

Confirmation

Leader Guide

AGES 12 - 14

Priest

Materials

Space and Equipment

- Prayer corner with a large display table
- Large open area for Where Do YOU Stand? game
- Flat work surfaces for craft-making
- Music player
- Reflective music

General Supplies

- Flask of oil of catechumens
- Flask of oil of chrism
- Lists of candidates and in groups of three or four pairs
- Large roll of painter's tape
- Large numbers from one to ten made of painter's tape
- Sand in a variety of colors in easily accessible containers
- Glue
- Word Search answer keys
- Where Do YOU Stand? Leader Instructions and Cases

For Each Candidate

- Candidate Guide
- Red, blue, and green highlight markers
- Sheets of scratch paper
- One 4 x 6 piece of card stock
- One 4 x 6 piece of cardboard or poster board
- Wooden cross on a cord necklace
- Word Search clues and puzzle
- Where Do YOU Stand? scorecard
- Scripture passages
- Symbol Card instructions, diagram, and prayer to the Holy Spirit

Leader Background

The aspect of *priest* is spotlighted in Lessons 2 and 3. It's important to establish early in the lesson what is meant by "sharing in the priesthood of Jesus" and to differentiate between the ordained priesthood and the priesthood of all baptized persons. Emphasize the concepts *service*, *called*, and *anointed*.

This very active session will require much energy on your part and early establishment of conduct rules.

Opening Prayer Service

Candidates should assemble in the prayer corner. The flasks of oil should be prominently displayed. Lead the opening prayer.

Opening Prayer Service

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Be with us, Holy Spirit! Fill us with your presence. With your gifts we will be able to do great things for Jesus! We can change the world into the kingdom of God. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

Move back into the class meeting area.

Priest

Read aloud the following candidate text.

Priest

What does it mean that you share in the priesthood of Jesus? Are you the same as an ordained priest? No, that's another calling and anointing. Your mission of priest is to imitate Jesus in the way he served others. He washed their feet, he taught them lessons for life, he healed their bodies and souls, he fed the hungry, and he comforted the grieving. That's *your* mission of priest as well.



The CD symbol tells you when to go to the *Director Resources* CD.

Priest

Word Search

Have the candidates work in pairs to solve the puzzle. The solution is on the CD. Candidates should know most of the answers already; if they get stuck, give them clues. Discuss the answers and what they tell us about priests past and present.

Word Search

Do the word-search puzzle. What do the answers tell us about priests past and present?

Where Do YOU Stand?

Read aloud the first paragraph below, then play the game. (Detailed instructions are on the CD.) After you play the game, have each candidate complete a scorecard and answer the first question in the text. Then follow the Discussion Activity procedure outlined in Lesson 1.

Where Do YOU Stand?

Your leader will read ten case studies. Listen carefully to each; on the count of three, move quickly and safely to the spot on or near the line that best reflects where you stand on each case.

How did you do? What did you learn about the way you make choices?

Share with your partner. Take notes on your partner's comments.

Share with the small group. Take notes.

Record the comments of the entire group.

The Ranking Game

Read aloud the Ranking Game instructions and play the game; then follow the Discussion Activity procedure.

The Ranking Game

As you look at each item on the list below, think about what you'd like to do. Rank your choices from 1 to 10, with 1 being what you'd most like to do and 10 being what you'd least like to do.

- _____ Visit the sick in the hospital
- _____ Volunteer at a soup kitchen
- _____ Lector at Mass
- _____ Usher or greet at Mass
- _____ Work at a homeless shelter
- _____ Serve at the altar
- _____ Serve on the parish council
- _____ Visit a funeral home
- _____ Be an extraordinary minister of Communion
- _____ Befriend a special-needs child

Circle your top three choices.

Why did you pick these three? Check all that apply.

- _____ Convenient to do in my parish
- _____ Work with my own kind of people
- _____ Use my special gifts and talents
- _____ Meet new people
- _____ Chance to really help
- _____ Look important
- _____ Other _____
- _____ Other _____

Share with your partner. Take notes on your partner's activities.

