

Seen and Unseen – Edge Night 10/19

The goal of this Edge Night is to help the edgers understand that the Church is made up of both visible and invisible aspects and that both aspects make up a whole Church community.

Main Ideas:

- The Church is made up of parts that are both visible and invisible
- The Church is one community made up of both the community on earth and the community in heaven
- The Eucharist is a visible reality that physically puts us face-to-face with Christ.

Scripture for the Week:

- Mark 9:23-24
- John 14:9
- John 20:24-29
- Hebrews 12:1-3
- Colossians 1:16

Opening Prayer: Come Holy Spirit

COME HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL
AND KINDLE IN THEM THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE.
SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT AND THEY SHALL BE CREATED,
AND YOU SHALL RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

 EDGE

Gather Activity: Visible/Invisible Brainstorm

- Draw a line down the middle of a piece of paper.
- Give yourself 5 minutes to write down/draw every visible thing you can think of that you've ever interacted with and every invisible thing you can think of that you've ever interacted with.
- Once you've finished, count how many you have on each side.
- What do you notice about the numbers/items you've counted? (There are probably going to be way more visible things than invisible things)

Recorded Teaching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbBhy1SjMHo>

Discussion Questions:

1. What are one or two things that you learned from the teaching?
2. What are some more examples of visible parts of our Church?
3. What are some more examples of invisible parts of our Church?
4. Why do you think people struggle to believe in the parts of our faith that they cannot see?
5. What is one invisible aspect of the Church that you have a hard time believing? Why do you struggle with believing that part?
6. Have you ever doubted your faith? What made you doubt your faith? Do you still have doubt?
7. What are some practical ways to help increase your trust in God?
8. What role can the saints and angels play in helping us grow in trust of God?

After Discussion Activity:

Draw the inside of a church and include all the visible and invisible elements that would be present at Mass. Discuss each element and how you can be more mindful of them throughout the week.

Closing Prayer:

Open the time of prayer by reading John 20:24-29. Explain the story of Thomas, using the following as an example:

After Christ had risen from the dead He appeared to some of His disciples. One of His disciples, Thomas, was told that Christ had risen but would not believe unless he saw Him. When Jesus finally appeared to all of the disciples Thomas was able to touch Him and see Him and he believed. But, Christ said to Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Many of us can relate to Thomas. We think that until we see Christ or we see those invisible parts of our faith we will not believe them. But Christ calls us to have faith and to trust in what He promises us.

Close the night in a simple prayer inviting the youth to ask God to help their unbelief. Read one petition at a time and have the youth respond, "Lord, help my unbelief."

LEADER: Heavenly Father, thank You for all you have done for us. We know that You have created all things, visible and invisible. We pray that You would open our hearts and eyes to see You and all You have created.

Respond: Lord, help my unbelief.

LEADER: Lord, many times we doubt You because we cannot see You.

Respond: Lord, help my unbelief.

LEADER: We, like Thomas, want to see You with our own eyes to believe that what you say and teach is real.

Respond: Lord, help my unbelief.

LEADER: We pray that You would give us eyes of faith to see we are never alone.

Respond: Lord, help my unbelief.

LEADER: We pray You would help us keep in our mind and heart that your angels and saints surround us always.

Respond: Lord, help my unbelief.

LEADER: We pray that even though we may not see You or hear You all the time we have faith and trust that You are with us always like You promised.

Respond: Lord, help my unbelief.

LEADER: We look forward to one day seeing You face-to-face in heaven.

Respond: Lord, help my unbelief.

LEADER: Thank You Jesus for everything you have done for us.

Respond: Lord, help my unbelief.

LEADER: Increase our faith.

Respond: Lord, help my unbelief.

LEADER: We pray this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Respond: Amen.