

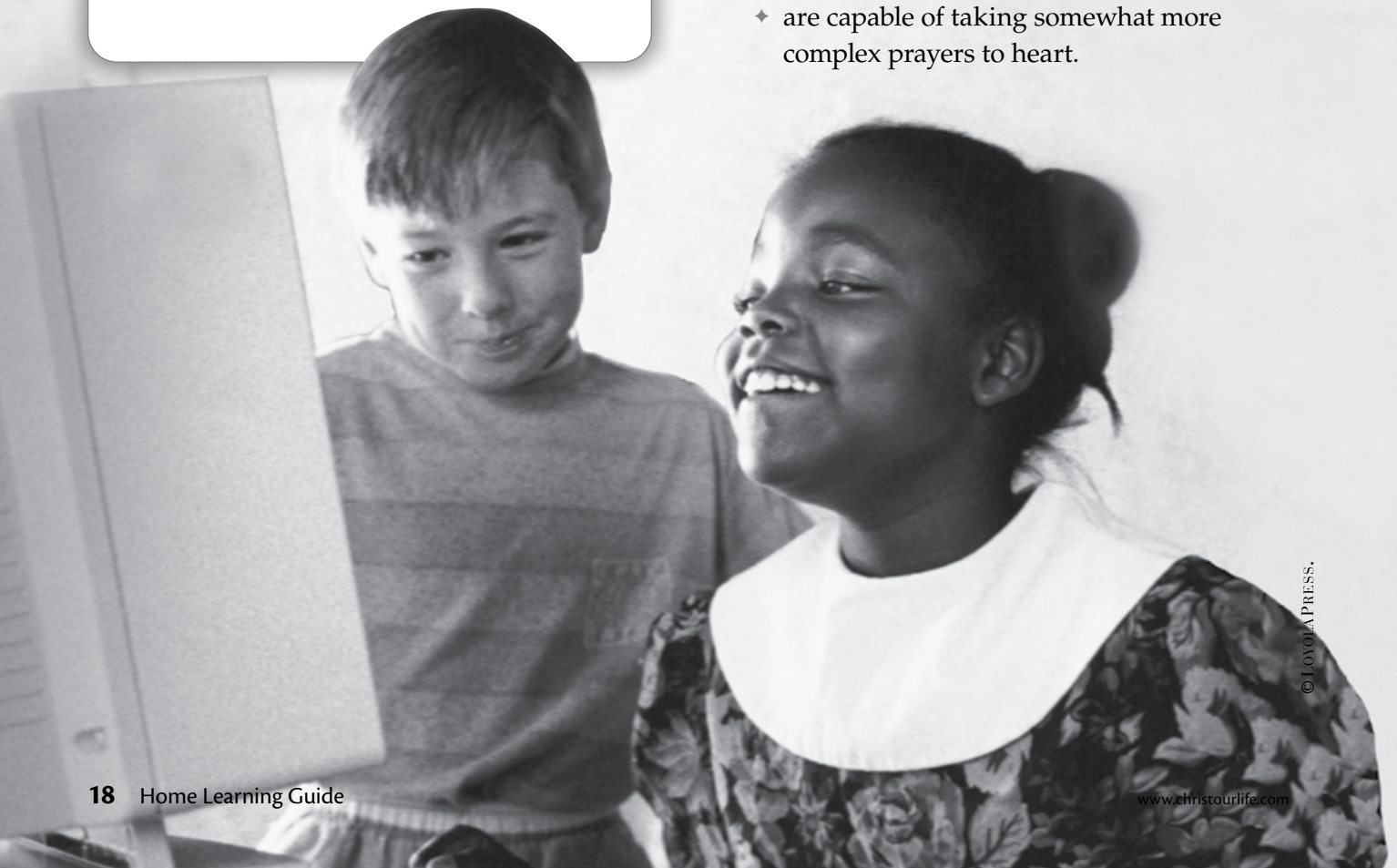
Profile of a Third-Grade Child

(AGES 8–9)

Children at this age work diligently at increasing their skills in handwriting, computers, sports, and almost everything in which they are involved. They enjoy any kind of joke, riddle, or puzzle. While still quite imaginative, they begin to move toward realism and can think logically. They may begin to worry about the world, their friends, their families, people they know who may die or have died, and moving or changing schools. For some, this may be an anxious time with lots of complaining!

Children at this age

- ♦ begin to see prayer as less centered on the self and as more realistic.
- ♦ are capable of praying for broader concerns.
- ♦ begin to see connections between events.
- ♦ enjoy ceremonies, rituals, and symbols.
- ♦ need a sense of belonging.
- ♦ enjoy moments of quiet.
- ♦ are capable of reflecting for short periods of time.
- ♦ are capable of praying spontaneously in a conversational style.
- ♦ begin to appreciate the liturgical seasons and feast days throughout the Church year.
- ♦ are capable of taking somewhat more complex prayers to heart.



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The Third-Grade Program

The third-grade program of *Christ Our Life: New Evangelization Edition—We Believe—*presents the main truths that Catholics believe and express in the Creed. Your child is learning to understand that he or she belongs to a faith community—the Church. Your child is helped to develop a clearer, deeper faith by learning about God as revealed in creation, in God’s dealings with the Chosen People, and in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

New Gather and Go Forth pages at the end of every chapter reveal to children a fundamental truth—to be Catholic is to evangelize. Children grow in their knowledge and love of God and recognize the missionary heart of the Church. Inspired by the Good News, they share their most precious gift, a lived faith, with others.

Unit 1 encourages your child to develop a wholesome self-respect, as well as a respect for others. The program strengthens your child’s trust in God, who calls him or her to be his, now and for all eternity. Your child will discover the means for following God’s plan for his or her life. The examples of Mary and others who have answered God’s call encourage your child to trust God and to obey him freely.

Unit 2 aims to increase your child’s knowledge of the sacraments, especially Baptism, Penance and Reconciliation, and the Eucharist. Your child will come to recognize these sacraments as signs of Jesus’ special presence among his people. He or she will realize that Jesus is with his people in a sacramental way, guiding and fortifying us with his life and love. Through Baptism, your child learns that Jesus takes away

sin, shares his life of grace, and makes us part of his special family—the Church. Your child will discover that in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, Jesus forgives and strengthens us to lead a holy life. Learning how Jesus gave us the Eucharist prepares your child to be one with him in Holy Communion.

Unit 3 leads your child to study the basic truths of the Creed. Your child will learn about God as Creator and will be led to develop a spirit of obedience to his will. The Old Testament accounts of God’s saving deeds and merciful love introduce the relationship with his Chosen People. Your child will perceive that God, although seen in creation, is perfectly revealed in the teachings and saving deeds of Jesus.

Unit 4 focuses on the articles of the Creed related to Jesus, the Son of God. Your child will learn about his coming, his work, and his teaching and will see his mission as part of God’s plan to share his life with us in eternal happiness.

Unit 5 centers on the Paschal Mystery—the Lord’s Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension into glory—and on our sharing in that mystery. The goal of the unit is to foster a deeper appreciation of the great work of redemption and a desire to cooperate wholeheartedly with the Holy Spirit. The unit concludes with the study of the Communion of Saints, the family of God, whose members support and pray for one another. Mary’s Assumption and her role as Queen of Heaven and Earth are also introduced.