

# Inquiry Session: Faith

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

## Reflect on Your Experience

If you try to prove the validity of everything on your own, you will quickly be faced with the fact that you do not have all of the data to do so.

### *For Reflection . . .*

What are some things that you accept through faith? What or who is it that the faith of Christians is based on?

## Hear the Good News About Faith

God the Father sends us his Son, Jesus Christ, both to reveal God's loving plan for the world and to save us. Christians cannot separate their faith in God from the beloved Son who was sent by God.

The first followers of Jesus dramatically experienced the uniqueness of Jesus. On a high mountain accompanied by Peter, James, and John, Jesus was transfigured in glory. A voice called out from a cloud, saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (Matthew 17:1-9, see Mark 9:2-8, see Luke 9:28-36).

We listen and take to heart both Jesus and his message, for he himself is God, the eternal Word made flesh, who suffered, died, and rose for our sake. By his sacrifice, Jesus poured out the love of God upon the world. Therefore we join ourselves to Jesus, living and proclaiming the Gospel through our words and actions.

## Read the Word of God

**Mark 9:2-8**

(The disciples witness the divine glory of Jesus.)

**John 6:43-47**

(Faith in Christ is the way to eternal life.)

**1 John 4:14-15**

(God sends Jesus to us as our Savior.)

## Respond Through Action

There are many voices in the world that lure, or seek to draw us away from living an authentic Christian life, a "kingdom" life aligned with and in God. But Jesus calls us to place our faith wholeheartedly in God, our Father.

### *For Reflection . . .*

What "voices" in the world are contrary to Christ? What or whom must you leave behind in order to more fully embrace Christ?

## Witness to the Gospel

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
1181-1226

Son of a wealthy merchant, Francis spent his youth in his hometown of Assisi, Italy. In 1201 he joined a military expedition and was captured and imprisoned. In 1205 he experienced visions, went on a pilgrimage to Rome, and returned to Assisi to renounce his wealth and comfort. While his father proceeded to disinherit him, Saint Francis opted for the inheritance of faith in Christ. He gathered many followers who joined him in his way of life. This was the beginning of the religious order that is commonly known today as the Franciscans. Saint Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment. His feast day is celebrated on October 4.