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A PILGRIM CHURCH

Background

Journey of Faith

We are on a journey of faith to the Kingdom of God. This journey is a pilgrimage and is shared by all Christians throughout the world. In 1962, the Second Vatican Council discussed how the Church viewed herself in relation to the modern world. The Council's response to these concerns is addressed in the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* (also known by its Latin title, *Gaudium et Spes*), which the Council promulgated three years later on December 7, 1965.

Daily Responsibilities of the Followers of Christ

Through this document the Church encourages the People of God to "be aware of and understand the aspirations, the yearnings, and the often dramatic features of the world in which we live" (4). To this point, the Church warmly advises that, whenever appropriate, Catholics should join with other Christians in distributing and collecting aid to benefit those in need (see 88).

The Council taught that the life of faith is not separate and cannot be separated from the daily responsibilities of the followers of Christ. "The Christian[s] who shirk [their] temporal duties shirk [their] duties towards [their] neighbor, neglect God himself, and endanger their eternal salvation" (43).

Living the Gospel in the World

Through this pastoral constitution, the Church Council gives us a vision and direction for living the Gospel in the world. This vision clearly focuses on the attainment of the spiritual mission of the Church and warns against the misdirection

of the past that identified the Church too closely with the political order. In this document the Church teaches:

There are, indeed, close links between earthly things and those elements of man's condition which transcend the world. The Church herself makes use of temporal things insofar as her own mission requires it. She, for her part, does not place her trust in the privileges offered by civil authority. . . . It is only right, however, that at all times and in all places, the Church should have true freedom to preach the faith, to teach her social doctrine, to exercise her role freely among men, and also to pass moral judgment in those matters which regard public order when the fundamental rights of a person or the salvation of souls require it. . . . While faithfully adhering to the Gospel and fulfilling her mission to the world, the Church, whose duty it is to foster and elevate all that is found to be true, good and beautiful in the human community, strengthens peace among men for the glory of God (76).

For Reflection

- ▶ How am I faithful to the mission of the Church within my community?
- ▶ What can I do to help the young people assume their daily responsibilities to live the call of discipleship?

TEACHER TO TEACHER

Faith Leads Us to Holiness

God calls the entire Church to holiness. The gift of faith enables us to see and appreciate our lives with a sense of hope for the future. Faith infuses our lives with the will to act for the good. As members of the Church we are called to be servants to the world. The Church is society's conscience, speaking the truth about ourselves and our world to our hearts. When we respond in faith to the Church's message of life in Christ, we experience of sense of oneness and come to know and love God more deeply.

At This Moment

The absence of faith in a person's life can lead one to say that the state of the world allows for little reason to be hopeful about its future. But the Church reads and responds to the signs of the times to proclaim the truth and challenge the world to stand up for what is right. In this way the Church can strengthen the hope of all. Remind the young people that God is with them, at this moment, loving them, guiding them, and helping them bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

THE CHURCH TEACHES...

In the Second Vatican Council, we learn that:

The Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the time and of interpreting them in light of the Gospel. Thus, in language intelligible to each generation, she can respond to the perennial questions which men ask about this present life and the life to come, and about the relationship of the one to the other. (*Gaudium et Spes* 4).

In this chapter the students will examine the importance of Pope John XXIII, the Second Vatican Council, and how the Catholic Church is an effective sign of Jesus' presence in the world today.

Further Reading and Reflection

For more about related teachings of the Church, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 670-671, 737-738, 798-800, 820-821, 827, 849-55, 1428, 1783-1785, 1928-1942, 2003, 2425-26, and 2832.

Teacher Prayer

God of hope,
help me see your presence
at this moment in time.
Help me participate
in bringing about
your Kingdom.
Amen.

