

2020-2021

SPiRIT Guide

Using SPiRIT is a transforming process that encourages teens to wrestle with what the Sunday gospels and Church tradition ask of them in their lives.

PASTORAL VISION

SPiRIT sows the Word of God in the good ground of teens' lives, where it can multiply a hundredfold in our world.

SPiRIT is a teaching tool for catechists and youth ministers.

Every issue invites young people into dialogue with the Sunday gospel and Catholic tradition—to question and imagine, to find words and speak for themselves, to share and pray.

SPiRIT makes faith sharing easy and worthwhile. Who will help teens do soul work if parish and school groups don't? Many families will—and who else?

If your teens are talking about everything but religion, SPiRIT



stories and articles can change that. They prime the pump for authentic God talk. They help teens value their own God moments and life questions, work through conflicts and doubts. *SPiRIT* stories spark the deep sharing that allows teens to know and trust one another and over time share their concerns.

SPiRIT issues call teens to put their faith into action—to live it!

SPiRIT initiates a habit of reflecting on the gospel that cycles the mystery of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection into teens' lives and over a lifetime transforms the Christian into Christ.

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HOW SPiRIT WORKS

Each *SPiRIT* issue provides four pages written just for teens that include stories about life, the Sunday Gospel in reader parts, and presentations of Christian tradition.

- **Stories and interviews** anchor each session in teens' experience.
- **Questions** invite teens to interpret what the gospel asks of them.
- **Our Catholic Faith** helps teens explore Catholic tradition in their language.
- **Faith in Action!** activities challenge teens to put the gospel into action globally and locally in their schools, parishes, and neighborhoods.

Lesson plans inside ▶▶▶

Using SPIRIT Step by Step

Have fun!

READ
the lesson plan

FORM
a circle

So everyone can see
each other face to face.

PRAY

It builds community.

PRAY

It sets the theme.

LIVE IT!

See, judge, act for justice.
Do works of mercy and love.
Practice ways to pray.
Make commitments.

WARM UP

Icebreakers, music

Reflecting
on the Sunday
gospels is a
prayerful habit that
aims to transform
the Christian into
Christ over a
lifetime.

EXPLORE

Our Catholic Faith

Raise questions, doubts.
Share insights.
Invite all to share.

READ
the story

It's the catalyst.
Invite response.
Use the questions as needed.

PROCLAIM
the gospel

It's in reader parts.
Ask the questions.
What does Jesus ask of us?

Listen and
question rather
than lecture.

Let only one
teen speak
at a time.

How to Use a SPIRIT Issue

S*PIRIT* is a teen-friendly catechetical program that centers around the Sunday gospels of the liturgical year. This makes *SPIRIT* a lectionary-based program; the lectionary is the book that organizes the Church's reading of scripture into three yearly cycles.

The *SPIRIT* program provides 28 weekly issues that aim to instruct teens in the faith the Catholic Christian community lives. *SPIRIT* instructs through faith sharing,

through stories and questions that get teens talking to one another about their experience, values, and all the gospel asks of them in their lives. *SPIRIT* aims to build Christian community among teens through breaking open the Word, reflecting, and praying together.

Each *SPIRIT* issue has a one-page lesson plan that outlines a 60- to 90-minute session with teens. These lesson plans are the key to using every *SPIRIT* issue effectively.

Lessons are numbered and dated, so catechists can find the guide to the *SPIRIT* issue with ease.

Each *SPIRIT* session follows a three-step plan:

- 1 Sharing Life Stories
- 2 Reflecting on the Gospel
- 3 Living Our Catholic Faith.

SPIRIT's clear design makes preparing for sessions as quick and easy as reading through the issue and guide.

Step 1 Sharing Life Stories

Pray *SPIRIT* provides a prayer on its cover for each session. The prayer opens the theme of the gospel and lesson. Lesson plans suggest gathering your teens in a prayer circle and inviting them to bring any concern they have about people in their lives or events in the news into the prayer. Some teens may always keep these concerns in their hearts; some may welcome praying about them in the group.

Music A separate publication called *SPIRIT XTRA* suggests popular music to fit the theme of each weekly issue. *SPIRIT*'s music editor describes the theme of each song, provides key lyrics, and suggests questions that teens can discuss after listening to the song. As new music comes out, *SPIRIT* updates its music suggestions on its website: goodgroundpress.com.

