

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • October 25, 2015

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—Jeremiah 31:7–9

Joyfulness characterizes this prophecy from Jeremiah about the Jewish people brought back from exile.

The images used by Jeremiah became, in Jesus' day, associated with the Messiah. Caring for the blind and lame is portrayed by the Gospel writers as proof of Jesus' identity as the long-awaited Messiah.

SECOND READING—Hebrews 5:1–6

The Letter to the Hebrews emphasizes that through Baptism every believer shares, in part, in the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus was God's Anointed One, so too in Baptism we have been anointed as a priestly people.

GOSPEL—Mark 10:46–52

Mark strategically places the Bartimaeus episode just before Jesus enters Jerusalem. The Lord cures the blindness of Bartimaeus, who recognizes Jesus through the use of the messianic title "Son of David."

Church Teaching

All priesthood, in the Old Covenant and in the New Covenant, points to the one priesthood of Jesus Christ. He alone is the Mediator between Heaven and Earth, standing now before the throne of God the Father, interceding for humanity.

Ministerial, ordained priests act in the person of Christ for the benefit of the whole Church, serving to build up unity and communion among us all. Without this type of leadership, bestowed by Sacrament and exercised in charity, we would be scattered. With this ministerial leadership we are enabled to attain the Salvation won for us by the eternal priest, Jesus.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1536–1600

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 261–275

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 322–336

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set a table with a green cloth, a priest's stole, and a candle. Place the Bible (or Lectionary) open to today's Gospel passage.

Discover

1. Ask the following questions, and invite the group to reflect on them quietly before sharing their responses with one or two other people:

What did you see or hear in the Liturgy of the Word?

What word, phrase, or image from the readings stays with you?

2. Invite several volunteers to share their reflections with the large group.

Deepen

1. Ask the following questions, and invite the group to reflect on them quietly before sharing their responses with one or two other people:

What resonates with you when you hear the words: "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me" (Mark 10:47)?

In what situation in your life have you or might you also call out to Jesus?

2. Invite several volunteers to share their reflections with the large group.

3. Use the following simple guided meditation with the group:

Close your eyes. Picture yourself along the road and hear the crowd coming toward you and hearing that the miracle worker, Jesus, is with them. (pause) Hear yourself cry out, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." How do you feel when they tell you that Jesus is calling you? (pause) How would you respond to Jesus' question, "What do you want me to do for you"?

Pray

Invite the participants to say a prayer of thanks to Jesus in the quiet of their hearts.

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Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Readings

Jeremiah 31:7–9

Psalm 126:1–6

Hebrews 5:1–6

Mark 10:46–52

Welcome

Begin by welcoming everyone who is present, including sponsors, team members, and spouses who are joining the group.

Engage

Begin by rephrasing one or two questions from the Dismissal Session, and invite the group to share their responses in small groups. Then ask several volunteers to share their reflections with the large group.

Explore

1. Summarize or invite the group to read the **Sunday Word** section of the participant resource. Then discuss:
 - the tasks of the biblical prophet;
 - the qualifications and role of the high priest; and
 - the call of Bartimaeus and his response to follow Jesus.
2. Invite the group to read the **Catholic Doctrine** section of the participant resource. Then highlight the following points:
 - In Baptism, all are anointed and given a share in the ministry of Jesus Christ.
 - Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, those ordained receive the grace to assist, guide, and lead the unfolding of the baptismal call of all believers.

- Jesus is the High Priest who mediates between Heaven and Earth.
 - The three levels of Holy Orders are bishop, priest, deacon.
3. Highlight the **Key Terms, Voices of Faith, and Further Reading** sections.
 4. If possible, invite a priest or deacon to share with the group the story of their call to Holy Orders as well as their ministry in the Church.

Apply

1. Share with the catechumens and candidates the name of their priest(s), the bishop, the diocese, and the name of the Holy Father, Bishop of Rome.
2. Encourage the catechumens and candidates to complete these statements:

From the prayer, discussion, and study for this Sunday, I understand the Church's teaching to be . . .

I am challenged to live the message of this Sunday by . . .

Pray

Use the prayer on the participant handout: *Father of all, you sent your Son to live among us and show us the way to you. Send us shepherds who, in our day, will care for us and lead us along the path of Christ. Amen.*