LESSON PLANNER

CHAPTER 7 A Pilgrim Church

GOAL To learn how the Church is continually engaged with the world

| LESSON PART | PROCESS | MATERIALS and RESOURCES |
|--|---|---|
| DAY 1 EXPLORE Focus To explore how the Holy Spirit raises up leaders to help the Church Pages 85–87 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pray and reflect on Joel 3:1. ▶ Share the story of Pope John XXIII. <p>Disciple Power: Wisdom</p> <p>Activity: Journal about the personal faith impression the Pope has provided.</p> | Bible pencils or pens Faith Journals |
| DAY 2 DISCOVER Focus To discover the achievements of the Second Vatican Council Pages 88–89 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Identify key documents of Vatican II. ▶ Discover the ways in which the Church engages with the modern world. <p>Faith Vocabulary: ecumenical council, laity</p> <p>Activity: Interview grandparents or other Catholics who can recall experiences of the Mass before Vatican II.</p> | Bibles, pencils or pens ENRICHING THE LESSON: “Researching the Second Vatican Council” and “Preparing a Scripture Talk,” page 153 |
| DAY 3 DISCOVER Focus To describe how the Church both serves the world and reminds the world of the truth of Jesus Christ Pages 90–92 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Analyze how the Church is a servant to the world. ▶ Describe the role of the well-formed conscience. <p>Faith Vocabulary: solidarity</p> <p>Activity: List ways in which faith provides an experience of oneness and dignity.</p> | pencils or pens |
| DAY 4 DECIDE Focus To identify ways the Church works for human dignity Pages 93–94 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Learn examples of ways the Church teaches and acts on behalf of human dignity. <p>Activity: Create a logo or symbol to honor human dignity.</p> <p>My Faith Choice: Write how to shine with the light of Christ in the world.</p> | Bibles, pencils or pens, markers, drawing paper, poster board ENRICHING THE LESSON: “Looking Through the Eyes of the Church,” page 153 |
| DAY 5 CONCLUDE Pages 95–96 | <p>Review: Recall, reflect, and share key concepts from the chapter.</p> <p>Pray: Prayer of the Faithful</p> <p>Assessment Tools Booklet: Chapter Test 7a–7b</p> | pencils and pens Bible, candle, cross for prayer space |

LOOKING AHEAD

In this chapter the Holy Spirit invites you to ▶

EXPLORE the extraordinary life of Blessed Pope John XXIII.

DISCOVER the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

DECIDE how you can witness your faith in the community.

CHAPTER

7

A Pilgrim Church

▶ What inspires you in life to take action?

The Holy Spirit continually breathes new life into the Church. Such an example is when the Church raises up new leaders with new visions to meet new challenges. One such vision was the Second Vatican Council under the leadership of Pope John XXIII, who reminded us of these words from Scripture:

I will pour out my spirit upon all mankind. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

Joel 3:1

▶ How might this passage inspire the youth today?



1958-1963
Papacy of
John XXIII

1963-1968
Papacy of
Paul VI

1991
Enthronement of Ecumenical
Patriarch Bartholomew

TIMELINE

1962-1965
Second Vatican Council

2005
Election of Jorge Mario Bergoglio as Pope

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HUMAN METHODOLOGIES

Learning through Human Experience. The *National Directory for Catechesis* teaches that human experiences are the “means through which human beings come to know themselves, one another, and God” (NDC 29A). To help the students better understand the Catholic Church’s work for unity among all Christians, invite the pastor or a member of your school’s board or staff to visit with the students and discuss how the Church acts in service to the world in your area. You might also work with a staff person of a neighboring non-Catholic Christian Church to plan a community service project the youth may do together to make a difference in your community.

DAY 1

EXPLORE

Pray

- ▶ Invite the young people to quiet themselves for prayer. Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Select a volunteer to read aloud Joel 3:1.

Reflect

- ▶ Inquire when students feel enthusiastic or interested in something. Model appropriately a personal experience of your own.
- ▶ Point out the photo on the page and encourage the students to express how the image might connect with the chapter title.
- ▶ Discuss the opening question on the page.

Focus

- ▶ Ask a volunteer to read aloud the text on the page.
- ▶ Direct the students to circle at least three words in the first paragraph that they think are the most important.
- ▶ Invite one or two volunteers to tell which words they circled and explain why they circled them.
- ▶ Share with the students that in this chapter they will explore their roles as part of the Church in the modern world.

Timeline

Point out the timeline and explain that this will be referred to throughout the chapter.

