



CALLED TO ACTION

Session 3: Call to Family, Community and Participation

living the Faith
celebrating Prayer
promoting Justice
ready to Serve

Song – One Bread, One Body – John Foley, S.J.

Refrain:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;

One cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many, throughout the earth,

We are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
Woman or man, no more.

Many the gifts, many the works,
One in the Lord - of all.

Video Link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FG9T8UmN6VY>

Prayer – You Give Us Others

Lord,
You give us others,
who watch, when we sleep
who believe, when we doubt,
and keep praying,
when we are reduced to silence.

You give us others,
who walk with us,
who hope and fear with us,
who are tired and do not fail us,
to whom we can turn
with our cares and our needs.

You give us others,
who stand with us before you,
who ask you, and question,
and thank you,
and are always ready to serve you.

You give us others,
and entrust them to us.
We do not love you without them,
nor are we loved by you without them.
Let us be a blessing to one another,
on our way to you.

Amen.

Author unknown

For an interaction prayer go to [Tree of Life](#) in the Creative Prayer resource.

Scripture – We are One Body (Romans 12:4-8)

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.



Called to Action: Written by The Logos Project on behalf of Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry enabling young people to live their faith.



Church Teaching Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World (Paragraph 12 of Gaudium at Spes)

But God did not create human beings as a solitary, for from the beginning "male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:27). Their companionship produces the primary form of interpersonal communion. For by their innermost nature humans are social beings, and unless they relate to others they can neither live nor develop their potential.

Therefore, as we read elsewhere in Holy Scripture God saw "all that he had made, and it was very good" (Gen. 1:31).

Ice-Breaker - Line up 1.0

Gather all participants and ask them to line up in a particular order without speaking. Speed and safety are the keys. Try the examples below and feel free to add other categories.

- Birthday line up (month, day)
- Timeline line up (who has been here the longest, to the shortest length of time.)
- Number of siblings
- Who lives the nearest to the furthest from this point
- Last name
- Favourite snack food
- Favourite sport

Remove any obstacles in the room or in the area and ensure the safety of the participants.

If the group are very good, give them extra challenge like having some blindfolded.

Debrief:

Ask the participants what was the key information they needed in order to succeed with the challenge? The key ideas should be: information about myself and others (e.g. my birthday and other's birthday) Underscore the idea that in order to succeed in the activity, we must try our best to get to know others; their birthdays, height, number of siblings, and so on. It is through knowing basic information about others that we can build relationships and stronger community participation.

Activity - Adventure race

The aim of this activity is for members of your group to find out about your wider faith community. Make a list of questions which participants have to find the answer to. *Example questions* (and answers) are:

- What group collects food at Parish Masses for those in need? (St Vincent de Paul)
- Which group meets once a month on a Tuesday night? (Parish Pastoral Council)
- What hours are the Parish Office open? (9.00am to 3.00pm)
- Who is the co-ordinator for Children's Liturgy? (Mary Smith)
- What is the main headline in the current issue of NZ Catholic? (Bishop laid to rest)
- What ethnic groups meet at your Church? (Samoan, Tongan, Filipino, Spanish)
- What year was this Church opened? (1956)

Aim to include questions on main groups and activities that happen regularly in your faith community. You might also include historical facts and ways which young people can participate in your community.

On the day have young people working in groups of 3 to 5 to find the answers. Important notes:

1. You may need to "plant" information. For example putting information on a noticeboard
2. Make sure the time of this activity doesn't coincide with a Mass or wedding etc. Be sure it is an appropriate time to have young people running around. If there are "no go" areas specify these and ensure that there is a heavy penalty eg loss of 10 points!



Activity - Your Family

Introduction:

Each human person is not only sacred but also social. We do not live in isolation because from the time we were conceived, we already belonged to a community. First, we shared a unique bond with our mother in her womb and then we were born into a family with its history, values and identity. When we were baptised, we became part of the Body of Christ, the People of God in this world. So from the moment of our conception, our network of communities enables our unique identity to be shaped. We must recognise and cherish the gift of belonging to our immediate family and wider family; the Church and society. The Church teaches that in order to fully belong to a family and/or community, **participation** is essential. We must have the initiative to share our skills and talents in order for our family and community to collectively grow in faith, hope and love.

Task: Your Family

1. Reflect and think about your family (kin or non-kin) and think about the role that each and every one of them play.
2. Draw on a piece of paper your family table (or another gathering space) and where each family member usually sits from a birds-eye view. What are the good things you bring to your family table, what do you like about your family and what do you find challenging about your family?
3. Then read Colossians 3: 12-17 and reflect on it as a group.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Reflection... ask these questions to the group:

- How do you think about your family?
- What do you say about your family to others?
- What is your role in the family? (or What do other members of the family ask of you?)
- When you think about your family and acknowledge them as a blessing from God, for what are you grateful?

Application...

- What is one thing you can change about yourself to build a better relationship with your family?
- What is one specific thing you can do in the next week to put this change into practice?

Final Comments:

It is a big world that we live in and there are many factors that can influence our actions, thoughts and decisions. Having a clear understanding of who we are; our family history, cultural values and principles will enable us to prepare ourselves to fully participate in the wider community. The first 30 years of Jesus' life were not documented in any of the Gospels because that was his time of formation with his family, with his mother Mary and his foster father Joseph. The formation that Jesus received from his family significantly helped him in his ministry to his people. A family to someone may not necessarily be blood relation, but it is important to note about the idea of a family and what it involves. If it involves inclusion and participation in a caring environment, than people may find that family.

