

2021 - 2022

SPiRiT *Guide*

Pastoral Vision

SPiRiT brings the Sunday gospels of the Church year to teens. It sows the Word of God in the good ground of their lives, where it can multiply a hundredfold in our world.

SPiRiT develops the bishops' curriculum framework. *SPiRiT* develops the content of the first course outlined in the 2008 Curriculum Framework from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, namely, the "Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture" and highlights content from other courses as it flows from the Sunday gospels.

SPiRiT aims to teach. Every *SPiRiT* issue brings the Sunday gospel and Catholic tradition into dialog with young people and invites them to question, pray, think, and share about what Jesus' message asks of them in our world.

SPiRiT is a transforming process that brings young people together in groups where they can make friends who call forth their faith and support their commitment to living the gospel in our world.

SPiRiT's stories and articles bring teens' own life experience, doubts, conflicts, joys, and anxieties into their religion class or youth group. Every *SPiRiT* issue calls teens to put their faith into action.

The SPiRiT program imitates the way the liturgy teaches the whole Church—by cycling the mystery of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection into our lives Sunday by Sunday. Any single gospel can claim our commitment. Reflecting on the Sunday gospels is a prayerful habit that aims to transform the Christian into Christ over a lifetime.



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WELCOME to SPIRIT 2021-2022

From its beginning *SPIRIT* has focused its issues on the Sunday gospels, October to April, following the Church's three-year cycles of scripture readings for the Sundays of the liturgical year. *SPIRIT* is really a three-year, not a one-year program

SPIRIT integrates its gospel-centered approach with the content outlined in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 2008 Curriculum Framework, course one, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture." Over its three-year program *SPIRIT* incorporates in its issues:

- The thirst for God
- God's self-revelation in creation
- God's self-revelation in Israel's history
- Oral tradition
- Scripture in the life of the Church
- Ways to interpret scripture
- Bible and science
- The Old Testament—Pentateuch, historical books, Prophets, Wisdom Writings
- The New Testament—letters, Acts, Revelation
- The character of the four gospels, their content and the communities for which they were written
- Literary forms—miracle stories, parables, sayings, apocalyptic
- Formation of the gospels

SPIRIT also posts online key concepts from course one, such as inerrancy, revelation, inspiration, canon, literalist, fundamentalist, *Divino Afflante Spiritu*, exegesis. This online reference allows young people to look up doctrinal concepts when they have questions and assures access to all that the framework outlines.

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 Catholic tradition.

- **Stories and interviews** anchor each session in teens' experience.
- **Questions** invite teens to interpret what the gospel asks of them.
- **Our Catholic Faith** is a feature that 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.

The *SPIRIT* Program

SPIRIT is all about your success as a catechist and engaging your teens' in Catholic tradition. The *SPIRIT* program includes not only its 28 issues and 28 lesson plans, but also these essential additional components.

Practicing Prayer

Alive in God: Prayer Experiences for Teens *SPIRIT* lessons will identify prayer experiences from this companion book to the program to conclude each lesson. *Alive in God* introduces teens to many prayer forms to help them discover ways to practice prayer that fit them. **\$20.00**

Gospel Themes in Music

Each week *SPIRIT* suggests a popular song that reflects the Gospel theme. Go to the *SPIRIT* page at goodgroundpress.com to find key lyrics and a video of the song.

Icebreakers

Icebreakers for Teen Groups, 2nd Edition collects 50 icebreakers for introducing young people to each other, energizing groups, challenging groups to get to know one another better, and helping groups recognize and value diversity. **\$5.00**

Facilitating Groups

Faith Sharing with Teens: A How-to Guide for Catechists and Parents Talk can transform, especially conversation that connects the scriptures and life and moves faith into action. *Faith Sharing* offers practical help in leading groups, helping teens learn from one another, and ensuring teens gain skill in the roles and dynamics that make conversation a doorway to deep and active faith. **\$9.95**



How to Use a *SPiRiT* Issue

S *SPiRiT* 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 is catechetical, 28 weekly issues that aim to instruct teens in the faith of the Catholic community lives.

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 lesson plan for each *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.**

Step 1 Sharing Life Stories

Prayer *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 Each week suggests popular music to fit the gospel 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. Find music suggestions on the *SPiRiT* page at goodgroundpress.com.

Icebreakers *SPiRiT* lessons often provide easy and fun activities to help groups feel at ease and connect with themes in the issue.