Introduce

- ▶ Direct the students' attention to the photos on the page.
- ▶ Explain to the class that we are inspired most by the example of other people around us.
- ▶ Have the students cite examples of people they are inspired by specifically in spiritual and moral matters.
- ▶ Ask: What are some of the qualities that you think someone should have if he or she is going to be a spiritual example or leader? (*Such a person should be truthful, wise, knowledgeable, kind, do good for others, and so on.*)
- ▶ Invite volunteers to take turns reading aloud the text on this page and the next.

Timeline

Point out on the timeline when John XXIII was pope.

▶ THE CHURCH FOLLOWS JESUS

Let Your Light Shine



Every human being has within them the light of faith, hope and love. The mission of every person is to let that light shine. Some people's light shines not just on their family, friends and community, but the whole world. Pope John XXIII was one of those people.

He was born Angelo Roncalli in northern Italy on November 25, 1881. He was the third of thirteen children. Perhaps this large family was part of the reason why he later became known as "the people's pope." He was a very bright man, but was best known for his warm and friendly personality. Pope John XXIII was always a person of deep faith and his hope-filled spirituality was evident by his open heart and mind.

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TEACHING TIP

The Church Follows Jesus. Help students to make the important connection between what we believe and how we are to live our lives as disciples. After learning about Blessed Pope John XXIII, invite the students to share what they know about the current pope. Inquire why some people might regard a pope like a celebrity and whether or not the students think this is a good idea. Elicit from the students the influence they consider the pope might have on an individual person's faith.

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KEY CONCEPT

The Second Vatican Council helped the Church respond to the challenges of the modern world.

Pray

Distribute Bibles to the class. Begin with the Sign of the Cross and proclaim Isaiah 34:1 aloud together.

Teach

- ▶ Focus the students' attention by reading aloud the Faith Focus question.
- ▶ Select a student to read aloud the first paragraph of The Church Today.

Timeline

Point out on the timeline when Vatican II occurred.

- ▶ Invite students to name ways that young people can be involved in the life of the Church.
- ▶ Write the Faith Vocabulary terms on the board and invite students to share what they already know.
- ▶ Direct the students to read silently Growing in Faith.

Reinforce

- ▶ Explain that the Church as a whole must reflect on ways to grow in faith and that this is what Vatican II did.
- ▶ Discuss the question: "How are you in need of greater growth in your faith?"

▶ FAITH FOCUS

What were some of the key teachings of Vatican II?

▶ FAITH VOCABULARY

ecumenical council
laity
solidarity

The Church Today

Imagine that you are part of a parish youth ministry program. On Sunday evening, there is Mass with contemporary music. A band leads the music with guitars, drums and a piano. You are a lector at Mass and your older sister is an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. On the following Tuesday, you and the rest of the youth group help set up meals and cots for a homeless project.

This scenario is not uncommon in the Catholic Church today. Many parish activities are a result from the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. This ecumenical council brought together all the bishops of the Church to discuss the contemporary issues facing the Church. They used Church teachings to address concerns

of modern society. In this chapter, you will discover some of the Council's most important teachings that help us face today's challenges.

- ▶ What are some challenges you face in your faith?

Growing in Faith

The Council produced many documents, all at different levels of teachings. Some teachings of the Church, like a *dogmatic constitution*, are to be given a greater acceptance in faith than a document like an *apostolic letter* from the pope. Vatican II published two very important documents that shed new light on the Church's teachings. These documents, like all Vatican documents, are known by a Latin name based on the first few words of the document.

Guided by the SPIRIT



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Vatican II. Assist the students in online research about the importance of this Church council. List on the board a few basic facts about Vatican II: (1) met between 1962 and 1965 in Rome, (2) 1,625 Church leaders, including bishops, archbishops and cardinals participated during the years of the Council, (3) reformed the liturgy to include, among other things, Mass to be said in the vernacular rather than only Latin, and (4) set forth the role of the Church in the modern world. Point out that television cameras were not allowed during the session so media coverage of the event was limited. Inquire as to what the students think it might have been like to attend the Council.



The first major Vatican II document was *Dei Verbum*, a dogmatic constitution about the Word of God. The second document was called *Lumen Gentium*. This dogmatic constitution described the Church as a mystery in which God is at work. This mystery includes both the laity and the clergy of the Church. We are a pilgrim Church on a journey of faith, guided by the Spirit, yet always in need of greater growth.

► How are you in need of greater growth in your faith?

