

# Serving Physical and Spiritual Needs

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 14**.

The bubonic plague was a deadly disease that seemed to spread without a cause. Known as the Black Death, we know now that it was spread by fleas on rats. The Black Death put a strain on the Church because many caretakers became ill and died while tending to others. **PAGE 103**

Through the corporal works of mercy, the Church calls us to care for people's material needs. Through the spiritual works of mercy, the Church calls us to care for people's emotional and spiritual needs. **PAGE 103**

Conditions in the Middle Ages, including the Black Death, caused governments, people, and the Church to struggle. In 1309, the Pope moved to Avignon, France, as a result of unrest in Rome. **PAGE 104**

The Great Schism was the time when Christians were confused and nations took sides. Between 1378 and 1417, two or three men claimed that they were pope at the same time. **PAGE 104**

Saint Catherine was a Dominican mystic, a person who has a special understanding of God from intense, private experiences. She was spared from the Black Death and played an important role in bringing the papacy back to Rome. **PAGE 104**

Some men are called by God to be sacramental priests and to receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Ordination gives priests the authority that Jesus gave his disciples to celebrate the Eucharist and preach the Gospel. **PAGE 105**

Just as the Apostles went forth after receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, so you will be called to go forth after receiving the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. During Confirmation, a bishop will perform a rite called the laying on of hands, in which he will pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon you. **PAGE 105**

To become a priest, a man must first be ordained a deacon. Some men choose to be permanent deacons and dedicate themselves to serving others. They may be married. **PAGE 106**

The two sacraments that make up the Sacraments at the Service of Communion are Holy Orders and Matrimony. In both sacraments, God gives us the grace to serve him and others. **PAGE 106**

An annulment is a finding by a Church tribunal that at least some element of a sacramental marriage was not present on the wedding day. If the Church declares through an annulment that a sacramental marriage did not exist, divorced Catholics may remarry and receive Holy Communion. **PAGE 106**

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