

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C • July 13, 2025

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—DEUTERONOMY 30:10-14

This book is meant to bolster the faith of the people and to assure them that God has not abandoned them. God's commands are near. The people can lovingly embrace God's Law and not merely comply with it out of a sense of duty.

SECOND READING—COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

This passage acclaims Christ's sovereignty over all, including angels and other powers of the universe. It appears to be the text of an early Christian hymn. The hymn, identifying Christ with divine Wisdom, ascribes to him a role in both creation and Redemption.

GOSPEL—LUKE 10:25-37

Jesus invites his hearers to take love of neighbor to an entirely new level by the surprising parable that asserts that in the Kingdom of God, one's "enemy" (the Samaritan) may be one's neighbor.

Church Teaching

Jesus Christ incarnates the love of God. The divine activity of God as described in the Old Testament, where God chooses to associate himself with a people, takes on dramatic form when, in Jesus Christ, it is God himself who spends himself in love for our sake, suffering death on the Cross.

Christ embodies love in its most radical form. In contemplating this, the Christian discovers the path along which his or her life must move. Following the radical love of Christ, we spend our lives in service and sacrifice for our neighbor.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1822–1829

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 318–321

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 434–436

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Prepare the space by setting chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a green cloth, a candle, an open Lectionary or Bible, and newspaper stories of people reaching out to the poor.

Discover

1. Invite everyone to reflect quietly for one to two minutes on the liturgy just celebrated and then share the message they heard today with one or two people. Conclude this sharing with the following questions:

Who would be consoled by the message? In what way would they be consoled?

Who would be challenged by the message? In what way would they be challenged?

2. After some time for small-group reflection, ask some volunteers to share their insights with the large group.

Deepen

1. Remind the participants that we are called to love our neighbor, even when it is difficult. Lead a discussion with the group, asking them to respond to the following questions:

Who is your neighbor?

What do you think the saying "Actions speak louder than words" means?

What does it mean to "walk the talk?"

2. Proclaim the First Reading (Deuteronomy 30:10-14). Invite the participants to reflect on the fact that God's Commandment is found in the heart, not on a "tablet" or on paper. Ask the following questions:

What does this suggest about the nature of God's Law?

Why is the Commandment not mysterious?

Pray

Invite the participants to a moment of silent gratitude for God's nearness to their own hearts. Together, read aloud the prayer from the participant page.

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C • July 13, 2025

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Readings

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Psalm 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37

Colossians 1:15-20

Luke 10:25-37

Welcome

Welcome everyone who is present, 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. (You will need to have copies of the psalm available for the closing prayer.)

Engage

1. For some of the participants, the parable of the Good Samaritan will be well known and well loved. For others, it may be vague or unfamiliar. Invite everyone to listen carefully, as if hearing it for the first time. Proclaim the Gospel (Luke 10:25-37).
2. Ask the participants to name aloud some settings where this story can and does happen in our world today. Direct their attention to the newspaper stories displayed on the table, and mention some other examples, such as the struggles of immigration and responses to natural disasters. Discuss the following questions:
What are the values or attitudes that bring out the best in people?
How do you determine whom to help?
3. Explain that Samaritans were looked down upon by the people to whom Jesus was speaking. Brainstorm the description of a modern-day "Samaritan."

Explore

1. Present the following basic teachings:
 - The Ten Commandments are summed up in the Great Commandment.
 - The Great Commandment is not two laws but one: love of God and love of neighbor.

- No one can claim to love God and then hate one's neighbor. To love God means to love your neighbor. Your neighbor is anyone who needs your help; it does not depend on whom you like or whom you dislike.
 - The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy from our Tradition are concrete examples of how to love your neighbor. In loving one's neighbor, one loves God.
2. After you have finished presenting the basic teachings, invite questions, comments, and discussion. Acknowledge that some of the teachings of Jesus are easy to understand but challenging to practice. Allow some time for the participants to identify specific practices that help them to love their neighbor, even when it is difficult.
 3. Highlight key points from **Church Teaching: Love of Neighbor**. Also highlight the **Key Terms** and **Voices of Faith** sections.

Apply

1. Ask 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. Invite a parishioner who is involved in outreach to speak to the group about his or her ministry. Encourage the catechumens and candidates and their sponsors to participate in some form of outreach, whether it is sponsored through the parish or the community or at work.

Pray

Reflectively read the Responsorial Psalm from today's liturgy, pausing between each verse.