

Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 17

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- The Sacrament of Matrimony strengthens a couple to live out their promises to be true and faithful, to be open to the gift of children, and to be models of the love Christ has for his people. (CCC, 1602, 1624)
- Living out the marriage covenant requires the couple to follow the Sixth and Ninth Commandments. (CCC, 2514-2516, 2380)
- Holy Orders is the Sacrament in which a baptized man is ordained to teach the faithful, lead divine worship, and govern the Church. (CCC, 1547-1553)
- Priests act *in persona Christi* (in the person of Christ) and in *persona ecclesiae* (in the person of the Church). (CCC, 875, 1548)
- All people are called to the virtues of modesty and chastity, no matter whether they are married, ordained, or single. The grace of the Eucharist and Reconciliation can strengthen all of us in our desire to be pure and self-respecting. (CCC, 2348, 2533)

Catechist Background

"Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity."—1 Timothy 4:12

Reflect Why is it important to keep your promises?

Despite what our society may model, promises made by Christians are sacred as they are made in and through God's grace. When we make a commitment to a spouse, when we make promises at a child's Baptism, when we commit to living for Christ in Confirmation, and when we promise to give our lives to ministerial service in Holy Orders, we make promises that not only have an impact on our lives but also on the lives of those who depend upon us. Our sacramental commitments are not just symbolic gestures. Rather, they are profound acts of faith that demand equally profound acts of faithfulness on our part.

The truth is that we Christians willingly enter into a life of interdependence with one another. That is what it means to live as the Body of Christ. We rely upon one another to make promises for the sake of each other and then to follow through on those promises. We are also strengthened by the grace of the Sacraments themselves to live out our promises, to be faithful to God and others, and to live a life of virtue.

Reflect What is one sacred promise that you have kept, and how has it influenced your life?

Catechist's Prayer

Lord, you lived a life of honor and fidelity. Help me to be faithful to my promises. And, at all times, may I rely upon the strength of your Holy Spirit to sustain me. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics Eighth-graders are challenged and confused by what they see around them in the popular culture with respect to marriage, modesty, and chastity. They need to see a clear alternative in Church teaching, and not only to know what "the rules" are regarding faithful, chaste relationships, but also why we have them.

Teaching Tip

Invite married couples and deacons or priests to visit the group and talk about what their vocational commitment means to them and how they live out their vows. These individuals will serve as concrete examples of God's plan in human lives.

Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders

Truthfulness and reliability must be nurtured and affirmed, especially in younger adolescents.

- When younger adolescents personally experience having been let down, it may lead them to cynicism. They need to see that, while people sometimes fail, personal integrity does exist.
- Many people rightly understand the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders as vocations. They are also called Sacraments at the Service of Communion. Help your young people consider how both Sacraments serve the community.

Chapter Connections

Tasks of Catechesis

Helping children grow in a faith that is "known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer" (NDC, 20). This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Liturgical Education
- Moral Formation

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition

Liturgical Life

- Objective: To know the Paschal Mystery of Jesus: in the Church's liturgical life—feasts, seasons, symbols, and practices—and in the Sacraments as signs and instruments of grace

Moral Formation

- Objectives: To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Faith Literacy

bishop, deacon, Matrimony, priest

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Call to Family, Community, and Participation, pages 336–337; or Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, pages 340–341.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Benedict the Black on page 272. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 272, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 17 for the prayer on page 273.

Music Option

► Use one or more of the following songs to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.

- "I Love You, Lord," Live, Page 273

Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 17

Invite Page 263

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥ Let Us Pray

Invite the youth to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Ask a volunteer to read aloud the entire prayer. Prompt the group's response.

Have the young people move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.

Explain that we should pray for the courage and the strength to be faithful to God, in our words and actions.

Say: The Sacraments strengthen us to be faithful to our commitments and our relationships. Let's listen to an example from Scripture about what it means to live faithfully.

† Scripture

Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- *Ask:* What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

Discover (1) Pages 266-267

Objectives

- Explore marriage as a covenant of fidelity
- Examine how the love of a married man and woman reflect Christ's love for his Church

Teaching Activity: A Sign of God's Love

Participants will review the characteristics of God's love and write a blog post about the Sacrament of Matrimony that reflects those characteristics.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✪ Go to **aliveinchrist.osv.com** to play the *Catholic Ceremony* Video Clip and download God's Love Hearts, Catholic Faith Words
paper, pencil or pen, tape

Preparation

- Print out the God's Love Hearts pages to use during the activity.
- Cue the *Catholic Ceremony* video clip:
https://www.youtube.com/v/VEuk6Np_tD0%26start=156%26end=263
- Provide enough paper and pencils or pens so that each participant can write a blog post about the Sacrament of Matrimony for a Catholic Family and Faith website that reflects the characteristics of God's Love.