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. *Icebreakers for Teen Groups*, is available from Good Ground Press: 800-232-5533 or goodgroundpress.com.

Stories, Articles, Interviews

SPiRiT provides fiction, articles, and 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.

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. Every lesson plan provides scripture background for the catechist.

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 few 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 Page 4 of each *SPIRIT* issue is about our Catholic faith and Catholic practice. These topics follow from the theme of the gospels and the liturgical seasons. For young people accustomed to the relentless chapter by chapter approach of textbooks, this is a welcome change. It also puts them more in touch with the worshiping communities of which they are a part. Because the Gospels are about Jesus and his mission among us, the *Our Catholic Faith* part of the lesson helps teens to understand more about the scriptures, the doctrine of the Incarnation, the centrality of the Eucharist, and the bishops' teaching at the Vatican II Council. These page-4 features are also where *SPIRIT* integrates the topics the bishops' curriculum guidelines require. See the list of doctrinal topics on page 2.

Faith in Action *SPIRIT* lessons lead teens toward action in their communities. *Faith in Action* 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.

Faith in Action features often emphasize Catholic social teaching and concrete ways to do the work of both charity and justice. 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.

Prayer: Alive in God

As the concluding prayer for each session, *SPIRIT* identifies a prayer experience in its companion book, *Alive in God, Prayer Experiences for Teens*. The book provides ready made, easy to use prayer experiences on the gospel themes. Leaders can prepare to lead the prayer experiences by reading over the Introduction and Preparation sections of each experience and gathering any necessary materials. Votive candles are a handy staple in many of these experiences.

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. By participating in these prayers, teens can discover kinds of prayer that work for the each of them.

Walking Jesus' Way of Love and Service

Jesus is on the road in the Sunday gospels of October and arrives in Jerusalem to teach in the temple in the Sunday Gospels of November. Jesus' road trip with his disciples is a journey that models the journey all Christians make in following Jesus.

Mark's gospel characterizes Jesus' first disciples as both afraid and amazed (10.32). For Mark, fear and amazement create the threshold where faith begins. For women and men who follow Jesus and for the people they meet on the road, faith can begin at every turn—in dialog and debate with Jesus, in asking for healing or help.

Jesus teaches about discipleship by responding to people's questions and needs. A Pharisee asks about divorce. A young man seeks eternal life but can't give up his wealth to follow Jesus. A beggar believes Jesus can give him sight. James and John learn greatness lies in service.

As he teaches daily in the Jerusalem temple, Jesus puts more value on the pennies a widow gives to the temple than on the ostentatious gifts of richer people. Jesus' teachings will not pass away but inspire our own faith journeys.

SPIRIT calls teens to journeys of love and service like those others have made. St. Kateri Tekakwitha

values Jesus' self-giving on the cross and its celebration in every eucharist. Students use the Empty Bowls project to raise money for Heifer International—over \$65,000 in ten years.

In *Our Catholic Faith*, usually page 4, *SPIRIT* explores discipleship, marriage as a sacrament, eucharist, the Catholic social teachings of solidarity and human dignity, and the major documents of the Second Vatican Council. We find Jesus' way of love and service in our own time by walking with those in need and finding ways to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers in our global world.

Unit 1 Walking Jesus' Way of Love and Service

Sundays/Seasons	Gospel/Theme	Teens' Lives	Catholic Faith, Practice
October 3, 2021 27th in Ordinary Time	Mark 10.2-12 Two become one flesh	Friendship	Sacrament of marriage, annulment
October 10, 2021 28th in Ordinary Time	Mark 10.17-27 Rich young man	St. Kateri Tekakwitha	Catholic social teaching: solidarity with the poor
October 17, 2021 29th in Ordinary Time	Mark 10.35-45 To serve is greatest	Empty Bowls Project	Living the Eucharist Vatican II: Liturgy
October 24, 2021 30th in Ordinary Time	Mark 10.46-52 Bartimaeus follows Jesus	Facing Disability	What being a Catholic Christian means
October 31, 2021 31st in Ordinary Time	Mark 12.28-34 Jesus' Law of Love	Working toward inclusion	Church, the body of Christ
November 7, 2021 32nd in Ordinary Time	Mark 12.38-44 A widow gives her all	"What Friends Do"	We live in mystery, the desire for God
November 14, 2021 33rd in Ordinary Time	Mark 13.24-32 Son of man will come	Cyberbullying	Vatican II: Church and world, conscience
November 21, 2021 Feast of Christ the King	John 18.33-37 Jesus' kingdom	Pope Francis: Leader for Our Time	Vatican II: Church and world, solidarity with the poor

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

In Sunday's gospel Jesus teaches about marriage in the context of discipleship. The exchange between Jesus and the Pharisees takes place on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. He is leading his disciples and teaching along the way.

