

# Introduction to *Justice and Mercy*: Exploring Our Catholic Identity with Adults

## WELCOME

Although catechesis is ideally a year-round process, the reality is that many programs have a fall to spring cycle. In recognition of this fact, CTL begins each year in the fall, and includes year-round sessions at all age levels.

*The Church*, “In the course of the year . . . unfolds the whole mystery of Christ from his incarnation and nativity through his ascension, to Pentecost and the expectation of the blessed hope of the coming of the Lord” (Sacrosanctum Concilium 102 § 2; CCC 1194).

*Justice and Mercy* provides an opportunity for adults at all levels of faith development to examine the weekly Scripture readings and their relationship to Church teaching and tradition, and to live Jesus’ mission in everyday life. A doctrinally sound focus on major documents of the Church, papal encyclicals, and bishops’ statements gives adults a deep understanding of the history and tenets of the Catholic faith. This combination of weekly Scripture, Church teachings, and personal introspection is ideal for use with catechumens and candidates, Bible study groups, and adult faith formation.

As part of the *Celebrating the Lectionary* series, this resource was created collaboratively by faith formation experts, Scripture scholars, liturgists, and theologians in order to allow all parish members to engage with the liturgy at their own level without diminishing its depth of meaning and content. The format allows you to tailor the materials to fit your parish’s program in order to meet your individual group’s needs and interests. The sessions cover the entire year, from September to August.

Using *Justice and Mercy*, you will embark on a personal journey of faith as you encourage the adults in your group to do the same. You will be given the opportunity to understand the Catholic faith on a much deeper level as you share this information and lead discussions with the adults in your group.

## CATECHESIS AND JUSTICE AND MERCY

New this year: *Justice and Mercy* now includes session plans for all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation!

*Justice and Mercy*, like all the age-appropriate packets for *Celebrating the Lectionary*, serves the faith community’s catechetical task of helping its members to know, celebrate, and contemplate the mystery of Christ (*General Directory for Catechesis* 74). *Justice and Mercy* does so by blending different forms of catechesis such as the exploration of Scripture in light of the liturgy, teaching, and Tradition of the Church; the application of the liturgy, Scripture, and Catholic teaching to our times; and the formation of families in the context of the Catholic faith.

The catechesis in *Justice and Mercy* is liturgical catechesis. Centered on the Lectionary readings for Sundays and Holy Days, the session plans incorporate catechesis on liturgical and sacramental actions, liturgical symbols and rites, and the liturgical year. The catechesis in *Justice and Mercy* leads the adults to a deeper appreciation of the liturgy and their active role in it by encouraging them to continue on the path of conversion to Christ through both prayer and catechesis. Through the children, youth, and adults formed by *Justice and Mercy* and other *Celebrating the Lectionary* resources, the liturgy comes to life in the world. Those who have been evangelized become evangelizers (*National Catechetical Directory* 17D and GDC 58)!

Developed on the principle that all members of the faith community are involved in their own journey of ongoing conversion to Christ, the themes, focus statements, and focus passages for each Sunday and Holy Day are the same for every resource within the *Celebrating the Lectionary* program. Whether parishes or Catholic schools use *Celebrating the Lectionary* for one age level or for multiple age levels, or whether the sessions happen for groups at the same time or different times, the identical themes, focus statements, and focus passages allow for conversations about the liturgy, the Lectionary readings, and Church teachings to occur in families, among small faith communities, and across generations. Ultimately, liturgy is brought to life, the desire for ongoing catechesis recognized, and communion with God in Christ deepened in the lives of children, teens, and adults.

### FAITH DEVELOPMENT AND ADULTS

Adults who participate in ongoing faith formation opportunities desire to know more about their faith so they are able to better live it at home, in the workplace, and in the world around them. Most of these adults make the choice to grow spiritually through learning more about their faith and reflecting on the Sunday liturgy throughout the week, even in the midst of their busy lives.

