

Contents

About Call to Faith

A Thematic Approach to Young Adolescent Catechesis . . .	4-5
Session Contents	6-7
Scheduling and Organizing	8-11
The Role of Session Leader	12-13
Leading a Session	14-15

Participant Session Plans

Session 1	
The Community of DISCIPLES	16-23
Session 2	
THE CHURCH Is Catholic	24-31
Session 3	
The Body of CHRIST	32-39
Session 4	
SOURCE of Life	40-47
Session 5	
THE CHURCH Is Apostolic	48-55
Session 6	
The CHRISTIAN Faithful	56-63
Faith in Action	64-67

Resource Bank

Reproducible Session Resources	68-74
Ministry and Multimedia Resources	75-76
Resources for Building a Learning Community	77-80

The Church Session Contents

Purpose	Scripture References	Content Summary
Session 1 The Community of Disciples Every one of us is called to be a disciple of Jesus and join in the Tradition of the Church. Young people will learn that Jesus has a challenging message for his disciples, and that message has continued to be communicated through the whole community of disciples, Church leaders, the Scriptures, and official Church teachings.	John 1:34, John 1:45-46, John 1:43-51, Luke 8:1-3, Mark 1:16-20, Matthew 9:9-17, Matthew 5:39, Matthew 5:44, Matthew 19:21, Matthew 10:1-4, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16, John 14:26, John 8:12	We are disciples of Christ together, following Jesus' example by believing, learning, praying, and reaching out to others. ► Each follower of Christ receives a personal call from him and must choose whether or not to follow Christ. ► Just as Jesus sent the first disciples out two-by-two with nothing extra packed, he asks us to work together to build the Kingdom of God, to "travel light," and follow Church teachings. ► The Holy Spirit uses many different spiritualities and "schools" of prayer to teach us how to pray. <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2644, 2684, 2693</i>
Session 2 The Church Is Catholic The Catholic Church is universal, reaching out to all people in every age. This session helps young people understand how they can evangelize within their own community and how they can support missionaries who spread the Word of God throughout the world.	Mark 16:15, John 4:14-26, John 4:39-42, John 3:16, Matthew 28:20, Acts 1:8, Acts 1:8-9, Acts 17:26-28	As members of the Church, we know that we are called to proclaim the Good News of Christ to the world. ► All Church members are called to be evangelists. ► The Church is universal, going out to the whole world, welcoming people of all cultures and ages. ► Missionaries continue Christ's mission of healing and bring the message of salvation to people who have not yet come to know and believe in Jesus. Each of us is called to share in the missionary work of the Church. <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 849, 851, 854, 856, 868</i>
Session 3 The Body of Christ Young people will learn the importance of using their personal gifts for the good of the Church and to help others learn about Jesus. They will also recognize the mandate to be Christ's hands, feet, and voice in the world today.	Matthew 18:20, Matthew 18:12-20, Acts 9:1-5, John 15:4-5, Ephesians 4:11, Matthew 25:40, Matthew 25:35-36, Matthew 25:40	The Church is both visible and spiritual, made up of people with many gifts and talents who together work to continue Jesus' mission in the world. ► We call the spiritual part of the Church the Mystical Body of Christ. Jesus is the Head of his Body, the Church. ► Each individual member is united with all members as part of Christ's Body; we need one another and Christ to bear fruit in the world. ► The Church needs the diverse gifts of all members to help build God's Kingdom. <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 779, 805, 806, 807</i>
Session 4 Source of Life Jesus is our Savior. He died for our sins and rose to new life so that we may share in his divinity. This session helps young people understand the importance of salvation and the role of the Church to whom God has entrusted the fullness of truth.	Mark 16:16, 2 Corinthians 5:19, Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 6:10, Matthew 6:9-13	The Church has a mission to bring all people to believe in God and to be baptized. ► Faith and Baptism are necessary for the freedom and new life that come from Jesus' saving death and his offer of salvation. ► The Church is both a sign and instrument of the communion between God and his people; it is through the actions of the Church that people can come to know God and share in his life. ► We must have a personal relationship with God nourished by prayer in order to answer our call to bring his love and truth to others. <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church: 45, 183, 620, 747, 780, 846, 847, 849, 851, 1277, 1283, 1414, 1475, 1477, 1478, 1498, 2458, 2591, 2721, 2744, 2754, 2799</i>

Session 5

The Church Is Apostolic

The Church was begun by Jesus who chose Peter and the Apostles to carry on his mission on earth. This session helps young people understand the importance of apostolic succession and the role of the clergy within the Catholic Church.

