

# The Great Cathedrals and Worship

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 12**.

Cathedrals are our response to God's Revelation. The cathedrals of medieval Europe are symbols of people's faith. People sacrificed time and money to build great cathedrals, which often took generations to complete. **PAGE 89**

In most cathedrals, the entrance is designed so that people walk through a dark narthex, or entryway. Medieval architects used thin walls, high ceilings, and large stained-glass windows to let in sunlight. **PAGE 89**

There are many meanings for the word *Church*. It may mean "the building where we celebrate the sacraments," or it may mean "the community." The Church is also a sacrament. As Catholics, we believe that the Church is the source of Salvation for all people. **PAGE 91**

The sacraments are divided into three categories: the Sacraments of Initiation, the Sacraments of Healing, and the Sacraments at the Service of Communion. **PAGE 91**

Rites are ritual words and actions that make present the grace of the sacrament being celebrated. **PAGE 91**

Chrism is a sacramental that reminds us of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. **PAGE 91**

Sacramentals sanctify, or make holy, the ordinary objects and events of our lives. **PAGE 92**

Prayer may include acts of piety, or devotion. We pray on behalf of another person when we pray prayers of intercession. **PAGE 92**

Some devotional practices are tied to seasons. For example, we pray the Rosary in honor of Mary during the month of May. **PAGE 92**

There are many schools of spirituality, or paths to God. The Holy Spirit guides the Church and its members on how to pray. **PAGE 92**

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