

YEAR 4 - LESSON 7 - CATECHIST GUIDE WK. 1



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

SACRED SCRIPTURE

EX 19:6; HEB 5:1-10;
LK 22:19

REFERENCES:

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
no. 1324

CREED

nos.

857-945

LITURGY

nos.

1337-44,
1533-1600

LIFE

nos.

2030-51,
2168-95

PRAYER

nos.

2599-
2606,
2655,
2686,
2761-76

Goals: Families will...

- Review the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and Healing
- Learn about the Sacraments at the Service of Communion and Mission: Holy Orders and Marriage
- Learn about, reflect on and give examples of how they live their baptismal call to the common priesthood of all believers
- Learn about the vocation to the ministry of priesthood or the diaconate
- Begin to prepare for Holy Week during Week 2

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

DRAW IT OUT

What You'll Need:

Plain paper for each person, a timer, pens or colored pencils

How to Play:

1. Break into groups of families or of at least four people.
2. Give each person a piece of paper and some colored pencils or a pen.
3. Set a time limit and have everyone draw as many items on their paper as they can about their life without writing their name.
4. Once the time is up, have everyone fold their paper in half and give it to the leader.
5. The leader mixes up the papers. Then, one at a time, they are opened for everyone to read and try to guess who the artist is.



Adapted from <https://connectusfund.org>



MATERIALS

- [Holy Orders coloring pages](#) (Use any time during session)
 - Crayons or colored pencils
- Draw It Out Ice Breaker:
 - Plain paper for each person
 - Time
 - Pens or colored pencils
- Family Brainstorming Activity
 - Posterboard for each family
 - Markers
- Ask a Priest Activity!
 - Notecards for families to write questions for a priest for Week 3

BACKGROUND RESOURCES FOR CATECHISTS

The Authority Given By The Lord: [In Persona Christi](#). (1:27 min)

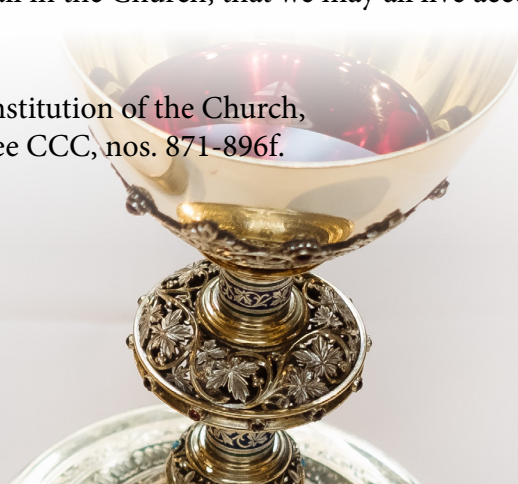
The One Priesthood of Christ: Jesus is the one High Priest because He is the “one mediator between God and men” who offered Himself on the Cross for our salvation. “The one priesthood of Christ ... is made present through the ministerial priesthood” (CCC, no. 1545). Both the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial priesthood of the ordained share in the one priesthood of Christ, though in different ways.

The Fullness of Holy Orders: Episcopal ordination (as a bishop) is the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Both the degrees of priestly participation (bishops and priests) and the degree of service (deacons) are conferred by the sacramental act called “ordination.” The visible sign of this act is the laying on of hands by the bishop, together with the prayer of consecration. (See CCC, no. 1554f.)

A Special Call for Men: Both men and women are called in various ways to serve the Church. However, the call to ordained ministry is reserved for men, following the choice and will of the Lord Jesus and the example of the Apostles handed down in Sacred Scripture and Tradition. There are profound reasons and explanations that have been contemplated over the Church’s history, including the configuring of priests, as men, to Christ the Bridegroom who gave Himself for His Bride, the Church. It is important to recognize that Jesus, in His choice of calling men to be Apostles, was not bound to cultural customs of His time, as He regularly challenged limited human ways. The fact that God chose Mary to be the Mother of His Son also points to the exalted vocation and dignity of women. A woman is the greatest of all saints—Mother Mary, Queen of All Saints. The call to priesthood is not a call to be “powerful” in the eyes of the world but is a particular call to serve the Church, the Bride of Christ.

