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## Q

 Unit 2 Irinity
## In this unit you will...

learn about the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. There is one God in three Persons who are united in love. Each of the Persons of the Trinity is distinct, and they work together in love. We worship the Trinity when we gather for liturgy and in personal prayer.


Fatiot in Action!
Caiholic Social Teaching Principle: Life and Dignity of the Human Person

## UNIT 2 OPENER

## Preview Unit Theme

Tell children that Unit 2 is about the Trinity.

- Read aloud the text on page 76 of the student edition. Tell children they will learn more about these things in the next three chapters.
- Ask children what they think the special tasks are for each Person of the Trinity.
- Invite volunteers to share some of their favorite personal prayers.
- Explain to children that Catholic social teaching calls us to remember that we are all God's children and are equal in his sight.


## The Holy Trinity

## Overview

## CHAPTER BACKGROUND

## Faith Focus

- The Holy Trinity is three Persons in one God. (CCC 253)
- Jesus, God the Son, taught about God the Father and God the Spirit. (CCC 240, 243)


## Catechism Connection

The Catechism calls the Trinity the central mystery of Christian faith and life because it is the mystery of God in himself.
(CCC 234)

## GDC Link

The Directory states that through catechesis you help children understand and live out their lives in the Trinity. Everything you do in catechesis must have Christ at the center and be grounded in belief in the Holy Trinity. (GDC 99-100)
 in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:18-19

## The Central Mystery of Faith

The most fundamental teaching of faith is that of the Holy Trinity. The Church has repeatedly testified to this teaching in its earliest history, in its creeds, and in other statements of faith. The Hebrew people believed in the profound truth that there is only one God. Jesus' Resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit showed the faithful that in this one God there are three divine Persons-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Although the doctrine of the Trinity is a religious mystery, it is the mystery that helps probe more deeply into the nature of God. The Church holds this image of the communion of Three Persons as a profound truth.

## A Relational God

The images of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit provide some insight into the nature of God as a relational being. All three Persons of the Trinity play a part in creation, redemption, and sanctification. The Trinity embodies the energy and power of love that draws all creation into his embrace. The love that exists among Father, Son, and Spirit cannot be contained; it can only overflow into a relationship with all people.

Reflect How have your loving relationships reflected the love of the Trinity?

## TEACHING CHAPTER 4

## The Trinity

Your first task will be to help children understand what a mystery is. Explain that a mystery is something that no one on Earth can really understand. It is beyond human reasoning ability.

- Help children see the difference between a problem and a mystery. Even if it seems there is no solution to a problem, there is still the possibility of solution. A mystery does not need to be solved, nor even totally understood. It needs to be experienced and believed.
- Suggest examples of things that people do not understand completely, such as why some people risk their lives for others.
- When you teach about the Trinity, be sure to emphasize that there is only one God. Third graders are concrete thinkers and may begin thinking in terms of "three gods."


## THIRD GRADERS SAY

## Help Me Grow

- I want to learn more about God. Help me explore the mysteries of faith.
- I have a growing sense of competence and independence. Encourage me to do some things on my own.
- I believe in myself when you believe in me.



## SUSTAINING YOUR SPIRIT

## Engagement with Others

Blessed assurance in yourself is important. It is also important to experience significant and constructive engagement with others. Doing so enables you to

- see firsthand the goodness of others.
- recognize that sometimes a task is best addressed by a team.
- replenish your level of empathy.
- see that you can still benefit from different styles and approaches.
Engagement with others sustains your spirit by pulling you past your own limitations and by restoring your faith in yourself and others.

Reflect Rate yourself |  |
| :---: |

Triune God, I believe in your presence as Father, Son, and Spirit. May the example of your love help me be more loving toward others. Amen.

## Weekly Planner



[^0]
## Multimedia Resources

## BOOK

Saints: Our Friends \& Teachers.* Palencar, Lee. Twenty-Third Publications. Features stories and activities that help students learn about saints.