Icebreakers *SPIRIT* lessons often provide easy and fun activities to help groups feel at ease and connect with themes in the issue. Some of these icebreakers are part of

the lesson plan. Many of them come from the *SPIRIT* book, *Icebreakers for Teen Groups*, which is available from Good Ground Press: 800-232-5533 or goodgroundpress.com.

A good icebreaker gives each group member a chance to speak, to hear his or her voice aloud talking about something non-threatening. Checklists, short games, remembering exercises, and preference questions invite participation rather than right answers. Icebreakers help groups bond in fun.

READ In every issue *SPIRIT* provides fiction, articles, or interviews by or about teens. These stories and articles provide teens a common medium for discussion and a catalyst for surfacing their own experiences. These stories are not an end in themselves but a means for teens to talk about their own issues.

Stories work like magic in helping young people explore their own experience. By struggling with the dilemmas of believable fiction or real-life characters, teens gain practice in

making their own moral judgments and expressing their own spiritual values.

Familiarize yourself with the story or article before the session. Always let teens respond freely to the piece when the group finishes reading it. Let their responses be a starting point for discussion.

Look over the questions in each issue. Make them your own, so you can work them into a session creatively. Look over the answer section in the guide to confirm what a question is getting at.

To read the stories, articles, or interviews, have teens take turns reading the piece aloud, breaking for a new reader at each large capital letter. Some stories lend themselves to silent reading. Some lesson plans suggest that teens read aloud to each other in small groups.

The purpose of the story or article is to provide the group a common starting point for surfacing experiences in teens' lives to which the gospel may speak.

Many adolescents have difficulty talking about themselves in any way or finding words for their feelings. Being able to talk about a story or interview can be a stepping stone to faith sharing in the group. Teens need to talk because they often feel isolated and alone; without talking they won't know others have similar feelings.

Building up the trust that will make teens comfortable talking about their real struggles takes time. It can take a year for them to realize you as a catechist or teacher will listen and help them think things through, not just put them down or tell them an easy right answer.

Questions *SPIRIT* questions invite teens to interpret the story. Make the questions your own, but don't be afraid to ask them as written. Ask your own questions, too, and invite teens to do the same. Don't have group members write answers out. That makes a faith-sharing group too much like school.

Step 2 Reflecting on the Gospel

Gospel *SPIRIT* puts the gospel in drama form to invite teens to step into conversation with Jesus and the other people in the stories. Putting the gospel in reader parts allows several teens to take an active part in proclaiming the gospel each week.

Be creative in proclaiming the gospel. Invite members of your group to create a gospel skit or do a contemporary version of the gospel situated in our time. If you have teen liturgies, have teens dramatize the gospel for these eucharistic celebrations.

Invite teens to respond to the gospel. Notice if someone has a question or an insight. Use the questions to interpret the gospel but not to limit faith sharing. If something in the gospel hits a chord, let the Spirit speak in the teens.

Questions Questions ask teens to interpret the gospel and challenge them to make links between the *SPIRIT* story or article, the gospel, and their lives. Talking about the gospel helps teens interpret it at their own level and explore its meaning for them in today's world.

The questions *SPIRIT* raises in no way exhaust the possible meanings of the gospel but are questions the editors think relevant to teens. Don't hesitate to go beyond these questions.

The aim of *SPIRIT* is conversion and transformation in Christ. The questions invite faith sharing—reflecting on one's own life experience. This is a transforming process. Teens and catechists open themselves to the possibility of Jesus and his teachings claiming their hearts, giving them direction, vision, and hope. A single insight may be enough to change a teen's life.

Step 3 Living Our Catholic Faith

Our Catholic Faith

Besides a story and the Sunday gospel, *SPIRIT* issues include each week a feature presenting Christian tradition—the doctrines of the *Apostles' Creed*, the sacraments, Christian moral life, ways to practice prayer. These features flow from the gospel. *SPIRIT* often supplies a short quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to summarize a doctrinal concept. Teens can find the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* online and use the paragraph number to find further readings.

Faith in Action *SPIRIT* lessons lead teens toward action in their communities. The *Live It* activities especially call young people to do or act on the word Jesus speaks. *SPIRIT*

faith-sharing groups can become small Christian communities that reflect on and practice the gospel in an ongoing process.

