

The Marks of the Church

- ✦ Say: In Unit 2, we will grow in our understanding of the four Marks of the Church found in the Nicene Creed. We will explore how the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Have your child read aloud the title of Unit 2 and the line from the Nicene Creed at the bottom of page 51.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the Family Feature on page 52 and plan a time to share its contents with other family members. Then begin Chapter 6.

CHAPTER 6 One in the Spirit

Centering

- ✦ Say: You have learned that the Church is a praying people. One basic prayer that we pray is the Creed, in which we say that we believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
- ✦ Say: Today we will learn more about these four characteristics of the Church.

Sharing PAGE 53

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and the opening paragraph on page 53. Ask: **How can you relate to the experiences listed here?**
- ✦ Ask: **What is meant by a mark of the Church?** (a visible characteristic of the Church that makes it what it is)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud All for One and One for All and then answer the questions. Discuss his or her responses. Ask: **What would you do to help build unity in the team if you were Ana? What are some groups where you see real unity?** (our parish group, sports teams)

Sharing PAGE 54

- ✦ Have your child read silently Unity—The Catholic Church Is One on page 54. Ask: **How is unity achieved?** (when people share the same convictions and values, the same vision and goals) **With whom were the early Christians united?** (with Christ and with one another) **How were they united?** (They were united in heart and mind by the Holy Spirit.)

- ◆ Ask: **What are the four visible signs of unity in the Catholic Church?** (unity in faith, worship, government, and charity)
- ◆ Have your child read silently One in Faith. Ask: **As Catholics, what do we believe about Jesus?** (We believe Jesus is Lord and that all he taught is true.) **What else do we accept as true?** (all God has revealed through the Catholic Church)
- ◆ Ask: **From what sources can you learn what the pope and bishops teach?** (homilies, Catholic newspapers, religion class, radio, TV, parents, books)
- ◆ Have your child complete the activity An Invitation to Faith. Invite your child to share his or her e-mail with you.
- ◆ Have your child read silently One in Worship and answer the question. Ask: **What are the sacraments?** (Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders) **Which sacrament visibly unites Catholics?** (the Eucharist)

Sharing PAGE 55

- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus on page 55.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud One in Governance. Ask: **Who are the successors to the apostles?** (pope and bishops) **Who inspires them to govern the Church?** (Holy Spirit) Have your child answer the questions.
- ◆ Have your child read silently One in Charity. Have him or her read Ephesians 4:1–3 and answer the questions. Discuss the examples that follow.
- ◆ Ask your child to name the four ways unity is shown in the Catholic Church. (faith, worship, government, charity) Say: **Summarize how we are united in these four ways.**

Sharing PAGE 56

- ◆ Have your child read aloud and complete Gifts for Everyone on page 56. Say: **All the Spirit's gifts can be used for Church unity. The Body of Christ has been broken throughout history. We must work for the unity that Christ prayed for at the Last Supper.**
- ◆ Have your child read silently Mending the Breaks and answer the question. Ask: **What are some other religious denominations? What is ecumenism?** (efforts to unite Christians)
- ◆ Ask: **Why is "Be respectful, but be faithful" a good motto?** (Christ commanded us to love and respect others. He wants us to be faithful to the fullness of truth he has revealed in the Catholic Church.)

Acting PAGES 57–58

- ◆ Read the Chapter 6 Summary on page 57 together. Then have your child complete the Review Activities on page 58 independently. When he or she is done, go through his or her work and review any incorrect answers.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 59–60**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 59. Ask: **What does it mean for us to be one in Christ?** (to be united in our faith; not to let differences separate us)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **What does it mean to be apostolic?** (The Church is based on the teachings of the Twelve Apostles.)
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **How was a Mass you attended at a different parish the same and different from a Mass at our parish?**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 60. Say: **Saint Clement, inspired by the Holy Spirit, was a Church leader and a witness for Christ.**
- ◆ 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

- ◆ Ask: **What are some problems that call for peacemakers at your home, school, and in our community?**
- ◆ Challenge your child to work for peace and social justice. Say: **Working for peace and encouraging unity among people can change the world.**

CHAPTER 7 Made Holy in the Spirit

Centering

- ✦ Together brainstorm qualities that describe God. (loving, forgiving, compassionate, merciful)
- ✦ Write the word *holy*. Say: **In the Old Testament, we are taught that God alone is holy (1 Samuel 2:2) but that God invites us to be holy like him (Leviticus 11:44).**
- ✦ Say: **To be holy means to reflect God's qualities. Just as we inherit qualities from our parents, we inherit qualities from God, in whose image we are made.**
- ✦ Say: **Jesus is the model of holiness because he is the perfect reflection of God the Father. If we want to be holy, we must learn how to follow Jesus.**