## DVD/VHS

Saints Gallery, Vol III, Saints for All Seasons ( 40 min .). Videos with Values [Oblate Media] "Saint Patrick" (5 min.). Follows the saint as he converts Ireland.
*Available at www.osvcurriculum.com

## Share Your Paith:

Think, Share, Act, p. 79
Multiple Intelligence: Visual/Spatial
IOPTIONAL Activity Master 4, p. 79
Multiple Intelligence: Visual/Spatial

## Connect Your Faith:

Write a Prayer, p. 81
Multiple Intelligence: Verbal/Linguistic
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- Quick Tip:

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- Quick Tip:

Start with a Question, p. 82

- Christian Living Skills:

Be Accountable, p. 83

IOPIONAL The Holy Spirit, p. 294 and 295 Multiple Intelligence: Visual/Spatial

- Liturgy Link:

We Do Believe, p. 84

- Lectionary Link:

Break Open the Word, p. 84
$\qquad$
(A) Work with Words Circle the letter of the correct answer.
I. Saint Patrick lived in
a. the United States.
b. the Holy Land.
c. Ireland.
2. Together, the Persons in God are called the
a. Holy Trinity.
b. Father.
c. Holy Spirit.
3. A prayer that tells about Catholic beliefs is called
a. the Mass.
b. the Our Father.
c. a creed.
4. Who taught about God by using a shamrock?
a. Saint John of Matha
b. Jesus
c. Saint Patrick
5. Jesus called God his
a. friend.
b. teacher.
c. father.
(B) Check Understanding Complete each sentence with the correct word from the Word Bank.
6. One of the Church's oldest creeds is named for Jesus' followers, or the $\qquad$ .
7. You help the Holy Spirit when you bring

WORD BANK
God
Apostles
three
peace
$\qquad$ to the world.
8. A mystery can be fully understood only by $\qquad$ .
9. The $\qquad$ Persons in God work together as one.
(C) Make Connections Write a brief response to the question.
10. Why is it important to know a creed? $\qquad$

# (4) The Holy Trinity 

## Let Us Pray

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Leader: Lord God, send forth the Holy Spirit to set our } \\
& \text { hearts on fire! } \\
& \text { "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the } \\
& \text { love of God and the fellowship of the holy } \\
& \text { Spirit be with all of you." } \\
& \text { 2 Cornmians } 13: / 3
\end{aligned}
$$

All: Lord God, send forth the Holy Spirit to set our hearts on fire! Amen.

## Activity <br> Let's Begin

Mysteries of Nature Some things in this world just can't be explained. Only God fully understands the mysteries of his creation.
Why did God make the sky blue and the grass green?
Why can't mud be a prettier color?
Why do insects have so many legs?
Why don't dogs meow and cats bark?
What questions do you have about the mystery of God's creation?

- What questions do you have about the Catholic faith?

Responses will vary

- Ask Questions Discuss your classmates' questions about the Catholic faith.

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND
Scripture 2 Corinthians 13:13 appears at the end of the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians and is used as a greeting at the beginning of the Mass and at other liturgies.

- The verse is a benediction, or a blessing, from Paul to his readers and listeners.
- Note the mention of the three Persons in one God.
HELCOME

Objective: To identify the concept of mysteries

## Open

Prayer Space You may wish to have children move to your classroom prayer space. In the space, have a crucifix and a Bible opened to 2 Corinthians 13:13.

11 Let Us Pray Tell children that the scripture verse is a blessing used by Paul and that it names the Persons of the Blessed Trinity.

## Build <br> Activity

- Read aloud Mysteries of Nature.
- Ask children to think of different mysteries of creation.
- Write their responses on the board or on chart paper.
- Direct children to read the text question and write their responses on the page.


## Extension Activity

- Organize children in several small groups.
- Have the groups share and discuss their questions.
- Ask each group to choose one question to share with the class. Discuss all questions posed by the groups.


## Close

Have children tell what they have learned about the mystery of creation.

Objective: To discuss the mystery of three Persons in one God

## Open

Let Us Pray
Invite children to pray the scripture verse on page 77 with you.
(O) Focus What did Saint Patrick teach about the Holy Trinity? List children's responses on the board.
$\qquad$

## Build

## Learning About Mystery

Tell children to think about things that they do not understand. Explain that it is normal to feel anxious about not knowing.

## Three in One

Ask two children to read the text aloud.

- Organize children in small groups.
- Ask children to discuss what it means to accept an idea on faith. Possible response: to believe without fully understanding
(2) What helped the people better understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity? Ask for responses.


## Learning About Mystery

Focus<br>What did Saint Patrick teach about the Holy Trinity?