Scripture References

Matthew 16:18-19, Matthew 16:13-19, Acts 2:1-4, Romans 10:13-15

Content Summary

The Church is apostolic, continuing the mission Christ gave to his Apostles.

- ▶ Jesus named Peter to be head of his Church and gathered the rest of the Apostles as a united "college" to lead the Church with Peter. The pope is the direct successor of Peter as head of the Church, and the bishops are direct successors of the Apostles.
- ▶ The Church continues to teach the truths of Christ and his Church through the magisterium—the pope and bishops in union with him—guided by the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Particular Churches, or dioceses, are led by bishops, who appoint priests to be pastors and deacons to perform important works of service.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 96, 665, 869, 870, 935, 936, 1209, 1536, 1593-1596, 2050, 2051

Session 6

The Christian Faithful

All baptized Catholics are called to share in Jesus' roles of priest, prophet, and king. This session helps young people understand the importance of living the faith and being a part of a parish community.

Acts 6:1-7, John 13:3-15, Micah 6:8

All baptized Catholics are called to share in Jesus' mission as priests, prophets, and kings to serve the mission of the Church; but there are different roles in serving.

- ▶ The pope and bishops belong to the Church's hierarchy, and lead the priests, deacons, religious communities, and the lay faithful. Priests serve in the ministerial priesthood and assist bishops in their role of teaching, governing, and sanctifying. Deacons assist the bishop and priests in sacramental ministries and the ministry of service.
- ▶ The laity in the Church act as leaven, bringing the raising and lightening power of God's kingdom to the secular world where they live and work.
- ▶ Members of religious orders consecrate their lives as a sign of God's love and holiness and serve an important part of the Church's mission.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 937, 938, 939, 941, 942, 944, 945, 1591, 1592

Faith in Action!

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING THEME:
Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**

This theme's Faith in Action feature teaches young adolescents the principle of the dignity of work and the rights of workers.

Matthew 20:1-16

The Catholic Church calls us to

- ▶ recognize and respect the dignity of work.
- ▶ support the rights of workers and especially their right to form unions.
- ▶ work for public policies that protect small producers and promote employment and a living wage.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1872, 1943, 1947, 2460





THE CHURCH

Is Catholic

Session Background

Purpose

The Catholic Church is universal, reaching out to all people in every age. This session helps young people understand how they can evangelize within their own community and how they can support missionaries who spread the Word of God throughout the world.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ understand that the Catholic Church is universal.
- ▶ explore their role as an evangelizer.
- ▶ recognize the importance of supporting the missions through prayer and sacrifice.

Church Documents


For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 849, 851, 854, 856, and 868.

The new evangelization calls us forth to share the Good News with all the people of the earth while also respecting their various cultures. We are called to evangelize culture as well as individuals.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 46–47

Catechist Formation

Evangelization is a concept that seems a little foreign to many contemporary Catholics. However, we do believe in proclaiming the Good News, clearly asserting our beliefs and values in the decisions we make and the way we live our lives, and inviting others to join our Church. Our goal is to evangelize through the virtue of our actions and the consistency of our message. We seek to transform the world into a place where people respond to God's reign of justice, where the dignity of all people is respected and affirmed. This call to transform the world is accomplished, in part, by missionaries who serve people throughout the world in Jesus' name. Our support for their work is one way that we proclaim the Good News.

 How do you help fulfill the Church's mission of evangelization?



Catechist Prayer

Jesus, my teacher, you command us to go and make disciples throughout the world. Help me to encourage the young people to be courageous witnesses to your presence in their lives. Give me your words and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I pray. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Young adolescents may feel insecure about sharing their faith with peers. As you teach this session, help youth to be in touch with their beliefs and their questions.
- ▶ Many young adolescents are interested in learning about people whose lives are different from their own. We can use this natural curiosity to help them recognize the importance of the Church's work throughout the world and the ways that our differences bring richness to our Catholic faith.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

READ about Carly, **PAGES 12–13**.

REFLECT and discuss the story.

SHARE about witnessing to your faith.

WHAT Does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

PRESENT about our call to share the faith.

READ **EVANGELISTS** on **PAGE 14**.

PRESENT insights into being an evangelist.

READ **AN URGENT MANDATE** on **PAGE 15**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY Evangelizing by Words and Actions.