The Effects of the Sacrament: An indelible character is received in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. See more about this character and the corresponding grace of the Holy Spirit in CCC, nos. 1581-89. It is important to know that the presence of Christ in our ordained ministers, when they act in the person of Christ the Head in celebrating sacraments, does not preserve them from sin or other human weaknesses (see CCC, no. 1550), though it does guarantee the grace of the sacraments celebrated according to the Church. We must pray for our ordained ministers and for all in the Church, that we may all live according to the calling we have received in Christ.

Hierarchical Ministry: To understand the hierarchical constitution of the Church, including the role of the Pope and the college of bishops, see CCC, nos. 871-896f.



CONTENT

Hook: Quick Review

Explain: So far, this year we have learned about 5 of the 7 Sacraments of the Catholic Church. However, before we move onto the sixth sacrament, let's do a quick review!

At the beginning of the year, we learned that all of the Seven Sacraments were created from God's love for us. Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross—His entire saving Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Glorious Ascension (the Paschal Mystery)—is the source of sacramental grace. Jesus died to save us, to rescue us from the dominion (ruling power) of sin, death, and the devil, so that we would live in freedom forever as children of God, in communion with the Blessed Trinity and all the holy angels and saints. Jesus was (and is) divine, but he also was (and is) human. True God and true man. Jesus understood that, as human beings, we would need to see Him, to feel Him and to be one with Him, and He promised He would always be with us. So, Jesus gave us a Church and Sacraments so that we would always have ways to see Him and know He is with us, and so that we would be able to receive Him and love others by His saving grace.

The first three sacraments that we talked about are called the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. These are the sacraments that bring us into the family of God, give us the grace to live the life of the Church and deepen our relationship with God! God cleanses us from sin and makes us part of His family!

Ask: What are the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation?

Answer: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist

Explain: The next two sacraments that we talked about are called the Sacraments of Healing. Sin hurts our relationship with God and some sins actually separate us from God's grace. God our Father knew that after Jesus' saving Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension—and even after our own Baptism—we would still sin, but God loves us anyway and wants to be as close as He can be to us.

Ask: So, what sacrament did Jesus give to us to heal us of our sins and bring us closer to Him again?

Answer: Reconciliation (or Penance, Confession)

Explain: The second Sacrament of Healing that we talked about brings the healing touch of Jesus into our lives, too. In this sacrament, we pray that the sick person be healed in body and soul. Sometimes a physical healing does take place, if it is God's will, but not always. However, the Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit, always offers spiritual healing and forgiveness, with or without the physical healing.

Ask: What is this Sacrament of Healing called?

Answer: The Anointing of the Sick

Explain: The next two sacraments that we will learn about this year are called the Sacraments at the Service of Communion and Mission. These sacraments give God's children the grace to serve one another, and through that service, to help others grow closer to Jesus so they will be united with Him someday in Heaven.

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

TEACH

1. Watch

Holy Orders

(40s - brief video communicating a few key truths by images and words on the screen)



2. Introduce Topic

Today, we are going to learn about Holy Orders. Where was the idea of the priesthood first introduced?

(see video below; also see CCC, nos. 1539f. for additional background specific to the ministerial priesthood)

FAMILY BRAINSTORMING ACTIVITY

Watch: [Jesus the Royal Priest](#) (5:43)

Explain: So, are all of us priests? Well, yes, in one important way. When we were baptized, each of us was marked as priest, prophet and king—we were made sharers in Christ's own office as Priest, Prophet, and King! Our participation in Christ's priestly office is called the common priesthood of all believers. That means that whenever we pray, care for someone or listen to God, we are living out this common priesthood of the faithful. This differs from the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood, which we will learn about soon, but it's important to appreciate our baptismal priesthood.

Ask: When you were baptized what color garment did you wear?

Answer: White

Explain: The new white garment is a sign that you have been clothed in Christ! Since you are a new person in Christ, who participates in the priesthood of all believers, you are called to be Christ in the world.

