

The Church Celebrates God's Care

- ✦ Before beginning Unit 5, read A Letter Home, found on page 172 of your child's book. Then begin the next paragraph with your child.
- ✦ Say: **In Unit 5 we will learn more about the roles of our Church leaders and how we can love and imitate Mary, the Mother of God, to spread Christ's love to all.**

CHAPTER 23 We Are One in the Church

Centering PAGE 171

- ✦ Say: **Listen to this riddle. I have two arms and legs, two eyes and ears, one nose, and a mouth. What am I? (a person) Say: God has given you a wonderful body. What can you do because you have a body?** Ask your child to demonstrate some simple acts such as walking or clapping.
- ✦ Say: **All your body parts work together.** Ask: **How can you take care of and strengthen the parts of your body?** (eat well; exercise; get enough sleep)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the title and the Bible verse on page 171. Say: **You have shared the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ along with the rest of the Church. You are more fully part of the Church. Today you will see what this means.**

Sharing PAGE 173

- ✦ Have your child read aloud page 173. Ask: **Who is the head of the Church?** (Jesus) Say: **We who are baptized are part of the Church's body.** Ask: **Who are some of the people who belong to the Church?** (priests, parents, neighbors, children)
- ✦ Say: **We need energy or power to live and grow as Christians.** Ask: **Where do we get our energy or power?** (at Mass when we offer Jesus' sacrifice and receive him in Holy Communion)
- ✦ Say: **The sun shines every day, even on rainy days when clouds hide its rays. Even if we are unable to go to Mass every day, Jesus offers himself for us so that we can have the strength to be good. We celebrate Mass every Saturday evening or Sunday. God asks us to do this to show our love.**
- ✦ Share with your child a time Christ helped you bring love to someone.

Sharing PAGE 174

- ✦ Say: **Jesus made Peter the chief shepherd, the first pope. Jesus gave us the pope to take care of the whole Church. The pope teaches all people about God's love.** Ask: **What is the name of our pope?**
- ✦ Ask: **Who else helps people find out about Jesus?** (bishops, priests, deacons, religious brothers and sisters, all members of the Church)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the top of page 174. Help your child read and fill in the names of Church leaders at the bottom of the page.

Sharing PAGE 175

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the paragraphs next to the pictures and discuss what the people are doing. Ask: **How are the people in the top two pictures on page 175 serving God?**
- ✦ Say: **Deacons help priests. They may baptize, read the Gospel at Mass, give homilies, assist at other Church celebrations, and teach. They also help those who are sick and those who are needy in the parish.** Identify deacons that you know.
- ✦ Say: **Jesus calls on some people to serve the Church as religious brothers and sisters. They give themselves to God in a special way. They promise to spend their lives serving the family of God.** Ask: **What are ways they care for people as Jesus did?** (pray for the Church and all people, help senior citizens, teach, care for the sick, work for the poor, work for justice, work as missionaries)
- ✦ Say: **Each member of the Church must do his or her own special job well if the Church is to bring all people together in love.**
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Allow time for your child to answer the question and talk with Jesus in the quiet of his or her heart.

Acting PAGES 176–178

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the text and the directions on page 176. Help him or her read aloud the words in the purple box before completing the activity.
- ✦ Guide your child in reading aloud and working through We Become Like Jesus on page 177. Say: **The two new rules for your club should reflect a Christian outlook on life.**
- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 23 Review on page 178.
- ✦ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 179–180**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 179. Ask: **How can we make the Body of Christ strong and healthy?** (love others; share; tell others about God’s love)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **Who makes up the Body of Christ?** (many parts; all of us)
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Just as our bodies grow, Christ’s Body grows too. We love God, and we draw others into Christ’s Body through our actions and words.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 180. Ask: **How did Sister Theodore and the other sisters help grow the Body of Christ?** (They were filled with God’s love. They taught and cared for orphans and for those who were sick or poor.)
- ◆ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ◆ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Say: **You can tell about God’s love through your words and actions.**
- ◆ Ask your child to choose one of the following body parts: eyes, ears, mouth, hands, heart, or feet. Then ask him or her to think of a way to use that body part to love God and build up the Body of Christ. (Examples: eyes—see the beauty of nature; ears—listen to a friend; mouth—smile at someone; hands—carry groceries; heart—love someone; feet—dance for joy) Ask your child to perform his or her idea during the week.