EXTEND THE SESSION with learning how to talk about God, add 10 minutes.

PRESENT a summary from **MEANT FOR EVERYONE**, **PAGES 16–17**.

SHARE experiences of participating in another culture.

EXTEND THE SESSION with a speaker about another culture, add 20 minutes.

READ **MISSIONARY CHURCH**, **PAGE 18** and review the chart on **PAGE 19**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY about The Work of Missionaries, using **Resource 2**.

EXTEND THE SESSION with Supporting the Missions, add 15 minutes.

PRESENT a summary of **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 19**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

REFLECT on action steps from the session.

READ **LIVE OUR FAITH** on **PAGE 20**.

REFLECT on the qualities of an evangelist.

EXTEND THE SESSION with **PEOPLE OF FAITH** on **PAGE 21**, add 10 minutes.

PRAY the closing prayer.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 2** in *The Church Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with symbols from many different cultures. Consider woven cloths, crosses from foreign lands, and icons. Be sure to include a Bible, candle, and cross, with matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.
- ▶ For the **FAITH WALK**—Evangelizing by Words and Actions, you will need an even number of small groups. Create a newsprint sheet for each group. Alternate the headings on the newsprint, using the following: *Preaching the Gospel through Words*, *Preaching the Gospel through Actions*.

Also prepare one newsprint sheet with the quote from Saint Francis of Assisi: *Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.*

Supplies Needed

- *The Church Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- copies of **Resource 2**—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- sheets of paper (8½ x 11)—two per participant
- pens or pencils
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music CDs*

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

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In **What's the Issue?**, you will talk about a time when you shared your religious beliefs even when you were nervous about doing so. 2 minutes
- ▶ In **What Does Faith Say?**, you will share about your experience of a symbol or prayer experience of another culture. 2 minutes

Facilitating the Session

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

GO online

Visit www.osvcurriculum.com. Look under Reproducible Resources for a printable version of this prayer.



PAGE 12



PAGE 13



PRAY Greet the young people as they arrive for the session. Invite them to gather around the cultural faith symbols that you have gathered. Spend a minute telling them about each of the symbols.

- ▶ Begin the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Light the candle.
- ▶ Invite a young person to read Matthew 28:16–20.
- ▶ Pray:

God of all peoples, we thank you for the richness of all the cultures that make up the Catholic Church. Help us to more fully appreciate the things that make us different from one another and the ways that we are the same. Bless our time together today. May it bring us to a better understanding of you and the Church gathered in Jesus' name. Amen.

READ Invite a volunteer to read the opening story on **PAGES 12–13**.

REFLECT As a large group, discuss these questions:

Why was Carly nervous about telling her friends she was missing the party?

Would you have been nervous if you were in her shoes? Why or why not?

What do you think that Carly's friends learned because of her sharing? What do you think they might have learned about Carly?

SHARE Share briefly with the young people about a time you witnessed to your faith (through words or actions) even though you were nervous or hesitant.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

PRESENT Tell young people:

Like Carly, we are sometimes in situations when we share what we believe with friends or people we know.

Sometimes talking about our faith is easy and natural and other times it feels awkward or competitive.

Sharing our faith is part of who we are as Catholics.

READ Invite a volunteer to read **EVANGELISTS** on **PAGE 14**.

PRESENT Talk about the woman at the Well story using these or similar words:

- ▶ The Samaritan woman is known as one of the first evangelists because she was willing to share her experience of Jesus with others and encourage them to find out more about him for themselves.
- ▶ That is what good evangelists do. They share their experience of Jesus and invite others to check out Jesus through Scripture and the Church.
- ▶ We never really know when we will have the opportunity to speak about our faith. Sometimes, a comment that we make like "I am going to Church on Sunday," can invite another person to think about faith in a way they never have before.

READ Invite a young person to read aloud **AN URGENT MANDATE** on **PAGE 15**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY Evangelizing by Words and Actions

10 minutes

This activity helps young people think about ways they can be evangelizers.

