

Grade 4 - Chapter 20

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Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Recognize that the mission of the Church is to proclaim the Gospel and work for the good of all people
- Understand evangelization as sharing the Good News of Jesus through words and actions in a way that invites people to accept the Gospel
- Appreciate that the Church is made up of people of many cultures and they are all united by their belief in Christ

Make Disciples of All Nations

Ask: How does the Church reach out to the world?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Read aloud the first paragraph to introduce the Scripture story.

Scripture

Proclaim the "The Commissioning of the Disciples."

Read aloud the last paragraph.

- Ask: What do Catholics and other Christians in communities around the world have in common?

They are followers of Jesus.

- Discuss the question at the bottom of the page.

Work with Words

Invite volunteers to read aloud the Catholic Faith Words and their definitions. Then have the children make vocabulary cards for all three terms.

Jesus' Universal Mission

Have the children read silently.

- Ask the children to tell you what Jesus' mission was.

Unity in the Church

Read aloud the text.

- Ask: In what ways is the Catholic Church diverse worldwide? **Possible responses: countries, languages, cultures**
- Point out that amidst the diversity, Catholics are united through the same faith.
- Discuss what unites the Church.
- Ask: What cultural practices does your parish or family have?
- Music Option: Have the children sing, "Family of God," downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity.

- If possible, show the children some headlines from a newspaper.
- Have the children work independently to write their headlines.
- Provide time for the children to talk with a partner about bringing justice into the world like Jesus did.

Quick Review

The Catholic Church celebrates diversity and carries out her mission of sharing God's message.

Discover (2)

Objective

- Explore the work of missionaries as those who spread the Gospel message and Jesus' care for all people to countries all around the world

The Church in Bolivia

Ask: How does the Church include different cultures?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.
- Show the children the location of Bolivia on a world map.
- Read aloud the introductory paragraphs.

A Floating Church

Slowly read aloud the text, pausing to answer any questions.

- Have the children tell how the priest in Bolivia is like Saint Paul. ***The priest travels to spread the Word of God.***

Point out the pictures on the page.

- Ask the children to tell what they see in each picture.
- Ask: How are the missionaries preaching the Gospel of Jesus in word and deed?

The People and the Mission

Have the children continue listening as you read aloud.

- Ask: What about the missionaries' experience in Bolivia is different from the experience in your parish?

The People and the Mission, *continued*

Distribute drawing materials. Suggest that the children draw life in Bolivia and something in your parish that is similar.

Bolivia

Continue reading aloud the text.

- Explain that a cooperative helps people share what they produce and keeps money in their community. People in power may be afraid that with the help of a cooperative, people will become educated and seek civil rights.
- Stress that missionaries build strong communities where people can have what they need to live.
- Music Option: Have the children sing, "Take the Word of God with You," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity.

- Ask the children what they know about their parish's connection to mission work. Provide any information you may have.
- Have the children work independently to write their prayers. Encourage them to pray them silently.

Quick Review

The Church welcomes all cultures. Missionaries help others by sharing the Word of God and by providing social services.

Catechist Tips: Maryknoll

Maryknoll, one of the most active Catholic missionary orders, was established in 1911.

- Today there are over 550 Maryknoll priests and brothers and approximately 700 Maryknoll sisters, as well as lay missionaries.

Catechist Tips: A Worldwide Mission

Most dioceses have a world missions office.

- Check with the world missions office in your diocese for resources appropriate for children.
- Ask whether speakers are available.

Catechist Tips: Respect Differences

Fourth graders are aware of differences between individuals and groups of people.

- Deliberately pair diverse children to encourage interaction and collaborative problem solving.
- As opportunities arise, praise the children who show openness toward others and groups that show cooperation in performing their tasks.

Catechist Tips: The Commissioning

The commissioning of the disciples in *Matthew 28:18-20* comes after Jesus' Death and Resurrection; the text emphasizes baptizing new followers.

- Similar passages occur in *Mark 16:14-18* and *John 20:19-22*.
- These passages indicate that the Church, through its leaders and members, continues Jesus' work.

Catechist Tips: Prayer and the News

Many justice issues are highlighted by reports on TV and in the papers.

- Remind the children that when they hear about famines, violence, or natural disasters, they can pray for those affected.
- Encourage the children to pray about these concerns again in night prayers or in bidding prayers.

Catechist Tips: Local Missions

Some missionaries may be working in your locality.

- Point out to the children that many people who work in clinics, shelters, and soup kitchens are missionaries.
- Ask the children to send cards expressing solidarity with missionaries in your area.
- Remember to pray for all missionaries during class prayer times and liturgies.

Catechist Tips: Different Cultures

Are there different cultures in your parish or community?

- Emphasize to the children the call to inclusiveness.
- Discuss concrete ways to reduce competition and fear.

Catechist Tips: We Go Forth

Proclaim "The Commissioning of the Disciples" on page 268. Ask one of the children to read the text under the Scripture. Point out the last line that says both individual believers and communities continue the mission of Jesus. Have prepared a list of ways your parish as a community continues the mission of caring for others. Talk about each example, inviting the children's input on each. Divide into groups, assigning one parish mission activity to each. Let them illustrate the activity assigned and offer to have them displayed in the parish church.

Glossary Activity: Missionaries

Many Saints, including Saint Paul and Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, were missionaries.

- Have the children read biographies of missionaries.
- Ask the children to report on the lives of these Saints and why they were such successful missionaries.

Additional Activity: Celebrate Diversity

Celebrate diversity with the children.

- Point out that the ancestors of most Americans came from other countries.
- Invite each child to show his or her family's original home country on a map.

Additional Activity: Diversity

The children may be surprised by the diversity within your parish or school.

- Many urban parishes and schools were founded to serve one ethnic group.
- Invite someone who is knowledgeable about your parish or school history to speak to your class.

Additional Activity: Serve the World

Supplies:

- copies of script for "actors" ([download here](#))
- costumes or props for actors
 - knight costume pieces: armor, helmet, breastplate, gauntlets, sword, shield, boots, belt
 - squire costume pieces: tunics, rope belts, swords, shields, cloth hats, etc.
 - poor, tattered clothes for beggar
 - bag with several coins for Joseph
 - bag with bread and cheese and coins for Sir Lawrence
 - plain-colored dress or tunic for old woman
- or, in place of costumes, make large signs for children to wear: Narrator, Sir Lawrence, Squire(s), Sir Joseph, Ellen, George, Sarah, Baggar, Woman

In advance of the meeting, be sure your stage area has room for plenty of movement.

Select children to play the roles in the script. If you do not have enough volunteers to play all of the parts in the script, combine the squires' roles into three parts.

Hand out scripts; allow some time for the actors to review their parts and put on their costumes or signs, and then have them perform for the rest of the children.

Parish Video Connection: Faith in Action

Once you've completed the Catechist Edition instruction on page 269, show this video to the children. Talk with the children about ways that they already have, or could in the future, put their faith into action.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/4a1zmVLK8oU>

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