Social Action *Live It* features often emphasize Catholic social teaching and concrete ways to do the work of both charity and justice. Social action takes both forms. The work of charity involves addressing immediate needs for basics, such as food, clothing, shelter, health care. The work of justice involves changing systems that leave people out or behind. Many of these references provide Internet sites that link teens to national and international groups working for human rights.

Concluding Prayer

The *SPIRIT* lesson plans provide prayer for the end of each session. In some cases, *SPIRIT* issues provide whole prayer services or directions for teens to create prayer services together. Lesson plans suggest that teens gather in a prayer circle. Catechists and teachers can follow the plan's suggestions for prayer or lead teens in making their own.

A catechist's or teacher's willingness to pray with teens gives powerful witness to the importance of God in our lives. It is a concrete way of sharing our deepest faith and of bonding together as a community. Do a simple prayer conclusion for every session.

Unit 4

Sundays of Lent and Easter
February 21, 2021—April 25, 2021
Vol. 33, Nos. 19-28

Called to New Life

Lent is springtime in the Church. Catechumens make final preparations for receiving the new life of baptism at Easter. Lent is spring-cleaning time for all of us baptized Christians, a time to fast from food and slow our lives, a time to unlearn our compulsions and practice the habits we keep saying we want to have—to pray more, to play more, to walk more, to revive our slumbering spirits.

Each year during this season we reflect on the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection in our lives and our world. The Sunday Gospels of Lent focus first each year on Jesus' 40 days in the desert and then on his transfiguration. In this way the season of Lent invites us to identify what tempts us and to imagine who we can be as transfigured and transformed people.

In the gospel for the 3rd Sunday of Lent Jesus cleanses the temple and calls us to shine the windows of our own spirits. On the 4th Sunday of Lent we reflect on the bible quotation everybody knows—John 3.16, God so loved the world that God sent Jesus, God's only Son. On the 5th Sunday of Lent the gospel compares the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection to the mystery of a grain of wheat that must be planted and die to produce a hundredfold harvest.

SPIRIT explores in these Lenten issues practices that over our lifetimes transform us into Christ—

- celebrating the sacraments,
- recognizing God's presence in creation,
- keeping the ten commandments,
- praying the *Our Father*,

- celebrating Holy Week with the Church.

These issues for celebrating Lent and three Sundays of Easter form the concluding unit of *SPIRIT* for 2020-2021. The Easter gospels call young people into their work as cocreators with the risen Jesus of communities of love, healing, and forgiveness.

Plan to celebrate Earth Day in your parish as a call to new life and sustainable lifestyles. Plan also to celebrate the ending of your year together with a ritual. Give your teens a chance to say what Jesus in the gospels has said to them in this year of lectionary-based faith sharing.

Sundays/Seasons		Gospel/Theme	Teens' Lives	Beliefs
February 21, 2021 1st Sunday of Lent	Unit 4 Called to New Life	Mark 1.12-15 Temptation	Under pressure in a relationship	Israel's holy history
February 28, 2021 2nd Sunday of Lent		Mark 9.2-10 Transfiguration	Homeless teens	Sacraments
March 7, 2021 3rd Sunday of Lent		John 2.13-25 Cleansing the Temple	Human trafficking	Ten Commandments
March 14, 2021 4th Sunday of Lent		John 3.14-21 God So Loves the World	Experiencing divorce	Living the <i>Our Father</i>
March 21, 2021 5th Sunday of Lent		John 12.20-33 Grain of Wheat	A crop for college	Transformation in Christ
March 28, 2021 Palm/Passion Sunday		Mark 15.1-39 Passion	Accompanying others in suffering	Holy Week
April 4, 2021 Easter		John 20.1-18 Jesus Is Risen	Choosing baptism	Mary Magdalene: Witness that Jesus is risen
April 11, 2021 2nd Sunday Easter		John 20.19-31 Jesus Appears	Responding to disaster	Called to Reconcile
April 18, 2021 3rd Sunday Easter		Luke 24.35-48 The Disciples see Jesus	Friendship/developing gifts	Called to cultivate new life
April 25, 2021 4th Sunday of Easter		John 10.11-18 Good Shepherd	Intimacy	Mutual love

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

Easter Sunday celebrates Jesus' resurrection from the dead. This is the core belief of Christian faith: that God raises up Jesus, who was crucified, from the dead. Jesus' resurrection promises that all who believe in him will be raised up to new life with God as he has been. He is the firstborn of a new humanity. The act of raising Jesus from the dead reveals God as the one who gives life. By accepting death, Jesus reveals that God's power lies not in magic or military might but in self-giving, wholehearted love. Love is the ultimate life-giving energy that fuels the cosmos that God has created and the Spirit animates and urges toward communion.