CHAPTER 24

Mary, Mother of the Church, Cares for Us

Centering

- ◆ Talk about large parties your family has attended such as weddings or graduation celebrations. Say: **Imagine a party where the food and drinks ran out.** Ask: **How would you feel if you didn't get anything to eat? How would the people giving the party feel?**
- ◆ Say: **Today we will talk about a very important person, the Mother of the Church.** Ask: **What is her name?** (Mary) Say: **To learn more about Mary, I am going to tell you a story about when Mary and Jesus were at a party.**

Sharing PAGE 181

- ◆ Use your family Bible to read aloud or tell your child the story of Jesus at the wedding (John 2:1–11). Have your child look at the illustration on page 181.
- ◆ Ask: **Why did Jesus change the water into wine?** (Mary asked him to help. He wanted to help the bride and groom.)
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the parts on page 181. Say: **Mary tells us to do the same thing she told the servants to do at the wedding party.** Ask: **What was it?** (Do whatever Jesus tells you.) **What are some things Jesus tells us to do?** (love God and others, pray every day, celebrate with God's people at Sunday Mass, obey, be honest, be respectful)

Sharing PAGE 182

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the top section of page 182. Say: **With the words "Here is your mother," Mary became the Mother of all Christians. Later, she was recognized as Mother of the Church. Mary is our Mother too and is always ready to help us when we call on her.** Ask: **Why is she our Mother?** (because we are Christians, because we are members of the Church)
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Talk to your child about turning to Mary for help. Say: **Mary, Help of Christians, will help us in our needs. Ask her to pray with you when you need help.**

Sharing PAGE 183

- ◆ Discuss how we can pray with Mary and honor her. Say: **The best way we can honor our heavenly Mother and make her happy is to try to be like her. Jesus loved his mother very much. She was so good. Jesus will be glad if we become like her. If we become like Mary, we will be more like what the Father created us to be. We will be holy people.**
- ◆ Say: **The Church honors Mary in many ways.** Ask: **How can we let people know we think they are wonderful?** (We tell them; we give them gifts; we do something special for them; we write songs for them; we put their picture in a place of honor.)
- ◆ Ask: **How do we as a family honor Mary in our home? in our parish? in our diocese? in the whole Church?** (display icons of Mary; sing hymns to Mary; celebrate her feast days; observe Saturdays as her day; make pilgrimages to shrines dedicated to her; name churches for her; display rosaries, medals, and jewelry with her image) Display any of these items that you own.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 183 and complete the activity.

Acting PAGE 184

- ◆ Help your child find the prayer Act of Consecration to Mary on the inside back cover of his or her book. Say: **We belong to Mary in a special way as her children. There is a prayer in which we give Mary all we have. I will say it slowly and stop after each part so that you can think about it and say it in your own words.** Have your child follow along as you pray aloud the prayer.
- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 24 Review on page 184.
- ◆ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 185–186**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 185. Say: **God calls on us to be strong, kind, brave, and caring like Mary. Mary said yes to God.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **If we are like Mary, what will we do?** (say yes to God; ask Jesus to help people; share Jesus with the entire world)
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Our close relationship with Mary is a special part of being Catholic.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 186. Say: **We all belong to the Communion of Saints. The Communion of Saints is a giant family. It is made up of all Christians who lived in the past, who live today, and who will live in the future.**
- ◆ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ◆ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Say: **When we are faced with choices, we can ask Mary to pray for us and help us know how to act.**
- ◆ Give your child a construction-paper strip and have him or her write *Hail Mary* on the strip. Cover the strip with contact paper. Use tape or a hole punch and yarn to fasten or tie the bracelet on your child's wrist. Say: **Let your bracelet remind you to ask Mary for prayers throughout the day.**

CHAPTER 25 The Church Celebrates God's Love

Centering

- ✦ Say: You will play some games today to help you remember what you have learned about the Church and what you believe and do as Catholic Christians.

