

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C • July 6, 2025

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—ISAIAH 66:10-14C

The section of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah from which this passage is taken was written following Israel's return from exile. The Jewish people were both joyful at their restoration and in need of encouragement to sustain them in rebuilding their society. A tender, loving image permeates the passage. Jerusalem is depicted as a nursing mother fondling her infant.

SECOND READING—GALATIANS 6:14-18

Saint Paul writes this final part of his letter to the Galatians, extending the blessing of "peace and mercy" to those who follow "this rule." The rule of life in question, of course, is not the Mosaic Law but the Gospel as Paul has preached it. Paul bestows a final blessing on all his hearers who have received his teaching with open hearts.

GOSPEL—LUKE 10:1-12, 17-20 OR 10:1-9

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus sends seventy-two followers ahead of him to preach his Good News. The number seventy-two, in Jewish tradition, represents the nations. The Evangelist Luke is expressing the legitimacy of his own community's focus on bringing the Good News to the Gentiles.

Church Teaching

By every means possible, the Church shares the Good News. Through evangelization a specific content—the Gospel of our Salvation in Christ—is proclaimed, explained, and clarified. Above all, however, individuals are introduced not just to the content and contours of a saving message but to a person: Jesus Christ.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 425, 429, 849–856

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 84–85

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 79–80, 172

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Prepare the space by setting chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a green cloth, a candle, and an open Lectionary or Bible.

Discover

Invite the participants to quietly reflect for one to two minutes on the liturgy just celebrated. Then encourage them to share with one or two people an image, a word, or something that surprised or puzzled them from today's liturgy. Gather some responses from everyone.

Deepen

1. Ask the participants: *What criteria do you use to make your determination of what to take with you when you travel?* After they have shared some of their responses aloud, ask them to compare and contrast their preparation with Jesus' instruction to the disciples in today's Gospel. Ask, *What insight does this give you into the mission of Jesus' followers?*
2. Point out that the work of the disciple is to go out to all nations to proclaim that the Kingdom of God is at hand, to cure the sick, to cast out demons, and to be a messenger of peace. Ask the participants to reflect on the following question: *In what ways are we to do the same work as the first disciples?* Gather some of their responses.

Pray

If possible, celebrate the Anointing of the Catechumens, OCIA 98–103 (anointing with the oil of catechumens requires a priest or deacon); pray the blessing prayer found at OCIA 97I; or use the prayer from the participant resource as the closing prayer: *Lord Jesus, send us forth as your disciples to speak your exciting truth and message of abiding love to all those in need of your life. Amen.*

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Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Readings

Isaiah 66:10-14c

Psalms 66:1-7, 16, 20

Galatians 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

Welcome

Welcome everyone, including sponsors, team members, and spouses who join the group. Invite one or two people to share some of the key points from the Dismissal Session.

Engage

1. Proclaim the Gospel (Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9). Then lead a discussion using the following questions:

What is your understanding of the statement "the kingdom of God is at hand"?

What seems to be the disciples' cause for rejoicing?

Jesus says their "names are written in heaven." What do you think this means?

What comes to mind when you hear the term "evangelization"?

2. Summarize the key insights and questions that arise from the discussion. If there are questions that can be answered briefly, respond as necessary.

Explore

1. Guide the participants to a deeper understanding of the Gospel by presenting the following points. Use some concrete examples to illustrate your presentation:
 - The primary mission of the Church is to evangelize.
 - The mission is carried out through the work of preaching, teaching, and healing.
 - A personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ is the foundation of faith.

- A relationship with Jesus Christ is a lifelong commitment to conform one's life to Christ.
 - The Church itself needs to be both the evangelizer and the evangelized. It is a way of living more than a task to be accomplished.
2. After the participants have had a chance to ask clarification questions, invite them to discuss in small groups the implications of this teaching. Collect their insights on a large sheet of paper or a dry-erase board in the large group.
 3. Highlight key points from ***Church Teaching: The Church Exists to Evangelize***. Also highlight the ***Key Terms*** and ***Voices of Faith*** sections. If possible, make note of how the insights listed on the paper or dry-erase board underscore the key points.

Apply

1. Invite the catechumens and candidates to complete these statements:

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

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

2. Encourage the catechumens and candidates and their sponsors to discuss a variety of ways that they evangelize at home, at work, and in their neighborhood. Then ask them to choose one particular action of evangelization to focus on for the coming week. Have each catechumen or candidate share this resolution one on one with his or her sponsor.

Pray

Invite everyone to give thanks to God, in the silence of their hearts, for all those who have been the messengers of Good News for them. Have one person pray aloud the prayer on the participant sheet. Conclude by singing one of the hymns suggested for today's session, or another song about being sent.