Baptism is the Easter sacrament because in this sign of washing and bathing in water the new Christian dies and rises with Christ. Baptism by immersion most clearly expresses this sign of plunging down into Jesus' death and rising to his new life.

The gospels for Easter and the 2nd Sunday of Easter come from John 20, which tells the stories of four faith journeys. First, the beloved disciple sees the empty tomb and folded cloths and believes Jesus is risen. Second, Mary Magdalene weeps and looks for Jesus' body until a man she supposes to be the gardener says her name. Then she recognizes the risen Jesus and believes. Third, in this Sunday's gospel the whole, fearful community receives peace and the Spirit from the risen Jesus on Easter evening and believes. Fourth, Thomas doubts but believes when he puts his hands in Jesus' wounds.

In this issue *SPIRIT* tells the story of two high school students who experience people's losses and community spirit firsthand after an earthquake.

SHARING LIFE STORIES

Objective: The young people will recognize Jesus sends his followers to form communities of love and forgiveness.

Music: See *SPIRIT XTRA* or goodgroundpress.com for popular music on the gospel theme.

Pray: We live in the mystery of God who gives life (cover)

Gather your teens together and invite them to share any concerns they bring with them for people in their lives or about events in the world. Have the young people look at the *SPIRIT* cover, which provides a litany of the Church's history. Explain that in a litany as a form of prayer an individual makes statements and the group responds; in this case, "We live in the mystery of God who gives life." This response is at top left. Explain also that this litany remembers some unjust and tragic events as well as great works of faith. Have your teens take turns reading aloud the statements between the star shapes. The group repeats the response at each star in the litany.

Article: Helping Firsthand (pages 2-3) Have your teens look closely at the top photo on page 2. At bottom left in this photo is a dining room set. Rubble still fills the backyard six months after the earthquake. Note the photo of the authors on page 3 and with children on page 2.

● Have volunteers read the article aloud for your group. Discuss questions 1-3. 1. *Jessica and Lana experience people's sadness and grief, their loss of their homes, their schools and other public buildings but also their smiles, laughter, gratitude, their pulling together, and their meals from a common pot.* 2. *The Opeongo High School community, the Interact club, the Sisters' community in Peru, the parish, the family relationship between Jessica and Sister Pauline.* 3. *This fundraising story starts out because of a family relationship. Many ministries help people in disasters or in poverty by such fund raising; for example, Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Service. Rotary Clubs work world wide as do many other groups this question can help teens recognize.*

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Objective: The young people will recognize the risen Jesus sends his friends forth to continue the mission the Father sent him to do.

Jesus sends his friends forth (page 3) Have four teens take parts and proclaim the gospel. Have the rest of the group take the *Other Disciples* part.

● Discuss questions 4-6. 4. *The community is locking out fear from Jesus' persecutors. Peter may be locking out shame from denying he knew Jesus. The community may not be believing, as Thomas doesn't, the amazing good news of Jesus' resurrection.* 5. *Jesus sends his followers forth to bring peace and forgive others, to form communities of peace, love, and forgiveness.* 6. *Thomas's question may be one we want to ask. Firsthand experience can change us.*

LIVING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Objective: The young people will participate in God's power that raises Jesus to new life.

Our Catholic Church: Jesus calls us to new life (page 4) This session stresses the theme in this issue: we live in the power of Jesus' resurrection and witness to God's creative love. By using God's gifts to us, we witness that God lives. Read aloud the quotation from the Catechism.

● Have your teens take turns reading the feature aloud, paragraph by paragraph. Invite them to brainstorm ways they can witness to their faith in Jesus, his way and new life, in their parish and neighborhood this spring.

Faith in Action (page 4) Give your teens three minutes of quiet to reflect on item 1. They can practice items 2 and 3 on their own every day. Invite them to add statements for ending gossip about others.