Sharing PAGE 61

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and the introductory story on page 61. After your child answers the question, discuss it with him or her. Say: **Zach did not make this decision alone. Whether or not Zach realized it, the Holy Spirit was helping him.**
- ✦ Have your child read silently The Source of Holiness. Ask: **What happened to you at Baptism?** (You received God's grace as a gift. You were given a share in God's own divine life.) **Since then, what has the Holy Spirit been doing for you?** (enabling you to become more like Christ, to become holy)
- ✦ Say: **We are holy when we do the right thing, at the right time, in the right way, and for the right reason. The Church is holy in three ways.** Ask: **What are they?** (founder, members, and mission)

Sharing PAGE 62

- ✦ Have your child read aloud Celebrating Life's Mysteries and The Seven Sacraments on page 62. Then have him or her complete the activity.
- ✦ Ask: **How do the sacraments help us grow in holiness?** (We are bound more closely to Christ, strengthened in faith, and empowered to share in the mission of the Church.)

Sharing PAGE 63

- ✦ Discuss the topics under We've Got What It Takes on page 63.
- ✦ Say: **The Christian life is about much more than using sacramentals and praying certain prayers. It is knowing and loving God, entering into a deep, personal relationship with God, and loving others as God loves us.**

- ◆ Have your child read silently *The Gifts of the Spirit*. Say: **Knowing how the gifts of the Spirit led some holy people to live holy lives can help us become more aware of the action of the Spirit in our own lives.**
- ◆ Have your child read *Holy Through Wisdom*. Ask: **What choice did Saint Thomas More have to make?** (whether to support the king's decision to divorce his wife and marry another woman) **What did Thomas choose to do?** (to follow his conscience and be loyal to the Church and to God)
- ◆ Say: **The gift of wisdom enabled Thomas to make a difficult and wise decision. This gift grows with you. As you grow, you learn more about your faith. You can make decisions based on Christian values.**
- ◆ Have your child answer the question at the bottom of the page.

Sharing PAGES 64–65

- ◆ Have your child read silently *Holy Through Understanding* on page 64 and answer the question. Say: **Underline the phrases that describe the gift of understanding.** (insight into the meaning of life, recognizing that we are all brothers and sisters with the responsibility of caring for one another)
- ◆ Draw three columns on a sheet of paper and label them *Counsel*, *Knowledge*, and *Fortitude*. Have your child read silently *Holy Through Counsel* (Right Judgment), *Holy Through Knowledge*, and *Holy Through Fortitude* (Courage) on pages 64–65. As your child reads, have him or her identify keywords or phrases related to each gift and write them in the appropriate column. When finished reading, have your child read aloud each list and give his or her answers to the questions.
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using *A Moment with Jesus*.

Sharing PAGE 66

- ◆ Have your child read aloud *Holy Through Piety* (Reverence) on page 66 and complete the exercise. Check his or her understanding.
- ◆ Ask: **What is the gift of piety?** (a gift of the Spirit that helps us love and worship God) **What are two ways we show piety?** (praying to God and showing respect for others because they are sons and daughters of God)
- ◆ Say: **Piety means showing care to every person with whom we work and live. It means showing love, especially to God.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud *Holy Through Fear of the Lord* (Wonder and Awe) and complete the activity. Discuss how Francis showed the gift of fear of the Lord.

Acting PAGES 67–68

- ◆ Read the Chapter 7 Summary on page 67 together. Then have your child complete the Review Activities on page 68 independently. When he or she is done, go through his or her work and review any incorrect answers.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 69–70**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 69. Say: **Going to Mass on the first Friday of every month is a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Praying a novena is a great way to grow in holiness.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Baptism immerses us in God’s love, the Eucharist nourishes us, and Reconciliation heals us.**
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The power of the Holy Spirit makes holy the things we dedicate to God.**
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 70. Ask: **What gifts did Saint Ambrose have?** (peacemaking, humility, leadership)
- ✦ 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

- ✦ Challenge your child to use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Ask: **Which gifts do you need to help others experience the Kingdom of God here on earth?**
- ✦ Read aloud Acts of the Apostles 2:1–4. Pray in silence for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 8 A Church That Is Catholic

Centering PAGE 71

- ◆ Say: **Name the Marks of the Church.** (one, holy, catholic, apostolic) **Today we will see why the Church is catholic.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and the introductory paragraph on page 71. Have him or her complete the story. Then discuss your child's answer and read aloud the paragraph below the activity.
- ◆ Say: **Today we will explore how the Church is called to be open and welcoming to everyone.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud *As Wide as the Universe*. Say: **Jesus shows the universal love of the Father through the Church.**
- ◆ Have your child complete *The Great Feast: Take 1*, share his or her answers, and then read aloud the final paragraph.

