

Prayer Service in Thanksgiving for Catechists



"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . . to bring good news to the poor." Luke 4:18

BACKGROUND FOR DREs AND PARISH CATECHETICAL LEADERS

Before gathering parish catechists together, prepare a prayer table with a green cloth, a Bible opened to Luke 4:18-19, and a candle. Print copies of the reflection sheet for catechists (found on the next page), or provide half sheets of paper and write or project the reflection questions so catechists can see them. Provide writing utensils.

Gather the catechists together. Thank them for their ministry in your parish. Perhaps name the ways that they have brought the Good News of Jesus to their ministries and classes in your parish or how they have participated in the Church's ministry to those who are poor, sick, and forgotten in our world today. Explain that today's prayer is one of thanksgiving for their ministry as catechists and an opportunity for them to reflect on how they are sharing in Jesus' teaching ministry. Pass out reflection sheets (or blank half sheets of paper) and writing utensils.

OPENING PRAYER

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the Scripture passage that is the basis for this year's Catechetical Sunday theme.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE:

Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (Luke 4:17b-19)

OFFER THE FOLLOWING PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, you have given us a model to follow. As your disciples, help us to share in your ministry of bringing Good News to all those in need and building up your kingdom. Make our hearts like yours as we teach and serve. Amen.

REFLECTION:

- Invite the catechists to take a few minutes to respond to the reflection questions.
- Ask catechists to share responses with those around them. Then share with the whole group.
- Closing prayer:

Lord, as we proclaim your Word to our parish, teach us to be loving, generous, and merciful. May the work we do bear fruit in building up your kingdom and in eternal life. Amen.

Prayer Service in Thanksgiving for Catechists



"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . . to bring good news to the poor." Luke 4:18

Catechists, thank you for the love you bring to your ministry and for your participation in the mission of the Church.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (Luke 4:17b-19)

QUESTIONS FOR PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

1. What word or phrase stands out to you the most?

2. Jesus says that he has been anointed to bring "glad tidings" to the poor. Who is one person who has brought you the Good News, the "glad tidings" of Jesus? Why was his or her witness significant for you?

3. How did you first become a catechist? How has your approach to handing on faith and bringing Jesus' glad tidings to others grown and matured over time?

4. "He has sent me to proclaim. . . ." How have you impacted the faith of others as you have proclaimed the Gospel and participated in the Church's ministry of catechesis?