Sharing PAGE 187

- ✦ Using dots, write the word *people* on a sheet of paper. Say: I will ask you a question about the Church. If you answer the question correctly, you may trace one letter of the word. Examples of questions include the following. Ask: How is the Church like a body? How does Jesus help the Church? Why do we, who belong to the Church, care about people? In what ways do we meet Jesus at Mass? Why do we honor Mary and pray to her? How can we lead other people to Jesus? Ask your child how the word *people* reminds him or her of the Church. (The Church is made up of people.)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud page 187 and complete the activity.

Sharing PAGE 188

- ✦ Play "Who's Who in the Church." Say: I will say a riddle about someone in the Church. Find a picture of the person I am talking about in your book or tell me his or her name. Include these riddles. Say: I am the Good Shepherd and stay with my Church. I come to my people in Holy Communion and help them share my love. Who am I? (Jesus) I am the leader of the Church on earth today. Who am I? (the pope) I am the Mother of the Church, and I help those who call upon me in need. Who am I? (Mary) I am any person who belongs to the Church. I try to love and care for others as Jesus taught. Who am I? (a Christian)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud page 188 and complete the activity. Discuss the answers to the exercises.

Reviewing PAGES 189–190

- ✦ Help your child do the activity on page 189. Recall for your child some of the stories of Jesus he or she has learned. (finding of Jesus in the Temple, choosing the Apostles, wedding at Cana, forgiving of Zacchaeus and the sinning woman, Mary and Martha, loaves and fish, Good Shepherd, Last Supper) When your child is finished, invite him or her to retell the story using the drawings.
- ✦ Help your child complete the Unit 5 Review on page 190.

Celebrating PAGES 191–192

- ◆ In preparation for the celebration, have your child make a cross. Show your child a cross cut out of cardboard. Have him or her trace the cross, outline it in the color of his or her choice, and cut it out. Then make a hole in the cross and help your child tie a long piece of colored yarn to make the cross into a necklace.
- ◆ **Say: A cross is a sign of those who believe in Jesus. You received a cross to remind you that you are just beginning to understand what it means to be a Christian. Christians are always growing more and more into the likeness of Jesus. Remember that you are Christians all year round, no matter where you are. You should always try to be like Jesus in what you choose to do and say.**
- ◆ Have your child wear the cross as you carry out the celebration on pages 191–192. Take turns reading aloud the parts.

Acting

- ◆ **Say: Church members try to lead people to Jesus. Let's think of ways we can do this.** (pray for the Church, pray for people who do not know Jesus, pray and make sacrifices for the missions, tell others about Jesus, show love for others as Jesus taught, respect and take care of God's creation, follow Jesus) Make a point of performing at least one of these examples during the week.
- ◆ When you've completed this unit, help your child tear out the Family Feature section on pages 194a–194d and encourage him or her to share it with other family members, or read and complete the section together.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 193–194**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 193. Say: **To answer our call, we use the talents God gave us. Our talents are like stepping stones that lead people to God.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Jesus Christ is always in our hearts. He is truly present in Holy Communion.** Ask: **In what sacrament do we receive Christ's Body?** (the Eucharist) **Who makes up the Body of Christ?** (We do.)
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **After we receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion at Mass, what are we sent forth to do?** (share him with others) **How can we do this?** (be kind and loving to others)
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 194. Say: **When we do something that shows our love for Jesus, and someone sees it, we plant a seed in that person's heart. Charles and his friends planted seeds by their actions.**
- ✦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ✦ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ✦ Say: **Let's imagine you are a grown-up. You are using your special talent to spread God's love.** Have your child write and share a description of the work they are doing in the future.
- ✦ Say: **Our faith life is an adventure. It will lead to wonderful places. We can serve God and the Church in many different ways.**