Activity Directions

Say: You have learned that the Scriptures teach us that a husband and wife's love is a reflection of God's love for his Church. You've also been learning what God's love is as we hear Jesus speak about it and watch his love in action. Let's review what we already know about God's love.

As you begin reading the definitions, point out that these words not only describe God's love, but how God wants each of us to love him and others in return.

- ***Freely Given—Love is a decision we make a hundred times a day.***
- ***Unconditional—It's not based on what others do. We don't make the decision to love only when it feels good or when it benefits us.***
- ***Eternal—Love without end.***
- ***Sacrificial—We put the other's needs before our own.***
- ***Life Giving—We help each other to grow into the people that God wanted us to be and we are open to the new life that God will give us in children.***

Post the definition for *Matrimony* and ask a volunteer to read it to the group.

Say: By his presence at the Wedding at Cana, and by performing his first miracle there (see John 2:1–11), Jesus showed the goodness and importance of marriage. Christian marriage is a Sacrament, an effective sign of Christ's presence. The Sacrament of Matrimony is a symbol of the union of Christ and his Church. On his or her wedding day every bride and groom makes a promise to love. When you are married in the Catholic Church, during the Sacrament of Matrimony, you make those promises and take those vows understanding that your love must reflect God's love. You promise *fidelity*.

Post the Catholic Faith Words *vows* and *fidelity* on the board or wall and read the definitions aloud to the group.

Play the *Catholic Ceremony* video clip of the Catholic couple exchanging vows during the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Say: Today we are going to imagine that an older you has several friends who are engaged and preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony. One has asked you to write a blog post for a Catholic Family and Faith website. The goal of this blog post is to help couples really think about the vows they will take. The post must reference all the characteristics of God's love.

Distribute the paper and pencils or pens. Direct the youth to write an impactful headline, two or three subheads, and a few sentences (or bullet points) under each subhead that outline key points that they think are important for a young couple to keep in mind before they take their vows.

Say: Here's an example of something that you might write for the characteristic "unconditional:"

- We all know that there are good days and bad days in our lives. As you begin your journey as husband and wife, you may not know how hard or how great your days together will be, but you are promising to stand by each other's side no matter what....

When the youth have finished drafting their blog posts, if time permits, ask five volunteers to read their headlines or part of their post.

Discover (2) Pages 268-269

Objectives

- Compare and contrast the vows of Holy Matrimony and of Holy Orders
- Explain how priests act *in persona Christi* and *in persona ecclesiae*

Point out the opening question and share with the group that they will be learning about this today.

The Ordained Life

Post the words Priests are amazing! on the board or on chart paper and ask volunteers to share some of the wonderful and amazing things that priests do.

Review the content of this page with the group.

- Using the bullet points in this section, summarize the ways a man may discern he is being called to the priesthood.

Discuss as a group the difference between being called to priesthood and being a part of the common priesthood of the faithful.

The Celebration of the Sacrament

Direct the youth to read this section on their own.

- Ask them to share what they learned from the text.
- Point out that everyone is called by God to serve in some way.
- Give the group an opportunity to discuss vocations and the consecrated life, responding to any questions or comments the young people may have.

If time permits, have the youth turn to page 378 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of their books to read more about vocations.

Activity

Read aloud the directions.

- Have the young people work in pairs to discuss ways that priests make a difference in the lives of their parishioners.

Quick Review

Holy Matrimony and Holy Orders both involve making promises that deepen relationships to God and others through service and giving witness to faith in daily life. Everyone is called to serve God, but priests serve a deeper commitment; they are special signs of Christ, the Head of the Body of Christ.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 17: What About It?** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (3) Pages 270-271

Objectives

- Relate the truths held by the Sixth and Ninth Commandments to the Sacrament of Matrimony
- Explain why all people are called to practice chastity and modesty

Point out the opening question. Bring out the chart paper listing the young peoples' comments on the Sixth and Ninth Commandments from when you covered page 264.

As you review the next two pages, circle anything relevant on this chart and invite the youth to add to it.

Living Faithfully

Ask a volunteer to read the first three paragraphs.