The specific literary form of Sunday's gospel is that of a controversy story. Pharisees try to get Jesus to take sides in a legal dispute. Jesus quotes the law of Moses, which in Deuteronomy 24.1-4 allows divorce, to argue that from the beginning God intends humans to be social, to marry, and become one. Jesus quotes Genesis 2.18-24, which is Sunday's first reading, saying that human beings, whom God creates male and female, become inseparably one in marriage.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* understands marriage as a sacrament of service because each spouse makes an other-centered commitment. Two people become one in marriage; they learn to know each other's habits, ways of thinking, and preferences, yet no two people totally fuse. Only self-giving love and communication bridge our separate selves.

SPIRIT explores what helps relationships, especially marriages, last. Adolescence is the learning time for making, breaking, and keeping interpersonal relationships. In the pain of these years, teens can develop their capacity for intimacy and grow beyond romantic stereotypes.

SHARING LIFE STORIES

Objective: The young people will explore their experiences of teens breaking up relationships.

Music: Visit the *SPIRIT* page online for a song that fits today's Gospel theme.

Pray (cover) Hand out copies of *SPIRIT* to each member of your group and pray the prayer on the cover.

Icebreaker Checklist (cover) Have your teens read the checklist silently and identify individually why they think young people avoid dealing with relationships. Divide your group into threes or fours and compare the reasons each selected. Have the small groups identify the top three reasons they agree on and report these to the whole group. Tally these reports on a chalkboard or newsprint.

Story: Beyond Invisible (pages 1-3) Have your teens use the title, photos, and call out to speculate on what the story is about. Ask if they have ever felt "beyond invisible" as the opening paragraph describes.

- Have strong readers take turning reading the story aloud, changing at the large capital letters.
- Discuss questions 1-6. *1. Her disbelief and denial keeps her from feeling. 2. The water drop dries up like the relationship. 3. The author seems to feel her standing in the group depended on Tommy and that the group has heard about the break up from him and talked about it. 4. Both young men and women need to experience relationships with their peers on their own rather than as a couple, so they develop their individual identities. 5. Open-ended; Tommy talked to the author face to face and didn't say harsh things. 6. Open-ended. You can be somebody without Tommy.*

Objective: The young people will develop skills for building lasting relationships.

Breaking up as friends (page 2) Have your teens read this feature in pairs and follow the directions at the bottom about role playing. Evaluate what is helpful and what is hurtful in the ways each pair breaks up.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Objective: The young people will recognize Jesus calls his disciples to faithfulness in marriage.

Gospel: Marriage is lasting love (pages 2-3) Ask four teens to proclaim the gospel. Discuss questions 7-8. *7. Jesus teaches that God created human beings male and female and that in marriage the two become inseparably one. No one should separate couples God joins together. Jesus expects husbands and wives to love one another faithfully. 8. For a marriage to last one has to have a secure personal identity and be capable of sharing oneself intimately with another. This takes practice. Friendship and dating help us learn the skills of expressing feelings, communicating, making choices.*

LIVING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Objective: The young people will recognize marriage is a sacrament.

Our Catholic Faith: Sacrament of Marriage,

We are made in God's image: able to love (page 4) Have pairs join to make groups of four. Direct them to read this feature aloud in their small groups then discuss *Faith in Action* item 1. Allow five minutes for discussion; then invite the small groups to share their ideas. Lead into discussing *Faith in Action* item 2 as a whole group.

● Encourage teens to talk with their parents about what dating was like in their teens, as *Faith in Action* 3 suggests. Young people socialize differently in many ways today. Consider inviting a married couple to talk with your group as *Faith in Action* item 4 suggests, especially if they are juniors and seniors.

What Is Annulment? (page 4) Many teens have parents who are divorced. This sidebar explains the Church's teaching about annulment. Stress that immaturity is a frequent reason for annulments, which underlines the reasons for developing skills for relationships.

Objective: The young people will explore who reveals God's presence to them in their lives.

Alive in God: Prayer Experiences for Teens "Valuing God's Presence in Our Lives," page 1. This prayer gets teens moving and sharing. Take as much or as little time as you have available. You can come back to this prayer at another time.

