to fish, so the cover had to have a lake with someone fishing. Then Joe carefully read the message inside. It needed to say just the right words.

Joe found the “perfect card.” This card talked about presence, pride, support, encouragement, and strength while also acknowledging gentleness. It spoke to Joe about what his dad meant to him—he could sign his name to this one. His wife, looking over his shoulder to see which card he picked out, remarked that the card could just as easily be sent by his daughters to *their* daddy.

For Reflection . . .

Jesus expresses in his priestly prayer at the Last Supper the task of disciples: glorifying the Father.

Name the two or three most important people in your life and the qualities that make them so. How do you see them as holy people?

In what ways do you acknowledge the holiness of God in your own life?

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2803–2825

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 485–486

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 587–589

Church Teaching

Immersed in Holiness

The term *hallow* means “holy.” We do not speak this as if we cause God’s holiness. We acknowledge God’s awesome perfection and ask that we be immersed in his holy name. As salvation history unfolded, God gradually disclosed his holy name. For example, when Moses asked for his name, God responded, “I AM” (see Exodus 3:14).

God’s holy name is best revealed in the person of Jesus Christ and in his loving sacrifice on the Cross. When Jesus prays for his disciples at the Last Supper, he asks the Father to consecrate them in the truth and keep them *in* the divine name (see John 17:6–19, 25–26).

In Baptism, we are consecrated as the adopted children of God. Baptism washes, sanctifies and justifies us in the name of the Lord Jesus. Baptism plunges us into the life-giving Spirit of God and into the truth.

By His Holy Name

We are thus challenged to reorient ourselves in order to reflect the holiness of the divine name into which we are baptized. We are reminded that his holy name becomes known throughout the world by how we act and respond to others. By praying this petition we actively remind ourselves that as disciples we contribute to God’s plan of salvation. We are to be Christ to others. We glorify God by living holy lives.