The adults in your group most likely have a wide range of experience and background in faith. Some adults may have participated in faith formation and prepared for sacraments as children, but have grown less involved in the Church and faith development over time. Some may have renewed their interest in faith because they are preparing for the sacrament of marriage or because they have children in faith formation or preparing for the sacraments. Other adults are searching for spiritual grounding in their lives, perhaps because they are experiencing difficult or sad events, or just because they desire to be further grounded in their faith. They desire a framework to make important life decisions that goes beyond that provided by the workplace and the world around them. For these adults, understanding their Catholic faith in relation to their own spiritual development is necessary. Other adults in your group may still be discovering the Catholic faith as catechumens or neophytes. It might seem challenging to have all of these different backgrounds and viewpoints in one room, but hearing a variety of different ideas will help all of the adults to grow in their faith.

The session plans in *Justice and Mercy* are written using the best pedagogical methods, which blend experience and theory and keep in mind the many dimensions of the human person—spiritual, cognitive, emotional, and psychological, among others. All the plans begin with the Introducing the Word section, which relates the focus of the session to the daily life experiences of adults. The Exploring the Word section takes a deep look at one or two of the Lectionary readings for the particular Sunday or Holy Day and provides background information on them, as well as an in-depth examination of related Church teachings. This information is provided in outline form and intended for the facilitator or leader to use as a guide as they relate the information to the participants.

Adults typically like to be involved in their own education, and facilitators may find that encouraging conversation and inviting participation is the best way to work with adults. A good facilitator or leader should not feel as if he or she needs to have all the answers to the questions the adults will pose. When questions arise that cannot be answered immediately, let the participants know that you will find information and get back to them. After the session, speak with your pastor or director of faith formation. Be careful not to present something as Catholic Church teaching that is not such.

After the Exploring the Word section, the session plan returns to the adult experience in the section titled Integrating the Word. In this section, the adults are given an opportunity to reflect individually and in small groups, as time allows. Each week, Reflection Questions are provided in the session plan and in a prepared sheet that can be copied to pass out to participants. These questions are intended to assist the adults in making connections between the liturgy, Lectionary readings, and Church teaching and their own daily actions, focusing on things that they can do in the coming week to better live their faith.

At every age, faith is a free gift from God to which we freely respond. Faith is also a personal relationship with God that is developed in and through our relationships with others—family, friends, and the Church. God himself is a communion of persons in relationship—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who calls us to himself. Adults look to develop their faith in light of their daily life. They long to know a God who loves them as they are, complete with all their questions and demands they face each day. Offering adults the freedom to explore the Catholic faith and life questions within the boundaries of Church teaching is a sign to them of God's love.

Together, the content provided in *Justice and Mercy* and the caring manner in which you lead the sessions will help instill in adults the confidence to go forward in life grounded in the liturgy and knowing faith can be a positive influence on every aspect of their life.

### PRAYER AND JUSTICE AND MERCY

For children, youth, and adults of all ages, prayer involves the raising of the mind and heart to God. Prayers can be offered in praise of God, in petition to God, in thanksgiving, and in intercession for others. Prayers are also either private or public. When the adults in your group pray at the beginning and end of each session, it is a form of public prayer offered as a group. Plan to make these times consistent at the beginning and end of each session. The adults will then look forward to them as part of the session routine. For some adults, it will provide them with the only moment they have to catch their breath during a hectic day. Liturgical music is also an integral part of the prayer and helps connect the adults to the parish community's celebration of the liturgy. We speak more about this in the following section.

During the prayer at the beginning and end of each session, you are more a prayer leader than a facilitator or catechist. At these times you will not be conveying knowledge to the adults, but will be evoking a sense of the presence of God in and around them. To do this effectively, let go of the details of the session to come or the session just completed and center yourself in God as you prepare to lead the prayer. This will enable you to be a channel for God's grace. Through your example, the adults themselves will improve their ability to center themselves in God.

In order to involve the members of your group more in the opening and closing prayers, you might choose to ask one or two adults to lead the prayer. Once they've seen you model leading the prayer a few times, the adults will welcome the opportunity to participate. Be conscious of those adults who are shy or more reserved, and those who are coming back to their faith for the first time in a long time, and would not feel comfortable speaking in front of a group. Do not pressure them to lead prayer.