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

In Sunday's gospel a rich young man walks away from Jesus' invitation to sell his possessions, give the money to the poor, and follow him. Most of us in our consumer culture would walk away, too. Sunday's gospel places us in the midst of the early Christian communities' dynamic struggles to understand and live Jesus' words. Jesus lived and taught in the first 30 years of the first century. His followers continued his teaching and gathered new believers into community. But by A.D. 70, when Mark wrote his gospel, Christian communities faced many questions Jesus had not answered.

Jesus, of course, was an itinerant preacher with few belongings. Jesus sent his disciples out in the same way with no food, money, bags, or second tunic. As these disciples and other early missionaries spread Jesus' good news after his death and resurrection, they depended on the hospitality of settled, propertied Christians for food and shelter in the towns where they preached. Some of the first Christians in Jerusalem sold their possessions and lived a community life (Acts 2.45). Like us, early Christians wrestled with what following Jesus asked of them.

SPIRIT explores the life and Christian vocation of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. She lived during the early decades of Native American and European cultures meeting and clashing. Her vow of virginity means she will be poor without a husband to hunt for her.

SHARING LIFE STORIES

Objective: The young people will explore how St. Kateri integrates Christian and Mohawk values.

Music: Visit the *SPIRIT* page online for a song that fits today's Gospel theme.

Pray (cover) Invite your teens to sit in a circle, join hands if they wish, and mention any concerns they bring to your faith-sharing group. To conclude, pray the prayer at the top left of the *SPIRIT* cover.

Article: Kateri Tekakwitha—First Native American Saint (pages 1-3) Introduce St. Kateri by looking with the young people at the time line. Note how close to the landing of the Mayflower Kateri is born—36 years. Look at the photos of a Native American liturgy. Then have volunteers take turns reading the article aloud. Discuss questions 1-4.

1. *Open-ended.*
2. *The Mohawk spirit of courage and contempt for suffering helped her endure her long term mistreatment for her desire to be a Christian.*
3. *Kateri was a saint because she put her desire to be committed to her faith and live a Christian life, before all her other needs. Like all saints, Kateri's life was focused on Christ and being a living example of God's love.*
4. *Kateri is important because she is a role model for other Native American Christians. She embodies the melding of both cultures.*

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Objective: The young people will explore why the rich young man prefers his possessions to following Jesus.

Gospel: What does Jesus teach about riches? (page 3) Have four members of your class or group proclaim the Sunday gospel. Invite your teens to share any words, phrases, or parts of the story that touch them.

Raise a question for them—what is the young man looking for or what would they ask Jesus for if they met him on a journey?

- Ask questions 5-7 as you need them. 5. *The young man cannot imagine his life without his possessions, nor can he imagine the riches that friendship with the poor might bring into his life. He is very like most of us today, who have many possessions. The young man is looking for God and his purpose in life but his wealth insulates him from others' needs.* 6. *Teens can raise money; they can also research problems, teach others about them, write letters, work with others to affect legislation.* 7. *Invite teens to share but emphasize they can pass.*

LIVING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Objective: The young people will respond to Jesus' call to solidarity with people who are poor.

Our Catholic Faith: Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture, How do you answer Jesus' call to follow him? (page 4) To introduce the feature, focus on the concept of call or vocation. Jesus calls the rich young man to give his wealth to the poor. Her mother and later a missionary priest call Kateri to become a Christian. Today many young people experience a call to solidarity with the poor. Read the quote in the center of the page.

- Have your teens form groups of threes and fours, read this feature aloud, and discuss *Faith in Action*.
- Invite the small groups to share responses to each of the *Faith in Action* questions. Conclude by asking your young people to define solidarity in their own words.
- Consider an action project such as those suggested in the yellow box.

Objective: The young people will practice blessing the six directions.

Alive in God: Prayer Experiences for Teens Use "Celebrating the Seasons and Directions," page 40, without the Advent context in the book. The six directions (East, South, West, North, Earth, Sky) provide a basic structure for Native American prayers of thanks and blessing. Read the Preparation section which identifies common things and people to pray for in each direction. Give teens time to write the prayers as directed and pray them together as directed.

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

“We can,” James and John insist, when Jesus questions whether they can drink the cup he is about to drink or be baptized in the same bath. They see Jesus as a warrior messiah whom they will daringly follow into triumphant combat and assist in his messianic rule. Ambition for status in Jesus’ messianic commonwealth has hold of their minds and impels their loyalty.

