

# CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

“MISSIONARY DISCIPLES IN THE  
VINEYARD OF THE LORD”

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**CATECHISTS ARE CALLED TO  
LIVE IN SOLIDARITY WITH  
THE POOR AND  
MARGINALIZED**



# PRAYER FOR CATECHETICAL SUNDAY



Good and gracious God,

You call us to work in your vineyard  
so that others may know of your love and care for them.

Strengthen us as we set out as missionary disciples  
so that we may be faithful messengers of your good news.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

Amen.



# CATECHISTS ARE CALLED TO LIVE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED



- “...An evangelized popular culture contains values of faith and solidarity capable of encouraging the development of a more just and believing society, and possesses a particular wisdom which ought to be gratefully acknowledged.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 68)
- “...God’s presence accompanies the sincere efforts of individuals and groups to find encouragement and meaning in their lives. He dwells among them, fostering solidarity, fraternity, and the desire for goodness, truth and justice. This presence must not be contrived but found, uncovered. God does not hide himself from those who seek him with a sincere heart, even though they do so tentatively, in a vague and haphazard manner.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 71)
- “...If we, who are God’s means of hearing the poor, turn deaf ears to this plea, we oppose the Father’s will and his plan; that poor person ‘might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt’ (*Dt* 15:9). A lack of solidarity towards his or her needs will directly affect our relationship with God: ‘For if in bitterness of soul he calls down a curse upon you, his Creator will hear his prayer’ (*Sir* 4:6). The old question always returns: ‘How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods, and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?’ (*1 Jn* 3:17). Let us recall also how bluntly the apostle James speaks of the cry of the oppressed: ‘The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.’ (5:4).” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 187)

# CATECHISTS ARE CALLED TO LIVE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED

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- “The Church has realized that the need to heed this plea is itself born of the liberating action of grace within each of us, and thus it is not a question of a mission reserved only to a few: ‘The Church, guided by the Gospel of mercy and by love for mankind, hears the cry for justice and intends to respond to it with all her might’. In this context we can understand Jesus’ command to his disciples: ‘You yourselves give them something to eat!’ (*Mk 6:37*): it means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor, as well as small daily acts of solidarity in meeting the real needs which we encounter. The word ‘solidarity’ is a little worn and at times poorly understood, but it refers to something more than a few sporadic acts of generosity. It presumes the creation of a new mindset which thinks in terms of community and the priority of the life of all over the appropriation of goods by a few.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 188)
- “It is the responsibility of the State to safeguard and promote the common good of society. Based on the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity, and fully committed to political dialogue and consensus building, it plays a fundamental role, one which cannot be delegated, in working for the integral development of all. This role, at present, calls for profound social humility.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 240)

## FOR YOUR REFLECTION...

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- Q. How do you set about creating a new mindset “which thinks in terms of community and the priority of life of all”?
- Q. What are some common perceptions of the poor that blind you from seeing the presence of Christ within them?
- Q. How has the Church responded to the structural causes of poverty? How has the Church responded to the daily needs of the poor?
- Q. What is your personal role in the liberating mission of the Church to extend love, justice and mercy to all?

**“ALL OF US NEED TO GROW IN CHRIST.”**

# READINGS OF THE DAY

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## FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 18.25-28

A reading from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord:

“You object, O House of Israel!

You say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’

Hear now, O house of Israel:

Is my way unfair?

Is it not your ways that are unfair?

When the righteous person turns away from their righteousness  
and commits iniquity,

they shall die for it;

For the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

Again, when the wicked person turns away  
from the wickedness they have committed  
and does what is lawful and right,  
they shall save their life.

Because that person considered and turned away  
from all the transgressions that they have committed,  
they shall surely live;  
they shall not die.”

The word of the Lord.

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**FOR YOUR REFLECTION**

Q. How might iniquities act as a hindrance to the process of evangelization?

Q. In your role as a catechist, how might you positively address these concerns?

Q. As a catechist, what is the implication of your own ongoing conversion?

How is this evident in your life?

**“THE TRANSLATION OF ‘CATECHIST’ IN SOME LANGUAGES IS ‘TO GRAB A HAND AND WALK ALONG WITH.’... CATECHISTS HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING COMPANIONS... GOD IS WITHIN THOSE WHO SERVE; GOD IS ALREADY PRESENT IN THEIR LIVES.”**



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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
**PSALM 25.4-5A, 6+7B, 8-9 (R.6)**

R. Lord, be mindful of your mercy.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation. R.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
According to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! R.

Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way. R.



**FOR YOUR REFLECTION**

Q. Can you name an experience you have had when you have felt led by God?

Q. As a catechist, what are some of the ways that you discern God's ways in your own life?

Q. How might the discernment of God's ways also be a communal process? Could you provide an example?

**“AT THE VERY HEART OF THE GOSPEL IS LIFE IN COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHERS.”**

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## SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2.1-11

THE SHORTER VERSION (1-5) ENDS AT THE ASTERISK.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters:  
If there is any encouragement in Christ,  
any consolation from love,  
and sharing in the Spirit,  
any compassion and sympathy,  
then make my joy complete:  
be of the same mind,  
having the same love,  
being in full accord and of one mind.  
Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,  
but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.  
Let each of you look not to your own interests,  
but to the interests of others.  
Let the same mind be in you  
that was in Christ Jesus,\*  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be  
exploited,

but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

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**FOR YOUR REFLECTION**

- Q. What are some of the categories that are commonly used to divide members of a faith community?
- Q. What might be some of the ways to break down barriers within a faith community?
- Q. What role does service to others play within the process of evangelization?

**“INDEED, ANYONE WHO HAS TRULY EXPERIENCED GOD’S SAVING LOVE DOES NOT NEED MUCH TIME OR LENGTHY TRAINING TO GO OUT AND PROCLAIM THAT LOVE.”**

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## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21.28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

“What do you think?

A man had two sons;

he went to the first and said,

‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’

He answered, ‘I will not’;

but later he changed his mind and went.

The father went to the second and said the same;

and he answered, ‘I am going, sir’;

but he did not go.

Which of the two did the will of his father?”

They said, “The first.”

Jesus said to them,

“Truly I tell you,

the tax collectors and the prostitutes

are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

For John came to you in the way of righteousness

and you did not believe him,

but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him;

and even after you saw it,

you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**FOR YOUR REFLECTION**

- Q. What are some of the reasons you are reluctant to go out into the “vineyard”?
- Q. How can you help others to become more aware that their actions are often unknowingly in harmony with the message of the Gospel?

**“MODERN MAN LISTENS MORE WILLINGLY TO WITNESSES THAN TO TEACHERS,  
AND IF HE DOES LISTEN TO TEACHERS, IT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE WITNESSES.”**

# CLOSING

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## FOR YOUR REFLECTION

As a catechist, I am called to be a missionary disciple: to facilitate encounters with Christ, accompany others, and live in solidarity with the poor and marginalized. What is one concrete thing I can do to deepen my understanding of what it means to be a missionary disciple in my day-to-day life?

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