

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

INQUIRY SESSION: DEVOTIONS



My Story

We show love in big ways, like when we give up our allowance to buy food for the poor. But there are also all sorts of little ways we show love for others. We make a card for someone who is sick, we share our lunch with someone who forgot his or hers, or we simply smile at someone who is looking sad.



AND THINK

- *In what little ways have you shown love for others?*
- *In what little ways have others shown love for you?*



God's Story

Five major ways Catholics show their love for God are: celebrating Mass with the parish community; celebrating the Sacraments; reading and studying God's Word; praying; and serving those in need.

In special prayers called *devotions*, Catholics show their love for God, and express their love for Mary and the Saints. Examples of well-loved devotions include Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary, and the Stations of the Cross.

In both public worship and personal prayer, Catholics use *sacramentals* such as holy water, the rosary, a cross, blessed ashes, palms, and holy oils to remind them of God's presence. Books used in public worship and personal prayer are also sacramental. Examples include the *Bible*, the *Rites*, and the *Book of Blessings*.



Our Response

When we are devoted to something like music, sports, dance, or our studies, we give it our time and attention. When we are devoted to God, we give time and attention to our relationship with God and with the Church.



- *To what or to whom do you give your time and attention?*
- *How much time or attention do you give to God during the week?*

Sharing God's Word

With your family, read one or more of the Scriptures listed below. Find the name of a sacramental in each Scripture. Look at the God's Story part of this handout for clues.

Daniel 9:3

John 12:12-13

James 5:13-15

The above readings are available at usccb.org/bible/readings.

Faith Words

Sacramentals

Sacramentals are blessings and sacred objects used in our public worship and personal prayer. They help us remember God's presence.



Devotions

Devotions are special ways of praying to God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and of expressing love for Mary and the Saints.

Witness of Faith

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin (1647-1690)



Margaret Mary Alacoque faced many difficulties in her youth, including the death of her father and an illness that left her paralyzed for four years. Confined to her bed, she decided to devote her life to God and to the Church, and she was instantly cured. In her twenties, she joined a convent of French Visitation sisters. They ministered at a time when it was taught that only a few could ever hope to reach Heaven. In her prayer, Margaret Mary saw a vision of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose mercy was meant for all. She felt led to invite people to show devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the practices of an hour of Eucharistic adoration on Thursdays and Communion on first Fridays. Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus nineteen days after Pentecost Sunday, or on the Friday following the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.