

Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph

Catechetical Activity – Youth

Materials Needed

- Copies of the Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* (With a Father’s Heart)
 - http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html
- Copies of the timeline
- Copy of the Answer Key for the Catechist
- Chart paper
- Markers

Catechist Preparation

In the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father’s Heart), Pope Francis identifies the extraordinary attributes of Saint Joseph as a “*beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, creatively-courageous, working father hidden in the shadows.*” (cf. No 1-7 PC). In this session, youth participants will have an opportunity to study Pope Francis’ letter.

For your preparation, it will be essential to read *Patris Corde* (With a Father’s Heart) (see link above) in advance of the session. For more information about the Infancy Narratives in the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of Matthew, see [**Infancy Narratives at Boston College School of Theology – Crossroads.**](#)

Process

1. Introduction

- a. Provide participants with the following information:

- On 8 December 2020, Pope Francis announced a **Year of St. Joseph** to mark the 150th anniversary of the proclamation by Pope Pius IX of St. Joseph as the **Patron of the Universal Church**.
 - To guide reflection on St. Joseph during this special year, Pope Francis wrote an Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart). In this letter, Pope Francis identifies the extraordinary qualities of Saint Joseph as a **“beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, creatively-courageous, working father hidden in the shadows.”** (cf. No 1-7 PC).
 - In this session, we will learn about St. Joseph by studying together *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart).
- b. Distribute copies of *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart). If participants have devices that will enable them to view it online, provide the link for them.

2. Discovering *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart)

- a. Ask participants, either individually or in small groups, to read the introductory section of the document (Up until **1. Beloved Father**) to become more familiar with the Scriptural stories about St. Joseph.
- b. Once participants have read the text, have them fill in the boxes on the timeline provided with the events in the life of St. Joseph based on the reading. Ask them to pay attention to the numbering of the Scripture passages. Ex. Mt 1:21 which will help them to put the events in order. There is an **Answer Key** attached for the Catechist's use.
- c. Once the timeline activity is complete, ask participants, either individually or in small groups, to read **one** of St. Joseph's "attributes" outlined by Pope Francis in the document *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart). Only assign attributes **2-7**, reserving attribute **1** for a concluding exercise.
- d. Using their completed timelines, ask the participants to do the following based on the attribute they have read about:
 - i. Identify three significant examples from the life of St. Joseph that highlight the particular attribute.
 - ii. Identify ways in which St. Joseph's attributes are evident in our lives or our world
 - iii. Once completed, each individual/group will present their findings to the large group. If possible, use chart paper to record responses

and post on the wall.

- e. To conclude this session, have each participant read **“Attribute 1 – A Beloved Father”**. Invite the participants to write a prayer to St. Joseph, using the following formula;
 - i. **Address St. Joseph**, *E.g. Beloved St. Joseph*
 - ii. **Recount a particular attribute or action of St. Joseph**, *E.g. You showed courage by your love for Jesus and Mary.*
 - iii. **Make a specific request for St. Joseph’s assistance**, *E.g. Help us or Guide us*
 - iv. **An expression of gratitude to God for the example of St. Joseph**. *E.g. Dear God, we give you thanks for the example of St. Joseph*
- f. Pray one of the prayers together to bring the session to a close.

EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF ST. JOSEPH

1

Fill in the boxes below with the events based on the reading.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

ANSWER KEY

EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF ST. JOSEPH

