Period of Purification and Enlightenment Session Features

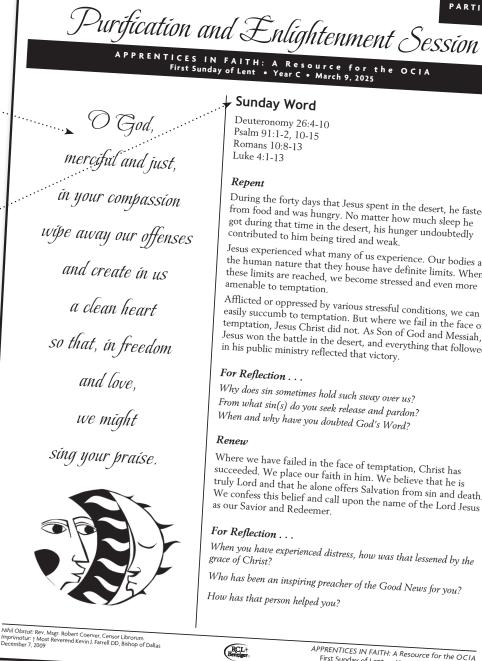
**Participant Resource** 

## Prayer

Provides text that correlates to the readings of the day, which can be used as a gathering or closing prayer.

## Sunday Word

Lists the Scripture readings for the corresponding Sunday, and provides insights and questions for further reflection based on the readings.



During the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert, he fasted from food and was hungry. No matter how much sleep he got during that time in the desert, his hunger undoubtedly contributed to him being tired and weak.

Jesus experienced what many of us experience. Our bodies and the human nature that they house have definite limits. When these limits are reached, we become stressed and even more

Afflicted or oppressed by various stressful conditions, we can easily succumb to temptation. But where we fail in the face of temptation, Jesus Christ did not. As Son of God and Messiah, Jesus won the battle in the desert, and everything that followed in his public ministry reflected that victory.

Why does sin sometimes hold such sway over us? From what sin(s) do you seek release and pardon? When and why have you doubted God's Word?

Where we have failed in the face of temptation, Christ has succeeded. We place our faith in him. We believe that he is truly Lord and that he alone offers Salvation from sin and death. We confess this belief and call upon the name of the Lord Jesus

When you have experienced distress, how was that lessened by the



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PARTICIPANT Purification and Enlightenment Session APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource f First Sunday of Lent • Year C • March 9, Key Images and Symbols Key Images and Symbols of the Season Church Teaching: of the Season Our Confession of Faith in Christ TEMPTATION—by which we stumble and fall **SIN**—which weighs us down and keeps us from God We admit that we have sinned. But we also admit, Evokes scriptural, GRACE—the sheer gift of God's goodness to us; it buoys or confess, the great love of God that we have in doctrinal, and Christ. In that amazing love and mercy, we have been us up into authentic life saved. We have been rescued from the kingdom of CONFESSION OF FAITH—expresses what we hold dear in general faith darkness and brought into the kingdom of God's light. our hearts Indeed, we have been made temples of the Holy Spirit images to spark RIGHTEOUSNESS—by which we are accounted as living through the saving work of Christ. Thus, dressing the the religious for God alone wounds of sin, the Holy Spirit heals our hearts and imagination of souls through a spiritual transformation. As Christ's disciples, we are invited to live in the elect. communion with him and walk in the ways of God's Preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist overflowing love. It is God's grace that enables Is there a particular scriptural word or phrase, a concept us to continually confront sin in our lives. This from Church teaching, or an image that resonates with confrontation and admission of sin allows us to you in this season of grace? progress toward holiness. Keeping in mind the experience of this Lenten Sunday as The Church helps us in reconciliation. It teaches us Preparing you look forward to Baptism, what will it mean to you the Good News and how to embrace the virtues of that you will be recreated in the image of Christ? Christian living in light of that saving truth. We are for Baptism, also taught to pray, individually and communally, Confirmation. and ask for the intercession of Mary and the saints. The Church offers the Sacrament of Penance and and Eucharist Reconciliation to those who have succumbed to sin after being baptized. The Church witnesses to our Centers the need for continual purification and renewal as we elect on their strive to be faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus. upcoming full Distinctiveness of Church Teaching initiation. Saint Augustine of Hippo says that "God creates us without us: but he did not will to save us without us." We have a conscience that must be employed as we 2010 RCL Benziger, a Kendall Hunt Compan) contemplate how Jesus saves us and how each of us needs that Salvation. Acknowledging our sins is the first step in confessing the power, love, and mercy of God. It is also a protection against future temptation. APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA First Sunday of Lent • Year C • PARTICIPANT Nihil Obstat: Rev. Msgr. Robert Coerver, Censor Librorum Imprimatur: † Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell DD, Bishop of Dallas December 7, 2009 RCL<sup>+</sup> Benziger



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