

## UNDERSTANDING CHURCH

### **Session Description:**

This session presents the concept of Church as mystery and explores the various models of the Church and the four marks of the Church.

### **Focus of the Session:**

The Church “is the Reign of Christ already present in mystery (CCC #763).” The Church is seen as a living, vibrant reality in the life of the community, rooted in Christ, which gathers and leads the people of God in community, worship and service.

### **Content:**

In conducting this session the instructor will:

1. Invite the participants to explore the models of the Church.
2. Present the marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
3. Present an awareness of the Church as the mystical Body of Christ and people of God.
4. Incorporate a variety of teaching methods and present age-appropriate understandings of the various models of the Church.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

As a result of the session the catechist will:

1. Develop an understanding of the Church as the mystical Body of Christ and people of God.
2. Understand the marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
3. Become familiar with the models of the Church, recognizing their strengths and limitations.
4. Be aware of age-appropriate methods of teaching the models and marks of the Church.

### **References:**

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: #763, 770, 813-870
- Vatican II Document: *Lumen Gentium* Chapters 1, 2
- Cardinal Avery Dulles: *Models of Church*
- *National Directory for Catechesis*: pp. 56-57