Sharing PAGE 72

- ◆ Have your child read silently *The Church Is Universal* on page 72. Ask: **What is the meaning of the word *catholic*?** (universal, worldwide, total, for all) **Why does the Church have the gift of being catholic?** (So that the Church can carry out Jesus' mission to save all people. Therefore, the Church must be open to all people.)
- ◆ Say: **To be catholic, the Church must teach all that Christ taught, the fullness of the Gospel, the total message. Popes and bishops must preserve all of God's revealed truth and make sure it is handed down.**
- ◆ Say: **Since the time of Jesus, the Church has existed to pass on the truth.** Ask: **What are some examples of how it did this?** (through missionaries, monks, saints, writings of popes, preachers, councils, and so on)
- ◆ Read aloud *A Moment with Jesus*. Allow sufficient time for your child to read the Scripture passage from the Bible.
- ◆ Have your child read *To All Nations* and complete the activity. Check his or her answers.

Sharing PAGE 73

- ◆ Have your child read aloud *In Your Parish* on page 73. Say: **The parish adapts to the language of the people, spreads the Good News to all nations, and teaches the message of Jesus. It adapts to people who are disabled and disadvantaged and welcomes all age groups and types of families. It also welcomes people of all cultures, especially those who have been displaced.** Brainstorm other examples of how your parish shows the quality of being catholic.

- ◆ Have your child read silently Unity and Diversity. Ask: **What is the constant challenge the Church faces?** (to adapt the Gospel to each culture and nation while maintaining unity throughout the world)
- ◆ Ask: **What led to a split between the Eastern and Western Churches?** (cultural and political differences) **What did the Eastern Churches come to be known as?** (Orthodox) Say: **The Churches in the East and West were united, recognizing the primacy of the Bishop of Rome, the pope.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Visiting a Byzantine Church. Say: **The Byzantine liturgy is similar to the Roman liturgy in that it has two basic parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.**
- ◆ Say: **The picture on the page is an icon. For Eastern Christians, icons are a way of coming into contact with God.**

Sharing PAGE 74

- ◆ Have your child read aloud Enriching and Enriched on page 74. Tell your child to underline the essentials that keep the Church united. (communion with the pope, the fullness of the Gospel, the Mass, and the sacraments)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Getting the Job Done Today. Ask: **What is the definition of evangelization?** (to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to others)
- ◆ Ask: **How important is evangelizing?** (It is the essential, or basic, mission of the Church.) **How does the mission of evangelization show that the Church is catholic?** (The Church must spread the Good News to people of all nations in all times.)
- ◆ Ask: **What is the purpose of evangelization?** (that all people may become one in Christ)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Missions: Near and Far. Allow time for your child to complete the activity independently and discuss his or her answers.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud The Holy Childhood Association. Brainstorm projects your family can commit to that will help children in need around the world.

Acting PAGES 75–76

- ◆ Pray: **Holy Spirit, renew your Church and bring new life to all who search for God. May the fire of Jesus enkindled in us by God's Spirit lead us and others to become disciples, formed in the image of Christ our Savior. Amen.**
- ◆ Read the Chapter 8 Summary on page 75 together. Then have your child complete the Review Activities on page 76 independently. When he or she is done, go through his or her work and review any incorrect answers.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 77–78**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 77. Say: **When we follow Jesus, we are also doing the work of the Church, which serves all people in all places at all times.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **Why does sharing your faith with others help strengthen your faith?** (I have to know my faith in order to share it.)
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **What does it mean to evangelize?** (to live and share the Gospel, to invite others to believe)
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 78. Say: **Saint Francis Xavier is a role model of faith. He shows us ways to share our faith with others.**
- ✦ 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

- ✦ Ask: **How can you demonstrate respect and openness to a variety of cultures and languages?** (I can try to learn another language; I can make friends with people from different cultures.)
- ✦ Have your child write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the gifts of wisdom and understanding.

CHAPTER 9 An Apostolic Church

Centering

- ✦ Review the Marks of the Church. (one, holy, catholic, apostolic) Say: **Today you will learn what it means for the Church to be apostolic.**
- ✦ Together brainstorm qualities that you think are most valuable in a leader. Point out that these qualities should be especially evident in Church leaders.

