



# ACT with Justice

## Session Background

### Purpose

The kingdom of God is a kingdom of peace, justice, and love. Young people will learn that being followers of Christ requires us to share the Good News with others and to work toward ending hunger, poverty, and everything that denies the dignity of the human person.

### Objectives

#### Learners will

- ▶ know what the dignity of the human person means and what that dignity demands for every human being.
- ▶ explore ways that they can be a person of justice by examining their attitudes, relationships, and their interaction with the world.
- ▶ identify the values of the kingdom of God.

### Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 229, 542, 550, 1948, 2552–2554, 2556, 2774, 2776, 2800, and 2857.

Learning by Christian living is an essential part of catechetical methodology. In part, this means that catechists must practice justice in their own lives and encourage their students to do the same.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 29

### Catechist Formation

The Gospel that you hear during Mass on Sunday should challenge you. We all want to believe in a God who loves and comforts us, and we certainly have such a God. Feeling loved and restored is not, however, the whole purpose of Christian discipleship. If we do not also feel compelled to serve as Christ in the world, then we are missing the point. We are given new life through our faith in Jesus Christ and our good deeds. The faith comes to us through the Church community, our families, and others. It is expressed and proven in our actions. An important way we serve Christ is by serving others. If we fail to embrace that call to service, we cannot have a healthy relationship with our Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



*In what ways do your actions reflect your recognition of the presence of Christ in the poor and vulnerable?*



### Catechist Prayer

Jesus, your Gospel message challenges me to be in relationship with people that our society often keeps at the margins. Help me love people more deeply and let that love inspire these young people to love more deeply as well. Amen.

### Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ For young adolescents, this is a time of exploring the world, reflecting on new experiences so they can become participants in society. We have an opportunity to help them learn how to participate in the world in order to make a more just society.
- ▶ Young adolescents are beginning to ask the “big questions” in life. They need the context of faith, Jesus’ teaching on the kingdom of God, and the Church’s wisdom to help answer those questions. Be open to the difficult questions that are raised in this session, especially when the answers are complicated.

# Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com).

## Session at a Glance

### WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

**PRAY** the opening prayer.

**SHARE** about someone who stands up for what they believe.

**READ** the story about Jesse and Greg, **PAGES 2–3**.

**REFLECT** and discuss the story.

### WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

**READ** the **CONNECT** feature, **PAGE 4**.

**REFLECT** on outsiders.

**PRESENT** the concept of human dignity.

**READ** **ALL ARE INVITED** and **ON A MISSION**, and **MAKING IT REAL** on **PAGES 4–5**.

**FACILITATE ACTIVITY** about human rights.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with planning a new city, add 20 minutes.

**PRESENT** key points about the kingdom of God.

**READ** **THE KINGDOM GROWS** and **SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?** on **PAGES 6–7**.

**REFLECT** on what we are called to do using **Resource 1**.

**PRESENT** a summary of ideas about the attitudes of the kingdom of God.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** by reflecting on Solidarity through Fasting, add 10 minutes.

**PRESENT** a summary of key ideas using **CATHOLICS BELIEVE**, **PAGE 9**.

### WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

**READ** the **LIVE OUR FAITH**, **PAGE 10**.

**REFLECT** on See, Judge, and Act using the **WHAT ABOUT IT?** activity.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with the **PEOPLE OF FAITH** feature, add 10 minutes.

**PRAY** the closing prayer.

## Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 1** in the *Kingdom of God Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and a cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle. (Review the cautionary statement on candles on **PAGE 14**.)
- ▶ Prepare a sheet of newsprint to use in the activity What Is Their Due?

### Human Rights

Life and the necessities of life:

Food                      Clothing

Shelter                    Medicine

Education

A right to:

Vote                      Own property

Speak freely      Run their own business

- ▶ Identify participants to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

### Supplies Needed

- *Kingdom of God Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- copies of **Resource 1**—one per participant
- copies of the closing prayer for Readers 1 and 2
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music CDs*

## Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for the personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What's the Issue?*, you will share a story with the group of someone you know who lives his or her faith through action. 2 minutes
- ▶ In *What Now?*, you will provide an example of a situation of injustice. Research an issue that is currently in the news or use an example from your experience for this sharing. 3 minutes



# OUR Reason for Hope

## Session Background

### Purpose

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us hope that this life is preparing us for something greater. We prepare not just by what we believe, but by how we live.

