

FAMILY NIGHT

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Fifth Sunday in Easter, May 2, 2010



Sunday Readings:

Acts 14:21b-27
Paul and Barnabas establish churches.

Revelation 21:1-5a
There will be a new heaven and a new earth.

John 13:31-33a,34-35
Jesus tells us to love others as He loves.

A New Commandment

WHAT'S THE POINT?

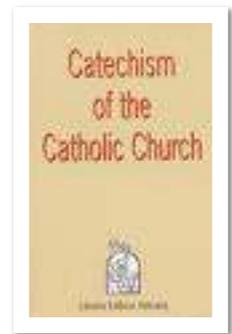
If we sum up all the teaching of Jesus, it would be the gospel reading for today which is to love as Christ has loved us. It is our proof of loving God when we love others. It can seem a difficult task to be as sacrificial as Christ is, however, we have the Holy Spirit to help us. With a willingness to put others first, we can love others. The Early Church was founded on Christ's love and also the love of the disciples for the Church. The Apostles sacrificed much and showed us godly examples of true followers of Christ.

Opening Prayer: Our Father or Act of Charity

Family Activity

1. "New Commandment Game" Take a plastic bucket and tape a red heart on it symbolizing the new commandment of Jesus to love. Take 10 clothes pins or similar objects representing the 10 commandments. Stand on a chair and drop them into the bucket. All the commandments are included in the new commandment of Jesus.
2. Make an acrostic out of the word "charity." For each letter, think of a word or phrase that has to do with how God loves us or how we can love others.

Catechism Connection



No. 1823 “Jesus makes charity the new commandment.”



How will all men know that you are Christ’s disciples?



Saintly Examples

St. Matthias

Shortly after Christ’s Ascension, the Apostles chose another man to fill the position of Apostle that Judas Iscariot had once held. Two men who had witnessed Christ during his three-year ministry were chosen as candidates. After much prayer, St. Matthias was chosen by drawing lots. He was then one of the Twelve Apostles who waited in the Upper Room for the coming of the Holy Spirit. He was committed to caring for the Early Church and also spreading the gospel. It is believed that St. Matthias traveled to Cappadocia and areas around the Caspian Sea to plant churches. He was martyred in Colchis near Ethiopia.

Let's Talk About It

Discussion Questions

1. How is the new commandment of Jesus different from the Ten Commandments? How is it similar?
2. What is the most important thing Jesus taught us?
3. Is it possible to love Jesus and not love His Church? Remember--the Church is made of people.
4. Name someone you know who is a good example of love. Tell why.
- 5.

Family Commitment

(Fill in your commitment here)



Snack

Arrange crackers and cheese (or similar snack) into a heart shape on a platter, reminding us to love.

Closing Prayer

Closing prayer: Dear Lord, May Your Name be blessed for the establishment of Your Holy Church founded on the blood of the martyrs. May the fervor and zeal of the Apostles fill our hearts with love to serve your Church as they did. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



Quiz Answer

Love for one another. (John 13:35)