Note: Look ahead to next week to plan any Earth Day activities you want to do.

Concluding prayer Gather in a circle on the floor and read the gospel in parts a second time. Invite your young people to speak aloud the word or phrase that touched them in Jesus' gospel message. Exchange a sign of peace.

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

News of Jesus' resurrection is amazing and bewildering Jesus' followers who gather around the eleven in Jerusalem. The group dismisses the report of Mary Magdalene and other women that Jesus is risen. As Sunday's gospel begins, two disciples describe their confusion when they first meet the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Although he is walking and talking with them, the two do not at first recognize who he is. It is not until Jesus engages in the familiar action of breaking bread that their glimmers of recognition turn into certainty. Then the risen Jesus stands in the midst of the whole company of disciples, showing his hands and feet and asking for something to eat. Jesus' final words explain that Israel's promised messiah had to suffer. This is Luke's understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection. SPIRIT explores how to recognize the true value in those around us and how to cultivate new life.

SHARING LIFE STORIES

Objective: The young people will identify ways people, including themselves, exclude and include others.

Music: See *SPIRIT XTRA* for a song that fits the gospel theme.

Pray (cover) Invite your group to join hands. Remind them that this is their final session together. Ask them to reflect on the year and the ways in which they have come to know one another. Pray together the prayer at the top of page 1.

Cover: Ask the young people to choose two adjectives from the list on the left, or they can use one of their own. Have them choose one adjective to describe themselves at the beginning of the year, one to describe themselves now. Invite the students to reflect on how they have changed over the last year, and to share stories of change if they wish.

Icebreaker: You're In, You're Out Have teens brainstorm familiar phrases which put people down and exclude them. Have one teen record the phrases on a blackboard. Then have your group brainstorm simple responses that could neutralize the effect of the putdowns. Ensure that the responses are respectful. Invite your teens to use the responses when disrespect is directed at them or another.

Story: Nice Guys Finish Last...Sort of (pages 1-3) Have teens take turns reading the story out loud.

● Divide the group into fours to respond to questions 1-4.
1. "Beautiful" may describe an ingroup with superficial values, but the word also describes a healthy, wholesome person who can interact and be a friend. 2. Insecurity and having experienced rejection or watching others be rejected make it hard for us to let others know us. 3. Invite the teens to describe an incident when they or someone else have attempted to be other than themselves to impress another person. Ask: how did it end? Then distribute cards and pens to each teen. Have them write down one way in which each person in the group is beautiful. Have them keep their cards for the closing prayer. Invite teens to describe an incident when they or someone else has taken a risk to be known and been accepted. 4. Openended.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Objective: The young people will identify ways in which Jesus is present to them through the people around them.

The risen Jesus brings peace (page 3) Have three members of the group take the three parts to proclaim and dramatize the gospel. Divide the young people into two or three groups. Have each group retell the gospel as if it happened today. Where would the teens meet Jesus? What would they eat? How recognize him? What questions would they ask?

Have the young people discuss questions 5 and 6. 5. *The pace of teens' lives often leaves them little time to reflect. Stereotypes can get in the way of seeing the truth of Jesus' message.* 6. *Jesus is concerned that his followers understand the message he brings to the world. Repentance means to turn our lives around, to grow past the false messages we receive, to recognize our own value and that of people around us. Jesus also calls us to forgive ourselves and others when we fall short of his ideals.*

LIVING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Objective: The young people will participate in God's power to co-create new life on earth.

Our Catholic Faith: Easter calls us to cultivate new life (pages 3-4) Read aloud and talk with your group about the first five paragraphs of this feature. The first defines the word *Easter*. The second treats Easter as an eighth day of creation. The third and fourth remind teens of the story of Earth's evolution. The fifth connects Jesus' resurrection to new life and the new life of spring.

● Divide your group into fours to read the rest of the feature on care for the Earth and the Sustainable Development Goals. Find them at UN.org. Have the teens identify ways they can pay off their carbon debt.

Faith in Action (page 4) Have the groups share information in regard to item 1 and brainstorm ways to work for sustainability on Earth Day. Visit climatekids.nasa.gov.

● Encourage teens to visit the websites listed in items 3-6. Read the sidebar on page 4 about the students from Buffalo who reduced their carbon footprint by working out a way to get their high school to recycle plastic bottles and cans.