Light of Nations

God calls the entire Church to holiness. This includes ordained ministers (bishops, priests, and deacons), consecrated religious (such as monks and nuns), and all of the laity (who are either single or married). The laity are called to live a life of deep faith and to follow Christ in all things. The laity is to share with the world the Catholic faith in Christ, who is the Light of nations.

► What does *lumen gentium* mean in English?

The pope and the bishops have a teaching authority within the Church called the Magisterium.

They guide the laity in properly understanding the teachings of Jesus. Each of us is responsible for learning the teachings of the Church and to best understand and accept them as acts of faith, hope and charity. We, the laity within the Church, are to evangelize the world by the light of faith, echoing the Word of God. In this way, we witness for Christ, sharing the Gospel and aiding the hierarchical leadership of the Church to make disciples of all nations.

Joy and Hope

The final constitution of the Second Vatican Council was *Gaudium et Spes*. This pastoral document focuses on the relationship between the Church and the modern world. The Council made it clear that the Church must be continually engaged in the world. The opening words of this document make clear that whatever humanity experiences, such as joy and hope or fear and anxiety, the Church too experiences these through the followers of Jesus (read *Gaudium et Spes* 1). The Church is to help shed light on the human condition, and participate in addressing the needs of the world.

Catholics BELIEVE

The Church is both human and divine. On a human level, the Church is made up of people who are capable of sin and ignorance. On the divine level, the Church has Christ's guarantee that God will never leave us. The Holy Spirit will always guide the Church in seeking the truth in all things, especially in regards to faith and morals.



Faith CONNECTION

Talk with older Catholics, such as grandparents, about their experiences of the Mass before Vatican II. Share with a partner about your conversations.

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DOCTRINE CONNECTION

Church Documents. Sometimes Church leaders communicate with members of the Church through the use of documents which set forth Church teachings, and discuss any matters of faith, practice or worship. Not all documents issued by Church leaders are equal in importance. Bishops, for example, may issue pastoral letters, which only apply to the territory over which they have authority. The pope may send an encyclical to the bishops and their people in their dioceses about a matter of concern to the whole Church. Church councils may issue documents on different topics. Vatican II, for example, issued sixteen documents: two dogmatic constitutions, two pastoral constitutions, nine declarations and three decrees, in order of most important to least important.

Teach

- Remind the students that the Church as a whole and each of us within it, laity and clergy, are called to be holy.
- Have the students read the first paragraph of *Light of Nations* to themselves.
- Ask: "What does *lumen gentium* mean in English?" (*Light of Nations*)
- Summarize the next paragraph.
- Explain that Vatican II published a number of documents to teach the world. One of the most important was *Gaudium et Spes*, Latin for the joys and hopes, the first words of the document.

- Have a student read *Joy and Hope* aloud.

Reinforce

Inquire how individual Catholics might engage with the world, according to the ideas expressed in *Gaudium et Spes*.

Connect

- Read the Catholics Believe feature on the page. Answer any questions the students may have.
- Assign the Faith Connection activity on the page to be completed as homework.

Pray

Invite the students to pray silently for the Church as she engages with the world.

KEY CONCEPT

The Church must read the signs of the times and interpret them in light of the Gospel.

Pray

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit together.

Teach

- ▶ Divide the class into small groups and have the groups read the text on the page.
- ▶ Direct the groups to identify the main sentence of each paragraph.
- ▶ Have the groups share the sentences they identified and explain their choices.

Reinforce

- ▶ Read the Did You Know feature on the page.
- ▶ Explain that some Church teachings are infallible, meaning without error in revealing God's plan of Salvation.
- ▶ Read the discussion question and elicit from the students their responses.

DID YOU KNOW

An ecumenical council gathers the bishops of the Church throughout the world. There have been twenty ecumenical councils in the Church's history. The First Vatican Council, held in the nineteenth century, is best known for declaring the infallibility of the pope.

One in the World

The Catholic Church does not exist apart from the world. In fact, the Church is to be Christ in the world. That is, God calls the Church to transform the world. For the Church, the needs of our world are at the heart of her mission. This outreach attitude of the Church reflects the words of Jesus in the Gospel of John:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17

The Church as our Mother and Teacher nurtures the faith of every child of God. She reaches out with her loving embrace to comfort those in need, helps the poor, and reconciles sinners with God and one another. This deep connection to the human race and history is called **solidarity**. The Church serves the world so that every person may experience oneness as brothers and sisters in Christ.