- Review the three characteristics of being faithful in marriage listed in the bullet points.
- If you feel comfortable doing so, conduct a group discussion on the last paragraph, which mentions the breaking of marital commitments.

- The conversation regarding separation and divorce must be a sensitive one as many young people live within that reality.

Commandments for All of Us

Review this section with the young people, being careful to stick to Church teaching and not to allow the discussion to go off track.

- Explain the pain that comes when modesty and chastity are not practiced.
- Emphasize the last sentence on the page, which explains where we get the strength to practice chastity and modesty.

In Summary

Have volunteers read aloud the summary information. • Ask the youth to identify ways that the virtues of modesty and chastity can help all people.

Live Pages 272-273

Objectives

- Recognize the value of faithfulness
- Explore the faith life of Saint Benedict the Black
- Offer the Prayer of Petition

Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the Our Catholic Life text. Write the word faithfulness on the board or chart paper.

- Impress upon the young people that faithfulness means honoring your commitments to yourself, being faithful to God, and being faithful to others.
- Have the youth reflect on the question at the end of this section.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Saint Benedict the Black was a freed slave who became a Franciscan lay brother and a cook at a convent.

- Have a volunteer read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Share the points from the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the youth to reflect on what it means to live faithful lives.

Here are some additional details about Saint Benedict the Black to assist you in presenting this section:

- Benedict's parents became Christians after they were brought from Africa to Sicily as slaves.
- Sicily is the island at the tip of Italy's boot and is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Sicily celebrates the Table of Saint Joseph with a feast to honor the father of Jesus. This tradition goes back to the Middle Ages.

Activity

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the directions for the activity. Invite a second volunteer to read aloud the three questions.

- Have the young people work on their own to answer the questions.

Prayer of Petition

♥ Assign five volunteers to be the readers. Gather the young people around the prayer table with the readers standing in front of the group.

- Read the part of leader yourself. • Lead everyone in singing the line "Jesus, give us strength."
- Follow the order of prayer on the student page.

► Conclude by singing with the young people or playing the song "I Love You, Lord," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

Chapter Review

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively provide feedback to the young people about their work.

Chapter 17 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
Faithful Living Page 263	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 16:8, 11 Pray the opening prayer. 1 Timothy 4:12, 15 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
Marriage as a Sign of Christ's Love Pages 266–267 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore marriage as a covenant of fidelity • Examine how the love of a married man and woman reflect Christ's love for his Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Participants will review the characteristics of God's love and write a blog post about the Sacrament of Matrimony that reflects those characteristics. 	God's Love Hearts, <i>Catholic Ceremony</i> Video Clip, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens, paper, tape
The Ordained Life Pages 268–269 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast the vows of Holy Matrimony and of Holy Orders • Explain how priests act <i>in persona Christi</i> and <i>in persona ecclesiae</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Sacrament of Holy Orders. • Explain how everyone is called by God to serve. • Activity Name ways a parish priest can make a difference. • Activity Master What About It? 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper Activity Master 17
Living Faithfully Pages 270–271 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate the truths held by the Sixth and Ninth Commandments to the Sacrament of Matrimony • Explain why all people are called to practice chastity and modesty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss faithful living in the Sacrament of Matrimony. • Share the importance of living out the Sixth and Ninth Commandments. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 272	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Our Catholic Life question. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Benedict the Black. • Activity Write about making and keeping promises. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Prayer of Petition Page 273	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign five readers. • Follow the order of prayer. 	"I Love You Lord"

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Matrimony, fidelity, vows, Holy Orders, *in persona Christi*

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 274

aliveinchrist.osv.com Customize and Download Assessments, Interactive Student Reviews, eAssessments

Name _____

Date _____

What About It?

Every Catholic young person should explore all the possible ways God may be calling him/her. Do you have a vocation to be married? Do you have a vocation to join a religious community? If you are a boy, is God calling you to be a priest? These questions cannot be answered quickly or lightly. It takes time to discover what God is calling you to do. It takes a process of discernment—listening to the Holy Spirit when you pray, listening to trusted spiritual guides, listening to your own heart.

The First Thing It Takes: Total honesty about yourself!

- Can you see what your strengths AND your weaknesses are?
- Can you see how they make you the totally unique human being you are?
- Can you see how God loves you as you are?

Spend a few minutes sometime this week, alone in a quiet place, reading and answering the questions below. Pray as you do this, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you.

- What things do you enjoy doing most?

- What talents or skills do you possess?

- What qualities do you possess as a person?

- Are there any particular causes that are most important to you?

- What are some ways that you would like to help others?