Sharing PAGES 79–82

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and take the survey on page 79. Invite your child to talk about new responsibilities he or she has taken on recently.
- ✦ Have your child read silently Christian Responsibility.
- ✦ Write these headings on a sheet of paper: *Worshipping, Believing, Serving*. Under each heading, have your child list ways he or she can carry out that responsibility. (Worshipping: participate in sacraments, pray alone and with others; Believing: put your faith in Jesus, live what Jesus taught, share faith, choose what is good, refuse to sin, maintain relationship with Christ; Serving: give loving service, be generous, be respectful, be courageous)
- ✦ Say: **Catholics during all centuries have been faithful to Jesus in these same three ways. When Catholics live out these responsibilities, which are theirs since Baptism, they are being apostolic.**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud The Apostolic Church. Say: **Some Christians are called to lead us as we carry out our Christian responsibilities. These leaders have the added responsibility of keeping the Church apostolic.**
- ✦ Ask: **What is the root word of *apostolic*? (apostle) What does it mean to say that the Church is apostolic?** (The Church is rooted in the beliefs of the apostles and continues their mission.)
- ✦ Say: **Jesus gave Peter and the other apostles the authority to lead the Church because they had been witnesses to the risen Christ and had been with him through his public ministry. Today all of us in the faith community, the Church, are still living and believing what they preached about Jesus.**
- ✦ Say: **The word *apostle* comes from a word that means “sent.” Ask: Why is this a good name for the apostles?** (They were sent by Jesus to teach.)
- ✦ Have your child read aloud The First Leaders on page 80. Ask: **How would you explain to someone the beginnings of Church leadership?** (Peter and the other apostles told the whole world about Jesus. Many people became Christians, and so more leaders were needed. The apostles passed on to other men the power to lead.)

- ◆ Say: **These new leaders were called bishops, or overseers.** They took care of their local Christian community and helped people follow Jesus.
- ◆ Ask: **What are three reasons the Church is apostolic?** (The Church is rooted in the beliefs of the apostles. Church leadership goes back to Jesus, Peter, and the other apostles. It continues the mission of the apostles.)
- ◆ Have your child read silently Who Leads Us Today? Ask: **Who is the visible head of the Church?** (the pope) **Who is the invisible head?** (Jesus)
- ◆ Have your child read silently Service in Three Roles.
- ◆ Say: **As priests, the pope and bishops have the responsibility of leading us to holiness.** Ask: **What is our responsibility toward the pope and bishops?** (to support them, believe what they teach us, live by their teachings, pray for them)
- ◆ Have your child complete Priest, Prophet, and King on page 81 independently.
- ◆ Read aloud A Moment with Jesus. Allow sufficient time for your child to pray quietly.
- ◆ Have your child complete Popes of Recent History on page 82 independently. Check his or her answers. Discuss how the popes were apostolic and how they carried out Christ's ministry as priest, prophet, and king.
- ◆ Have your child complete Act Apostolic independently. Check his or her answers.

Reviewing PAGES 83–85

- ◆ Read the Chapter 9 Summary on page 83 together. Then have your child complete the Review Activities on page 84 independently. When he or she is done, go through his or her work and review any incorrect answers.
- ◆ Have your child complete the Unit 2 Review on page 85 independently.

Celebrating PAGES 86–87

- ◆ Lead your child in the prayer service Celebrating Church on pages 86–87. Decide which roles each of you will read aloud before you begin.

Acting PAGE 88

- ◆ Have your child complete the last page of the Unit Review on page 88.
- ◆ Have your child suggest a sacrifice he or she could make to promote justice and mercy among people who are poor and suffering. Have your child decide on a day for this practice. Remind him or her that God loves cheerful givers and is pleased when they perform a sacrifice without complaining.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 89–90**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 89. Ask: **How is our parish like the early Christian community?** (The priest teaches with homilies; the parish works together; they break bread together in the Eucharist; they pray together.)

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **The faith is a living faith because it responds to the unique needs of people and the challenges they face in their lives.**
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **The Church leadership keeps faith alive by responding to modern concerns on explaining Catholic beliefs.**
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 90. Say: **Saint Catherine of Siena dictated more than 400 letters and a book about the spiritual life. She shows us the importance of sharing our spiritual life.**
- ✦ 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

- ✦ Ask: **How might a messenger of Jesus get others to listen?**
- ✦ Challenge your child to act kindly to people they meet as a way to be a good messenger. Say: **When you act kindly, you show people that the Holy Spirit resides in you.**