

# Catechist Orientation

## Goals

- To welcome catechists in a hospitable environment
- To affirm the important role of the catechist
- To reflect on the catechists' experience of First Communion
- To inform the catechists about **Call to Celebrate: Eucharist**
  - the philosophy of the program
  - the content
  - the resources available

## Materials

- Beverages and light refreshments
- Nametags
- Copies of **Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Child's Book**
- Copies of **Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Catechist Edition**
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- A prayer table covered in a white cloth with a candle and a Bible on a stand, a clear glass bowl with water, and a branch or other instrument for sprinkling
- Matches or lighter

## Welcome and Opening Prayer (30 minutes)

**Welcome** the catechists and distribute nametags.

**Begin** the session with welcoming words and introduce yourself.

**Have** the catechists introduce themselves to one another.

**Review** the goals and agenda for the gathering.

**Gather** the group around the prayer setting.

**Begin** the prayer by singing or listening to "Open My Eyes," *Songs of Celebration*, track 10.

**Light** the candle and lead the catechists in the following reflection. Pause after each question.

- Recall your own First Communion day.
- Where was it? Who was there?
- Can you recall any significant things that happened that day?
- Do you remember any feelings you may have had during the ceremony?
- How were you prepared for the event?
- Was there anything that stood out for you as memorable about your preparation or celebration?

**Invite** catechists to share any significant memories they may have of their own First Communion.

**Read** *Luke 2:14–20*.

**Allow** silent reflection.

**Pose** and then discuss the question:

- How do you want the children you will be catechizing to hear the message of this Gospel?

**Close** with a blessing, Ask the catechists to stand, and extend your hands over them as you say:

*Lord God, in your loving kindness strengthen and direct these catechists. Let your Spirit uphold them as they prepare to share their time and talent with your children. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Program Overview (15 minutes)

### Components

**Distribute** copies of the *Catechist Guide*, *Child's Book*, *Songs of Celebration* CD, and *Family Guide* for **Call to Celebrate: Eucharist**.

**Explain** what each is for and have catechists page through them.

### Scope and Sequence

**Invite** catechists to turn to the Table of Contents on p. iii of the *Catechist Edition*. Go through it quickly, pointing out the articles in the front pages and the Catholic Source Book and Program Resources in the back pages.

**Note** the number of chapters (8) in the *Child's Book*.

**Turn** to the Scope and Sequence section on pp. vi–vii. Explain that scope and sequence gives the overview of the content for each chapter. Note each of the features in the left column, and go through one chapter column to familiarize catechists with the format. Go through the Ritual Focus row and point out that the flow of the chapters is based on the Order of the Mass. Review the Order, if necessary.

**Tell** catechists that each chapter is structured with a three-step process: Celebrate, Remember, and Live, and point out the family-oriented Faith at Home page.

## Lesson Overview (30 minutes)

### Child's Book

**Use** Chapter 4 of the *Child's Book* and show the process of a session:

#### Celebrate

- celebration and reflection

#### Remember

- proclamation and breaking open the Scripture reading
- teaching the doctrine
- learning about the ritual action of the sacrament

#### Live

- making connections to their lives and their families

**Point out** the Faith at Home boxes in the Remember section and the Signs of Faith feature in the Celebrate and Remember pages.

### Catechist Edition

**Use** Chapter 4 of the *Catechist Edition* as a guide.

**Familiarize** catechists with the background and resources in the left-hand column on p. 32A.

**Encourage** them to read and reflect on the essay in the main column as they are planning their lessons.

Note the reflection questions and Catechist Prayer.

**Review** the planner on p. 32B. Note the materials needed for each lesson, and have catechists turn to the pages noted to find the Activity Master CE9 and Echo Pantomime CE10. Go through the Echo Pantomime with catechists, and show the variety of Scripture Resources.

**Alert** the catechists that the side wrap on pp.32–41 gives a step-by-step lesson plan for the *Child's Book* pages, and the bottom boxes gives them additional background, activities, and tips. Instruct them to page through the lesson and ask any questions.

**Turn** to the Catholic Source Book, pp. 82–105. Have catechists page through it and notice the additional activities provided in the wrap.

**Break** for refreshments and conversation.

## Administrative Details (10 minutes)

**Elicit** any questions the catechists have about the components and resources.

**Allow** time for administrative details, such as calendars and class lists.

**Remind** them of the next session, which will be catechist training on liturgical catechesis. This which is the method they will be using throughout the program.