Each session plan in *Justice and Mercy* includes a gathering prayer and closing prayer. These prayers are adapted from the gathering prayer and closing prayer in the Prayer Services found in the *Program Guide*. If the adults in your group participate in a gathering prayer or closing prayer with other age groups, you might choose not to use the prayers in session plans. Or, you might choose to adapt them by simply using the Sign of the Cross and a shorter spontaneous prayer as you open and close your session. The wording of the prayers in the session plan is simply a guide. Use the prayer as given or adapt to better meet the needs of your group. Though often a session might seem rushed at the end because time is running out, you will want to refocus the adults at least for a brief moment in order to conclude with prayer. Use the closing prayer as given or ask the adults to contribute their own prayers based on the session's focus. No matter the prayers you choose, always remember that the goal of prayer is to deepen your relationship with God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### MUSIC AND JUSTICE AND MERCY

Music plays an important role in good liturgical celebrations. Music evokes a sense of the transcendent God in people of all ages. The words of hymns and songs give voice to what we believe and help draw us closer to God the Father through the Son and in the Holy Spirit. Melodies combine with words to bring us in touch with our thoughts and feelings about God, others, ourselves, and the world around us.

The liturgical music suggestions in *Justice and Mercy* are appropriate for adults. They come from both traditional and contemporary genres, and are sound liturgically, musically, and pastorally. The suggested hymns and songs are sung in many parishes and Catholic schools, and are available from major liturgical music publishers.

*Justice and Mercy* gives four liturgical music suggestions for each session, two for the gathering and two for the closing. As the leader of the session, you have a number of options for the use of music. You might choose one song for the beginning of the session and one for the closing. Or, you might choose the same song for both so as to reinforce the focus of the session. Prior to a particular season of the liturgical year, you might plan the music you will use and decide on two or three songs that you will use consistently throughout the season. Doing so will help the adults connect with the season and attribute meaning to it.

Live leadership of hymns and songs in adult faith formation sessions mirrors good liturgical practice in the Sunday assembly. See if any of the adults in your group are cantors or accompanists for the Sunday liturgy, and invite them to lead the music during the session. When it is not an option to have the music led “live” in person, check with your director of faith formation or liturgical music to see if a CD of the music is available. You might also check iTunes to see if the suggested music is downloadable. If the suggested music is not sung in your parish or school community, you might check with the director of liturgy or liturgical music for other appropriate choices.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS AND JUSTICE AND MERCY

Children, youth, and adults who seek initiation into the Catholic Church are all part of the catechumenate process. In some parishes, participants in the catechumenate process are divided according to age. This division allows catechumenate catechesis to take place in an age-appropriate manner. The sessions in *Justice and Mercy* can be used as catechumenate sessions for adults. Since the sessions are based on the liturgy, Lectionary readings, the related doctrinal connections, and are year-long, the catechesis offered in the sessions is suitable catechesis for the period of the catechumenate. (See *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* 75, no. 1.)

Moreover, if adults who are neophytes are included as part of your parish’s adult faith formation, the session plans can also serve as mystagogical catechesis. The sessions provide an opportunity for the adults to delve more deeply into the Paschal Mystery and integrate it into their lives through reflection on the Lectionary readings, Church teaching, and participation in service and justice. (See *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* 244.)

At the end of the Introduction to *Justice and Mercy*, you will find Catechumenate Dismissal Questions for each Sunday and Holy Day. These questions can be used by dismissal catechists who lead the adult catechumens in discussing the Lectionary readings they hear proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word after they are dismissed from the liturgical assembly. The questions are specific to the catechumenate experience and related to the readings of the particular Sunday or Holy Day. The Catechumenate Dismissal Questions and the related session plans are written so that the dismissal catechesis and the lengthier catechumenate session can take place on the same day or on different days.

### USING JUSTICE AND MERCY EFFECTIVELY

The Scope and Sequence chart is available in the *Program Guide* and online at [www.LTP.org](http://www.LTP.org). Ask your director of faith formation for a copy or download one from the Web site.

See the end of the Introduction for a concise list of the documents and their abbreviations.