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Serving the World. Encourage the students to consider how the Church serves the world. By identifying examples, the Church's involvement in the world will become clearer to the students. Make certain the students include not only acts of charity but also the fact that Church documents teach both Catholics and inform non-Catholics about the teachings and values that Jesus calls us to uphold.

Serving the World

The Church exists not only for her own member but exists to be a servant to the world. This service involves reaching out to those in need, and includes a special wisdom that can serve as a guiding light for the world. As the Council fathers wrote:

"The Church is not motivated by an earthly ambition but is interested in only one thing—to carry on the work of Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for he came into the world to bear witness to the truth, to save and not to judge, to serve and not to be served" (*Gaudium et Spes* 3).

- ▶ How can you carry on the work of Christ in the world?

Speaking Truth

The Second Vatican Council taught that the mission of the Church is to read the signs of the times and to interpret them in light of the Gospel. The "signs of the times" refer to the specific issues, questions, confusions, hopes, and dreams of each generation. The Church must respond to the very specific issues of the time and in the world. The Church must be attentive to the current events and be able to speak the truth, with hope and charity in the face of any challenge.

In an ever-changing world, there does remain unchanging truth. For example, Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. Christ alone answers the deepest needs of humanity. As

the Council fathers wrote:

"The Church believes that Christ, who died and was raised for the sake of all, can show man the way and strengthen him through the Spirit in order to be worthy of his destiny; nor is there any name under heaven given among men by which they can be saved" (*Gaudium et Spes* 10).

- ▶ How does the Church speak the truth to you?

In God's Image

At the heart of the Church's message for humanity is Christ. In and through Christ, the Church proclaims the inherent dignity of the human person. This means that each person deserves to be treated with love and respect, just as Jesus did and taught. The true value of the human person is based on the truth that each of us is created in the image and likeness of God. God created us as social beings. We are to be a communion of persons as God the Holy Trinity is.

Though due to sin, we can be blind to the dignity of the human person. We can find hope in the truth that Christ has won redemption for all of us. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can come to know and love the goodness of God. And through the Light of God, we can find true wisdom (read *Gaudium et Spes* 13, 15).

DID YOU KNOW

In what was later referred to as the Great Schism, the Catholic Church experienced another split in 1054. The Churches of the East separated from the Churches of the West. One of the biggest divisions between these sister Churches concerns the authority of the pope. Yet today both continue efforts to reunify.



Faith CONNECTION

Discuss with a partner one way in which you experience a sense of oneness and dignity because of your Christian faith.

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Teach

- ▶ Have volunteers take turns reading the text aloud.
- ▶ Direct the students to underline the one goal the Church has, as described in the quote from *Gaudium et Spes* ("to carry on the work of Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit").
- ▶ Invite the students to restate this Church's goal in their own words.

Reinforce

Ask the discussion questions and allow students sufficient time to respond.

Connect

- ▶ Have the students complete the Faith Connection activity on the page in their groups or with partners.
- ▶ Have each group share their list with the rest of the class.
- ▶ Read the Did You Know feature on the page and discuss the significance of the photo.
- ▶ Explain that over time the Church has sadly divided into different groups. One of the biggest divisions was between Eastern Christianity (Eastern Europe and Russia) and Western Christianity (Western Europe).

TEACHING TIP

Classroom Council. To reinforce the idea that the Church's role is to address the signs of the times, hold a classroom Catholic council. Explain to the students that they are to imagine themselves as Church leaders who have come together to address a moral issue for today's youth. Which moral issue should they focus on? Which Catholic teachings address this issue? If time permits, have the students work in either groups or pairs to address other issues by writing a letter to Catholic youth in the U.S. asserting Catholic teachings.

KEY CONCEPT

We are called to honor the dignity of each human person as Christ did.

Teach

- ▶ Select a volunteer to read aloud *Our Inner Sanctuary*.
- ▶ Read aloud the discussion question and allow sufficient time for the students to share examples.
- ▶ Select three students to take turns reading aloud *Challenging the World*.

