

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

## INQUIRY SESSION: THE PEOPLE OF GOD, THE BODY OF CHRIST

### Inquiry Session (Approximately 60 minutes)

#### Prepare

For this session you will need copies of the participant handout, blank paper, pencils or pens, and copies of the parish bulletin (see **Our Response** #1). You may also wish to have on hand a flip chart or whiteboard and markers (again see **Our Response** #1).

In preparation for this session, you may find it helpful to refer to Chapter 4 of **Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II**, particularly pages 54 and 55.

Set the space with chairs in a circle, and in the center place a prayer table covered in the color of the liturgical season. On the table place a candle, and a Bible opened to 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

If needed, have name tags. Provide light refreshments for the group.

#### Gather (10–15 minutes)

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Invite them to introduce themselves by name and to share why they were given that name. Be ready to share your name and its significance, too. (*For example, were they or were you named after a relative? A saint? A person your parents admired?*)
2. Give all present a sheet of blank paper and a pencil or pen. Invite them to write down the names or draw pictures of the members of their families. If time allows, encourage them to include some members of their extended families, such as grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins.
3. Invite them in small groups or as a large group to share their work with others.
4. Read together the **My Story** section of the participant handout and discuss the questions found there.

### Expand (15–20 minutes)

1. Gather the group around the prayer table and proclaim 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.
2. Invite volunteers to share what they think is the message of the reading.
3. Conclude by offering a short prayer thanking God for all parts of the Body of Christ.
4. Invite all to return to their seats, and lead a discussion. Highlight the following points:
  - We are all connected to the family of God through our Baptism. Through Baptism we become God's children. Thus, we become brothers and sisters. Jesus becomes our brother; God becomes our Father; and Mary becomes our Mother.
  - We are always members of our immediate families. In the same way, when we are baptized and become part of God's family, we are always members of God's family. No one can ever break that family bond; it is forever.
  - Two names for God's family are the People of God and the Body of Christ. Jesus is the Head of the Body.
  - Just as every part of our body—our eyes, our ears, our hands, and our feet—is important to our whole body, every person is an important part of the Body of Christ.
5. Read and discuss the **God's Story** section of the participant handout.

***Our Response (15–20 minutes)***

1. Distribute copies of the parish bulletin, one copy per every two participants in the group. Invite pairs or small groups to work together to identify parts of the Body of Christ who are a part of and who serve the parish community. *(for example, the parish staff members, religious education volunteers, those who work in outreach to the poor, the youth group, infants and young children, and so on)*
2. Invite the pairs or small groups to share their findings with the large group. Record their findings on the flip chart or whiteboard for all to see. Reinforce the point that the Body of Christ is made up of many members, and all are needed to make the Body complete.
3. Conclude by explaining to the group that they are becoming a part of the family of God, the Body of Christ, through this process of the Order of Christian Initiation. It is their journey of coming to know about Jesus, his teachings, and his life.
4. Read the ***Our Response*** section of the participant handout and discuss the questions.
5. Review the ***Faith Words*** with the group.

***Pray (2–3 minutes)***

Lead the group in a guided meditation using these or similar words:

*Close your eyes and quiet yourselves.*

*Tell Jesus the names of the people you love.*

*Ask him to bless each one in a special way.*

*Now tell Jesus about the people who love you.*

*Tell Jesus thank you for their love.*