1. Give each family a posterboard.
2. Appoint one member per family to write their family's ideas.
3. Parents work with your children to brainstorm the many different ways you can continue the work of Christ in the world through your baptismal calling.
4. Families share their ideas with one another in large group sharing.

Ask: Jesus preached, fed, converted and healed thousands of people when He walked the earth. He had many disciples, but how many did He call to be his Apostles?

Answer: Twelve (12)

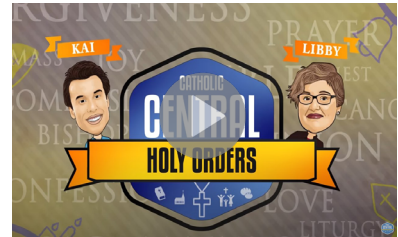
Explain: Yes, Jesus called the Twelve to be His Apostles. These men were set aside to carry on Jesus' ministry with His authority to serve in a unique way. To form them, He traveled with them, trained and modeled for them how to serve, for these twelve men were called to the ministerial priesthood, to the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

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 baptized 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.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders includes three degrees: bishops, priests, and deacons. Bishops have the fullness of Holy Orders, teaching, governing, and sanctifying the People of God, the Church. The bishops are successors of the Apostles, being ordained from an unbroken line of bishops that go all the way back to the Apostles (apostolic succession). Priests are co-workers of the bishops, sharing in their priestly ministry. Deacons are ordained for a ministry of service; some are permanent and others are transitional, preparing for priesthood.

([See further information](#))

Watch: Holy Orders | Catholic Central (7 min)



ACTIVITY

Ask a Priest!

1. Invite a priest or deacon to the Week 3 Session to answer questions about the Sacrament of Holy Orders and the vocation to the priesthood or the diaconate.
2. Give each family notecards to use for writing any questions they may have for the priest or deacon about Holy Orders and their vocation.
3. Collect and save the questions for the Week 3 gathering.



MISSION

1

First, Introduce Mission Activity

Mission Activities are to be done at home during Week 2 and to be shared at the gathering of families on Week 3.

2

Second, Explain Activity

- i. Watch the videos about the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- ii. Watch one or more of the videos on Holy Week together.
- iii. Discuss how your family's practice of the Lenten pillars of praying, fasting and almsgiving are going as we get closer to Easter and make your Family Holy Week Plan.
- iv. Be prepared to share about your Family Holy Week Plan at the next gathering.
- v. Go to Sacrament of Reconciliation or make intentional plans to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a family. (Provide dates and times when the sacrament is available at your parish.)

3

Last, Model for the families by

- i. Sharing about your own practice of the Lenten pillars and your own Family Holy Week Plan.
- ii. Sharing with the families your own experience of meeting Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and how, through it, God's grace brings joy and peace to you and your family.

REVIEW & CLOSE IN PRAYER

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear our humble prayers on behalf of your priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life.

In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for the work of redemption. Amen.

Adpated from <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com>



SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1536:

Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: episcopate, presbyterate, and diaconate.

Second Vatican Council, Decree *Presbyterorum Ordinis* (1965), no. 12:

Priests are made in the likeness of Christ the Priest by the Sacrament of Orders, so that they may, in collaboration with their bishops, work for the building up and care of the Church which is the whole Body of Christ, acting as ministers of him who is the Head. Like all other Christians they have received in the sacrament of Baptism the symbol and gift of such a calling and such grace that even in human weakness they can and must seek for perfection, according to the exhortation of Christ: “Be you therefore perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48). Priests are bound, however, to acquire that perfection in special fashion. They have been consecrated by God in a new manner at their ordination and made living instruments of Christ the Eternal Priest that they may be able to carry on in time his marvelous work whereby the entire family of man is again made whole by power from above. Since, therefore, every priest in his own fashion acts in place of Christ himself, he is enriched by a special grace, so that, as he serves the flock committed to him and the entire People of God, he may the better grow in the grace of him whose tasks he performs, because to the weakness of our flesh there is brought the holiness of him who for us was made a High Priest “holy, guiltless, undefiled not reckoned among us sinners” (Heb 7:26).