Reinforce

Ask: What are some of the challenges the Church must address? (*for example, the sacredness of marriage and human life*)

Connect

- ▶ Inquire: Why do you think that some people just go along with others and do not stand up for what they know is right?
- ▶ Distribute markers and drawing paper. Have the students complete the Faith Connection activity on the page.
- ▶ Invite volunteers to share their finished logos or symbols.

Pray

To express the unity of all Christians, pray together the Lord's Prayer.



Our Inner Sanctuary

The conscience holds a special place of honor in the dignity of the human person. The Council fathers eloquently declared that:

"Man has in his heart a law inscribed by God. His dignity lies in observing this law, and by it he will be judged. His conscience is man's most secret core and sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths" (*Gaudium et Spes* 16).

Through the conscience each of us is able to discern what God has determined to be good and evil. The conscience works with the will, aiding each person to intentionally choose to do what is good. When we do good, we honor human dignity.

- ▶ What good actions have you done that honor human dignity?

Challenging the World

Reading the signs of the times means that the Church must be unafraid to proclaim the truth. Throughout her history, the Church has continually challenged the world to stand up for what is right.

During the Industrial Revolution, the Church spoke out against the unjust treatment of workers and the dangerous condition under which too many workers had to endure. During the Cold War, the Church declared the nuclear arms race to be a grave danger upon all of humanity. Post Cold War, the Church challenged nations to insure that economic systems do not place profit over people.

Today, the Church strongly defends marriage as a sacred lifelong bond between one man and one woman. She affirms the uniqueness of each gender and the importance of human sexuality as a gift from God. And the Church has consistently affirmed that human life must be protected from the moment of conception until natural death. Her pro-life stance not only encompasses protecting the unborn and the terminally ill, the Church reminds us all that everyone, including convicted criminals, have an inherent dignity that we must never violate with our actions. In every generation, the Church has been society's conscience speaking to our hearts.

Faith CONNECTION

Create a logo or symbol that honors human dignity.

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THE TASKS OF CATECHESIS

Moral Formation. Guide the students in understanding that the term conscience does not refer to one's personal opinion or preference. A conscience, in fact, challenges us with regard to what we want to do in any given situation. Invite the students to summarize the qualities of a well-informed conscience, directing them toward the understanding that a well-formed conscience is always truthful, reasonable, and looks to Church teaching at least in part to discover the will of God. You might have the students create a class chart with a list of the qualities of a well-formed conscience.

▶ I FOLLOW JESUS

A Faithful HEART



Listed here are your personal challenges from the Church. Use them to honor human dignity, seek solidarity, and shine with the wisdom of a faithful heart.

- 1. Be There.** Vatican II made the Mass more accessible to the people so they could participate more actively and more fully. But you cannot participate if you are not there. The Church wants you and needs you.
- 2. Get Involved.** The Church is all of us. Find a way that you can contribute to the life of your parish. Consider doing community service. Use your energy to help others. Get involved, stay involved.
- 3. Know God's Word.** The Church encourages all Catholics to read the Bible. Read a bit each day. Learn how you can apply the Gospel to your life.



TEACHING TIP

Personal Commitment. Students in this age group may not yet see themselves as being able to participate fully in the life of the Church. They may still see the life of a Christian as an adult choice, rather than a commitment they themselves can make. You may want to have the students brainstorm ways that someone in their age group could actually live the personal challenges described here. This will help the students to begin to realize that they do and can participate fully in the life of the Church appropriate for their ages.

Pray

Distribute Bibles and pray together John 17:20-21.

Reinforce

- ▶ Remind the students what they have learned about the role of the Church by asking volunteers to offer one idea from each page of the chapter.
- ▶ Have a student read aloud the first paragraph on this page.
- ▶ Invite volunteers to paraphrase and explain the three things that can be achieved by committing to one's faith.
- ▶ Have volunteers read aloud the seven personal challenges on the pages.

Respond

- ▶ Invite the students to rank the seven challenges as to which they feel most confident about undertaking and which they feel least confident about undertaking.
- ▶ Answer any questions the students might have about the challenges.