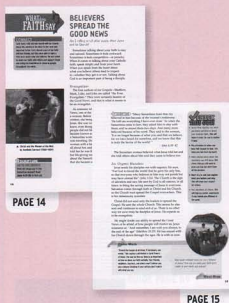
- ▶ Hang your prepared newsprint sheet that reads: *Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.*
- ▶ Read the **FAITH WALK** on **PAGE 15**.
- ▶ Divide the participants into small groups of six to eight. It is important that there are an even number of groups. Give each group one of the prepared newsprint sheets (*Preaching the Gospel through Words or Preaching the Gospel through Actions*) and some markers.
- ▶ Ask each group to spend about 5 minutes creating a list of ways they can preach the Gospel through their words or actions.
- ▶ When all the groups are done, invite each group to present their list and then hang the lists on the wall near the quote.
- ▶ Summarize their presentations and encourage the young people to preach the Gospel by their words and actions.

EXTEND THE SESSION 10 minutes

How to Talk About God

For this activity, you will need an index card for each participant. Young people will reflect on ways to share their faith.

- ▶ Distribute an index card to each participant.
- ▶ Ask youth to write down one thing that they believe about God that they feel strongly about and why.
- ▶ Divide youth into pairs and ask them to share their beliefs with each other.



MEANT FOR EVERYONE

THEORY
This study was designed to test the hypothesis that the use of a computer-based decision support system (DSS) would improve the quality of decisions made by nurses in a simulated emergency department (ED) setting. The DSS was designed to provide nurses with a structured approach to the decision-making process, and to provide them with a list of potential diagnoses and a list of potential treatments.

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PAGE 16



CONTACT YOUR RAC

PAGE 17

MISSIONARY CHURCH

CATHACUS
TODAY

PAGE 18

Where in the World

Entity	First Priority Sector	Year
South/Southeast United States	Food, Trade, Energy	1981
West	Food, Energy	1984-85
Midwest, South America	Food, Trade, Energy	1982
West	Food, Energy	1983
Northwest, South America	Food, Trade, Energy	1980
Southwest, South America	Food, Agriculture, Trade	1984


 It is useful to remember: as a general rule, when countries or their interests were not in the priority sector,

1000

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

PAGE 19

- Ask:
How did you feel sharing? What was easy? What was hard?
In what situations do you think you would share about your faith and beliefs?
- Ask for a volunteer to read **CHECK THIS OUT!** on **PAGE 15**.

PRESENT Summarize **MEANT FOR EVERYONE** on **PAGE 16** by making the following points:

The Church is catholic, that is, universal. It is for everyone. This is one of the four marks, or essential characteristics, of the Church.

Not only does the Church offer us salvation through the truths of our faith, but she is also sent out to all people throughout the world.

To be universal doesn't mean that everything is identical.

Catholics throughout the world celebrate their faith using the expression of their particular cultures.

The Church tries to use the elements, music, and language of the local community to bring people to a greater understanding of God and their faith.

SHARE Ask participants to share ways that they have experienced participating in the Church in another language or culture. Share a personal experience of a faith symbol or prayer from another culture.

EXTEND THE SESSION 20 minutes

The Catholic Church in Other Cultures

Invite a guest speaker to talk with the young people about how they have experienced the Catholic Church in a different culture. Consider people who have traveled as missionaries or as a part of a service group, or those who were raised in a different country. Invite the speaker to share with the young people the different ways faith is expressed within the culture. If possible, include pictures or other visual aids. Allow 7 to 10 minutes for the speaker with several minutes for questions.

READ Invite a volunteer to read **MISSIONARY CHURCH** on **PAGE 18**. Together review the Where in the World chart on **PAGE 19**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY *The Work of Missionaries* 20 minutes
This activity helps young people understand the work of missionaries by having them reflect on a story.

- Ask:
- What do you think of when you hear the word missionary?
- What do you think Catholic missionaries do?

► Say:

There are thousands of priests, religious, and lay men and women working as Catholic missionaries today.

► Distribute a copy of **Resource 2: One Missionary's Story**, a sheet of paper, and a pen to each participant.

► Read Denise Sandman's story aloud. Invite youth to reflect and journal on the following questions:

How does Denise Sandman's work help people?

What surprised you about her work?

How do you see her work as "preaching the Gospel?"

► Encourage volunteers to share responses.

► Ask the young people:

What feelings did you have in reading the story?

How important is the work of missionaries in the Catholic Church? Why?

► Read the **FAITH WALK** on **PAGE 19**. On newsprint, collect responses to the question:

How could we learn about and support missionaries in the Church today?

EXTEND THE SESSION 15 minutes or longer**Supporting the Missions**

This activity invites the young people to take specific action in support of missionaries throughout the world. Introduce this activity by explaining that you will work as a group to support a missionary effort through prayer and by providing monetary support.

