



FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

GOD'S SAVING LOVE FOR US: LITURGY AND THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

TOPIC: THE SACRAMENTS AT THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND MISSION: HOLY ORDERS

MATERIALS

- Ice Breaker - A balloon
- Family Activity: Where is THAT in the Bible?
Bibles, paper, pencils
- Activity: "Thank You, Father!" Posters or
Construction paper, markers and crayons

BACKGROUND RESOURCE FOR CATECHISTS

[Sacrament of Holy Orders
\(Catholic Faith Education\)](#)
[3 degrees of Holy Orders](#)

Goal(s):

- Families will learn about the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- Families will read and reflect on Jesus' institution of the priesthood in the Gospels.
- Families will make cards or posters to show their appreciation for the priests and deacons that serve the Family of God.
- Families will pray for priests and deacons.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
We entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples.
Amen.



ICE BREAKER

Keep the Balloon Up

What You'll Need: A round balloon

How to Play:

1. Arrange families so each group has four or more players facing each other in a circle.
2. Blow up a balloon and have the leader toss it into the air in the middle of the circle.
3. With the balloon in the air, the leader calls out someone's name, and they move to bump the balloon in the air to keep it from falling to the floor.
4. When they hit the balloon up, they must call out someone else's name to follow and then return to their spot.
5. The called person then moves to hit the balloon up, repeating the process. Continue until the balloon reaches the floor.

Adapted from connectusfund.org



CONTENT

Hook: Ask families to share their favorite Holy Week Activities and their Family Holy Week Plans (Large Group)

Main Concept: The Sacraments at the Service of Communion and Mission are the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony (marriage). In Holy Orders, some baptized men of the Church are set apart or consecrated to serve the whole Church as priests.

Because Jesus wants to be closer to us, to heal us and to keep His promise to always be with us, in addition to the common priesthood of all believers, God has continued to call some men to the ministerial priesthood. These men, through priestly ordination, receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders to act in the person of Christ Himself while celebrating the sacraments. They are called to continue the mission that Jesus gave to his Apostles to proclaim the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments and serve the spiritual needs of God's children.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Explain: In the Bible we read that it was Jesus Himself who established the ministerial priesthood.

1. Provide each family with a bible, paper & pencil.
2. Give each family a different Bible verse to find in the Scriptures, discuss what was happening in the story, and record reasons why the verse shows that Jesus was instituting the Sacrament of Holy Orders, calling the Apostles to continue His ministry of the priesthood.
 - Lk 22:19
 - Jn 20:21
 - Jn 20:22
 - Mt 28:19,20
 - Jn 21:15,16
 - Acts 1:8
3. Families share their verses and their comments with the large group.

(This background below is for the catechist, to aid him/her in leading the conversation):

“A Sacrament Instituted by Christ. The ministerial priesthood was established by Jesus when he asked his apostles to continue the ministries that he began. On Holy Thursday night when Jesus instituted the Eucharist, he told his apostles, “Do this in memory of me” (Lk 22:19). When the risen Jesus appeared to the apostles in the Upper Room, Jesus said, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (Jn 20:21), and to equip them for their commissioning, Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the holy Spirit” (Jn 20:22). Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he instructed the apostles, “Go, make disciples of all nations. Baptize them. Teach them” (see Mt 28:19,20). Jesus, the Good Shepherd, asked Peter to continue his shepherding duties when he said, “Feed my lambs, tend my sheep” (Jn 21:15,16). Jesus’ final words of instruction to his apostles were, “You will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Source: [Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis](#)

LECTIO OR VISIO DIVINA

Ask all the family members to find a comfortable place to sit together as a small group.

Explain: It was on Holy Thursday at the Last Supper that Jesus instituted two very important sacraments. These were the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the institution of the priesthood (Holy Orders). These sacraments are intimately linked, because there is no priesthood without Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and there is no Holy Eucharist without the priest.

As we said, one of the stories in which Jesus established the Sacrament of Holy Orders was at the Last Supper. I am going to ask you to quietly relax as I say a prayer and then continue to read the story of the Last Supper to you from the Sacred Scripture. When I have finished reading, we will sit in silence for a minute and think about what God is saying to us through this story.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, as we read and think about the story of your life, we ask the Holy Spirit to come and speak to the hearts of all here, from the oldest to the youngest.

Calmly Read [Luke 22:7-20](#)

(As time allows, consider reading a second time, slowly.) Wait at least 30 seconds in silence.

Explain: Now I am inviting each member of your family to share privately (within your family) about what stood out to him/her.

Share Guidelines:

- Respectfully listening to each family member as he/she is sharing his/her reflection is very important.
- Avoid interrupting or even correcting what another is saying (we're looking to listen, not critique).
- When each family member has had an opportunity to share, please wait quietly for the other families to finish. Give families time to share privately.

Explain: As we make our family plans for Holy Week, we remember that the Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. During this Mass, the priest may wash the feet of some of the parishioners to remember how Jesus washed the feet of His Apostles, showing us how to love and serve one another. Two very important events took place for the first time on that night at Jesus' Passover meal with His Apostles—the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the institution of the priesthood. It is on this day that we celebrate the first time Jesus gave His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, to us in the Eucharist. On this day, Jesus also instituted the priesthood so that we would always have priests to give us the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Jesus did this because He loves us and knew we would need Him to be close to us on our life's journey. Jesus made certain we would have His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. This is the most powerful way Jesus unites our hearts with His own. Each time we worthily receive Him in the Eucharist (in a state of grace), Jesus is deepening our relationship with Him. Jesus loves us with all His Heart. After the Lord's Supper, Jesus then went out to the Garden of Gethsemane, knowing He would be arrested.

Watch: [Sacraments 101: Holy Orders \(what ordination means\)](#) by Busted Halo

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Ask a Priest!

Using the questions written by the families in Week 1, ask an invited priest or deacon to answer questions about the Sacrament of Holy Orders and the vocation to the priesthood or the diaconate. (If a priest or deacon is not available to come in person, consider asking him to respond in writing, and then read his answers to the families.)

&/or

“Thank You, Father!”

Invite families to make a “Thank You, Father!” poster or card for your parish priest. Ask them to think of images they may want to draw to illustrate the many things the priest does in your parish. Be sure to have all family members sign the poster or card.



PRAY

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests, deacons and bishops. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help them to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Amen.

REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.

