

Sent Forth on Mission

Challenged to live the Gospel



TARGET AUDIENCE

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Overview

This Object presents the origins of Christian service. At the Last Supper, when the meal was over Jesus washed the feet of his disciples; an act of pure love. This action has become the model for Christian service today.

The multimedia element of this Object is a movie slide show. Visuals of the model of Christian service established by Jesus are juxtaposed with examples of Christian service today. The audio draws on the key themes developed in the 'Supporting Content'.

Teacher Background

Teachers are encouraged to review the 'Living a Eucharistic Life' section of the DVD Rom *Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* to deepen their understanding of: the call to 'go forth' and live the mission of the Gospel in our daily lives; how we are called to live our Catholic and Christian faith; and the meaning of the Eucharist in our lives.

In particular, the following aspects of *Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* provide entry points and context for this Learning Object:

- Within the pathway 'Dismissal for Mission', watch the video 'The Dismissal'.

Where appropriate, use this material with the students.

Supporting Content

This text supports the focus of the multimedia element.

At the Last Supper, Jesus demonstrated how Christians are called to service and love. Jesus and his disciples had just finished eating when Jesus, with only a towel wrapped around his waist, knelt down at the feet of each of them and washed their feet, drying them with a towel. Roads in and around Jerusalem were dry and dusty. People often arrived at their destination with dirty, dusty feet. The ritual of foot washing was usually performed by a household servant because it was considered a lowly task.

By his example, Jesus was teaching his disciples that those who want to be great in God's eyes do not worry about how others see them. This amazing

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Supporting Content

example of service made a lasting impression on the disciples. It expressed pure love and by doing this Jesus laid the foundation for true Christian service; one that has become the model for all Christians today. To serve as Jesus did for the benefit of others shows the deepest level of love and humility.

We are called to be actively engaged in the Lord's work on earth, *Ite missa est, Go forth the Mass is ended*. When we go to Mass we are given a mission to go out and live the Gospel. The New translation has emphasised this sending forth through the new forms of dismissal. These new forms challenge us more than previously.

We go out from the Eucharistic celebration to live the Eucharistic life – we go out as the Body of Christ. We the baptised go out and live our baptismal gifts. We bring Jesus to the world of today.

John 13:1-17

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' ⁷Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' ⁸Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' ⁹Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' ¹⁰Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example that you also should do as I

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have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

Select one or more of the following activities for students to complete.

1 **Sharing in the Mission of Jesus**

Invite students to select one of the poster themes and to undertake the associated task.

You are working for an advertising firm contracted to supply posters for large, road-side billboards. Design a poster that has one of the following themes:

- Today's Christian youth – called to share in the mission of Jesus
- In every age, Christians are called to share in Jesus' mission
- 'Being Christian' means sharing in Jesus' mission to build the Kingdom of God in the world.

Instruct the students to choose a title and include a short, snappy 'mission statement'. This statement will seek to express, clearly and concisely, what it means to be a young Christian who shares in Jesus' mission in today's society.

The poster should include at least three practical examples of how this mission can be practised in everyday life. This might be expressed most effectively with images and short phrases.

2 **The Mission to Live the Gospel**

Form students into groups of four. Invite them to undertake the following research project.

Work in groups of four on a research project on the opportunities for people in your local area to be engaged in the Lord's work on earth.

Ensure that the students are with people from their local community. If there is difficulty with this, rearrange the groups accordingly. Instruct the students to divide the following tasks between the members of their group, with each choosing a particular area to research.

What opportunities are there for people in your local area to be engaged in the Lord's work on earth in:

1. **The natural world:**

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**For Reflection and
Discussion: Ideas for Use**

- **By caring for animals;**
- **By restoring and rehabilitating the environment;**
- **By preserving the earth's resources;**
- **By promoting the appreciation in others of all aspects of nature.**

2. Human society:

- **By caring for those with special needs;**
- **By joining groups that promote attitudes, values and decisions that promote the equality of all people;**
- **By providing opportunities to help people rest and relax;**
- **By promoting religious worship to nourish people spiritually.**

3. Families:

- **By supporting families who have financial and material needs;**
- **By supporting families who have children with special needs;**
- **By supporting families who have emotional needs.**

4. Individuals:

- **By helping them to care for their personal health and well-being;**
- **By providing social and emotional support if they are lonely;**
- **By providing networks to assist with the practical necessities of life;**
- **By providing opportunities for their religious development at different stages of life.**

Instruct the students to produce a pamphlet of volunteer opportunities for their local area. Once all members of the group have completed their research, the group should collate the findings and together produce the pamphlet. They will need to include details on the different volunteer opportunities, such as: what is required; what personal qualities the volunteer should have.

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**For Reflection and
Discussion: Ideas for Use**

**Once all the pamphlets are complete, discuss as a class:
Are there any volunteer opportunities we could be involved in
right now?**

**Organise for the students to distribute the pamphlets to
interested people in your school.**

- 3 Invite the students to read the Last Supper account and discuss
what it means to be a servant of others and to wash their feet.**

**Teacher Professional
Development Resources**

Kelly, Maureen, [‘The Mission of the Baptised’](#), *Liturgy Training Publication*,
Archdiocese of Chicago, 2006

Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet – [Commentary](#)