

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Third Sunday of Easter • Year C • May 4, 2025

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—ACTS 5:27-32, 40B-41

The Apostles are brought into court for having preached the name of Jesus in defiance of the Sanhedrin. They show no fear in the face of danger but instead rejoice that they have been ill-treated for preaching Christ.

SECOND READING—REVELATION 5:11-14

Today's reading occurs inside the court of Heaven in the presence of God. The scene is one of suffering transformed into glory. Christ's suffering makes possible the fulfillment of his mission.

GOSPEL—JOHN 21:1-19 OR 21:1-14

The disciples spend the night trying to fish. Jesus appears and tells them to cast out their nets. They catch a huge number of fish. In the presence and under the direction of the Risen Lord, the disciples can undertake their evangelizing mission with new and unparalleled vigor and fruitfulness.

Church Teaching: The Eucharist

The very name given to the entire liturgical celebration of the Eucharist, the Mass, derives from the Latin *missa* for "being sent." The name indicates the thrust of the sacrifice and of our lives. We are to go forth from the Eucharist to spend our lives in service as bread broken and as cup poured out for the life of the world. In the Eucharistic sacrifice, God gives himself to us. We are enjoined to do the same for our brothers and sisters in need—that is, to go forth and glorify the Lord by our lives.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1368, 1396, 1397

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 225–227

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: pages 66, 71–77, 122–123

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a white cloth, a plate with bread, a cup of grape juice, a candle, and an open Bible or Lectionary.

Discover

1. Share an example from your life of a time when you were working really hard and it just seemed like nothing was going right. You were discouraged. Ask volunteers to share their examples of such times too.
2. Invite the children to listen to the Gospel to find out why even the disciples were discouraged.

Deepen

1. Proclaim the first part of today's Gospel, John 21:1-14.
2. Invite volunteers to recall the story in their own words. Who was in the story? What happened first? Next? After that? In the end?
3. Ask why the disciples were discouraged at the beginning of the story.
4. What happened to change their attitude?
5. What is the message of the story for us today?

Pray

Pray together the prayer from the front of the participant handout. Conclude by singing an Easter Alleluia, refrain, or familiar Easter hymn.

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Supplies

If possible, gather in the church near the altar and light the Paschal candle. If you cannot gather there, you will need the prayer table setup. You will also need copies of the participant handout.

Sunday Word

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

Welcome

1. Welcome everyone and invite volunteers to share what they wrote about in the Water of Life and I Believe sections of last week's participant handout.
2. Invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the *Dismissal Session*.

Invite

1. Recall with the group that at the Easter Vigil, those who had been preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation were baptized, were confirmed, and received the Eucharist for the first time.
2. Invite the children to focus with you on the Sacrament of Eucharist today.
3. Begin by asking the group to brainstorm a special meal they have recently taken part in. Maybe it was Easter Sunday dinner, a birthday dinner, or a wedding reception. Ask who was there, what foods were served, and what else made the dinner special.
4. Conclude by reminding the children that each week Catholics share in a special meal called the Eucharist. Invite the children to consider who gathers for this meal, what food we receive in this meal, and what else makes this meal special.
(*Everyone is welcome to come to this meal; we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in this meal; Jesus is really present in the form of bread and wine.*)

Teach

Use Chapter 6 of *Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II* to continue the discussion. Highlight the following points.

- The Eucharist is the third Sacrament of Initiation celebrated at the Easter Vigil. The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- The Church uses many names for the Eucharist to help us understand its meaning, including the Real Presence, the Holy Sacrifice, and the Mass.
- Participating in the Eucharist joins us more fully to Christ and to the Body of Christ, the Church.
- The Eucharist nourishes and strengthens us to go forth and glorify the Lord by our lives. This is the command we are given at the conclusion of every Mass. We are sent forth to announce the Good News of Jesus and to share our blessings with others.

Challenge

1. Remind the children that their participant handout has a different look during the Easter Season!
2. Point out this week's *My Favorite Meal* and *Glorifying the Lord* sections of the participant handout, and encourage the children to continue their reflections on these two themes this coming week. Ask them to come next week prepared to share their thoughts.

Prayer

1. Proclaim the first part of today's Gospel, John 21:1-14
2. Lead the children in the guided reflection outlined for you on the following page.

Cast Your Net: A Reflection on John 21:1-14

Directions: Conclude today's session by leading the children in a guided reflection on the first part of today's Gospel. Use the following or similar words.

1. *Quiet yourself and close your eyes.*
2. *Picture a beautiful lake on a warm, sunny day. You are in a boat with your closest friends.*
3. *You have been fishing for a long time. You are tired and you have caught no fish. How do you feel? Do you want to keep fishing? Do you want to give up?*
4. *Suddenly, from the shore, a man calls out to you. You do not recognize the man.*
5. *The man tells you to try fishing from that spot again, and that you will catch many fish.*
6. *You do not know why you listen to him, but you do try again. You cast your net over the right side of the boat, and you catch so many fish that you cannot even pull the net out of the water! How do you and your friends feel? Do you still want to give up? Do you want to go on?*
7. *Suddenly you recognize the man. It is Jesus! You jump out of the boat and start making your way toward him. You hurry! You want to be with him!*
8. *Jesus fixes breakfast for your friends and you.*
9. (Pause)
10. *Think about your life, right now, today. Is there anything that is happening where you just want to give up? Talk to Jesus about it. What is he saying to you?*
11. *When you are finished talking to Jesus about what is on your mind and heart, open your eyes and remain quiet.*

Directions: When it seems that all have finished their reflections, conclude today's session by singing an Easter Alleluia, refrain, or a familiar Easter hymn.