### Objectives

#### Learners will

- ▶ explore the virtue of hope and how it relates to our outlook on death.
- ▶ understand what the Church teaches about heaven, hell, and purgatory.
- ▶ explore the meaning of Jesus' second coming and the last judgment.

### Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 658, 682, 1016, 1021, 1023, 1032, 1051, 1054, 1056, 1057, 1059, 1060, and 1840.

Those who accept the responsibility of catechetical ministry have a major role in communicating, clearly and unambiguously, the centrality of Jesus Christ in salvation history and the importance of placing faith in him as the one true source of salvation.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 25

### Catechist Formation

We may prefer not to think of Jesus as a judge. It doesn't seem to fit the image that many of us have of him—mild, gentle, merciful. But it is important to remember that Jesus was passionate about justice, and when that passion was aroused, he was more than capable of expressing righteous anger.

In the parable of the last judgment in Matthew 25, Jesus equates how we treat others with how we treat him. This story teaches a profound truth about salvation, that our task as disciples is not only to be Christ for others, but also to see Christ in others. This is a truth that the Church has embraced for its entire 2,000-year history.



*How is the desire for justice reflected in your life and ministry?*



### Catechist Prayer

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have guided me to be a catechist, and I thank you. May all I do reflect your glory, and may my strongest desire be to serve you in this life by serving my sisters and brothers. In this way, I know that I will live with you forever. Amen.

### Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Young adolescents are beginning to ask questions about life and death; some may have experienced the death of a loved one. Young people need an opportunity to reflect on these experiences in light of their own faith.
- ▶ Young adolescents are beginning to make moral decisions based on guides outside of themselves. Good guides typically include parents, family members, Church teaching, teachers, and wise friends. We have an opportunity to help them discover Christian values that will help them to make sound moral decisions.

# Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com).

## Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

**PRAY** the opening prayer.

**READ** the story about James, **PAGES 12–13**.

**REFLECT** and discuss the story.

**SHARE** a personal experience of loss.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

**READ** the **CONNECT** feature on **PAGE 14**.

**REFLECT** on fears of death.

**READ** **JESUS GIVES US HOPE** and **IS THERE HOPE FOR US?** on **PAGES 14–15**.

**REFLECT** on Christian hope and the Resurrection.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with personal reflection on hope, add 10 minutes.

**PRESENT** **LIFE AFTER DEATH**, **PAGES 16–17**.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** by writing your own eulogy using **Resource 2**, add 15 minutes.

**READ** **WHO WILL INHERIT THE KINGDOM** and **THE WORKS OF MERCY** on **PAGES 18–19**.

**FACILITATE ACTIVITY** about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

**PRESENT** summary of key ideas using **CATHOLICS BELIEVE**, **PAGE 19**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

**READ** the **LIVE OUR FAITH**, **PAGE 20**.

**FACILITATE ACTIVITY** using the **WHAT ABOUT IT?** activity.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with the **PEOPLE OF FAITH** feature, add 10 minutes.

**PRAY** the closing prayer.

## Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 2** in the *Kingdom of God Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and a cross. Be sure to have matches for the candle.
- ▶ Post a sheet of newsprint on the wall. Write *Feelings about Death* across the top.
- ▶ Identify participants to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

### Supplies Needed

- *Kingdom of God Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- 8½ x 11 white paper
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8* Music CDs

## Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What's the Issue?*, you will share how a personal experience of death has had an effect on your faith. This story may be very personal; you may want to write it out in advance. When sharing your story, focus on how the loss helped you grow in your understanding of and faith in the Resurrection and how it gave you hope. 3 minutes
- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, you will present brief ideas about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Be prepared to provide one or two personal ideas about these actions. 2 minutes



# THE COMMUNION of Saints

## Session Background

### Purpose

Three important avenues that lead to God include the communion of saints, sacramentals, and sacred art. Young people will explore the ways that these aspects of our Catholic belief and practice can help them grow in love and respond to God's grace.

