

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C • November 16, 2025

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—MALACHI 3:19-20a

The prophet cautions the people that they will be found wanting. Excesses and frivolity will destroy us, whereas discipline, orderliness, and caring for one another in justice and love will bind us ever closer to God.

SECOND READING—2 THESSALONIANS 3:7-12

Believers look to the final coming of the Lord. But until that time, we work, build one another up, and conduct ourselves soberly and virtuously.

GOSPEL—LUKE 21:5-19

We follow where Jesus leads. The path of righteousness will not always be smooth or without challenges, pain, and even martyrdom. But we persevere in faith, hope, and love.

Church Teaching: Doing the Right Thing

The great body of Church teaching on social doctrine emphasizes that we are not isolated beings. We are interconnected. Because of this, we owe God and we owe one another. How we dispose of that which we owe God is sometimes described as the virtue of religion. How we dispose of what is owed to our neighbor is called *justice* and causes us to respect the rights of all. Justice also urges us to work always to establish and maintain harmonious relations and promote equity and the common good. It is a quality of faithful persons who love God and therefore love their neighbor.

Further Reading

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2419, 2438

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 31, especially pages 420–424

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: pages 98 and 99

Justice would not be needed if we were in Heaven, or if the Kingdom of God was fully established here on earth. If perfect love truly characterized our relationships and the workings of this world, there would be no need for justice.

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

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

Discover

1. Tell the children a brief story from your childhood about a person or two you admired and wanted to be like when you grew up, and why.
2. Invite the children to do the same.
3. Introduce to the children the word *imitate*. Ask whether anyone knows the meaning of the word *imitate*.
4. Explain that the word *imitate* means “to copy” or “to follow.”

Deepen

1. Proclaim the Second Reading, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12.
2. Ask the children why they think Saint Paul wanted the church in Thessalonica to imitate him and to imitate those who ministered with him. (*They acted in an orderly way; they did not take anything from anyone; they worked hard.*)
3. Ask the children whom they think Saint Paul would encourage us to imitate today, and why. (*Answers could include Jesus, because his words teach us about God and he is our Good Shepherd; the pope, because he is a person of prayer and of social justice; the pastor, because he teaches us the Gospel; our teachers, who help us learn and who show us by example how to treat others; our parents, who love us and teach us to pray.*)

4. Invite the children to talk about people who might want to imitate them and why. (*younger brothers and sisters, younger students in the school, other classmates and teammates; because they are kind, helpful, friendly, welcoming, etc.*)
5. If time allows, create a group list of things a good role model for others should say and do, and encourage the children to choose one thing on the list to say or do in the coming week.

Pray

Pray the prayer on the front of the participant handout.

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Supplies Needed

You will need copies of the participant handout, a whiteboard or flip chart, markers, and pencils or pens. Also gather materials about or be prepared to show the websites for Catholic organizations that work for justice, such as Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities.

Sunday Word

Malachi 3:19-20a
 Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9
 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
 Luke 21:5-19

Welcome

Welcome everyone and invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the *Dismissal Session*.

Invite

1. Gather the children around the prayer table.
2. Proclaim the Second Reading, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12.
3. Review with the children the word *imitate* and its meaning.
4. Ask the children why Saint Paul was a good person to imitate—why he was a good role model. (*He did not act in a disorderly way, he did not take what was not his, and he worked hard.*)

5. Invite volunteers to share what they did to be good role models like Saint Paul this past week.

Teach

1. Explain to the children that when you do what Saint Paul did—act in a peaceful way, take only what is yours, and work hard—you are living *justly*.
2. Introduce the children to the word *justice*. Explain that the word *justice* means “the good habit of giving to God and to all people what is rightfully due to them.”
3. Invite the children to name things that are rightfully due to all people. (*food, clothing, shelter, respect, love, etc.*)
4. Share with the children that another Paul, Pope Paul VI, once said, “If you want peace, work for justice!” Ask the children what they think he meant when he said that.
5. Introduce the children to one or more Catholic organizations that work for justice, such as Catholic Relief Services (crs.org and crsricebowl.org) and Catholic Charities (catholiccharitiesusa.org). Emphasize that the Catholic Church does much to care for the basic needs of all people by doing works of justice.
6. Review *Key Teachings* and *Faith Word* with the children.

Challenge

1. Invite the group to name ways children their age can work for justice. List their ideas on the whiteboard or flip chart.
2. Give the children time to consider one work of justice they will do in the coming week. Have them write their choice in the *Work for Justice* box on the participant handout.

Pray

Pray the Prayer of Blessing 97C (OCIA) or the prayer on the front of the participant handout.