

Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 11

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- The missionary mandate of the Church is that salvation can only come through faith in Christ and his Church. (CCC, 849–850)
- Every baptized Catholic is called to share in the missionary work of the Church and to be evangelists, to spread Christ's message of salvation to people who have not yet come to know and believe in Jesus. (CCC, 905, 942)
- The Church is catholic, or universal, for she proclaims the fullness of God's truth to everyone, everywhere throughout time, welcoming people of all cultures and ages. (CCC, 831, 868)
- The Church proclaims the teaching of Christ by respectfully adapting to the culture while never compromising the truth. (CCC, 814, 854)

Catechist Background

"For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need.—Acts 2:39, 44-45

Reflect How do you share Christ's message of salvation with others?

Evangelization is a concept that seems a little foreign to many contemporary Catholics. Often, they view evangelization in terms of a TV evangelist or someone proclaiming Jesus' message on a street corner. Evangelization is an essential aspect of every Christian's calling. We evangelize through the witness of our lives and in all Church ministries, especially those of word, worship, and service. Catholics believe in boldly proclaiming the Good News and in clearly asserting our beliefs and values in the decisions we make and the way we live our lives. We seek to bring individuals the Good News and to initiate them to the Catholic faith. In addition, our goal is to evangelize through our actions and the consistency of our message. In doing this as a community of faith, we transform the world into a place open to God's Reign of love, peace, and justice.

It is a tall order, and in today's tense climate of war and religious conflict, it might seem overwhelming to think of working with the Holy Spirit to make the world a place of universal justice. Remember the wisdom of Blessed Mother Teresa, who taught us that we are called not to be successful but to be faithful. We can rely on the Holy Spirit to guide the overall plan for the renewal of the world and celebrate the fact that God has privileged us to be a part of it.

Reflect In your school, local community, and personal life, how do you help fulfill the Church's mission of evangelization?

Catechist's Prayer

Lord Jesus, you sent your Apostles out into the world to spread your Good News, and you send me as well. May I be open to all the opportunities that come my way to serve others as you did. I ask this in your Holy Name. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Eighth-graders may not yet have the sense that they could hand on their faith to others. They are still learning what Catholics believe, and may lack the confidence to feel they could spread the faith in any systematic way. They need to know that what they say and do in everyday life sends a message to others about who they are and what they believe.

Teaching Tip

Lead a discussion about the nature of missionary work in the world today. (Hint: you might share the statement attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi: "Proclaim the Gospel always, and if necessary use words.") Ask the young people when they have seen someone witnessing the truth with their actions, by standing up for what is right or by serving others. Did that person talk about why they were doing what they did?

Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders

- Eighth-graders are working to form coherent, consistent, and independent belief systems. This does not mean that they necessarily reject their parents' beliefs, but rather that they seek personal ownership of their own beliefs.
- Young people may not yet be ready to state for others their personal religious convictions, but that does not mean they are without them.
- Remind the youth that just as Jesus sent out the Twelve to carry out his mission, today he sends out young people to proclaim the Good News and help build a world that values justice and peace.

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:

- Education for Community Life
- Missionary Initiation

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition

Communal Life

- Objectives: To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church; to know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful

Missionary Spirit

- Objective: To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service; to be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel

Catholic Faith Literacy

catholic, community of faith, evangelization, missionary

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Life and Dignity of the Human Person, pages 334–335; or Solidarity of the Human Family, pages 344–345.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Agnes on page 192. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 192, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 11 for the prayer on page 193.

Music Option

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

- "Go Ye Out," Live, Page 153

Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 11

Invite Page 183

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥ Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the leader's prayer, including the Psalm verse. Prompt the group's response.

Have the youth move out of the prayer space and back to their seats. Explain that having the right words to say isn't always easy, especially when talking about our Catholic beliefs.

Say: Let's listen to what happened when Christ sent out his disciples to spread the Gospel message to everyone and to offer the gift of salvation to all people.

† 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.

Have you ever thought...

Say: As members of the Church, we are called to share the Good News of Christ, to invite everyone into the Body of Christ.

Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 186-187

Objectives

- Examine the missionary mandate of the Church
- Explain why every Catholic should discover their personal call to be an evangelist

Invite the youth to reflect on the opening question. Encourage them to pray "Lord, give me the right words to say to share my faith."

Believers Spread the Good News

Read aloud the first two paragraphs. • Discuss the meaning of the sentence: "Talking about God comes with being a disciple."

Evangelists

Have the young people silently read this section. Ask them to share anything new that they learned in the text.

† Scripture

Proclaim the Scripture passage.

- If time permits, have the youth read John 4:13–26 to find out what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, which led to her becoming an evangelist.

† Scripture Background

John 4:4–42

This is a significant passage in Scripture. On the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent, rites called Scrutinies take place in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The story of the Woman at the Well is the Gospel for the first scrutiny. It reminds catechumens and all of us that Jesus calls us, and we have a choice of whether to follow him or not. It is significant that Jesus reached out to a Samaritan, for they were despised by most Jews. Verse four says, "But he had to go through Samaria." Biblical commentaries tell us that this is not true geographically. He could have travelled around it. So this sentence indicates Jesus had a theological and pastoral need to go there.

An Urgent Mandate

Summarize the first two paragraphs in this section.

- Instruct the young people to highlight the first two sentences in the second paragraph.
- Ask a volunteer to read the last paragraph on page 187 or read it to the group yourself.
- Point out the photo on the page.
- Ask the youth to describe what is happening and how it ties in to the text you just covered.

Review the Catholic Faith Words with the young people. Make sure they understand the definitions.

Activity

Have the youth work on the activity alone.

- Invite volunteers to share their lists and explanations.

Quick Review

The Church is the sign of salvation and new life sent by God to bring the saving message of Jesus to everyone. Salvation comes through faith in Christ and his Church, so the Church must spread the Gospel everywhere.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 11: The Church Is Catholic and Apostolic** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (2) Pages 188-189

Objectives

- Describe the Church as catholic for she proclaims the fullness of God's truth to everyone, everywhere throughout time
Explore how the Church proclaims the teaching of Christ by adapting to the culture while never compromising the truth

Teaching Activity: For Everyone

Participants will watch video examples of how the Church across the world celebrates our faith and will discuss how the Church's mission is to the whole world.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed:

✦ Go to **aliveinchrist.osv.com** and to watch the *Egyptian Churches* Video Clip, *Chinese Catholics* Video Clip, *Indonesian Mass* Video Clip, Necessary for Salvation, and to download the Catholic Faith Words pages
tape

Preparation

- Cue the *Egyptian Churches*, *Chinese Catholics*, and *Indonesian Mass* video clips for use during the activity.
Egyptian Churches Video Clip: <http://youtu.be/U3xR0bWV7Sw>
Chinese Catholics Video Clip: <http://youtu.be/yEjC07rV2WA>
Indonesian Mass Video Clip:
https://www.youtube.com/v/1Zxely_choY%26start=165%26end=395
- Post the Necessary for Salvation page on the wall.

Activity Directions

Post the Catholic Faith Words page on the board for reference during the activity.

Say: Today we are going to learn about one of the four marks of the Church—catholic.

Post the Catholic Faith Word *catholic* on the wall and ask a volunteer to read the definition aloud for the group.

Say: Our Church is catholic because her mission is to the whole world. Jesus made it clear. His Church is for everyone, sent out to all people in all times. Before he returned to his Father in Heaven, Jesus told his Apostles, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The Church is universal. The Church calls people all over the world to God. She takes on different cultures, customs, and appearances while at the same time ALWAYS teaching the total message—or the fullness of truth. In the Church we have the total message and everything we need for salvation with nothing left out. Here are some examples of peoples of different cultures celebrating our faith.

Play the video of the *Egyptian Churches* video and explain to the group that they will be watching Egyptian Christians celebrating Christmas.

Lead a group discussion. *Ask:* How is this different than the Christmas Masses you have participated in?

Play the *Chinese Catholics* video clip and explain to the group that they will be watching Chinese Catholics celebrating Our Lady of She-Shan.