Concluding Prayer Invite young people to read their cards naming one beautiful quality in each of the people in the group. Remind them that Jesus is in their midst and recognizes those and other beautiful qualities about them. Give teens time to mention any special intentions.

● Then pray, *God, wipe away the tears from the faces of people in pain. Help us to invite people at our school and church to belong, even when they are different from us. Help us to do our part in giving hope to those who struggle, especially those we mention now.* Invite the teens to mention people. Invite the young people to say a prayer of thanks for one blessing that has happened during the past year. Then exchange a sign of peace.

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

Israel pictures God as their shepherd in Psalm 23. The prophet Ezekiel speaks for God to the Israelites in exile as a shepherd. “I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As shepherds tend their flocks when they find themselves among scarred sheep, so will I tend my sheep... I will rescue them... I will bring them back to their own country and pasture” (34.11-16).

Chapter 10 in John’s gospel describes Jesus as a good shepherd, who comes to give them abundant life and lays down his life for his sheep. The good shepherd knows his sheep and his sheep know him. The intimacy between shepherd and sheep becomes a metaphor for Jesus’ intimacy with God. “I am the good shepherd; I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.” Christians share in the union between Jesus and his Father.

In this issue *SPIRIT* explores the intimacy between persons in friendships and ways to test healthy teen relationships. *SPIRIT* also explore the mutual love to which marriage calls couples.

SPIRIT invites teens to look at the health of their own relationships and recognize the demands of following Jesus’ way in service and mutual love.

SHARING LIFE STORIES

Pray: (cover) Gather your teens together and invite them to share any concerns they bring with them for people in their lives or events in the world. Then pray the prayer on the cover together.

Objective: The young people will examine how friendships can hinder or help a person’s growth.

Music: See *SPIRIT XTRA* for a song that fits the gospel theme.

Icebreaker Facts (pages 2-3) Have your teens read the statistics in the arrows. Ask: Why do you think teens want to look a certain way? Do images of perfect bodies make teens feel humble?

Article: Growing Toward Intimacy (pages 2-3) Have your teens divide into threes or fours to read this article about healthy relationships and discuss questions 1-4. *1. Openended. Have your teens make a list of all the friendships each has. Then ask them to identify which of these friendships they consider close. Invite them to define the word close and what responsibilities it entails. 2, 3, 4. Bob Bartlett establishes four criteria for healthy relationships—fun, inclusiveness of others, comfort with silence, and equality. These questions invite your teens to talk about their own experience of relationships and dialogue with the author.*

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Objective: The young people will explore their friendship with Jesus.

Gospel: Jesus lays down his life for his friends (page 3) Have four young people take the parts of Jesus 1, 2, 3, 4. Invite the group to listen for words that express Jesus’ intimacy with us. Discuss questions 5-6. *5. Jesus contrasts hired shepherds who does the work and a good shepherd to whom the sheep belong who puts this life on the line for the sheep. Jesus makes all of us who follow him intimate friends, important enough to die for—the absolute greatest expression of friendship. 6. One for whom the others’ well-being is as important as his or her own. One who gives himself or herself wholeheartedly in love.*

BUILDING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Objective: The young people will evaluate how they practice mutual love and equality in their relationships.

We are the Church: Mutual Love (page 4) Ask teens to give their definition of mutuality before reading this feature. Have them notice the photos which picture friends and a couple at their wedding. Have your teens take turns reading aloud the feature. Invite them to talk about why marriage is a sacrament of service. Ask them if the feature affects how they define mutuality. Mutuality is treating one another as equals, finding ourselves by loving others. Ask your teens to compare their definitions with the quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* at the top of the page.

Faith in Action (page 4) Once teens can define mutuality, ask them to respond to items 1-4 in their small groups. The questions challenge them to think beyond mutuality as an abstract concept and apply it to their lives—how they drive, how they pay on dates, how they treat friends. If as Christians they believe all people are equal, how should they act toward one another? Ask groups to share a main idea from their discussion with the whole group.

Concluding prayer Have your teens gather in a circle and think quietly for two minutes about *Faith in Action* questions 5 and 6. Invite each who wishes to name a way in which he or she serves or hopes to serve after high school. Then pray: *God of everlasting love, teach us how to serve others. Give our hands strength to serve and our hearts strength to love. Amen.*