

# CELEBRATE

## Objective

To explore the meaning of the ritual action of Blessing for Mission

To teach that we are sent forth from Mass to carry God's love to others

## Liturgical Catechesis

The purpose of this section is to help children reflect on their experiences of the signs, rituals, prayers, and gestures of the celebration and to lead them to express their own meaning of the experiences. Allow children to share their experiences without commenting on them.

## Being Blessed

- On the board or on chart paper, write the following questions: What did you see? What did you hear? What did you do?
- Guide children to reflect on the celebration by reviewing what happened in the prayer.
- Invite children to share their responses to the questions.

## Reflect

- Invite children to complete the phrases with their own thoughts and feelings.
- Remind them that they do not have to respond to all the statements.

## Blessing

- Read aloud the text.
- Discuss the different kinds of blessing.

## Being Blessed

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### Blessing

A **blessing** is an action, using words and gestures, to ask God to show his kindness to us. There are many kinds of blessings. The Church blesses people and objects. Parents are blessed when their children are baptized. Animals are blessed on the feast of Saint Francis. Parents bless children at night or when they wake in the morning. The priest blesses special objects such as rosaries. At Mass the priest blesses the assembly.



## Reflect

**Blessing for a mission** Think and write about the celebration.

*When I receive a blessing*

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*The Holy Spirit helps me*

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*When I serve people in need*

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## Additional Activity

**Draw a picture** Help children remember some of the phrases from the blessing you led during the celebration. Remind them that we are called to serve others.

- Distribute art materials.
- Have children draw a picture of one way they can serve others at home or school.
- Invite volunteers to share their pictures.



## Sent on a Mission

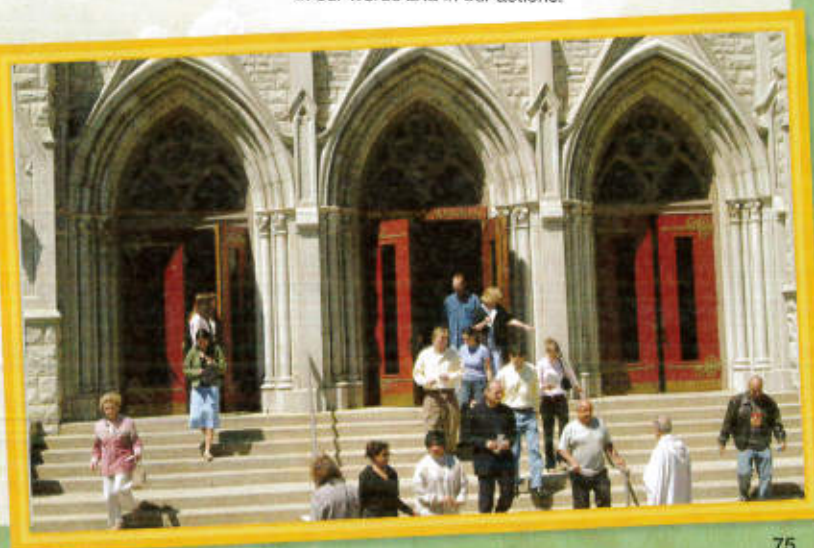
Have you ever been sent to do a special job? Being sent means you are trusted. You represent someone else. You are responsible. Someone is counting on you. Without you, the job will not get done.

At the end of Mass, we are sent to carry the message of God's love to others. We are sent to help carry out the work of Jesus in the world. The word *Mass* comes from a word that means "to be sent on a mission." Receiving Jesus in Holy Communion strengthens us to love and serve others. We go out from Mass with God's blessing.



### Witness

At the end of Mass, we are sent forth to be witnesses of faith in Jesus' presence in the world today. A witness is somebody who sees or hears something and tells others about it. We witness to Jesus' presence when we tell others about him in our words and in our actions.



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## Sent on a Mission

- Summarize the first paragraph, and have children share their experiences of being sent to do a special job.
- Have five volunteers each read aloud a sentence in the second paragraph.
- Encourage children to share their ideas about how they can carry God's love to others.



### Witness

- Summarize the text for children.
- Share one or two examples of people who are everyday witnesses of faith to you.
- Invite children to think of their own examples and share them.



## Teaching Tip

**Use ordinary experiences** When relating experiences or stories of people who are witnesses of faith or when giving examples of possibilities for mission, use experiences and examples children can relate to and possibly imitate. Otherwise, they may feel that acting for mission is not possible for them.

At the same time, be sure to use some examples that challenge children to think beyond the communities of family and school. You may be able to find these

kinds of examples in newspaper stories of individual children or groups of children who have reached out to others.

If possible, invite a representative from a parish organization or committee that is involved in outreach or social concerns activities. Ask him or her to present some ideas to the group that would be possible activities for children or families to be involved in.