Say: Although these Catholics live in New York State, why do you think they keep the customs of their homeland?

Allow time for the youth to share their responses. Play the *Indonesian Mass* video clip showing Indonesian Catholics.

Say: Some of us may have been taught to sit still in Church. Why do you think Indonesians dance?

Allow time for a brief discussion.

Say: Let's look at a list that the fathers of Vatican Council II said is needed for living the fullness of life in Heaven with God—our salvation.

Read the points on the Necessary for Salvation page aloud.

Say: These important essentials are found only in the Catholic Church. That is why we want everyone to know that being part of the Catholic faith is a gift that is very precious to us. Our Church believes, though, that people who are not members of the Church can be saved because God is the God of mercy. He has given the Catholic Church to whole world as the very way his grace comes into the world.

Discover (3) Pages 190-191

Objectives

- Discuss the Church's three-step process for leading people to Christ through her missionary plan
- Provide examples that show how all member of the Church can share in missionary work

A Missionary Church

Review the text on this page with the group. Point out the three stages of the Church's missionary work:

- proclamation of the Gospel to nonbelievers
- establishment of Christian communities
- foundation of local churches

Explain that missionaries enter into "respectful dialogue" with those who do not yet accept the Gospel.

- Give the young people an opportunity to ask questions about what you have discussed so far on missionaries.

Read aloud and discuss the reflection question at the end of the text.

Everyone Is Called

Direct the youth to silently read this section.

- Ask a volunteer to read aloud the reflection question following the section.
- Encourage the young people to share what kind of work they would do to help other people.

Activity

Have the youth read all of the names on the map and select the missionary they would be the most interested in.

- Allow time for research followed by silent prayer.

In Summary

Read aloud the Catholics Believe summary points as a group.

- Invite the young people to reflect on how they are being called to share the in the missionary work of the Church.

Live Pages 192-193

Objectives

- Discuss the Church's missionary mandate
- Explore the faith life of Saint Agnes
- Offer the Prayer of Acknowledgment

Our Catholic Life

Have the youth silently read the paragraph. • Discuss, as a group, the aspect of the Church's missionary mandate that interests the young people the most.

- Ask: How can we share in the missionary Church right now?

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Saint Agnes is one of the seven women from the early Church named during the Eucharistic Prayer I at Mass.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Review with the group the additional content in the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the young people to reflect on the mission of the Church and their role in it.

Here are some additional details about Saint Agnes to assist you in presenting this section:

- Saint Agnes is often pictured holding a lamb. On her feast day, two white lambs are brought to the Pope to be blessed.
- On Holy Thursday, the lambs are shorn and the wool is used to make palliums that the Pope gives to newly consecrated archbishops.
- A pallium is a narrow band of cloth worn over the shoulder. It is a sign of the authority that comes down from the Apostles.

Activity

Arrange the young people in groups of three to complete the activity on page 192.

Prayer of Acknowledgement

♥ Appoint five volunteers to serve as the leader and the readers. Allow time for them to rehearse their lines.

- Set the prayer table by covering it with a white cloth and a Bible open to the reading in Matthew.
- *Call the youth to prayer with these words:* God, be with us as we ask for the courage to follow the example of the Chosen People who have come before us.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song "Go Ye Out," 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 11 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
The Church Is Catholic Page 183	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 133:1 Pray the opening prayer. Acts 2:39, 44–45 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
Believers Spread the Good News pp. 186–187 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the missionary mandate of the Church • Explain why every Catholic should discover their personal call to be an evangelist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how believers can spread the Good News. • Talk about being an evangelist. Read John 4:39–42 and 4:13–26. • Activity List unique characteristics of a member of the Catholic Church. • Activity Master The Church Is Catholic and Apostolic 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> highlighters Activity Master 11
Meant for Everyone pp. 188–189 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the Church as catholic for she proclaims the fullness of God’s truth to everyone, everywhere throughout time • Explore how the Church proclaims the teaching of Christ by adapting to the culture while never compromising the truth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Participants will watch video examples of how the Church calls people to God all over the world. 	<i>Egyptian Churches</i> Video Clip, <i>Chinese Catholics</i> Video Clip, <i>Indonesian Mass</i> Video Clip, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> tape
A Missionary Church pp. 190–191 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Church’s three-step process for leading people to Christ through her missionary plan • Provide examples that show how all members of the Church can share in missionary work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how missionaries bring Christ’s message of salvation to others. • Discuss how we are called to be part of the Church’s missionary work. • Activity Research and summarize the life of one of the missionaries from the text. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 192	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Our Catholic Life question. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Agnes. • Activity Identify symbols and seasons that are uniquely Catholic. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Prayer of Acknowledgment Page 193	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint a leader and four readers. • Follow the order of prayer. 	“Go Ye Out”