**Before the Session** In preparation for each session, you will want to read through the following:

- *Scope and Sequence*: The Scope and Sequence chart gives the date, liturgical day, theme, focus passage(s), focus statement, and the age-appropriate doctrinal points of each session. Take special note of the focus and theme and reflect on how they tie into the overall direction of the season.
- *Season Background*: The Season Background provides in-depth information on the seasons of the liturgical year, solemnities, and feasts, as well as an overview of the seasonal Scripture readings. This information gives you historical and critical background to rely on as you lead your sessions.
- All of the Scripture readings for the Sunday or Holy Day liturgy.
- *Scripture Background*: The Scripture Backgrounds contain commentaries on all the readings, and, when appropriate, make explicit the connection to the day’s theme. They offer a sidebar with doctrinal connections to the readings. These connections come from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and other Church documents. One or more of these doctrinal references inform each session.



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Once you have read all of the preliminary materials, plan for your session. Read through the week's Preparation Page, Session Plan, Catechist Sheets, and Activity Sheets. While reading through these resources, do the following:

- Reflect on the meaning of the focus in relation to the overall trajectory of the season.
- Review the Session Plan and decide how you are going to tailor it to your group. Select the activities that you will be using, and make notes in the margins of other resources such as the Church documents that you plan on using or information that you plan on mentioning, such as information from the Scripture Background.
- Read the Preparation Page for information on what you need to do before the session. Any items that you may need to bring with you are printed in bold.
- Use the Materials Needed space in the margin to make a list of everything that you need to bring with you to the session. You may want to cross or check off items as you put them in your car or bag so that you are sure that you have everything.
- Make copies of the Reflection Questions sheet provided for each Sunday and Holy Day, if your group members like to work from a prepared sheet that gives them space to write their thoughts. They can place these sheets in a binder and use it as a journal.

**During the Session** Use the Session Plan to lead the following activities:

- *Gathering:* As your group members start to arrive, engage them in conversation. Remembering to ask about work or family challenges, events that occurred during the past week, or favorite hobbies will make members feel valued in the group. Once everyone has arrived, focus attention by taking attendance (if your group has a practice of doing so), celebrating birthdays, and leading the opening prayer ritual. Begin the prayer with the Sign of the Cross. Then, use the prayer text as a guide for the opening prayer.
- *Introducing the Word:* These large or small group discussions prepare the group to listen to the Scripture reading by helping them to focus on ways in which it relates to their lives.
- *Exploring the Word:* Read the focus Scripture reading from the Lectionary or Bible. Pay particular attention to the Church Teaching section which includes, in outline form, an explanation of the focus doctrinal connections for the session. You may want to read through the related Church documents, many of which can be found online at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va). We encourage you to put the outline in your own words and not simply read it to the group. Allow time for group members to comment on the material you are presenting. Allowing time for adults to raise questions based on their previous knowledge and experience is important.

*Bilingual Discussion Questions* are provided after the first session of each season. These questions can be used as a session in themselves for groups where participants are both Spanish speaking and English speaking. They are written to cover the main topics of Introducing, Exploring, and Integrating the Word. Or, the questions can be used during the discussion times in the session.

- *Integrating the Word:* During this part of the session, you will use the reflection questions to reinforce the Scriptural message and Church teaching presented in the session.
- *Closing:* End each session with a brief, quiet moment of reflection in which you pray to God and thank him for your time together. Use the text for the closing prayer as a guide for your own prayer. Invite the adults in the group to contribute prayer intentions, or close with a traditional Catholic prayer. Distribute the Scripture Background for the following Sunday or Holy Day.

**After the Session** Use the following tools to help yourself and your group members to live the liturgy throughout the week to come:

- Challenge the group to put the Scripture into action during the week by participating in a service project, caring for a friend or family member, or being introspective about their own thoughts and actions. When applicable, reinforce these challenges by sending home a worksheet or a reflection question.
- At the beginning of each session, ask the group what they did during the previous week to bring the Scripture to life through their thoughts, words, and actions. Also ask if there were times when group members had difficulty understanding the right course of action whether at work, at home, or with friends, and discuss ongoing dilemmas that group members may be experiencing.
- Use the After-Session Reflection Questions to guide your own spiritual journey and behavior. The first after-session reflection question is intended to help you evaluate the session and your experience of how it went. The second after-session reflection question is meant to assist you in reflection on your own faith journey as you continue to serve as a faith formation leader.
- Reflect on both what seemed to be most interesting and applicable to the adults, and what seemed to bore or confuse them. Brainstorm ways to continue to focus your sessions on the things that seem most important to your group.