### Objectives

#### Learners will

- ▶ investigate the connection that we have to the Communion of Saints.
- ▶ discover a variety of sacramentals and learn how to use them to enrich their spiritual journey.
- ▶ look at religious art and icons as a way to honor those who are important in our faith.

### Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 383, 941, 942, 944, 1666, 2252, 2253, and 2694.

"God's reign was proclaimed through the relationships Jesus initiated, and it continues to be heralded every time we witness our belief in him through the relationships in our community."

—*Renewing the Vision*, page 34

### Catechist Formation

Part of the richness of Catholic life is found in the way we worship. We pray with our entire selves, including our five senses. Our worship includes the taste of bread and wine, the smell of incense and candle wax, the lingering feel of holy water on the forehead, the sight of liturgical colors and stained glass, and the sounds of bells and choirs singing. But beyond these sensual experiences in our liturgical celebrations, there are also other dimensions of Catholic life and culture that engage our senses, like Knights of Columbus pancake breakfasts, living nativity scenes, and walking to Mass on a frosty morning.

All these remind us of the richness of our Catholic heritage. We are a people with a past, and we are connected to that past through historical, liturgical, and spiritual bonds that tell us who we are.

 *What are some Catholic practices that enhance your life, and why are they precious to you?*



### Catechist Prayer

Loving God, I praise you, and I thank you for all the ways that I am drawn to you. Open my heart and my mind ever more to see you in all things, but especially in the young people whom I will be teaching. Amen.

### Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ For young adolescents, this is a time of seeking new ways to express who they are. We can provide them with a knowledge of the rich history of our faith so that they can begin to find meaningful ways to express their spiritual selves.
- ▶ Young adolescents desire a sense of belonging and connectedness. Help them feel connected to our past and our future by connecting them with the Communion of Saints.

# Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com).

## Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

**PRAY** the opening prayer.

**READ** the story about Esperanza and her grandmother, **PAGES 22–23**.

**REFLECT** on and discuss the story.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

**READ** the **CONNECT** feature on **PAGE 24**.

**REFLECT** on ways we connect with people.

**READ CELEBRATING LIFE** on **PAGE 24**.

**FACILITATE ACTIVITY** about meeting the Saints.

**PRESENT** our connection to the communion of saints.

**READ HOLINESS IS ALL AROUND YOU** on **PAGE 26**.

**PRESENT** about the different sacramentals.

**SHARE** about a sacramental that has meaning for you.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** by finding sacramentals in the worship space, add 20 minutes.

**REFLECT** on seeing God.

**PRESENT** on religious art, **PAGES 28–29**.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with **FAITH WALK** about images of Jesus, add 15 minutes.

**PRESENT** summary of key ideas using **CATHOLICS BELIEVE**, **PAGE 29**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

**READ LIVE OUR FAITH** on **PAGE 30**.

**REFLECT** using the **WHAT ABOUT YOU?** activity.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with the **PEOPLE OF FAITH** feature, add 10 minutes.

**PRAY** the closing prayer.

## Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 3** in the *Kingdom of God Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and a cross. Consider also placing a rosary and a holy card of a saint. Be sure to have matches for the candle.
- ▶ Identify participants to read aloud portions of the text and the closing prayer.
- ▶ Place pictures with brief descriptions of the life of a variety of saints around the room before the learners get there. Choose saints from different cultural backgrounds and different vocations. You could also use People of Faith cards available through [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com).
- ▶ Gather some of these items for the presentation on different sacramentals: medals of saints, a crucifix, a rosary, a vigil light, a scapular, a wedding ring, holy water, etc.

See individual **EXTEND THE SESSION** activities for other preparation work needed.