Have you ever learned something that was hard to understand? The story of Saint Patrick tells how the people of Ireland learned about something hard to understand. about 400 years after the birth of Jesus.


## Three in One

Long ago the people of Ireland had questions about God. As a bishop, Patrick was teaching about the three Persons in one God, someone asked, "How can you say that there is only one God when you pray to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?"

Patrick explained the Holy Trinity by plucking a shamrock from the ground. He held it up for the people to see.
"The shamrock I am holding is one plant, but it has three leaves. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are not three gods. They are three Persons in one God. This is a mystery that we accept on faith."
(2) What helped the people better understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity ? Bishop Patrick used

## TEACHER BACKGROUND

Saint Patrick When he was sixteen, Patrick was sold into slavery and taken to Ireland. After escaping slavery, Patrick began studies to become a priest.

- After his ordination, he returned to Ireland.
- Patrick was made a bishop in 431. He died c. 461 and later became the patron saint of Ireland. His feast day is March 17.



## REACHING ALL LEARNERS

Visual Learners As Saint Patrick learned when he taught the people of Ireland, some individuals need to see or touch something concrete to help them understand.

- To illustrate abstract ideas, bring in props such as a shamrock.
- If props are not available, draw pictures on chart paper or the board to help children visualize.


## One God

Patrick helped the people understand that there is only one God.

You can also learn from Jesus, who told his followers about the Father and the Holy Spirit.

- SCRIPTURE

John 14:6-7, 16-17

## The Father and the Spirit

One day Jesus was talking with his followers about God. Jesus told them, "No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father."
Jesus promised to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to teach the people.

From John 14:6-7, 16-17
?) What did Jesus say about the Father and the Spirit? If you know Jesus, you can know the Father. The Holy Spirit will teach you.

## Aame Share Your Faith

1Think: Think about the Holy Trinity and the shamrock. Share: Talk to your group about how the shamrock is like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Act: Draw a shamrock and label one leaf "Father," one leaf "Son," and one leaf "Holy Spirit."

## One God

Summarize the content of the text.

- Refer to the images of the shamrock on the page. Remind children that Patrick used the shamrock to help people understand God better.


## The Father and the Holy Spirit

 Invite one child to practice and then proclaim Jesus' part in the scripture story as another child narrates.(2) What did Jesus say about the Father and the Holy Spirit? Write the responses on the board or on chart paper.

## Activity

- Organize children in groups. Allow time for them to draw and label their shamrocks.
- Have group members take turns playing the part of Saint Patrick, using their drawings to teach about the Trinity.

> Close
> Emphasize that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are the Holy Trinity, three Persons in one God. Remind children that Jesus and Saint Patrick taught people about the Blessed Trinity.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

## Activity Master 4: Trinity

 Puzzle Distribute copies of the activity found on teacher page 86A.- The puzzle will tell about the Holy Trinity.
- As an alternative, you may wish to send this activity home with children.


Activity Master 4 page 86A

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND
The Trinity In this passage from the Gospel according to John, the special actions of each Person of the Trinity are described.

- As Jesus points out, his teaching comes from the Father. In addition, the Holy Spirit will be sent to the followers of Jesus when Jesus returns to the Father.
- Other scripture passages that refer to the Persons of the Trinity include Matthew 28:19, Luke 1:15, and Acts 5:32.

Objective: To explain relationships within the Trinity

## Open



Invite children to pray the scripture verse on page 77 with you.

## Focus

What is the work of the
Trinity? List children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

## Build

## Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Read the text aloud. Tell children to listen for the definition of the word mystery.

- Invite children to compare the Trinity to groups to which they belong. Possible responses: families, scouts, sports teams. Point out the bonds of love and commitment that make such groups successful.
- Use the photographs to discuss how people show the love of the Trinity in everyday life.
(2) What are some other mysteries of faith? Allow children to discuss the question with a partner.


## Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Focus

## What is the work of the Trinity?

Jesus called God "Father," and he taught his followers to call God "Father," too. By his actions Jesus showed that he is God the Son, who became human to save all people. Jesus asked his Father to send the Holy Spirit, who is God's love and grace, to be present with you.
The most important thing about the Holy Trinity is that he is a loving communion of Persons joined as one in love. The Holy Trinity is a mystery, a truth of faith that Catholics believe even though they cannot understand it completely. A mystery is a truth that only God can fully understand.
Through God's revelation and with his help, you can understand more about a mystery like the Trinity. You can see the Trinity at work when you see love in the world. You can see the reflection of the Trinity in the Church. You will better understand the Trinity when you see God in heaven.
(2) What are some other mysteries of faith? Responses will vary.