Jesus turns out to be a different kind of messiah than James, John, and the people of Israel expect. Sunday’s gospel follows the third passion prediction (Mark 10.32-35), in which Jesus tells his followers he will suffer, die, and rise after three days. His warnings do not disturb the image of Jesus the two brothers have fixed in their minds. They are too eager for glory-filled combat in the army of God, but as their sleeping through Jesus’ prayer in the garden and fleeing at Jesus’ arrest shows, they are not at all ready for Jesus’ shameful death by crucifixion. Only after Jesus’ death and resurrection do they fulfill their earlier pledge and give their lives to spreading the gospel and serving the Christian community.

Jesus defines greatness in Sunday’s gospel. To be great is to serve all. To serve is to give one’s life as he does. *SPIRIT* invites young people to explore why service experiences are valuable.

SHARING LIFE STORIES

Music: Visit the *SPIRIT* page online for a song that fits today’s Gospel theme.

Objective: The young people will pray for people in need in the news.

Alive in God: Prayer Experiences for Teens To prepare for this session, use “Catholic Social Teaching, Praying the News,” page 6. This will require current newspapers, magazines, or online posts. Conclude with Pray, cover, top left.

Icebreaker: Invite your teens to name a person who inspires them with their service.

Objective: The young people will explore the value of doing service projects together.

Article: Empty Bowls (pages 1-3) Ask your teen to share what they know about Empty Bowls and Heifer International.

- To introduce the article, have your teens look at the photos and speculate about what is happening. Look together at the seven lines of the chart, page 3, *Imagine the World Has 100 People*. Ask which percentages are new to them.
- Look together at the animals Heifer International gives to families that are poor, page 3. Ask if any students have visited Heifer’s Learning Centers. Read aloud the cutline, which stresses Heifer’s tradition of giving back.
- Have your teens take turns reading aloud about the Empty Bowls project, which this high school uses to raise money for Heifer International.
- Discuss questions 1-5 on page 3. 1. *Open-ended; it’s a tradition of both school and family that students like to keep going.* 2. *The students know that Heifer International isn’t a one time donation to Band-Aid a hunger problem. Heifer provides animals that help produce long-term solutions like milk, eggs, and income.* 3. *Open-ended.* 4. *Open-ended.* 5. *Open-ended.* Food Fast from Catholic Relief Service and Bread for the World offer possibilities.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Objective: The young people will explore how Jesus defines service.

Gospel: To be great is to serve all. (page 3) Have four readers proclaim the gospel aloud for your group or class. Discuss questions 6-7. 6. *Jesus said whoever wants to be first, or greatest, must serve the needs of all.* 7. *Jesus wants a community in which disciples serve rather than lord it over one another, in which they respect and love their neighbor rather than grab all each can from everyone else.*

LIVING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Objectives: The young people will recognize we pledge to serve at Eucharist. The young people will identify ways Vatican II calls Catholics to participate in Eucharist.

Our Catholic Faith: Second Vatican Council: Liturgy Vatican II: Jesus is always with us (page 4) This feature explores both the meaning of the cup we drink at Eucharist and the many ways the Second Vatican Council encourages active participation in Eucharist in its reforms.

- Divide your group into six. Have each group find one of the citations in the Bible Study and report what they find.
- Have four teens take turns reading aloud the first four paragraphs as a summary of their Bible Study. Respond to *Faith in Action*, question 1.
- Discuss as a whole group the meaning of the cup, the pledge James and John make to drink the cup, and the pledge we make when we drink from the cup in communion. *The cup at the last supper is a new covenant in Jesus’ lifeblood; Jesus pledges to pour out his life on the night before he dies. It is the cup of martyrdom. Jesus’ pledge is the same as his definition of service—giving his life to redeem many. For James and John to share the cup is to make the same pledge. In the garden Jesus prays to have the cup—passion and death—taken away. James and John flee when Jesus is arrested. James fulfills his pledge when King Herod has him put to death in Acts 12.1-2. John gives his life to preaching and ultimately writing the gospel.*
- Have teens read aloud the rest of the feature one paragraph at a time. Ask for questions. Ask how the Church would be different without these reforms.
- Discuss *Faith in Action*, questions 3-4.

Closing Prayer Gather in a prayer circle. Make a popcorn prayer of thanksgiving by inviting the young people to call out the names of people or groups they know or know about who serve others. Conclude by thanking God for all who serve and asking to learn how to contribute ourselves.