### PRACTICAL TIPS FOR YOUR SESSION

- *Setting Up Your Space:* Arrive at least 30 minutes early in order to set up your room. Set out nametags and all prepared materials. Arrange the furniture how you need it. If you use a “borrowed” classroom or other parish or school space, be sure to clean up after yourself, erase blackboards or marker boards, and return all of the furniture to its original position.
- *Creating a Prayer Center:* Set aside a space for a prayer center. See the weekly Preparation Page for seasonal ideas. Cover a small table, sturdy box, or counter with a cloth of the liturgical color for the season (as indicated on the Preparation Page). Add a Bible or Lectionary, candle, and crucifix or cross. Depending on the time during the liturgical year and the content of the session, add a symbol of creation or a liturgical symbol, such as flowers, harvest foods, a Rosary, an Advent wreath, or a saint statue. Have matches or a candle lighter handy. Instill in your group the importance of this small ritual, as it will show them the importance of ritual in establishing our Catholic identity and help them make a connection between the faith formation session and the Sunday or Holy Day liturgy. This ritual is especially important for adults, who often have trouble leaving the events and pressures of their day behind and centering their thoughts on the Scripture reading and related discussion.
- *Welcoming the Group:* Your session starts as soon as the first person arrives. Welcome each group member by name and engage them in a group conversation. Be aware that many adults may live alone, spend all day caring for children, or work in solitary careers, and are often in great need of social interaction. Gathering conversation topics do not have to be formal or religious in nature, and can include work or family stories, upcoming holidays or celebrations, current events, or pop culture—the important thing is that everybody gets a chance to share and feel valued for his or her

contribution. Many adults become involved in activities at church in order to make new friends, and this is an excellent time to encourage that.

- *Volunteer Involvement:* If your group is large or has many elderly members with special needs, you may consider involving a volunteer in your group. Other parish members, especially youths preparing for Confirmation, are good sources for help. Before soliciting any volunteers, however, make sure to check with your director of faith formation to see if there is a parish policy on volunteering.
- *Family Considerations:* Learn about your group members' families and be sensitive to differences of ethnicity and race, socio-economic background, language, religions practiced by other family members, and nationality. Be considerate of single-parent families and familial issues or concerns such as illness or death that may be occurring. Teach the group how their faith can help them through times of sadness and how, as members of a community of faith, we can offer encouragement and support to one another in happy and sad times.
- *Multi-lingual Considerations:* You may find that some members of your group do not speak English as their first language. If this is the case, you might want to divide your group into pairs or smaller groups and allow everyone to discuss in his or her native language. The Bilingual Discussion Questions provided with this packet will facilitate Spanish-language discussion. If you have additional language or translation needs, ask your director of faith formation.
- *Adapting for Special Needs:* If you have a member with special needs, take time to learn about the situation from his or her family or caretaker. Be cooperative and understanding as you work as a team with them and your director. When preparing your sessions, adapt activities to include the special needs members without drawing undue attention to them. You may need to leave space for wheelchair access. In some cases, you may want to explain a member's special needs to the rest of the group, and tell them how they can help. Be sensitive about redirecting any comments, stares, or gestures that might make the special needs person uncomfortable. Remind your group that God makes each person with special talents and needs and loves everyone equally.
- *Establishing Consistency:* A consistent routine helps the group to know what is expected of them and stay focused and on task. Establish routines with your group that are repeated each week. Be sure to write down your routines in case you ever need to use a substitute leader.
- *Affirmation:* All persons desire encouragement and support when they do something well. Offer a positive word when a group member responds to a question with an insightful comment or correct answer. Praise your group when they support one another and report back on ways in which they kept Jesus in mind during their daily lives.

The Word to Go /  
La palabra para llevar,  
bilingual weekly handouts,  
can be ordered from  
Liturgy Training  
Publications at  
www.LTP.org.

