



## Worshipping as a Community: Sacraments of Initiation

### Before You Begin

- Print the Chapter 6 BLM: Sealed by the Spirit found at the end of this document.
- Have a Bible available during the session for reference.
- Prepare to show a video of a Catholic Baptism from a member of your family, if one is available.
- Download and print the Chapter 6 Prayer Service: Holy Spirit, Hear Our Prayer.

### Engage: Page 41

- ◆ Read aloud the chapter title and the opening questions on page 41. Share your experiences with your child and invite him or her to do the same. Then say: **We look forward to new adventures in life, but it is certainly not unusual to have mixed feelings of excitement and fear. Luckily for us, we are not alone on the journey.**
- ◆ Invite your child to read aloud the Scripture passage at the bottom of the page. Say: **This passage is from the Acts of the Apostles, the book of the Bible that follows immediately after the Gospels. It tells the story of what happened to the Apostles after Jesus' Death and Resurrection and of the early Church.**
- ◆ Say: **The Apostles were beginning a completely new journey. They must have had feelings of both excitement and fear. While they probably did not have all the answers, they knew they could find strength and guidance in the Holy Spirit.** Pray together the Glory Be to the Father on page 90. Close with the Sign of the Cross.

### Explore: Pages 42–47

- ◆ Read the section *Planting Your Roots* at the top of page 42. Say: **The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist give us the foundation we need to build a life of faith. They help us in our life now and give us what we need to prepare for the journey ahead.**
- ◆ Read aloud the section *Sacraments of Initiation*. Say: **Jesus gave us a way to enter into a deeper relationship with God. The first step toward that lifelong relationship is Baptism.** Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity at the bottom of the page.
- ◆ Ask your child to brainstorm uses and associations for water. Read aloud the first paragraph of *Baptism* on page 43. Point out that while water is often associated with life, it also has a destructive property with the potential to cause death. Say: **When we are baptized, we die to the sin of Adam that closed and locked a door to God. We are born again to a new hope in Christ who unlocked that door by his Death and Resurrection.**
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the remaining paragraphs on page 43. Show a video of a Catholic Baptism from a member of your family, if one is available, and ask your child to discuss the parts of the Baptism.
- ◆ Take turns reading aloud the section *Who Is Baptized?* on page 44. Discuss why you chose the people you did to be your child's godparents. Share stories of anyone you know who have gone through the RCIA process.

- ◆ Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity at the bottom of the page before reading aloud the first paragraph of *Confirmation* on page 44. Review briefly with your child the signs associated with the Sacrament of Baptism. Then point out that Confirmation has its own signs.
- ◆ Have your child read silently the description of each sign of Confirmation on page 45. Then ask him or her to summarize the meaning behind each sign. Have your child complete the Chapter 6 BLM: Sealed by the Spirit.
- ◆ Read aloud the first paragraph of *The Eucharist* on page 45. Guide your child to understand that the Eucharist is the heart of our faith. Note that the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the Eucharist “the source and summit of the Christian life.” [CCC #1324] Say: **We need food to nourish our physical bodies. We need the Eucharist to nourish our spiritual life.**
- ◆ Invite your child to read aloud *Reading the Signs of Eucharist* on pages 45–46. Have your child name the signs of the Eucharist. Say: **Jesus told us that when two or three gather in his name, he joins with us.** [Matthew 18:20] **So it is with our celebration of the Eucharist. The meal is a sign of this community.**
- ◆ Read aloud the section *The Real Presence* on page 46. Say: **Saint Cyril of Jerusalem wrote at length on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.** Have your child research the teachings of Saint Cyril and other Fathers of the Church on the Eucharist.
- ◆ Invite your child to read aloud the section *Parts of the Mass* on page 47. Direct him or her to use pages 88–89 to learn more the parts of the Mass. Have your child complete the *My Turn* activity at the bottom of the page 47.

### Sacred Sign: Page 45

- ◆ Have your child read the *Sacred Sign* special feature on page 45. Say: **The Bible mentions many different people who were anointed with oil. Among these were priests, prophets, kings—people whose anointing signified that they were set apart and dedicated to serve God.**
- ◆ Explain that holy Chrism is blessed each year by the bishop at a special Mass on Holy Thursday.

### Rite: Page 46

- ◆ Read aloud the *Rite* special feature on page 46. Explain that the word *consecration* means “to set apart and separate a common thing for sacred use. Point out that the words of consecration mark the most solemn part of the Mass.
- ◆ Explain that when the priest speaks the words of consecration, we believe that the bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The transformation is called *transubstantiation*.

### Witness: Page 47

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the *Witness* feature about Saint Mary MacKillop on page 47. Point out that she was recognized as a saint recently, being canonized on October 17, 2010, by Pope Benedict XVI.
- ◆ Say: **Saint Mary MacKillop had great faith in God. She stood up for what she knew was right, believing that God’s justice and truth would prevail.**

## Reflect

- ◆ Have your child reflect on what he or she has learned about the Sacraments of Initiation.  
Say: **We are welcomed into the Catholic Christian community by our Baptism. But that is only the beginning. God gives us the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the nourishment of the Eucharist to keep us strong and direct us on the path to deeper friendship with him. Let us remember these blessings we have and will receive as we join together now in prayer.**
- ◆ Proceed to your family's prayer space. A prayer space can be a simple table on which you place a Bible, crucifix, statue, icon, or another religious icon. Invite your child to assist you in creating this sacred space.
- ◆ Distribute copies of the Chapter 6 Prayer Service: Holy Spirit, Hear Our Prayer. Choose who will read the parts for Leader. You and your child will both read the parts labeled "All." Lead by example, participating actively and with reverence.
- ◆ Invite your child to take advantage of the quiet time before the close of the prayer service to share with Jesus anything that's in his or her heart and to thank him for his loving example of forgiveness.
- ◆ Pray together the prayer service, following your assigned roles. Adapt it to your circumstances if needed. Observe the periods of silence and keep a prayerful pace. Allow time in between sections for reflection.
- ◆ Pause for a moment of silence before concluding.

## Respond: Page 48

- ◆ Review with your child the *Faith Summary* on page 48. Ask your child to explain each sentence in his or own words and revisit concepts as necessary.
- ◆ Have your child read the *Remember* section silently and be sure he or she understands the main points of the chapter.
- ◆ Ask your child to choose one *Reach Out* item and follow the directions. Check in with your child and ask him or her to reflect privately on the outcomes.
- ◆ Read aloud the *Words to Know* and ask your child to use the words in sentences. Consult the Glossary at the back of the book and at [www.loyolapress.com/calledtobecatholic/](http://www.loyolapress.com/calledtobecatholic/) if more clarification is needed.
- ◆ Invite your child to think about the *Reflect* scenario and write a response on the lines provided. If your child is comfortable doing so, encourage him or her to share the response with you.
- ◆ Pray together the closing prayer. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross. Invite your child to pray this week whenever he or she feels the need for help or guidance.
- ◆ Continue the conversation for this chapter at [www.loyolapress.com/CTBCconversations](http://www.loyolapress.com/CTBCconversations).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Sealed by the Spirit

The Sacrament of Confirmation seals you with the Holy Spirit. You receive an indelible mark on your soul that sets you apart as a member of God's family.

### Design Your Own Seal

**Directions:** Imagine that the seal you received at Confirmation was visible. What would it look like? How would it identify you as a unique creation and child of God? In the space below, draw what your "Confirmation Seal" might look like.