Respond

- ▶ Divide the class into small groups or pairs so that each of the seven personal challenges can be addressed separately.
- ▶ Distribute art materials and have each group create a poster advocating one of the personal challenges.
- ▶ When finished have the groups share their work with the rest of the class.
- ▶ Hang the posters in the classroom for the class to enjoy and remember the lesson.

Choose

- ▶ Have the young people prayerfully reflect on what they have learned in this chapter about the Church's role in the modern world.
- ▶ Then invite the students to complete the My Faith Choice section at the bottom of the page.
- ▶ Encourage the young people to put their faith choices into action this week.

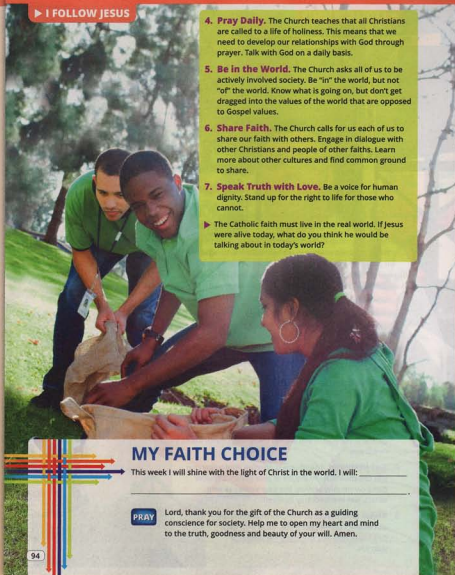
Pray

Invite the students to quiet themselves for prayer. Have a volunteer read aloud the prayer at the bottom of the page.

Pray

To express the unity of all Christians, pray together the Lord's Prayer.

▶ I FOLLOW JESUS



4. Pray Daily. The Church teaches that all Christians are called to a life of holiness. This means that we need to develop our relationships with God through prayer. Talk with God on a daily basis.

5. Be in the World. The Church asks all of us to be actively involved in society. Be "in" the world, but not "of" the world. Know what is going on, but don't get dragged into the values of the world that are opposed to Gospel values.

6. Share Faith. The Church calls for us each of us to share our faith with others. Engage in dialogue with other Christians and people of other faiths. Learn more about other cultures and find common ground to share.

7. Speak Truth with Love. Be a voice for human dignity. Stand up for the right to life for those who cannot.

▶ The Catholic faith must live in the real world. If Jesus were alive today, what do you think he would be talking about in today's world?

MY FAITH CHOICE

This week I will shine with the light of Christ in the world. I will: _____

PRAY Lord, thank you for the gift of the Church as a guiding conscience for society. Help me to open my heart and mind to the truth, goodness and beauty of your will. Amen.

TEACHING TIP

Affirm the Students' Growth in Faith. Take the time to recall and celebrate the efforts of the students. Ask them to share some of the important key faith concepts they learned and list these on the board. Challenge the students to suggest good faith habits that they can form, such as regular prayer, worshipping weekly at Mass, reading the Bible, recognizing and meeting the needs of others, and treating everyone with basic human dignity. Invite the students to summarize this chapter, encouraging them to focus on the Church's role of speaking the truth of Jesus Christ to today's world.

CHAPTER REVIEW

Recall

Define each of these faith terms:

- ecumenical council _____
- solidarity _____
- laity _____

Choose one of the following questions, and write a short answer. Share with a partner your response.

- How did Vatican II change the way we celebrate the Mass?

- What did Vatican II teach about the Church in the world today?

Reflect

Using what you have learned in this chapter, briefly explain how this Scripture passage relates to the teachings of Vatican II.

I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.

John 16:12-13

Share

Discuss with a partner the role of the Church in helping with the needs of the world.

WITH MY FAMILY

Spend time during the weekends working on how each family member can challenge the others to speak out in defense of human dignity.

For more ideas on ways to live as a disciple of Jesus visit BeMyDisciples.com

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We Remember

- ▶ Help the students recall the main points of the chapter by reading aloud part of each To Help You Remember statement and have volunteers complete the rest of the statement.
- ▶ Direct the students to complete the Recall section. Have the students check their answers with partners.
- ▶ Give the students several moments to complete the Reflect section. When finished, have volunteers share their responses.
- ▶ Brainstorm with the students ways that they might accomplish the Share activity. And then encourage them to complete the With My Family section at home.
- ▶ Use the Chapter Review to clarify any questions the students may have concerning what they have learned in the chapter.

