

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Sixth Commandment: You Shall Not Commit Adultery

Catechist Preparation

Clarifying the Essentials

Chastity consists in the successful integration of sexuality, such that it expresses the inner unity of a person, bodily and spiritually.

- ◆ Chastity is harmed by the selfishness of lust, masturbation, fornication, incest, sexual abuse, pornography, prostitution, rape, and homosexual behavior, all of which sin against it (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2351–2356).
- ◆ Persons with homosexual tendencies are to be treated with respect, compassion, and sensitivity; with the help of friendships, prayer, and the Sacraments, they are encouraged to unite their own challenges to the Cross of Christ (see CCC 2358).

Jesus insisted on the indissolubility of marriage (see Matthew 5:31–32).

- ◆ Separation of spouses may sometimes be prudent, as in the case of adultery or abuse (see CCC 2383).
- ◆ Divorce is immoral because it severs the contract spouses make to live with each other until death (see CCC 2384).

Why Is This Important?

Love is the fundamental vocation of every human being. Chastity offers to us the means to integrate sexuality with personhood so that our relationships are governed virtuously. By chastity, we channel our relationships into the fruitful and life-giving human communion that mirrors God's own mutual love within the Holy Trinity.

*[T]o live virtuously to obey God's law,
the purpose of which is to help us
base our lives on the principal of love.*

SAINT AUGUSTINE

Doctrinal Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Have the space set with chairs in a circle, and arrange a focal point with a candle and an open Bible. Provide name tags and refreshments.

Welcome

Greet people as they arrive. Take time for introductions. Then pray the Hail Mary together.

Engage

1. Draw four columns on a large sheet of paper. Write at the top of each column: love, sex, sexuality, chastity. Brainstorm all the words, phrases, feelings that the participants associate with each word. Allow time for them to quietly read over all the lists.
2. Share with the group that two basic questions that a human asks are: Who will I love? and Who will love me? Ask the participants what connections, if any, exist between the two basic questions of human beings and the four words on the newsprint?
3. Continue with the Insight section of the participant handout. Invite any questions that they may have.

Teach

Invite the participants to read Church Teaching. Then discuss the following:

- ◆ Love is the fundamental vocation of every human being.
- ◆ There are many ways that we define love.
- ◆ In all aspects of our lives, we are called to chaste love. Chaste love invites healthy and holy relationships to an integrated maturity.
- ◆ Jesus is the model of chaste love for all—married, single, ordained, religious—for all ages.

Apply

Encourage the participants to share what they understand to be the essence of the Sixth Commandment.

Pray

Slowly and reflectively read 1 Corinthians 13.