Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A • November 15, 2026

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

***First Reading*—**Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Proverbs extols a great wife, painting a picture of one who works hard, helps the poor, and fears the Lord. A great wife is the type of woman to whom a husband entrusts his heart!

***Second Reading*—**1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
In view of the imminent coming of the day of the Lord, Saint Paul advises the Christian community to stay alert and sober. We are children of the light and should act accordingly.

***Gospel*—**Matthew 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21
Jesus' parable illustrates for us the great responsibility we have as disciples. We are given many good gifts. Should we not make a return to God on what we have been given?

Church Teaching: Stewardship

Underlying the concept of stewardship is an assumption that followers of Jesus reverence God's presence in all of creation. This reverence is founded upon the Old Testament view that humans are given dominance over creation. But this dominance demands a religious respect for the integrity of what God has created. All that we individual believers do to improve ourselves—all our work and efforts—relates to this reverence for creation and should support progress toward greater justice and a right ordering of all things.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 951, 1878, 1911, 1912, 1937

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 34, especially pages 450–454

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: pages 98, 140

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)
Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a green cloth and an open Bible or Lectionary.

Discover

Invite the children to think about the liturgy just celebrated. Remind them of some words and phrases from the liturgy, such as *reaches out to the poor; who walk in his ways; blessed shall you be; children of light; stay alert; five talents, two talents, one;* and *well done, my good and faithful servant.*

Ask volunteers:

Which of these words and phrases is your favorite? Why?

What do your favorite words and phrases mean?

Whom would you like to share them with? Why?

Deepen

1. Proclaim the Second Reading, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.
2. Discuss the children's understanding of phrases such as the following:
   - Live today—you do not know about tomorrow.
   - Do not worry about tomorrow—you cannot change it.
   - Don't worry, be happy.
   - Give us this day our daily bread.
   - You are children of light.
   - Be believers and doers of the Word.
   - Stay alert.
   - Be ready for the day of the Lord.
3. Ask volunteers to share what they think Saint Paul was trying to tell the Thessalonians.

Pray

Celebrate a Minor Exorcism (see OCIA 90–93) using Prayer of Exorcism 94E.

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Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Supplies

In addition to the prayer table setup, you may wish to have on hand a flip chart or whiteboard and markers.

You will also need the participant handouts and pencils or pens for each child in the group.

Sunday Word

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

Welcome

Welcome everyone and invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the ***Dismissal Session***.

Invite

1. Invite the children to hold up an open hand and to use each finger to name a gift or talent they possess *(for example, listening, dancing, sports, helping others, music, or school)*.
2. Ask volunteers to share
   - Ways they use their gifts and talents
   - How they develop new gifts and talents
3. Read aloud the long form of the Gospel.
4. Invite volunteers to role-play the parable.
5. Ask volunteers what they think Jesus was trying to teach us through this parable.

Teach

1. Read and discuss ***Key Teachings*** from the participant handout.
2. Highlight the following key points:
   - Our God is a generous God. Everything we have is a gift from God.
   - God lavishly gives to each person gifts to be used in the service of others.
   - No one person has all the gifts, but together we have the gifts needed to bring forth the Reign of God on earth.
   - Our gifts and talents are not to be hidden. They are to be used to serve God and others.
   - At the Second Coming of Christ, we will be asked how we have used our gifts to serve others and to bring about the Reign of God on earth.
3. Introduce the children to the Corporal Works of Mercy. Explain to the children that these are ways we can show love and mercy to others. (Note: A list of the Corporal Works of Mercy may be found in *Our Catholic Heritage*, Levels I and II, page 140.)
4. Review with the children this week's ***Faith Words***: *Corporal Works of Mercy* and *stewardship*. Refer to the participant handout for definitions.

Challenge

1. Conclude today's session by challenging the group to name from memory each of the Corporal Works of Mercy just discussed. Write their responses on the flip chart or whiteboard. Give clues to help the children when needed.
2. Invite the children to give examples of how they can do these Works of Mercy at home, at school, and in their neighborhoods.
3. Challenge each child to choose one Corporal Work of Mercy to do in the coming week. Have the children write their choices in the ***My Work of Mercy*** section of the participant page.
4. Review with the children the ***With My Family: The Corporal Works of Mercy*** handout. Encourage them to share this handout with their families.

Pray

Conclude today's session by listening to or singing together "Go Make a Difference" (Angrisano and Tomaszek/OCP Publications, Inc.) or another song about using our gifts to share the Good News.

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