Share with the small group. Take notes.

Record the activities shared by the entire group.

Defining Service

Read aloud the instructions for the service exercise and distribute the Scripture passages. Give the candidates time to carefully read them and highlight their choices.

Defining Service

How did we learn to serve? How did we get the idea that Catholics are the servants of the people of God?

Priests and kings have been called and anointed throughout history. Your leader will give you several Bible passages that illustrate some aspect of service.

Here's an example: Acts 6:1-7 says that as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Greeks and the Hebrews complained that their widows were not being treated equally. The apostles solved the issue by choosing seven Greek and Hebrew men of good reputation who were filled with wisdom and the Holy Spirit. These men were called by name and presented to the apostles, who laid hands on them, prayed over them, and appointed them to take care of the money, food, and goods of the Church.

Which phrases in this passage define *service* to you? Take care of the money, food, and goods of the Church? Yes, but you could also include solving the complaints.

Read the Scripture passages your leader gives you and highlight the phrases in each that define *service* to you.

Divide candidates into pairs; then read aloud the following instructions from the candidate text.

With a partner, write a definition of service that fits our Catholic heritage.

Have each pair write their definition on the board; then work as a class to get the best definition.

Share your definition with the entire group by writing it on the board.

As a group, combine the definitions to get the best one. Write the final definition here.

Give out the Scripture passages listed below and have the candidates read them; then follow the Discussion Activity procedure.

Look up the following Scripture passages and ask yourself what gifts from the Holy Spirit you'll need to live a life of service. After you read each passage, write down one thing you can do right away to get in shape for it.

Isaiah 42:1-3 _____

Acts 10:1, 33-34, 37-44 _____

Ephesians 4:1-6 _____

Share with your partner. Take notes on your partner's ideas.

Share with your small group, select one of the group's ideas, and write it on the board.

Look at the ideas you and your classmates have for service and spiritual growth. Pick one for yourself, write it down here, and do it this week.

Read aloud the following candidate text.

Before you go to bed each night, ask yourself if you have lived up to your resolution. If so, congratulations! If not, resolve to try harder the next day.

Symbol Card

Read aloud the Scripture passage from the candidate text. Distribute copies of the CD instructions for making symbol cards and give the supplies to the candidates. Check the preliminary symbol drawings to be sure they're related to the Pentecost reading and suitable for the closing prayer service.

Symbol Card

Read the following from Acts 2:1-6:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

Your leader will give you the items to make a symbol card: card stock, paper, glue, colored sand, cardboard or poster board, and a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Closing Prayer Service

Drape a wooden-cross necklace over each card and ask for a volunteer reader. Begin the service. Play music as you lay hands on the candidates' heads and pray.

Closing Prayer Service

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Let us listen attentively to God's holy word.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel According to Luke.

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you!'" (Luke 10:1-9). The gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us offer our prayers and petitions to God. That we may be like the seventy disciples and bring Jesus to others by the work that we do, we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: That the pope, our bishops, our priests, deacons, religious, and the laity will be models of service to the people of God, we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: That we are truly thankful to God for the chance to serve others as we prepare for confirmation, we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: That we bring the message of the kingdom of God as we work for others, we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: It is a tradition in our Church that those chosen to be of service, to go on a mission for Jesus, are presented with a cross. Receive the cross of Jesus Christ and wear it as a reminder that anything you do, you are doing in his name.

As the leader places the cross around each candidate's neck, lays hands on each candidate's head, and prays, the candidate silently asks the Holy Spirit to help him or her perform service with Jesus the Priest.

Leader: The Lord Jesus sent forth the disciples and the seventy disciples. May the Lord bless us and keep us as we go forth to serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace as we go forth.

Read aloud the last section of the candidate text.

Sending Forth

You have just been presented with the cross of Jesus Christ. Please wear it as you perform the service projects we'll discuss in the next lesson.

Take your symbol card home, keep it in your room, and remember to ask the Holy Spirit to be with you as you serve others.