### Supplies Needed

- *Kingdom of God Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- paper for participants to jot down notes
- pens
- copies of **Resource 3**—one per participant
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8* Music CDs

## Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In the *What Does Faith Say?*, you will share about a sacramental that has been meaningful for you and why it is important—because of the person who gave it to you, the occasion you received it, or the religious significance of the item. Bring this item with you to the session if possible. 2 minutes



# SAINTS

Examples for Living

## Session Background

### Purpose

The Catholic Church recognizes Church members who have lived lives of holiness and virtue by celebrating their lives and declaring them saints. Young people will learn what holiness means and take a look at Mary and why her “yes” to God gives her a special place of honor.

### Objectives

#### Learners will

- ▶ understand the significance of Mary’s “yes” and her role in God’s plan.
- ▶ learn how the Church honors Mary as the greatest of all saints.
- ▶ examine our universal call to holiness.

### Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 229, 542, 550, 1948, 2552–2554, 2556, 2774, 2776, 2800, and 2857.

Popular devotion to Mary and the saints is expressed differently by the members of various ethnic groups and cultures. These varieties of devotion contribute to the richness and diversity of the Church and should be respected and affirmed.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 30

### Catechist Formation

Most of us need good role models. We need to be able to see that there are people in this world who face the same sort of challenges we face, and even greater ones, and who not only survive but excel. We need to listen to those who say, by the virtue of their choices, that we do not need to settle for mediocrity in life.

The saints are such examples. Far from being the untouchable, other-worldly figures we sometimes imagine them to be, the saints were actually not that different than us. They laughed, they cried, and they lived good lives, but also sinned. What makes them worth celebrating is that, despite their weaknesses, they ultimately were able to submit themselves to the will of God. Their example can give us the inspiration to do great things as well.



*What virtues of saintliness do you see in your own life that you can nurture and celebrate?*



### Catechist Prayer

Lord of Life and Goodness, you have called us all to holiness. Help me to know the gifts that you have given me and to use them to pursue holiness. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, from whom all good things come. Amen.

### Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ One great gift that adolescents have is a wonderful sense of idealism—a sense that wrongs should be righted and things should be made fair. We have an opportunity to teach them the ideals and values to aspire to using the inspiration of the saints.
- ▶ Young adolescents are beginning the journey to discovering who they are. Heroes and roles models can help to shape their identity. We have a responsibility to be positive role models for them and to connect them to the heroes of our faith, the saints.

# Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com).

## Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

**PRAY** the opening prayer.

**REFLECT** on heroes.

**READ** the story about heroes on **PAGES 32–33**.

**SHARE** about a person that you consider to be a hero.

**REFLECT** on and discuss the story using the questions on **PAGE 33**.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with Hero Show and Tell, add 15 minutes.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

**READ** the **CONNECT** feature on **PAGE 34**.

**REFLECT** on saints who are familiar to the participants.

**READ** **MARY HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN GOD'S PLAN** and **HUMBLE, YET HONORED** on **PAGES 34–35**.

**FACILITATE ACTIVITY** with a guided meditation about Mary.

**PRESENT** a summary of devotions and feast days of Mary from **PAGES 36–37**.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with a Marian Feast Day game, add 20 minutes.

**READ** about Saint Maximilian Kolbe on **PAGE 38**.

**REFLECT** on his life.

**READ** about sainthood on **PAGES 38–39**.

**FACILITATE ACTIVITY** by creating a fictional holy person using **Resource 4**.

**READ** the summary of key ideas using **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 39**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

**READ** **LIVE OUR FAITH** on **PAGE 40**.

**REFLECT** using the **WHAT ABOUT YOU?** activity.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with the **PEOPLE OF FAITH** feature, add 10 minutes.

**PRAY** the closing prayer.

## Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 4** in the *Kingdom of God Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and a cross. Consider also placing a picture or a statue of Mary there as well. Be sure to have matches for the candle.
- ▶ Identify participants to read aloud portions of the text.

See individual **EXTEND THE SESSION** activities for other preparation work needed.

