

ONEWITH

OneWith community, OneWith faith, OneWith Christ.

January 10, 2021

Virtual Reflection Outline Grade 10-11 ~ Session #7



Session Goals

Catholicism Unpacked

“Eucharist” is a word we hear at Church all the time but what does it mean? And perhaps more importantly, what does it mean to YOU! [see full notes on pg. 3]

Learning Outcomes:

- *Eucharist comes from a Greek word that means “thanksgiving/gratitude for God’s grace”.*
- *Eucharist describes **the celebration** of the “breaking of the bread” by Jesus’ disciples.*
- *Eucharist describes **the Presence of Christ** in the (appearance of) bread and wine.*
- *Eucharist describes **the bond, the common-union** between humanity and God (and each other).*
- *As a class, continue to develop a “working definition” of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.*

Scripture Unpacked:

- Articulate the meaning of a Scripture passage from the Sunday readings (or homily).
- Reflect on *and articulate* at least 1 way these lessons could apply to contemporary life.
- Commit to one practice of Christian discipleship that corresponds to their own learning before the next session.

Ice Breaker Activity / Questions (about 5 minutes)

Its been a while so you might want to start off with some social/catch up questions and/or an ice breaker to get the conversation flowing...

Pro Tip: *Some established groups have a standard faith question that they use as an opener. In addition to creating a known question/topic that the youth can reliably anticipate being discussed, you also build in the expectation that everyone will be expected to share.*

- *What was your “God-Moment” since the last time we met.*
- *1-5... On a scale of one (“Where the heck are you?”) to five (“We’re like this!” - side-by-side fingers)... Where are you and God right now?*
- *Who did you bless this week? / Who blessed you?*
- *How did you do on your “Discipleship Commitment” from our last session? (more on that below)*

Scripture Unpacked (10-12 minutes)

As Catholics, we believe that the Bible is the living Word of God. That alone should give us reason to pay attention, but there’s more! Scripture is offers us lessons and wisdom that can be beneficial to OUR lives – right now! At today’s Mass we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, but it is also a reminder and celebration of our own Baptism.

Today’s gospel is a reminder that we are baptized with the Holy Spirit, not merely with water. To be baptized with the Holy Spirit means that we are drawn into communion with God and we are also empowered by that communion to make a difference in the world—to reach out a helping hand to those in need and to proclaim the good news of Jesus through our actions and our words.

Digging Deeper - Scripture Questions

Choose and discuss one or more of the following questions:

- *What purpose is served by John preaching about someone “more powerful” than himself?*
- *Why does Jesus need to be baptized by John?*
- *What do you think motivates parents today to have their children baptized?*
- *What is the difference between a baptism of water & being baptized with the Holy Spirit?*

Homily: What was the main point of the Priest/Deacon’s homily? How does that message tie back to the bible readings and/or your life?

Scripture Application Questions

Disciples Do! The “Discipleship Challenge” asks our youth to take the practical lesson/wisdom that they have discerned from the Scripture readings (aka – the Bible) and/or the homily – and apply that in the context of their own lived experience.

Note: We are looking for something specific/concrete for them to commit to. “Being a better person” would be too generic... We also want to stay away from “praying” or “praying for someone” - We certainly want them to pray, but prayer is a separate practice of discipleship. If a youth is having problems coming up with something, start with their learned lesson/wisdom and work from there. The point here is to put faith into action by working up a tangible way for them to become agents of mercy, justice and love in their families, among their friends and in our world.

“Discipleship Challenge”

- *What is one “practical lesson” or bit of wisdom that YOU can take away from the Bible readings and/or homily?*
- *What is one thing that you can do in the next two weeks to “be a sheep” for someone who is in need?*

Catholicism Unpacked (10-12 minutes)

Eucharist Review:

“Eucharist” is a word you hear Catholics use it all the time but what does it mean?

The common translation of the Greek word eukharistia is "thanksgiving, gratitude".

But in the original Greek this word has many layers of meaning also holds an underlying understanding of “favor and/or grace”.

Jewish authors picked up on this nuance in their writings. For them, Eucharist (eucharistēsas) is used specifically in the context of giving thanks to God. In the original Greek version of the Gospels, Jesus is recorded using this word while celebrating the Last Supper.

*“Take this, and divide it among yourselves ... And he took bread, and when he had given thanks [εὐχαριστήσας – eucharistēsas] he broke it and gave it to them”
(Luke 22:18-19).*

Eucharist is also used to describe the “breaking of the bread” by Jesus’ followers (in the early Church). However, because of the way the Jewish writers understood the word Eucharist, we know that they are not describing an ordinary meal, but a specific/Thankful-for-God’s-Grace celebration. There is even an ancient (non-biblical) document called the Didache that dates to the time of the apostles which uses this word in this context:

“Say over the cup: ‘we give you thanks, Father, for the holy vine of David, your servant, which you made known to us through Jesus your servant. To you be glory for ever.’”

Over the broken bread say: “We give you thanks, Father, for the life and the knowledge which you have revealed to us through Jesus your servant. To you be glory for ever” ...

Besides referring to the entire celebration of the Eucharist, the word is also used even more specifically (as a noun) describing the bread and wine after it has been transformed into the body and blood of Jesus.

Communion (Common union – OneWith)

The Latin translation, is also very familiar to us - communion. It carries the same multi-layered meanings as the Greek. The word communion is used to describe...

