The Sacraments of the Catholic Church:

Seven Sacred Encounters with Jesus Christ

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Why do you think rituals are important to human beings?*
2. *Share a ritual that has importance significance to you.*

Chapter 1

NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Fr. Banecker noted that we who catechize are frontline evangelists. In what ways do you evangelize others in your ministry?*
2. *Fr. Banecker also noted that we meet Christ in the Sacraments. How did the dying man and his family encounter Christ in the story Father shared?*

Chapter 2

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Sacraments are real encounters with the true presence of God in and through the Person of Jesus. Is this your experience of sacraments? Why or why not?*
2. *In your ministry, how can you help create the conditions for someone to encounter Jesus and the love of God in a sacrament?*

Chapter 3

NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Thinking of Fr. Banecker's explanation of a sacrament, how would you describe a sacrament in an age-appropriate way that helps someone feel excited to receive it and encounter Christ?*
2. *Every sacrament includes the Word of God because God speaks to us and becomes present through His Living Word. Listening to Scripture prepares our hearts and minds to receive the sacrament. Share a time when you knew God was speaking to you through His Word.*

Chapter 4

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you help your students grow into a life of discipleship that flows from their Baptism and strengthens their daily relationship with Christ?
2. If preparing for a sacrament is ultimately about being led into an encounter with Christ and into the life of the Church, how do you allow prayer and ritual – not just class time – shape the hearts of your students for that encounter?

Chapter 5

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DISCUSSION QUESTION:

How can you help students to see the beauty of the Catholic faith and lead them to a personal encounter with Christ Jesus in your role as a catechist?

Chapter 6

NOTES:

SESSION 1 ASSIGNMENT

- **Prayer:**
  - Take additional time to contemplate and pray more fully on the reflection questions from the Meditation portion found on the Lectio Divina handout.
  - Complete the Living the Word (Actio) activity during the week.
- **Action:**
  - Write a brief paragraph or two on what touched your heart the most from this week's presentation and why it affected you as it did?
- **Prepare:**
  - Bring the handout and Lectio Divina for Session 2 to class. Use the QR code to access the material or go to: https://phillyocf.org/scf-course-materials/
  - Come prepare to share your response to the Action assignment above and the following discussion question:
    - *As a teacher of the Catholic faith, how do you model the hands, the feet, the eyes, the body of Christ to your students? Give a concrete example.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours. Amen.

Participant Requirements and Protocols

(Read at the beginning of the first session.)

The following protocol promotes a Christian atmosphere of mutual respect that is conducive to instruction. The Office for Catechetical Formation and the facilitators seek to provide a pleasant learning experience for students and facilitators.

- Attendance is mandatory for all sessions.
- All sessions are 2 hours and 50 minutes long.
- Absences are reported to the Office for Catechetical Formation.
- In the rare situation where an absence is due to extreme emergency or circumstance, contact the Office for Catechetical Formation.
  - Email: phillyocf@archphila.org
  - Phone: 215-587-3720
- Participants seeking religion certification credit are expected to adhere to the following requirements:
  - Be on time for class and remain in class until dismissed – ***Failure to comply may be recorded as an absence.***
  - ***Be prepared for class by doing pre-session assignments and having a copy of the participant handout for each session.***
  - Participate fully during the reflection and discussion segments.
  - Texting, emailing, or being occupied with outside projects during class time, such as marking papers or online shopping is prohibited.
- **For Virtual Courses:**
  - Log on 5 minutes prior to start time.
  - Turn off microphone unless speaking or called upon.
  - Your camera must always remain on and display proper name.
- **Course Credit:** Participants who fulfill the course requirements will have an updated course record sent electronically to them. You are responsible for giving a copy of the updated record to your principal or DRE.