

PMPT THEME 2019: BAPTISED AND SENT

JANUARY SUB-THEME

Unites Us in Christ

FOCUS: We, by Baptism, are immersed in that inexhaustible source of life which is the death of Jesus, the greatest act of love in all of history;... no longer at the mercy of evil, of sin and of death, but in communion with God and with our brothers and sisters (Pope Francis, general audience, Wednesday, 8 Jan 2014). We are invited to confirm our baptismal identity in a personal encounter with the living person of Jesus Christ, who invites us to be his witnesses in the world. (Fernando Cardinal Feloni, 8 April 2018)

Opening Prayer:

+Invite someone to pray or use the "Prayer to the Holy Spirit" on p.2

OPENING SONG: God lives in me (J33)

God lives in me and may He there abide
I've renounced the devil and my Jesus is my guide
God lives in me 'cause I've been baptized
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

When on my head, Baptismal waters poured
I became a child of God, and brother of our Lord
God lives in me 'cause I've been baptized
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

DIALOGUE

DIALOGUE

John is the father of three primary school going children, a boy and two girls. His wife is a full-time home maker. He has been working for 12 years in a company whose manager was very demanding and he found it extremely challenging. Being overly stressed at work John became irritable over trivial matters at home. His family suffered as a consequence. He felt bad at this attitude towards his family but was utterly helpless in solving the problem. He even contemplated changing his job, even if the salary was less than his present one.

It was during this time in 2017 that his cousin invited him to accompany him to Mass. While there, he felt a peace he had never known before and every Sunday after that he attended Mass. He wanted to know more about the Catholic faith and his cousin encouraged him to attend the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). He told his wife about his intention and both of them attended RCIA. John was now able to share his problem at work with his wife and even with the RCIA animators during the RCIA sessions. He felt encouraged each time he attended Sunday Mass. He didn't feel 'bottled up' anymore.

John and his family were baptized last Easter and his children started to attend Sunday Catechesis. After Baptism, John and his family continued to grow in their faith and Word of God by participating in the BEC gatherings in their neighbourhood. He is happy to share his 'new found faith in Christ' and to belong to a caring community of faith. He and his wife decided to serve as Hospitality Ministers in the Church after their Baptism.

He said "I am thankful to my cousin for my journey of encountering Christ. Our Baptism last Easter, brought great joy to my family and we have become a close-knit family. I felt the loving touch of the hand of God upon all of us."

Buzz in groups of three

- Remembering your Baptism, what are you most grateful for?
- How does serving the community unite all Christians as one Body in Christ?

DISCERNMENT

BIBLICAL TEXT: Gal 3:26-29

1. QUIETEN Ourselves -- ask the Holy Spirit for *openness of mind & heart to Christ in the Word*
2. READ the text aloud and LISTEN with openness
3. READ it silently by yourself until a word or phrase touches or strikes you. Write it down.

4. REFLECT on 'what the word/phrase says?'

5. What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through the word or phrase that I chose? Write it down

6. What do I say to the Lord in response to his Word? Write it down

7. Share in small groups (3-4 persons) on # 4, # 5 and #6

8. DISCERN in silence – What conversion of mind, heart and life is the Lord asking of me?

DEEDS

- a. Facilitator **connects** the "Monthly Theme", "Dialogue", "Discernment", and the "sharings".
- b. In silence, sense within our hearts a movement that invites us to make our lives a gift for others in charity
- c. What specific DEED is the Lord opening before us?

- d. We share our task with one another, confident that our Lord moves us to do His work.

+Closing Prayer

Pray spontaneously or use the "MISSION PRAYER" with Mary on p.15

Closing Song: We are one in Jesus (D35)

We are one in Jesus, all of us are one
We are one in Jesus, all of us are one
We are one, we are one, Jesus Christ and we are one
We are one, we are one, Jesus Christ and we are one
We are one in Jesus, all of us are one

All of us are brothers, brothers of the Lord
All of us are brothers, brothers of the Lord
We are one, we are one, brothers of our risen Lord
We are one, we are one, in the Spirit of our Lord
All of us are brothers, brothers of the Lord

Jesus is our brother, Christ and we are one
Jesus is our brother, Christ and we are one
One in mind, one in heart, in the Spirit from on high
With our brother in our midst, never more to die
Jesus is our brother, Christ and we are one
We are one in Jesus, all of us are one
All of us are one, all of us are one