

REMEMBER

Objective

To explain why we are sent forth from Mass

Faith Focus

How do we love and serve Jesus?

List children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

We Are Sent

Recall that Jesus sent his followers out on a mission. Tell children that every time we leave Mass, we are also sent on a mission.

- Have children read the bulleted text aloud.
- Talk about specific tasks that the Holy Spirit can help us with.

Deacon

- Read aloud the text.
- If your parish has a deacon, tell children his name. Consider inviting him to your class to talk about his duties.

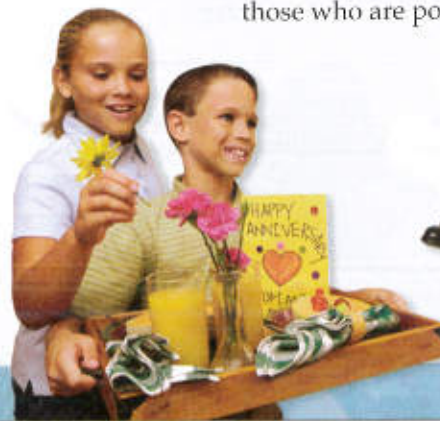
We Are Sent

REMEMBER



Deacon

A **deacon** is a man ordained by the bishop to do works of charity and to have a special role in worship. Some deacons become priests. Other deacons do not, but they help the bishop and care for people who need it. All deacons can baptize and witness a marriage. At Mass deacons may carry the Book of the Gospels, read the Gospel, and preach. They can also send us forth for mission at the end of Mass.



Faith Focus

How do we love and serve Jesus?

Like Peter and the disciples, Jesus promises us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is with us always. The Holy Spirit helps us:

- tell others about his love
- do the work of being a disciple
- forgive others
- care about people who need help, especially those who are poor

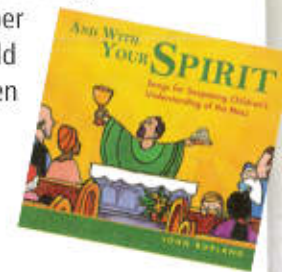
Additional Activity

Acting Justly Explain to the children at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist we respond to the priest that to love and serve the Lord is right and just. Reinforce this point with the song "It is Right and Just" (track 8) from the *And With Your Spirit* music CD. Replay the song so that the children become familiar with the definitions of the words *right* and *just* in the chorus. Then:

- Post a map of the world on the board or on chart paper.
- Ask the children to name ways that they can act "right and just" in the world. If children need help to get started, remind

them to reflect on the verses of the song and include both actions bring justice to our neighbors and also things that put God first in our lives, such as prayer, sacraments, and fasting.

- Print their responses on white mailing labels.
- When you have a number of suggestions that is equal to the number of learners, give each child a sticker. Have the children come to the front of the room to attach their stickers to the map.



Go Forth

At the end of Mass, we are sent forth to serve others. The priest or deacon says, "Go forth, the Mass has ended." We respond, "Thanks be to God." We go forth to announce the joyful good news that Jesus is alive. We share the good news by what we say and what we do.

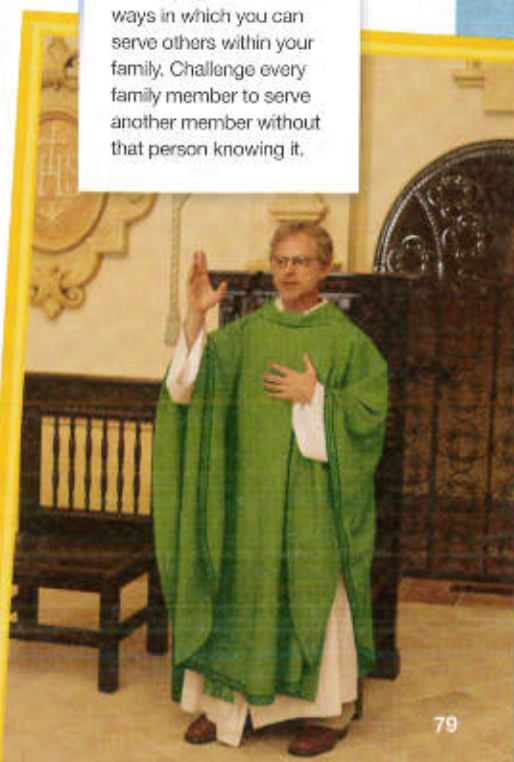
When we leave the church after Mass, we are different from when we came in. Participating in the Eucharist changes us. It brings us closer to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It also brings us closer to one another.

In the Eucharist we become one body, just as many grains of wheat make one loaf of bread. We are filled with God's grace and love. We go forth in peace to give glory to God. We go forth to help those who need our help. We love and serve Jesus when we love and serve one another.

? What are some ways your family helps others?

Faith at Home

Discuss your child's response to the question on this page. Talk about ways in which you can serve others within your family. Challenge every family member to serve another member without that person knowing it.



Sacrament Background

Deacons According to the oldest practices of the Catholic Church, the ministry of deacons as we know it today originated in the story found in *Acts 6:1–6*. The diaconate arose out of an expressed need articulated by the community of the Hellenistic Jews, who complained to the Apostles that their widows were being neglected.

The Apostles discerned that they could not leave their own service of the word and instead established the ministry of the diaconate for service to the widows. Stephen, who was also the first martyr, was one of the first deacons.



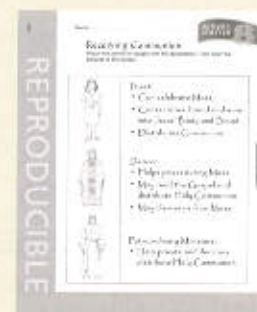
Go Forth

Recall that during the Mass we hear God's message in the Liturgy of the Word and receive Holy Communion during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

- Summarize the first paragraph, and have children repeat the dismissal responses after you.
 - Have children read the second paragraph, and discuss how we are different after we attend Mass. **We are closer to God and to one another.**
 - Read the last paragraph aloud.
 - Have children link the photographs with ideas in the text.
- ?** Elicit answers to the question. **Accept all reasonable responses.**

Activity Master

You may wish to use Activity Master 8 on page CE20 to clarify the roles of bishops, priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers.



▲ Activity Master 8

Review

- The Holy Spirit helps us serve others.
- When Mass ends, we are sent forth in peace to share the good news.