### Supplies Needed

- *Kingdom of God Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- CD player
- CD of soft, reflective music
- newsprint
- markers
- a rosary
- copies of **Resource 4**—one per participant
- index cards—one per participant
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music CDs*

## Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What's the Issue?*, you will share about a person who is a hero or role model for you because of the way he or she has lived his or her values. Be ready to describe the person and the values this person inspires in you. 2 minutes



# FROM AGE to Age

## Session Background

### Purpose

Knowing who we are involves knowing our history. Young people will take a look at the story of our faith in different time periods and examine the challenges and the joys of being a person of faith.

### Objective

#### Learners will:

- ▶ investigate the history of the Church and the blessings and challenges.
- ▶ discover that in times of struggle the Church has always come back to her core values.
- ▶ understand that amidst the struggles of today, we are called to read the signs of the times and live out the mission of the Church.

### Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 658, 682, 1016, 1021, 1023, 1032, 1051, 1054, 1056, 1057, 1059, 1060, and 1840.

Incultrating the Gospel is not merely a matter of inserting Christian beliefs and practices into a culture. Rather, it begins with a respect and love for culture and a willingness to learn about what is already good and life-giving within it.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 21

### Catechist Formation

When it comes to the history of the Catholic Church, every age has presented its own unique challenges. For the first generation of Christians, challenges came in the very clear form of persecution and martyrdom. Today, in our pluralistic society, American Catholics are challenged more often by material comfort than by persecution, but we are challenged nonetheless. Throughout our history, we have been threatened by forces from without and within. But through it all, the Church has not only survived but thrived.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would always be with the Church. In every age, we have proven to be more than the sum of our parts, for while the Church is made up of individuals who are themselves imperfect, as the Body of Christ, we have accomplished greater things than any of those first Galilean fishermen would have ever imagined.

 *What is one of the challenges for you in living as a Christian today, and what is one of your sources of strength?*



### Catechist Prayer

God of every age, your Spirit has guided the Church through good times and bad. In every time and place you give us the grace we need to respond to your call. Help me, in my day, to be an honorable minister of your Word and a joyful agent in the building of your kingdom. Amen.

### Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Many young adolescents resist learning about history. To know our faith we need to know our story. In this session, share about our history in a way that is personal and connects the past with the challenges and opportunities of today.
- ▶ This is a time of questioning for young adolescents, especially in terms of the values of adults and other people in authority. This is an opportunity to help young adolescents see in the history of our Church a struggle to remain authentic to the Gospel.

# Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com).

## Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

**PRAY** the opening prayer.

**READ** the the story about Sara's family, **PAGES 42–43**.

**REFLECT** and discuss the story.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

**READ** the **CONNECT** feature on **PAGE 44**.

**SHARE** about a time when you learned from the past.

**READ** about **THE EARLY CHURCH** and **FREE TO WORSHIP** on **PAGE 44**.

**REFLECT** on the difficulty of being a Christian in the early Church.

**READ** about changes for the Church on **PAGES 44–45**.

**PRESENT** a summary about **THE CHURCH IN TRANSITION**, **PAGES 46–47**.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with the **FAITH WALK** feature on **PAGE 47**, add 10 minutes.

**READ** about **THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD** on **PAGES 48–49**.

**FACILITATE ACTIVITY** on Reading the Signs of the Times.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with **FAITH WALK** feature about continuing Christ's work on **PAGE 49**, add 15 minutes.

**PRESENT** a summary of key ideas using **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 49**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

**READ** the **LIVE OUR FAITH** on **PAGE 50**.

**REFLECT** using the **WHAT ABOUT YOU?** activity.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with the **PEOPLE OF FAITH** feature, add 10 minutes.

**PRAY** the closing prayer using **Resource 5**.

## Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 5** in the *Kingdom of God Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and a cross. Be sure to have matches for the candle.
- ▶ Identify participants to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

### Supplies Needed

- *Kingdom of God Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- glue for each small group
- recent newspapers and news magazines, enough for each small group
- copies of **Resource 5**—one per participant
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music CDs*

## Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, you will share about a time when you learned something from the past. Consider a story where you learned by getting the advice of an elder who had already gone through a similar experience, or a personal situation in your past that helped you with something in the future. 2 minutes



# CALLED by God

## Session Background

### Purpose

Young people will learn that God calls each of us to serve him using the gifts that he gave us. Through prayer, we discern our vocation with the help of our family and our Church community.

