

Catechumenate Session

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



*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.*

Sunday Word

Isaiah 66:10-14c

Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20

Galatians 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9 (shorter form)

God's Servants Shall Know His Power

The prophet promises that those who had been bowed down will be exalted. They will experience abundance. Amid a newfound comfort and prosperity, the People of God will flourish. The servants of the Lord will see God's power in action even as it changes their lives.

Boast in the Cross

Saint Paul tells the community in Galatia that the value he holds dearest is the Cross of Jesus Christ. Paul has been crucified to the world and the world to him. He has suffered for the sake of the Good News. He accepts these trials as the birth pangs of Christ's new life taking hold of him.

Sent by Jesus

The Master sends out his disciples as laborers for the Kingdom of God. They are to take nothing with them except the Good News that Jesus himself preaches. They are to rejoice not in the results of their missionary efforts but in the realization that their names are inscribed on the rolls of Heaven.

Church Teaching: The Church Exists to Evangelize

As Jesus Did

The central thrust of the Church's mission echoes that of the first disciples sent out by Jesus to spread the Good News. The Church exists in order to evangelize.

In characterizing the Church as a herald of Good News, it is important to underscore that she derives this mission from her founder. Jesus Christ himself is the first evangelizer. He embodies the Good News of God to the point of perfection, manifesting it most clearly in his own self-sacrifice on the Cross. He continually points to the kingdom, proclaiming in his life, ministry, and Paschal Mystery the Reign of God. He also exemplifies the joy of those who are joined to God's kingdom. This happiness is

paradoxical, however, because the world rejects the things that make up the Reign of God.

A Mission to All People

Nevertheless it is the vocation of the Church to continue spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ as she follows in the footsteps of her Lord. The Twelve were commanded by the Lord to carry the Gospel to all people. They engaged in the ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing—a vital ministerial outreach that characterizes the evangelizing efforts and identity of the whole Church today.

Born through the evangelizing efforts of the first disciples, who followed the command and example of Jesus, the Church never ceases to proclaim the Good News, both to her own members and to all the world. The purpose of this internal and external evangelization is conversion, to make of all of the world and everyone in it a “new creation” (Revelation 21:5).

Evangelizing Cultures

The effect of evangelization is to upset and reform any human judgments, determining values, points of interest, lines of thought, sources of inspiration, and models of life that are contrary to the Good News. In other words, the task of evangelization is not only oriented toward individuals but also to the cultures in which they live.

Distinctiveness of Church Teaching

Preaching, catechetics, and the mass media each have a part to play in evangelization. So too does the celebration of Word and sacrament in the public worship of the Church. The greatest and perhaps most effective means of evangelization, however, is the witness of believers who pass on the Good News by the way they live. Why believers live as they do should cause others to notice and inquire. All Christians are called to this type of evangelization.

But for such witness to be fruitful, it must be followed by the explicit and unequivocal proclamation of Jesus Christ. Evangelization cannot reach its fulfillment unless the name, teaching, life, promises, kingdom, and mystery of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, are specifically and concretely proclaimed. The content of this proclamation is, in a nutshell, that God loves us, redeems us in Christ, frees us from sin, and promises us eternal life.

Key Terms

EVANGELIZATION

The proclamation of Christ and his Gospel. The term is specifically Christian and was developed by Saint Paul (see Galatians 2:7, Philippians 4:3, and 1 Corinthians 9:14). Evangelization, or spreading the Good News of Christ, takes place by word and witness in fulfillment of Christ’s command (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 905).

GOSPEL

The terms “Gospel” and “Good News” are interchangeable. They can refer to the totality of the message embodied in the life, teaching, and example of Jesus Christ or to the first four books of the New Testament (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 422–425).

WORD AND SACRAMENT

The two central ministerial activities of the Church from which flow all other ministries. They are complementary and inseparable: the active, living proclamation of the Word of God in Sacred Scripture and the celebration of the sacraments, which convey the grace of God (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1155).

Voices of Faith

Christ gives those who love instruction the assurance that whatever is said concerning him by the holy apostles or evangelists is to be received necessarily without any doubt and to be crowned with the words of truth. He who hears them, hears Christ.

—Saint Cyril of Alexandria

The Church does not live on herself but on the Gospel, and in the Gospel always and ever anew finds directions for her journey. This is a point that every Christian must understand and apply to himself or herself: only those who first listen to the Word can become preachers of it.

—Pope Benedict XVI

Further Reading

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 849 (Church and missionary mandate), 905 (laity and evangelization), 1816 (witness of the faithful)

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 7 (The Good News: God Has Sent His Son), especially the section “Jesus Is the Savior of All,” pages 84–85

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 79 (what is the Good News), 80 (how the Good News is spread), 172 (why the Church must proclaim the Gospel)