- What experiences helping others have you had in the past that you enjoyed?

- What do you think God is calling you to do?

- How can you prepare yourself to do the work that you think God is calling you to do?

Date _____

Column B

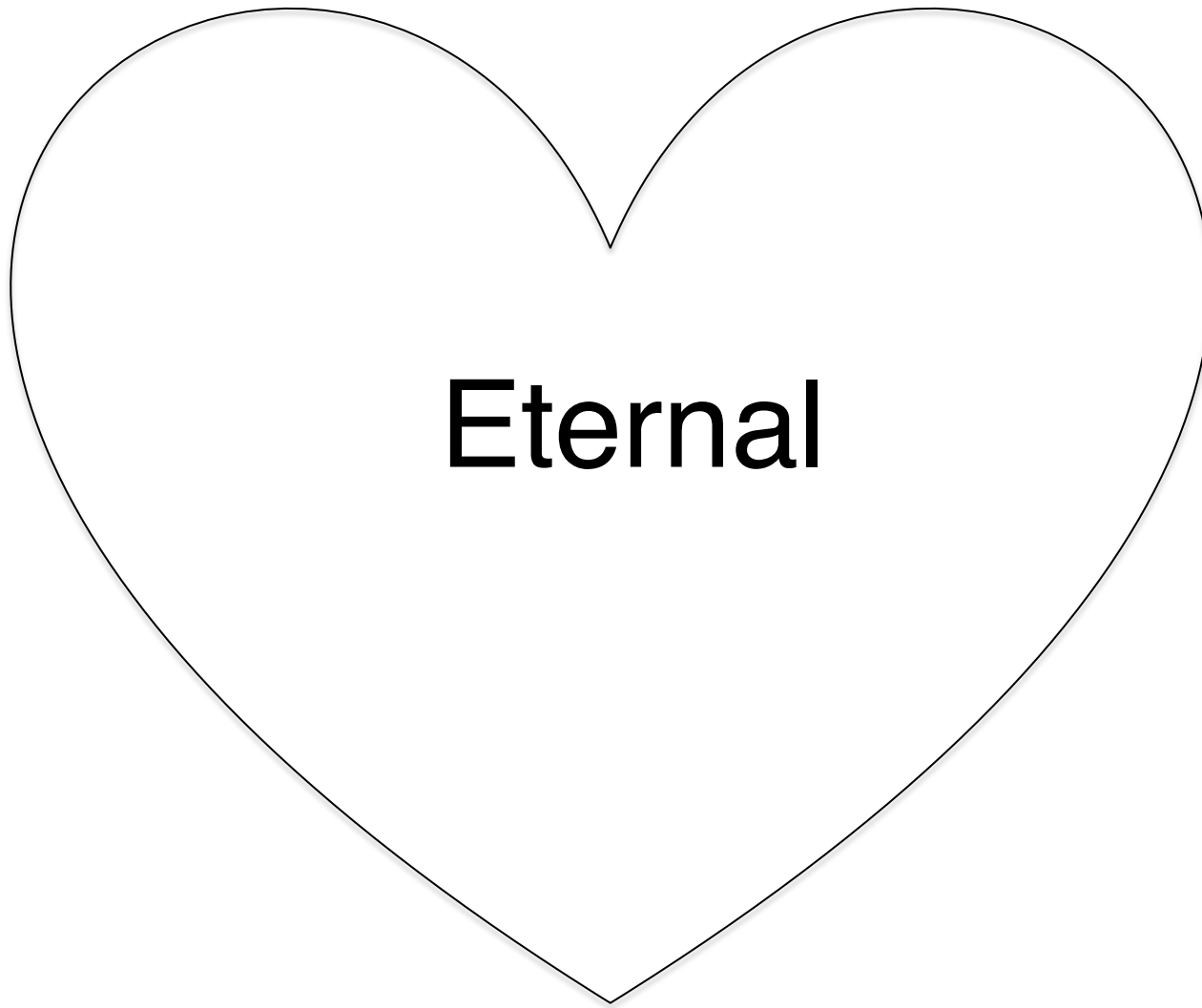
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Unconditional



Freely Given





Life-giving



Sacrificial

Catholic Faith Words

Matrimony the Sacrament at the Service of Communion in which a baptized man and a baptized woman make a permanent covenant of love with each other and with God.

Catholic Faith Words

fidelity faithful presence; it is the most important rule of loving and lasting relationships.

Catholic Faith Words

VOWS solemn promises that are made to or before God.