FAMILY CATECHETICAL GATHERING #5
GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE: THE RITES OF DISMISSAL

Before Family Gathering:

- ask families to bring child’s baptismal candle to the last meeting. In case people forget, bring leftover tapers from the Easter Vigil.
- we usually order cupcakes.

- Gather student helpers.
- Gather supplies.

- choose children for the entrance procession and for the reading.

Supplies:

- cross & stand
- lectionary
- paschal candle
- Hearts Banner
- LCD projector
- music
- laptop
- portable microphone
- handout
- pens & pencils
- attendance list
- box of tapers
- Certificates
- little people
- scripture pieces
- letters
- poster board and stand
- markers
- lighter/matches
- evaluation forms
- box for evaluations
- little people
- scripture pieces
- letters
- poster board and stand
- markers
- lighter/matches
- evaluation forms
- box for evaluations
- cupcakes or other celebratory food
- coffee
- tea
- juice
- sugar
- cream
- coffee cups
- dixie cups
- serviettes

1. Introduction & Housekeeping

Have people pick up tapers as they arrive if they have forgotten their baptismal candle.

I have children sign attendance sheet and then have student help so that we can have your certificate ready to hand out.

2. Review

- How did you feel about your first Communion.
- what do you especially remember?
- what where the highlights?

- Point out to the children, that this is not the end of something.
Rather, Eucharist is a sacrament of initiation. This is the beginning of a richer, deeper belonging to and responsibility in the church.

Recall with the children the four parts of every celebration: Gathering; Listening; Celebrating/Giving Thanks; Going Forth.

In this final meeting we will learn what it means to be sent forth from the table of the Lord.

3. "Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord"

Opening Song & Procession: Taking Our Place (from the Year 2 - Born of the Spirit Programme)

Opening Prayer

Presider: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your Spirit.

Presider: Let us pray,

Today we gather to rejoice and give thanks that we have been invited to your feast. We have received your holy body and blood in Eucharist and now you call us to be your body in the world. Help us to see your face in all those we meet in your world, especially those most in need of your love.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen
Gospel Acclamation: Halle, Halle, Halle or Celtic Alleluia

Scripture Reading - Matthew 28:16-20

Presider: Let us open our hearts to hear God’s word.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew,

Jesus: Come, you blessed of my Father, come and enter into the kingdom I have prepared for you, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you came to see me.

Narrator: The people who hear these words will say:

Reader 1: Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?
Reader 2: When did we see you thirsty and give you a drink?
Reader 3: When did we see you a stranger and welcome you?
Reader 4: When did we see you naked and give you clothes?
Reader 5: When did we see you sick and take care of you?
Reader 6: When did we see you in prison and come to see you?

Jesus: I tell you, as long as you did these things to one of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.

All: Thanks be to God!

**Breaking Open of the Word**

- ask the children what they think Jesus is trying to tell his disciples in the gospel reading.
- tell them that whenever we meet someone in need, we have an opportunity to meet Jesus.
- we meet Jesus in the holy bread and wine
- then we go out changed, transformed with the eyes and hands and hearts of Jesus. We become the Body of Christ in the world.

This is what St. Augustine means when he says: “Say Amen to what you are! You are the Body of Christ!” (Page 70)

- with these new “eyes” we are able to see the presence of Jesus in God’s holy creation.
- in the people who need God’s love - but especially who need food, drink, shelter, etc.

- ask the children if they know you know of any people who really make a difference in the world
- these are people who really see Jesus in the faces of those in need
- and are also the people who really show Jesus face to others.
- parents who care for us... people who care for the sick and hungry... those who take care of the earth.

The kids will be asked to write names on the poster paper at the front of the room.

- Remind the children that though they are only a young, they, too, can make a difference.
- remind them of the story of the boy with the 5 loaves and 2 fishes
- you can/have read about it in your book

- how do we know about Jesus?
- cuz his followers were sent to spread the good news about him.
- what is the good news?
- that God loves everyone in the whole world and that we have the Spirit of God in our hearts so we too can love everyone.
- do we bring good news by telling people
- or by our actions.
- Jesus used both his words and his deed.

**Candle Lighting Ritual**

Explain to the children that another way that we talk about this is to say that we bring the light of Christ to people. When they were baptised they were given a baptismal candle that was lit from the Christ Candle (Paschal Candle, Easter Candle).

Have the children at the front light their tapers from the Paschal Candle and pass it back. As they pass the light back, sing *This Little Light of Mine*.

Presider: Loving God,

at our baptism, we were given the light of your Son Jesus to guide us on our journey to You.

As we look at this flame of light,

we ask that you help it to burn brightly in our hearts so that we might bring it to all the people we meet.

We ask this through Christ, our Light,

All: Amen

All extinguish candles.

**Closing Song:** *People of Peace* (Year 5 - Born of the Spirit)

**4. Presentation of Certificates**

Tell the children that you would like to show them the many faces of Jesus in the room right now. As each certificate is handed out, comment, “Look at
Jesus hands on “Marcus”. Let’s see the face of Christ in “Mary’s blue eyes,” “Once in a while, Jesus even appears with red hair like Ivy,” etc.

5. EVALUATIONS

Have families fill in and submit evaluations.