Q1. (Faith) What are the underlying sources of the healings recorded in Acts 5, 19, and Mark 5? How is that reflected in the Church’s teachings about veneration of relics today?

Acts 5:15

Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them.

Acts 19:11-12

11 So extraordinary were the mighty deeds God accomplished at the hands of Paul

12 that when face cloths or aprons that touched his skin were applied to the sick, their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

Mark 5:28-29

28 She said, “If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured.”

29 Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

CCC1674

Besides sacramental liturgy and sacramentals, catechesis must take into account the forms of piety and popular devotions among the faithful. The religious sense of the Christian people has always found expression in various forms of piety surrounding the Church's sacramental life, such as the veneration of relics, visits to sanctuaries, pilgrimages, processions, the stations of the cross, religious dances, the rosary, medals, etc

CCC1676

Pastoral discernment is needed to sustain and support popular piety and, if necessary, to purify and correct the religious sense which underlies these devotions so that the faithful may advance in knowledge of the mystery of Christ.

Q2. (Hope) What examples of persecution do you find in this lesson and what is the reward of the faithful?

Matthew 5:10-12

10 Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.
 Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Q3. (Love) We are not called to seek persecution and martyrdom, but we are called to endure suffering patiently, to stand up for our faith, and love our neighbors. We frequently refer to these as Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. What examples of Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy do you see in this lesson?

CCC2447

The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.

Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently.
The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead.

Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God

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The underlying cause of the healings is always God.

The purpose of the veneration of relics is to advance in the mystery of Christ. Apart from Christ, relics have no power. To those who trust in the power of Christ, even as the woman in the Gospel of Mark, relics have great power to heal and to elevate our faith.

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They were arrested and jailed

Then the high priest rose up and all his companions, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and, filled with jealousy, laid hands upon the apostles and put them in the public jail. V. 17-18

They were put on trial

When they had brought them in and made them stand before the Sanhedrin V.27

They had been given orders not to teach about Jesus

“We gave you strict orders [did we not?] to stop teaching in that name. V.28

The Sanhedrin wanted to kill them

When they heard this, they became infuriated and wanted to put them to death V.33

They were flogged and ordered not to speak of Jesus

After recalling the apostles, they had them flogged, ordered them to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them V.40

Their reward was to be freed and to continue to preach the name of Jesus and rejoice at the honor of being worthy of persecution.

So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. V.41

They will also receive a great reward in heaven as promised in Matthew 5:12

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Instructing in the faith

* With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus V.33
* “Go and take your place in the temple area, and tell the people everything about this life.” When they heard this, they went to the temple early in the morning and taught. V.20-21
* “The men whom you put in prison are in the temple area and are teaching the people.” V.25
* God exalted him at his right hand\* as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the holy Spirit that God has given to those who obey him.” V. 31-32
* And all day long, both at the temple and in their homes, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the Messiah, Jesus
* **Feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked**
* There was no needy person among them V34
* They were distributed to each according to need. V.35

Advising the sinner

* Why did you contrive this deed? You have lied not to human beings, but to God V.4
* Then Peter said to her, “Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? V.9
* But Peter and the apostles said in reply, “We must obey God rather than men V.29

Visiting the sick

* A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured. V.16

Bearing wrongs patiently

* So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. V.41