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Evangelists; missionary mandate; catholic, as a Mark of the Church; missionaries

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 194

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Name _____

Date _____

The Church Is Catholic and Apostolic

Refer to Chapters 10 and 11 to fill in each blank below. When a line has a number beneath it, transfer that letter to the blank marked with that number at the bottom of the page. When you are finished, the transferred letters will spell an important message.

1. Handing down the authority to lead the Church from Saint Peter to the Pope and bishops today:

____ 10 ____ 15 ____ 3 ____ 12 ____

2. The teaching authority of the Church:

____ 24 ____ 9 ____ 4 ____

3. The particular Church that is led by a bishop:

____ 17 ____ 30 ____ 2 ____

4. The Pope, as successor to Saint Peter and leader of the universal Church, is called the

____ 21 ____ 7 ____ 28 ____

5. The second degree of Holy Orders:

____ 25 ____ 18 ____ 10 ____

6. The Church MUST spread the Gospel. This is her missionary

____ 23 ____ 13 ____ 20 ____

7. The Four Evangelists, listed in the order in which their Gospels appear in the Bible, are

____ 16 ____ 19 ____ 6 ____ 26 ____ 11 ____ and ____ 1 ____ 8 ____

8. The Church is for everyone; therefore, we call her universal, or

____ 22 ____ 29 ____ 27 ____

9. To follow Christ is to be his

____ 5 ____ 14 ____

THE MESSAGE:

____ 1 ____ 2 ____ 3 ____ 4 ____ 5 ____ 6 ____ 7 ____ 8 ____ 9 ____ 10 ____ 11 ____ 12 ____ 13 ____ 14 ____ 15 ____ 16 ____ 17 ____ 18 ____ 19 ____
 ____ 20 ____ 21 ____ 22 ____ 23 ____ 24 ____ 25 ____ 26 ____ 27 ____ 28 ____ 29 ____ 30 ____

Name _____

Date _____

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

1. The "Four Evangelists" who were the bearers of the Good News of the Gospels are _____.
 - a. Peter, Andrew, James, and John
 - b. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
 - c. Peter, Paul, Mary, and Jesus
 - d. John the Baptist, Matthew, Mark, and Paul
2. The Church has a ____ to spread the Gospel because salvation can only come through Christ and his Church.
 - a. tradition
 - b. witness
 - c. total message
 - d. missionary mandate
3. We can call the Church "catholic" because she _____.
 - a. started in Rome
 - b. is the true Church
 - c. is universal
 - d. is holy
4. Jesus told the Apostles to go and make ____ of all nations.
 - a. disciples
 - b. Apostles
 - c. leaders
 - d. friends

Complete each sentence with the correct term.

5. Catholic _____ have been among the greatest world explorers.
6. When dealing with someone who does not accept the Gospel, we should enter into _____ with them.
7. God, in his great love, wants _____ to know and love him.
8. The Samaritan woman whom Jesus spoke with at the well became a(n) _____.

Write a response on the lines below.

9. If a friend who does not belong to a church asks you about your faith and the Catholic Church, what are some things you should remember about how to speak with him or her?

10. Whom does Jesus expect to be evangelists?

Necessary for Salvation

- Correct and Complete Instruction in the Faith
- The Full Sacramental Life of All Seven Sacraments
- Ordained Ministry that Follows in Direct Succession from the Apostles

Catholic Faith Words

catholic a Mark of the church. The Church is catholic because her mission is to the whole world.