- *An experience: as in the sharing or exchange of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially on a mental or spiritual level.*
- *An event: Christian worship where the bread and wine are consecrated and shared.*
- *(aka the Eucharist, Holy Communion, Mass, the Lord's Supper, "the breaking of the bread, etc.).*
- *A relationship: the relationship/bond between humanity and God (and each other)... OneWith!*

Whether it is called Eucharist or communion, what is being described is much more than it may appear. This is a meal, a bond, a share in God's grace (and life) in the most personal way imaginable!

Review...

- *Eucharist comes from a Greek word meaning... "thanksgiving/gratitude for God's grace".*
- *Eucharist describes **a historical event**... "breaking of the bread" by Jesus/disciples.*
- *Eucharist describes **the True Presence of Christ** – under the appearance of bread and wine.*
- *Eucharist describes **the bond**, between... humanity and God (and us to each other).*

Points to ponder...

- Which meaning of “Eucharist” do you identify with the most? Explain.
- Which meaning is the most challenging for you? Explain.
- The **Catechism of the Catholic Church** (The official “teaching document” of basic Catholic doctrine) says that “the Eucharist is *the source and summit* of the Christian life.”ccc # I personally find this to be an extraordinarily bold claim! Please explain why you agree or disagree.
- What questions do you have about the Sacrament of the Eucharist? (*Barry or Fr. Mike would like the opportunity to help “unpack” this complex theological mystery of our faith.*)

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Session References /Resources

Scripture:

Sunday Readings:

Reading #1: Isaiah 42:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: 29:1-10

Reading #2: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

A full copy of the readings for the week can be found on the U.S. Bishop's website:

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/011021.cfm>

Eucharist:

CCC #1324 - The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life."¹³⁶ "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself.

Articles to get you thinking about ways to explain Eucharist...

[See You in the Eucharist... No, Really.](#) (*"Teen friendly" Blog post from LifeTeen*)

[The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist](#) (USCCB official Q&A - "Churchy" language)

[16 Questions about the Eucharist](#) (Also "Churchy" but concise - Q&A from OSV)

Eucharist Videos...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwjLtBRekjo> (Mark Hart)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deQvB3Gi02w&t=38s> (Christopher Stefanick)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcB7Uemoon4> (White Board - a bit "Old School" but thorough).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoADf5rbmbY> (a little dated - "New Translation", but good info)

Eucharist links for total nerds:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgy_TFeIyiM (While Bishop Barron might be a little "dry" for most teens - for Theology Nerds he is awesome! Good background material).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3afP72VB22M> (Steve Ray)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67WmIGLPvEM> (Scott Hann)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwwiIkrLxTM> (Fr. Mike Schmitz)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSPbw7MbjxQ> (Explanation of what several different denominations believe about Eucharist/Communion).

Gospel Reflection - *By Greg Sunter*

Scriptural context – Mark and Isaiah

Today's first reading from Isaiah 42 begins with the very words that come from heaven during the baptism of Jesus in the gospel. It comes from the first of four passages from the book of Isaiah that are known as the Servant Songs. The Servant Songs in Isaiah provided a great deal of inspiration to Mark. The imagery and even specific language used in Isaiah to describe the messiah who will come is scattered throughout the gospel of Mark and subsequently the other gospels as well. Mark's depiction of Jesus as the messiah is characterized by the image of the suffering servant.

Messianic Secret

The baptism of Jesus in the gospel of Mark serves as a revelation of the identity of Jesus. Throughout this gospel there is secrecy about who Jesus really is. Whenever a person's faith reveals that Jesus is the Messiah or the Son of God, Jesus commands them to remain silent and not tell anyone else about him. However, through the baptism event, the reader is let in to the secret from the outset. Unlike the public announcements of Jesus as the beloved Son of God that occurs in other gospels, in the gospel of Mark, the voice is addressed to Jesus himself and there is no indication that anyone else hears it. The words used are, "You are my Son" not, "This is my Son." But the reader is placed in the privileged position of knowing the truth about Jesus from the very beginning of the gospel. As they read further, they observe the disciples' growing yet imperfect understanding of this truth.

John the Baptist serves another particular function in the gospel story. Aside from fulfilling scriptural prophecy by proclaiming the one who is to come, he provides a point of contrast with Jesus. In many ways, John represents the Jewish religious belief of the time. For John, baptism is a ritual of purifying and forgiveness of sin that can be administered as often as required. The way to God is through strict observance of the Law and through ritual acts of prayer and purification. For Jesus though, the way to God is through love and through Jesus himself. The baptism that Jesus will give is a baptism of the Spirit—pouring out the Spirit on those who realize and accept the love of God in their lives.

Questions for Adolescents

- Q. What purpose is served by John preaching about someone "more powerful" than himself?
- Q. How do you think John's followers might have responded to Jesus' arrival?
- Q. What is the difference between a baptism of water and being baptized with the Holy Spirit?
- Q. Why does Mark include the reader in the secret of Jesus' truth from the beginning of the gospel?

Questions for Adults

- Q. Why does Jesus need to be baptized by John?
- Q. Why might the gospel of Mark begin with John the Baptist rather than the birth of Jesus?
- Q. What do you think motivates parents today to have their children baptized?
- Q. Why are we invited to renew our baptismal promises every Easter?

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