

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday is the day on which we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. We refer this as the birthday of the Church. Pentecost Sunday occurs 50 days after Easter and ten days after the Ascension of Our Lord.

Together as a class read the story of the first Pentecost in *Acts 2: 2-4*.

At the first Pentecost, the Apostles received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Apostles began to preach the Gospel in all of the languages that the Jews who were gathered there spoke, and about 3,000 people were converted and baptized that day.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=720YFwZd_Xc
<https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/resource/7800/>

Identify Vatican II

The videos below will give the teacher and students background as to why Vatican II was necessary for the Church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nCb6ALDtng>
<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/scripture-and-tradition/church-leadership/the-second-vatican-council-lesson-plan>

Identify the Nicene Creed

Some activities you may want to try with your students.

- Direct students to rewrite in the middle column of the following handout, the original Nicene Creed in a way that makes sense to them. They can be as creative as they like, but their version must reflect what they believe to be the essential truth stated in the creed.
- Divide the class into groups of five. Taking one phrase at a time, direct the students each to share their personal version of the creed with the other group members and to make a decision on which version or combination best expresses the central truth in the original creed. The group's decision about a phrase should be printed in the right-hand column of each member's handout. They should continue until the entire creed has been discussed.
- Distribute a large sheet of poster paper and markers and have each group write its version of the creed on the sheet. Hang each group's creed **around the classroom**. As a class discussion encourage comment or questions or requests for clarification regarding the way a group expressed a particular belief.

Resources and Teaching Strategies
Based on ACRE Focus Areas (Level 2)

THE NICENE CREED

Group	Original	Personal
I believe in one God, the Father almighty,		
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.		
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages		
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; Through him all things were made.		
For us men and our salvation he came down from heaven: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.		
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.		

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Original	Personal	Group
<p>And he rose again on the third day</p> <hr/>		
<p>He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.</p> <hr/>		
<p>He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.</p> <hr/>		
<p>I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.</p> <hr/>		
<p>Who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified. who has spoken through the prophets.</p> <hr/>		
<p>I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.</p> <hr/>		
<p>And I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.</p>		

Resources and Teaching Strategies Based on ACRE Focus Areas (Level 2)

What are the "various ministries" of the Deacon?

All ordained ministers in the Church are called to serve as:

Ministers of the Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel by preaching and teaching in the name of the Church.

Ministers of Sacrament- Deacons baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services.

Ministers of Charity, deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others, then organizing the Church's resources to meet those needs. Deacons are also dedicated to eliminating the injustices or inequities that cause such needs.

The Meaning of Sacramental

Sacramentals "are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church. By them, men are disposed to receive the chief effect of the sacraments, and various occasions in life are rendered holy" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1667).

This YouTube clearly describes what a sacramental is and does.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SMESmQ8Ukg>

Resources and Teaching Strategies Based on ACRE Focus Areas (Level 2)

Three basic expressions of prayer

Vocal prayer, meditative prayer, and contemplative prayer are the three basic expressions of prayer.

Vocal prayer makes use of our bodies to express the interior prayer of our hearts. These are normally traditional prayers, as the Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be etc. We can pray alone and with others. Gathering with others to pray is called communal prayer. We can pray the Rosary, novenas, litanies and classroom prayers together. The most important vocal prayer is praying together at Mass. Our vocal prayers are not just “going through the motions,” they are the expression of a living faith.

Meditation engages our thoughts, imagination, emotions, and desires. We may use Scripture, particularly the Gospels; traditional prayers; writings of the spiritual fathers; religious images. Meditation, also known as reflective prayer, leads us to conversation with God. Remembering that we are in God’s presence, we can listen to him speak to us. We enter into God’s sacred time and space and know that he is with us at all times and in all places.

Contemplation is the richest form of meditative prayer; often called a wordless, active listening to God beginning with a deep desire to place ourselves in the presence of Christ so that we may better hear his voice in our hearts.

To understand how contemplation occurs, we can compare it with thinking on—or contemplating—a beautiful sunset. We are conscious of its impact, but our reaction is wordless. When we experience God personally, we feel his love and wait for him to speak to us in his own way. The key is to make time to relax and listen in God’s presence, to seek union with the God who loves us. Going to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a place for to listen and experience God’s presence

Magisterium

The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church, especially as exercised by bishops or the pope.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/the-spirit-of-truth-sacred-tradition-of-the-church.htm>

<https://churchofsaintpaul.com/role-of-the-magisterium>

Resources and Teaching Strategies Based on ACRE Focus Areas (Level 2)

Identify the 'Communion of saints'

The communion of saints is the Church" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 946). It has three states or divisions, the communion of saints of the living, those who are still on their pilgrim journey on earth; and the communion of saints of the dead or the faithful departed, some of whom are being purified, those in purgatory, and the ones who are enjoying eternal glory in the presence of God, those in heaven (Catechism, No. 954).

Pray together a Litany of the Saints. Discuss what it means to ask intercession from the saints. Have students work in small group and write their own Litany of the Saints adding people they know who are deceased.

http://www.catechist.com/articles_view.php?article_id=1918

Identify ecumenism

Ecumenism, from the Greek word "oikoumene," meaning "the whole inhabited world," is the promotion of cooperation and unity among Christians. The Ecumenical movement today has been brought about by the conviction that a divided Christianity is a scandal to the world.

Underlying the Catholic Church's pursuit of ecumenism is its recognition that elements of sanctification and truth are found in other churches (Second Vatican Council, Lumen Gentium 8).

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/is-unity-the-most-important-thing-to-pope-francis-48247/>