TEACHING TIP

Partnering with Parents. At this age, the students are less likely than when younger to share many details about what they are learning in class. As a result it is all the more important to use creative, positive and meaningful ways to communicate with parents about their child's faith formation. Encourage the students to follow through with the Share activity to speak out in defense of human dignity.

We Pray

- ▶ Remind the class that the Church is always trying to bring the Light of Christ into the world and needs the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as we do individually.
- ▶ Have volunteers write a key phrase from each intercession on a blank piece of paper and roll them up like scrolls.
- ▶ Explain that when each intercession is prayed, the appropriate scroll should be placed on the prayer table.
- ▶ Select a Leader and six Readers. Invite the students to quiet themselves for prayer.
- ▶ Begin with the Sign of the Cross and pray the prayer celebration together.

Visit BeMyDisciples.com

- ▶ Take time with the students to explore the many activities and resources available at the Web site, BeMyDisciples.com.
- ▶ Encourage them especially to visit it with their families throughout the week and over the weekend.

Before Moving On

Reflect on this question before moving on to the next chapter.

How have I increased the students' understanding of the different ways the Church is engaged with the modern world?

CHAPTER PRAYER

Prayer of the

FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us pray that the Holy Spirit may continue to guide the Church in all that she does and says.

Reader 1: We pray for the pope and our bishop, that their faith and love may be a sign of hope to all the world.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for peace in our world, especially for all of the children and families who are victims of war and violence.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for those we find difficult to understand. We pray for those we find difficult to like. May we hear and see them as God does.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for all who experience prejudice. We pray for those who speak hatred. May their hearts be healed and reconciled with God and others.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for all who are hungry this week. May our care and compassion make a difference in their lives.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 6: We pray for our parents, grandparents, and all who have raised us. We pray in gratitude for their loving care.

All: Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

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LITURGY CONNECTION

Intercessions and Petitions. It is normal for us to call upon our heavenly Father and place our needs before him. We do this in two ways. Intercessions are the prayers we pray on behalf of others. Such prayers might include bringing to the Lord's attention specific problems or simply to pray for the health and well-being of people in our lives. Petitions are the prayers we pray for our own needs and problems. Ask the students what kind of prayers are part of the prayer celebration (intercessions).

ENRICHING THE LESSON

RESEARCHING THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

Purpose

To reinforce the importance of the Second Vatican Council in the history of the Church (taught on pages 88-92)

Directions

- ▶ Invite students to some further research on the Second Vatican Council to discover why the Council is one of the most significant religious events of recent decades.
- ▶ Suggest that the students research information on the internet, in reference books, or by talking to people who remember the events of the Council.
- ▶ Have the students interview older Catholics who were young adults or older during the 1960s. Have them ask these people to describe how the teachings of the Council affected life in their parish.
- ▶ Arrange for the students to share what they find out with the class.

Materials

paper, pens or pencils

PREPARING A SCRIPTURE TALK

Purpose

To reinforce the importance of reading the Scriptures (taught on page 93)

Directions

- ▶ Share that two ways we learn about the Scriptures are by hearing the Word of God proclaimed at Mass and by listening to the Sunday homily. We can also read Scripture with our friends and family and discuss what we read.
- ▶ Invite the pastor or parish deacon to visit the class and explain the process of they use in preparing a homily.
- ▶ Help the students to select a Gospel passage to read and prepare a talk about the passage.
- ▶ Have the students write their own brief reflections on the Scripture passages they have chosen and share these with the rest of the class.

Materials

paper, pens or pencils

LOOKING THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CHURCH

Purpose

To reinforce that the Catholic Church helps us understand contemporary issues in light of the Gospel (taught on page 91)

Directions

- ▶ Distribute art paper and markers to the students.
- ▶ Have each student draw a large magnifying glass on his or her paper. Tell the students to think of this magnifying glass as the Church.
- ▶ Have them illustrate in the magnifying glass various issues in the world today that they are better able to see or understand because they view it through the eyes of the Church.
- ▶ Invite volunteers to share their illustrations with the class.

Materials

art paper, markers, scissors