

LESSON 1

Church: Missionary by Nature

I. Introduction

The church is missionary by nature. Proclamation of the Gospel is the most important responsibility that the risen Lord has entrusted to His disciples. Everyone who becomes a member of the church through Baptism takes up this missionary task. The class should be conducted in such a manner as to explain this fact.

II. What children should understand:

1.Conviction

Jesus who has been sent by the Father is the first missionary

The church has been sent by Jesus Christ.

The most important mission of the church is preaching the word of God.

It is the Holy Spirit who prepares us to receive the Good News.

Since the church has received the missionary task from Jesus and co-operates with His plan of salvation, the church could be considered as the sacrament of universal salvation.

Preach the Gospel to all the peoples; Baptise them; Teach them to follow what He has commanded and witness His love: These were the missions that Jesus gave to the church through His disciples.

Since the church is missionary by nature, all its members are also missionaries.

2. Attitude

Conviction about one's missionary responsibility. Will to share the Word of God with others.

3.Habit

Will speak about Jesus to others. Will pray for the success of missionary activities.

III. Teaching Aids:

Video of Jesus entrusting the salvific mission to His disciples. A chart showing that the missionary task of the church is the continuation of the mission that God the Father has set about.

The Bible The documents of the Vatican Council

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

The class begins with the video show of Jesus entrusting the mission of proclaiming the Gospel to His disciples. With the help of the chart explain the mission of every person in the Holy Trinity. Also explain the basic mission of the church.

V. Activities related to the lesson:

a. Read and meditate on the word of God:

Read a Bible verse meditatively and imbibe its message

b. Memorise a verse:

Memorise a verse and note down the same in a diary.

c. Let us pray:

All pray together and resolve to make the same prayer every day of the week.

d. My Resolution:

After reading silently speak out the resolution aloud.

e. Think with the church:

The Second Vatican Council was an epoch making event that heralded a reformation in the history of the church. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, the fathers of the churches who participated in the council spent their time in prayers, studies and discussions. The official teachings and exhortations thus formulated in the council are the 'Documents of the Second Vatican Council'. This has been included in the lesson with a view to familiarising the students with the authentic and authoritative information about the church and its teachings. Therefore, as far as possible, the relevant portions should be read directly from the Decree.

VI. Correlated Activities:

Make a chart showing the missionary activities that the church is presently engaged in.