- Share the information that you gathered on the effort that this group will support.
- On newsprint, brainstorm ways that you could support this effort through prayer.
- On a second sheet of newsprint, brainstorm ways you can support this mission financially as a group.
- Choose one or two ideas from each newsprint sheet, and decide on a practical way to implement the ideas. For example, if you choose to pray each day for the coming week for this mission, provide a prayer card and suggest a time of day to pray. If you choose to sponsor a bake sale to raise funds for the mission, get volunteers to bake and sell after Mass on the weekend.

PRESENT Summarize or read aloud the **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 19**.

FYI Distribute **Resource 2: One Missionary's Story**.



GUIDE PAGE 69



Ahead of time, look into missionary efforts to support; consider Maryknoll Missionaries (outside the U.S.), Glenmary Missionaries (within the U.S.), or another Catholic missionary group. More information on these groups is available at www.osvcurriculum.com under Resource Links.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes



REFLECT Invite the young people to discuss the following questions:

When you hear the words "Preach the Gospel," what does it make you think about doing?

When you hear the words "Support the Missions," what does it make you think about doing?

Now that you know that the word catholic means universal, how has your understanding of the Catholic Church changed?

Discuss questions for 5 minutes.

READ Read aloud the ideas under **LIVE OUR FAITH** on **PAGE 20**.

- ▶ Invite youth to choose one way from the list to live their faith this week. Ask for volunteers to share.
- ▶ Encourage participants to use the suggestions on **PAGE 20** for sharing **FAITH AT HOME**.

REFLECT

- ▶ Read **WHAT ABOUT IT?** on **PAGE 20**. Create a newsprint list of qualities of a good evangelist.
- ▶ Ask youth to spend 2 minutes reflecting individually on the **WHAT ABOUT YOU?** questions.

EXTEND THE SESSION 10 minutes

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Help the young people reflect on Saint Josefina Bakhita as a person of faith.

- ▶ Ask a volunteer to read the story on **PAGE 21** to the group.
- ▶ Ask the following questions:
 - In what ways did Josefina evangelize those she met?
 - Her faith was so important to her she was thankful to those who sold her into slavery. What do you think about that?
 - Why do you think she worked so hard to raise money for missions?
- ▶ Make the following points:
 - All people search for God in their lives, whether they know it or not. Josefina is someone who could name her longing for God before she even knew God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, through the Church.
 - Sharing faith both at home and throughout the world is really important. We can help fill people's longing for God by sharing our own faith with them.
- ▶ Conclude by reading Acts 17:26–28.



PRAY

Ask the young people to bring with them the Prayer for Missionary prayer card and the story of a missionary that was used within the session. Have them gather in the prayer space that still contains the cultural symbols used in the opening prayer.

Tell all the young people that as a way of gathering for prayer, they will be asked to name the missionary people or organization that they read about. Make sure that everyone has their handout with them and is ready to state the person or group's name.

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Loving Father, we celebrate today the many people who are working tirelessly to share your message of love and salvation in the world. These brave and holy people are models of living for us. Today we ask you in a special way to be with all the men and women who are in mission throughout the world. May your Holy Spirit be with us as we hold them and the people they minister to in our prayers. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Readings

Our call to evangelize comes directly from Jesus—he sends us forth and promises to be with us. Let us listen:

Invite the four readers to proclaim the Scripture passages. Pause in between each reading for a moment of quiet reflection.

Reader 1 reads Matthew 28:19.

Reader 2 reads John 4:42.

Reader 3 reads Romans 10:14–15.

Reader 4 reads Mark 16:15.

A Prayer for Missionaries

Ask the participants to pray together the prayer from **PAGE 20** of the *Faith Booklet*.

Going Forth

Play or sing one of the suggested songs.



Visit www.osvcurriculum.com.
Look under Reproducible Resources
for a printable version of this prayer.

FYI Invite the young people to bring their *Faith Booklets* to the closing prayer. At the end of the session, they will pray together the prayer on **PAGE 20**. If you don't have time for the entire prayer service, just pray together the prayer on **PAGE 20** of the *Faith Booklet*.

Suggested Songs

"Go Out to All the World,"
David Haas, © 1991, GIA
Publications, Inc., *Call to
Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music CD2*,
track 11

"Malo, Malo, Thanks Be to God,"
Jessie Manibusan, © 1993,
Oregon Catholic Press