

Catechist Formation and Training

Opening Prayer

Leader: *Most gracious Father, you sent your Son, Jesus, to our world to bring us new life. We give you thanks for the gift of salvation and for your never-ending love and compassion. Overflowing with the presence of your Holy Spirit, we ask that you open our hearts as we gather today.*

All: *Fill us with the fire to spread the good news that Christ once dead is now risen and offers himself to us in the Sacraments. Amen.*

Volunteer: *“So they ordered them to leave the Sanhedrin, and conferred with one another, saying, ‘What are we to do with these men? Everyone living in Jerusalem knows that a remarkable sign was done through them, and we cannot deny it. But so that it may not be spread any further among the people, let us give them a stern warning never again to speak to anyone in this name.’ So they called them back and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. Peter and John, however, said to them in reply, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God for us to obey you rather than God, you be the judges. It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard.’ After threatening them further, they released them, finding no way to punish them, on account of the people who were all praising God for what had happened” (Acts 4:15–21).*

Leader: *How can we not speak of the things we have seen and heard! Even at the threat of physical punishment, Peter and John could not be silenced. They were on fire with the love of God made visible in Jesus. Let us ask God for the grace to share with our children the beauty and joy of meeting our Lord Jesus in the Sacraments. And so we pray . . .*

That our love for you will be visible in our words and actions, we pray . . .

All: *Give us your grace, O Lord.*

Leader: *That the children will come to more deeply know your love for them, we pray . . .*

All: *Give us your grace, O Lord.*

Leader: *That we will be able to communicate the beauty and power of the Sacraments in words and images that children will understand, we pray . . .*



All: *Give us your grace, O Lord.*

Leader: *That when the children receive the Sacraments, they and their families will hear your call to a life of discipleship, we pray . . .*

All: *Give us your grace, O Lord.*

Leader: *We are humbled and awed that you have called us, Lord, to this sacred ministry. Send us your Spirit that we may respond faithfully and be the transparent witness of your Gospel, as we become the instruments of your love. We ask these things in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

All: *Amen.*