### LIVING THE LITURGY TOGETHER

You may feel some anxiety as you prepare to lead or assist in your first session. You may ask yourself: Do I know enough about my religion to share it with others? Do my sins or shortcomings make me unqualified to perform this ministry? Many lay people who serve the Church ask themselves these questions. Remember that Jesus taught us that anyone who does good works in his name is serving as his disciple (Mark 9:38–43, 45, 47–48). By virtue of our Baptism, we are called to embrace our service in the Church according to the gifts and talents God has given us. Love and serve the Lord in your faith formation ministry without feeling you need to be perfect in all you say and do. Just as you grow in your relationship with God each and every day, so can you build upon your successes and learn from your failures in the sessions with your group.

As you approach the task ahead, remember that you are not alone. Among the many resources available to you are other catechists, the director of faith formation, members of the clergy, fellow parish members, and your friends and family. Rely on these people to help you to explore your faith, serve the people in your group, and brainstorm session activities. You may want to invite the other catechists

to set aside a time before each session to meet briefly to share challenges and successes and to pray as a group.

By taking on this ministry, you are embarking on a journey of faith along with the group that you will be leading. This is a tremendous opportunity for you to actively explore your beliefs and celebrate Catholic traditions as you take on the role of a faith formation guide using Jesus Christ as your model. By attending Sunday Mass, praying the liturgy, actively participating in it, absorbing the depths of its meaning, and then approaching each day with a prayerful mindset, you will be given the opportunity to truly live your faith more deeply.

We at Liturgy Training Publications invite you to share your successes and concerns with us. We welcome your feedback on *Justice and Mercy* and hope that you will take the time to help us make this resource even better. Please email us at [ctl@ltp.org](mailto:ctl@ltp.org).

**Doctrinal Connections Key** The following is a list of documents that are referenced in the connections to Church teaching and tradition section on the Scripture Background pages. A Scripture Background page appears before each session in *Justice and Mercy*. Full texts of the following documents can be found in *Vatican Council II, The Basic Sixteen Documents* (Flannery, ed.), on the Vatican Web site ([www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)), on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Web site ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)), or online by typing the English or Latin title into a search engine.

AA: Second Vatican Council, *Apostolicam Actuositatem*.

AG: Second Vatican Council, *Ad Gentes Divinitus*.

BLS: United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, *Built of Living Stones*.

CGTM: United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, *Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium*.

CCR: United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, *Called to Compassion and Responsibility*.

CCC: Interdicasterial Commission for the Catechism of the Catholic Church, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

CL: Pope John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*.

CKS: United States Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue, *The Church as Koinonia of Salvation: Its Structures and Ministries*.

CSDC: Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *Compendium of Social Doctrine of the Church*.

CU: Synod of Bishops, *Convenientes ex Universo*.

DCE: Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

DH: Second Vatican Council, *Dignitatis Humanae*.

DPPL: Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*.

DM: Pope John Paul II, *Dives et Misericordia*.

DV: Pope John Paul II, *Dominum et Vivificantem*.

EM: United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, *Encuentro and Mission*.

EN: Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*.

GS: Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*.

GMD: United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, *Go Make Disciples*.

JPSS: Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible*.

LG: Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*.

MC: Pope Paul VI, *Marialis Cultus*.

NDC: United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, *National Directory for Catechesis*.

NA: Second Vatican Council, *Nostra Aetate*.

NMI: Pope John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Inuente*.

OHWB: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Our Hearts Were Burning*.

RP: Pope John Paul II, *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*.

RH: Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Hominis*.

RM: Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater*.

RMi: Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*.

## Introduction to JUSTICE AND MERCY

RCIA: Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

SCST: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Sharing Catholic Social Teaching.

SRS: Pope John Paul II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis.

SS: Pope Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi.

SNL: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Strangers No Longer.

TMA: Pope John Paul II, Tertio Millenio Adveniente.

EE: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, To the Ends of the Earth.

USCCA: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, United States Catholic Catechism for Adults.

UUS: Pope John Paul II, Ut Unum Sint.

VS: Pope John Paul II, Veritatis Splendor.

No abbreviation: Pope John Paul II, Day of Pardon Homily.

No abbreviation: Pope Paul VI, Message for the 1976 World Day of Peace.

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