### Objective

#### Learners will:

- ▶ understand the importance of family and community in discovering their unique gifts.
- ▶ explore what it means to live out a vocation and understand discernment.
- ▶ learn about responding to God's call through the married life, becoming a priest, entering the consecrated life, or as a committed single person.

### Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 383, 941, 942, 944, 1666, 2252, 2253, and 2694.

Catechesis deepens a person's understanding of the mystery of Christ and increases one's ability to integrate the faith into all aspects of life. In so doing, it helps individuals discern the vocation to which the Lord calls them.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 29

### Catechist Formation

Some of us have been conditioned to think of a vocation as something reserved only for the ordained or those in consecrated life. In a world that tantalizes us with material possessions and wealthy lifestyles, we often fail to stop to consider living our lives as Jesus did.

A vocation rooted in Baptism is every Christian's call to follow Jesus' invitation to use our personal gifts in whatever way God is calling us. In the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches that happiness is of the utmost importance to our loving Creator. In fact, the word *beatitude* means "happiness." Reaching our fullest potential generates happiness within.

Each of us is called to use our gifts and abilities for the glory of God rather than ourselves. Doing so is the root of happiness.



*Reflect on the relationship between lifestyle and vocation. How are they similar? How does vocation go beyond lifestyle?*



### Catechist Prayer

Loving Father, I thank you for calling me to be a catechist. I ask that you empower me with all that I need to fulfill my vocation. May I surrender my inadequacies to the power of your Holy Spirit, and may I find joy in service. Amen.

### Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Young adolescents are beginning to discover who they are and what it is that they are good at. We have an opportunity to help them discover that their potential lies not only in what their gifts can accomplish for themselves, but also in the many ways to serve God by serving others.
- ▶ Young adolescence is a time of developing lifelong faith practices. Some of these will be developed by belonging to a faith community that values them and cares about them. Help young people find ways to use their gifts to participate in the life of the Church now.

# Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com).

## Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

**PRAY** the opening prayer.

**READ** about being called on PAGES 52–53.

**REFLECT** and discuss being called by God.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

**READ** the **CONNECT** feature on PAGE 54.

**SHARE** about feeling called by God.

**READ** the first two paragraphs of **THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY** on PAGE 54.

**REFLECT** on discovering gifts.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** using the **FAITH WALK** on prayer, PAGE 55, add 10 minutes.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** by naming gifts of each other, add 20 minutes.

**READ** about **LIVING IT OUT** on PAGE 56.

**REFLECT** on the process of discernment.

**FACILITATE ACTIVITY** on Gifts and Needs.

**READ** the last paragraph on PAGE 57.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** by reflecting on Sister Thea Bowman, add 10 minutes.

**PRESENT** a summary of PAGE 58.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with guest speakers, add 20 minutes.

**PRESENT** a summary of key ideas using **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on PAGE 57.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

**READ** the **LIVE OUR FAITH** on PAGE 59.

**REFLECT** using the **WHAT ABOUT IT?** activity.

**EXTEND THE SESSION** with **FAITH IN ACTION**, add 20 minutes.

**PRAY** the closing prayer.

## Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 6** in the *Kingdom of God Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and a cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle.

### Supplies Needed

- *Kingdom of God Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- copies of **Resource 6**—one per participant
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music CDs*

See individual **EXTEND THE SESSION** activities for additional supplies needed.

## Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, you will share about a time you felt called by God. Consider sharing how you felt called to teach this class; or how you felt called to live out your particular vocation; or whether you are married, single, religious, or clergy. Be sure to include how you felt God calling you, whether it was a deep feeling inside, or something that you discovered through prayer, thoughtful reflection, or the urging and support of friends and family. Likely, it was a combination of all of those things. 2 minutes