

## Unit Four

### *Helping Each Other on the Journey*

#### **14. We Serve God and Each Other**

We are called to love God and love each other. Jesus asks us to show our love by serving each other. When we serve others, we learn to sacrifice ourselves.

#### **15. We Are Faithful Servants**

To be faithful servants demands constant effort. We look to Jesus as our model for faith because Jesus remained faithful to His Father even unto death.

#### **16. Our Family Helps Us**

The family is the first place in which we are called to love and serve. With our family, we learn how to serve and sacrifice for others.

#### **17. Ordained Servants Help Us**

Men become bishops, priests, and deacons in the Mystery of Holy Orders. They are servants to the whole community as they help Christians live out their life in Christ.

#### **18. We Share Our Blessings**

Christians are known for their hospitality, which means that they welcome all people and share whatever blessings they have.

#### **19. We Share the Good News**

God calls us to share the Good News of our new life in Christ. We are all called to become missionaries who spread the Good News.

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# 14—We Serve God and Each Other

## ***Objectives***

By the end of this lesson students will be able to ...

- recognize that love can be placed into four categories: romantic, family, friends, and all other people.
- state that the sign of faithful Christians is that their love reflects Christ's love.
- realize that Christ calls us to unlimited service to others.
- understand that service requires sacrifice that we offer up to God.

## ***For the Catechists***

This unit focuses on our helping each other as we journey to God. This lesson includes details about the different kinds of love we experience. In each category of love, God is with us. Romantic love is just mentioned, but help the students realize that the love between a man and a woman is a gift from God that leads to holiness. The end of this lesson discusses the importance of the Mystery of Crowning to reinforce the presence of God in all our relationships. These students are too young to think about future spouses, but they are not too young to get involved in relationships. Help them realize that God calls them to a lasting relationship through marriage—not a fleeting moment of love.

Our service is a sacrifice that keeps us on our journey to God. God asks us to offer our help and service willingly and without expectations. We are to offer up these sacrifices and make them holy. These sacrifices help us live out our life with Christ and keep us on the path to God.

In the liturgical study, the Mystery of Crowning in Marriage is discussed. Help the students realize the importance of learning how to sacrifice in a family. Be sensitive to the fact that some of your students come from "broken" families. Throughout this discussion help students recognize that God's plan for the Mystery of Crowning is possible for their future marriage even if their parents are not married.

## ***Materials Needed***

*Opening Prayer:* "Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal ...

*Icon:* The Holy Trinity (*Come Bless the Lord* icon packet #18).

*Closing Prayer:* Sing or pray "This New Commandment." Words are on the last page in this teacher manual lesson

Pens, pencils, markers and white paper

**1. Opening Prayer**

Chant or recite "Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal...."

[Find this prayer in the Divine Liturgy books in your church. This prayer is before the reading of the Epistle.]

**2. Introduction**

Ask the students to brainstorm about all the different ways we show love. After they list about 10, start identifying categories: Love of family, friends and church members, and strangers. Discuss how love even though shown in different ways is still thinking about the other person and sacrificing something.

**3. Guided Reading**

- Before the reading, review last week's objectives. Then summarize this week's objectives of the lesson on a wall pad or easel pad to use for review next week.
- Have students read text aloud and emphasize the importance of recognizing the importance of prayer.
- Give students time to complete the personal journal. Do not ask them to share.

**4. Scriptural Reflection**

- Read John 13:34-35
- Before reading aloud, have students make the sign of the cross. Remind them that reading Scripture is praying.
- Look at the picture showing students helping. Ask them what picture from their life could they put into this place.
- Give the students 3 minutes to answer the questions and read the passage again.
- Ask the students to work in groups of 2 and share their answers
- Possible answers:
  - He died on the cross to gain for us salvation.
  - Some possibilities: Say good morning, listen to others, help with homework, help with household chores
  - Some possibilities: Altar server, help at church events, collect food for less fortunate

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***Background Reading (Parish Love)***

"If we are people of love, then our oneness with Christ will be evident to all around us... When a parish is clearly a community of love, the parish and parishioners shine like a light in the darkness of our society. The parish proclaims a discovery far exceeding the greatest scientific achievement: that the power and presence of God is felt where brethren love one another" (*Journey* TM 201).

**5. From the Teaching of the Church Fathers**

- Ask one student to read the words from Aristedes.
- Possible answers:  
 Help widows and orphans, help strangers ....  
 Always look to Jesus to learn how to live—don't rely on today's articles and shows  
 Christians are fighting for the unborn.

**6. Liturgical Study**

- Read the paragraphs aloud.
- Ask the students to explain what the crowns in the Mystery of Crowning stand for. (Refer to the paragraph by the picture.)

**7. Closing Prayers**

Sing or pray "This New Commandment." Words are on the last page in this teacher manual lesson. Check the words used in your jurisdiction.

**Supplemental Activities:**

Review—At the end of the lesson, ask the students what they remember by using one of the following suggestions:

1. Make a booklet that identifies how to show love in different situations: at home, school, at sport activities, with relatives .... Consider offering these ideas to the priest to include in the bulletin.
2. Write a thank you note to someone who has or is sacrificing for you. Write specific details that show what you noticed as a sacrifice.
3. Write a thank you note to your priest to thank him for being your priest and serving your parish. Thank him for all the ways he shows love to you and other parishioners.

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***Background Reading (Service)***

"We often hear a liturgical celebration called a 'service,' as 'What kind of service are we having today?' Our worship in Church is indeed a service. It is first of all a Divine service, for it celebrates what God does in our behalf, as the Gospel of Mark recalls, 'The Son of Man has not come to be served but to serve—to give His life in ransom for the many' (10:45). In the Liturgy, therefore, God gives Himself to us. The same reality of His loving service is present as when He washed the feet of His disciples at the Last Supper (John 13:1-17).

"Liturgical services are not like entertainments, they require our own act of offering, our own participation. What each one gets out of it is not the same either, it is often in proportion to the service we put into it....

"The celebrant of the services ... has a duty to serve them well... The priest cannot do everything by himself, it would distort the Liturgy. Nothing is more dead than an empty church or one where the people just sit and do not participate. We do not come to church to receive our private share of God, but to serve God, the Church and each other. If we do this well, we have a living Church.

"Our service does not begin and end with the Liturgy Our service in the Church flows over into our relationships with one another in the whole life of the parish" (*Journey* TM 218)

**This New Commandment**

This new commandment I give to you.  
This new commandment I give to you:  
That you love one another,  
That you love one another,  
Just as I have so loved you.  
By this will you show the world the truth.  
By this will you show the world the truth:  
That you are my disciples,  
That you are my disciples,  
By your love for each other.

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