**Ask** them to read pp. iv–xv before the training session.

## Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

**Gather** the catechists in a circle around the prayer space.

**Sing** “Open My Eyes,” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 10

**Make** the Sign of the Cross and say:

*Let us call to mind the goodness of God who gives us all good things. I bless you with this water to remind you of the gift of your Baptism and your call to hand on the faith. (Sprinkle the group with water.) Let us join in the prayer that Jesus has taught us.*

**Pray** the Lord's Prayer together.

**Thank** catechists for their attendance.

# Eucharist

## Catechist Training

### Goals

- To introduce the method of liturgical catechesis
- To present the underlying meaning of the Sacrament of Eucharist.
- To show how to design a prayer space and lead prayer
- To explain sacraments as actions of a faith community

### Advance Preparation

**Familiarize** yourself with the ritual action in the opening prayer.

**Select** three persons to carry the holy water, candle, and Bible in procession.

**Rehearse** the suggested song, “Yes Lord, I Believe,” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

### Materials

- Table covered with a white cloth
- A Bible on a stand
- A large candle
- Candles for each participant
- Matches or a lighter
- A large, clear glass bowl with water
- Plants and flowers, if appropriate
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Poster board or chart paper
- *Eucharist Stories of Celebration* video
- Copies of the following articles from [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com):
  - “What Is Liturgical Catechesis?”
  - “How to Lead Prayer”
  - “Role of the Prayer Leader”
  - “What Is a Sacrament?”
  - “Eucharist”
  - “History of Eucharist”

## Opening Prayer Service and Reflection (20 minutes)

**Sing** together, “Yes Lord, I Believe,” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

As you sing, walk forward slowly. Follow the persons carrying the holy water, candle, and Bible.

**Lead** the opening prayer.

**Leader:** *Let us begin. God, our loving Father, we are gathered here in your presence. We belong to you. Send us your Holy Spirit to help us live as disciples of your Son, Jesus. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *On the day of our Baptism, we were claimed for Christ. By water and the Holy Spirit we received the gifts of faith and new life. On that day the faithful remembered their baptismal promises. Today let us once again remember those promises together. Please come forward and gather around the holy water and candle.*

*Do you say “no” to sin, so that you can live always as God’s children?*

**All:** *We do.*

**Leader:** *Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?*

**All:** *We do.*

**Leader:** *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord?*

**All:** *We do.*

**Leader:** *Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?*

**All:** *We do.*

**Leader:** *This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus.*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *Let us come to the water and thank God for the gift of our Baptism. Please come to the water and make the Sign of the Cross with the water.*

*When everyone has made the Sign of the Cross, light small candles from the large candle and distribute them to each catechist, saying:*

*[Name], You are the light of Christ.*

*Have catechists return to their seats and continue:*

**Leader:** *Loving God, we belong to you. We are your children. In Baptism we were united to your Son, Jesus. Open our hearts to the Holy Spirit as we remember our Baptism. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord;*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *The Lord be with you.*

**All:** *And with your spirit.*

**Leader:** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

**All:** *Glory to you, O Lord.*

*Read John 15:1–12.*

**Leader:** *The Gospel of the Lord.*

**All:** *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Leader:** *Consider these questions for reflection and discussion: What image or phrase is important for you in this reading? What do Jesus' words "Remain in me as I remain in you" mean for you today?*

*When the discussion is finished, continue the prayer.*

**Leader:** *Let us stand and pray as Jesus taught us.*

*Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

**Leader:** *Let us offer each other a Sign of Peace.*

## Reflection on Prayer (20 minutes)

If there are a large number of catechists, organize them into smaller groups of 5 to 6 participants.

**Invite** catechists to recall the ritual moments of the celebration. Do a guided meditation using prompts from the celebration. Pause after each prompt.

**Pause** for a few minutes of silence. Then invite the groups to share their feelings about the celebration in their small group. Encourage them to stay with their feelings. After 5 to 7 minutes, invite sharing with the large group.

## Naming (20 minutes)

**Ask** the participants to name what they learned about God, Jesus, the Church, or their own Christian life from the celebration.

**Take** each category separately and list their responses on the board or on chart paper. Use phrases from their lists to summarize what they have said about faith, sacrifice, and service. Comment on how much "content" they came up with.

**Distribute** the article, "What Is Liturgical Catechesis?" Summarize the main parts of the article, and explain that this is the model of catechesis upon which **Call to Celebrate** is based. Encourage catechists to read the article at a later time.

*Rotation and Break (5 minutes)*

## Setting up a Prayer Space and Leading Prayer (30 minutes)

**Gather** catechists around the prayer space and pass out "How to Lead Prayer." Describe how you set up the space. Give catechists ideas on setting up a prayer space in their meeting place. Note where and how they can obtain materials for the space, and emphasize the importance of a prayer environment.

**Distribute** the article, "Role of the Prayer Leader," and summarize it with the catechists. Practice leading the procession and prayer gestures with them.

*Rotation and Break (5 minutes)*

## A Theology of Sacrament and Eucharist (30 minutes)

**Play** Part 3 of the *Eucharist Stories of Celebration* video. After catechists have viewed the video, use the questions in the guide for discussion.

**Summarize** these important points:

- Sacraments are *actions* of God and a faith community.
- In the Eucharist, we *share in a meal* during which we are fed with the Body and Blood of Jesus.
- The Eucharist is the community's great prayer of thanksgiving.

**Distribute** the articles, "What is a Sacrament?," "Eucharist," and "History of Eucharist." Encourage catechists to read the articles later.

## Closing Blessing (5 minutes)

**Thank** the catechists for attending the session.

**Extend** your hands over the catechists and pray in these or similar words:

*God, the Father of mercies, has sent his Son into the world. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, may you continue to be transformed into the Body of Christ and witness his love in the world. Amen.*