## QUICK TIP

Pretzels Long ago an Italian monk twisted extra bread dough into a loose knot shape.

- The three spaces came to symbolize the Trinity, and the dough strips resembled praying arms. These first pretzels were given to children as a reward for knowing their prayers.
- After checking for food allergies, distribute traditionally shaped pretzels to children.


## QUICK TIP

Mystery Many children are already familiar with the term mystery from family, books, or television.

- Explain to children that the biblical meaning of the word mystery is not the same as the current mainstream usage.
- As a class, write a definition for and examples of a mainstream mystery and a mystery of faith.


## Honoring the Trinity

The Church remembers and honors the three Persons in one God in such prayers as the Sign of the Cross and the Glory to the Father. The Church has developed summaries of faith called creeds. One of the oldest creeds is the Apostles' Creed. It is a summary of faith in the Holy Trinity. Here is how the three parts begin.
"I believe in God, the Father . . .
and in Jesus Christ . . .
I believe in the Holy Spirit . . ."

## Working Together

God the Father created you. The Son, Jesus, saved you and is your brother. The Holy Spirit is with you now, making you holy and helping you bring God's love and peace to the world. All three Persons of the Trinity work together as one God.
(2) When can the Holy Spirit help and guide you?

Responses will vary.

## Werds of faith

Creeds are statements of the basic beliefs about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and about other teachings of the Church.


## Honoring the Trinity

Ask children to read the text silently to learn about creeds.

- Have children read together the phrases that begin the three main parts of the Apostles' Creed.


## Working Together

Ask a proficient reader to read the text aloud.

- Invite children to describe the actions of the Trinity. Possible response: creating, saving, guiding
(2) When can the Holy Spirit help and guide you? Write all responses on the board or on chart paper.


## Activity

- Organize children in groups of three to complete the activity. Have each group member write one part of the prayer.
- Invite each group to read its prayer aloud.


Emphasize that the Trinity is a mystery of faith. Remind children that the Apostles' Creed honors the Blessed Trinity.

## TEACHER BACKGROUND

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Creeds Creed comes from the Latin credo, meaning "I believe." Two well-known creeds are the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

- The Nicene Creed was adopted at an ecumenical council in the city of Nicaea in the fourth century.
- The language in both Creeds was revised when we began to implement the English translation of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal in November 2011.

Church Tour Many parish churches display symbols of the Trinity.

- Take children on a tour of the church to look for the symbols in church features.
- If a tour is not possible, describe any symbols in the church.


Multiple Intelligence: Bodily/Kinesthetic

Objective: To encourage curiosity about the Catholic faith

## Open



Invite children to pray the scripture verse on page 77 with you.

## Focus Who answers your

 questions about the Church? List children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

## Asking Questions

Praise children for their attention to their religious studies.

- Point out that children grow in wisdom and grace when they learn about the Catholic faith.


## Finding Answers

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the text.

- Encourage children to consult these resources when they have questions.
(2) What questions do you have about God or the Church? List children's responses on the board.


## Asking Questions

 questions about the Church?

You are growing in your understanding of the Catholic faith. You probably have some questions about what you have been learning this year. It is all right to ask questions when you want to understand something better. There are people in the Church who will be glad to help you find the answers.

## Finding Answers

There are many places to go to find answers to your questions about the Catholic faith. Ask your parents or guardians, your parish priest, or a religion teacher to help you find the answers. They can probably lead you to the correct information source. Here is a list of places to look.


## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Cross-Curricular: Reading Work with your school librarian to find examples of the resources listed in the children's text.

- Allow children to work with the resources to find answers to their questions.
- Allow time for browsing so that children
 may see the richness of Church teachings.

Multiple Intelligence: Verbal/Linguistic

## QUICK TIP

Start with a Question Most questions begin with one of six words. When children appear to have run out of questions, encourage them to think about the following list of question words.

- Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How

Write a Letter Who do you think can help you learn more about the Catholic faith? In the space below, write a letter to that person. Ask him or her a question about your


## Activity

- Point out that letters are used for many purposes.
- As a class, brainstorm a list of possible recipients for the letters. Encourage children to choose someone important to them.
- Allow time for children to draft their letters.
- Walk among children to offer suggestions and assistance.
- Have children revise and rewrite their letters on good paper.


## Close

Ask children to share their questions and letters with the class. Praise their work.

- Consider inviting children to share any responses they receive in a later class.


## CHRISTIAN LIVING SKILLS

Be Accountable Point out to children that they are accountable for what they learn about the Church.

- Emphasize the duty to get correct information about Church issues.
- Indicate that after students acquire knowledge, they must apply it to their lives. Point out that parents, teachers, and other trusted adults can help if children ask questions.


## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Cross-Curricular: Writing Point out that there are two types of letters, business letters and personal letters.

- Show the class the format for each type of letter.

- Discuss the purpose of each type of letter.
- Decide which type of letter children will send.

Multiple Intelligence: Verbal/Linguistic

## DAY 5

Objective: To participate in a prayer service based on a creed

## Prepare

## Celebration of the Word

## ) Let Us Pray

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.
Serve as the leader for the prayer service.

- Select a reader.
d) Use the Call to Faith 3 CD, track 4, to rehearse the suggested song.


## Gather

Invite children to bring their books and hymnals to the prayer space.

## Pray

## Celebration of the Word

13 Let Us Pray Follow the order of prayer on page 84.

Sing together.
There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, There is one God who is Father of all.
"There is One Lord", Toizé Community, © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Leader: Joined together as one community, we are called to one faith.

Reader: A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.
Read Ephesians 4:1-6.
The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.
Leader: Let us share our belief in the Trinity. Do you believe in God the Father?
All: I do.
Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?
All: I do.
Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life?
All: I do.
Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
All: Amen.

## LITURGY LINK

We Do Believe Invite children to stand during this prayer service.

- Tell them that people usually stand when making a very important statement, such as a speech or a serious promise (a wedding vow, for instance).
- The statement "I do" speaks to the very heart of the faith.



## LECTIONARY LINK

Break Open the Word Read last week's Sunday Gospel. Invite children to think about what the reading means to them as they try to follow Christ's example. For questions related to the weekly Gospel reading, visit our website at www.osvcurriculum.com.

Visit www.osvcurriculum.com for weekly
(4) Work with Words Complete the following statements.

1. One of the Church's oldest creeds is the Apostles' Creed (p. 81)
2. The name given to the three Persons in one God is the Holy Trinity (pp. 78-79)
3. A truth that only God can fully understand is called a mystery (p. 80)
4. A gift from God that lets people believe mysteries is faith (p. 80)
5. Saint Patrick taught about the Trinity by using a shamrock (p. 78)

Check Understanding Fill in the circle next to the answer that best completes each statement.
6. Saint Patrick taught people in $\qquad$ (p. 78)

- Ireland
O Israel
O America

7. Jesus called God (p. 80)Trinity

- Father
O Sir

8. Summaries of faith are called $\qquad$ (p. 81)
O prayers
O Scripture
creeds
9. The Holy Spirit helps bring
(p. 81) to the world.

- peace
$O \sin$
O riches

10. You
(p. 82)
learn more about your Catholic faith from people in the Church.

- can

O cannot
O should not

## Review

A Work with Words Have children complete each sentence with the correct word or words.

B Check Understanding Tell children to fill in the circle next to the best response.

## Assessment


$\triangle$ Chapter 4 Test page 77E

Answers to the Chapter Test can be found in the back of the Teacher Manual.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Show Love Create a special bulletin board in your classroom.

- Title the board, "I Show God's Love."
- At the beginning of each class,
 distribute paper cut in the shape of shamrocks.
- Have children write how they have shown God's love since the last class. Post the shamrocks.

Multiple Intelligence: Interpersonal

## JUSTICE AND PEACE

God the Creator The Church's social tradition teaches that Catholics show respect for the one creator God by being stewards of creation. You are called to protect people and the environment by living in relationship with all of God's creation. (See Sharing Catholic Social Teaching, page 6.)


Catholic Social Teaching: Care for Creation

## Family Faith

Remind children to discuss the Family Faith page at home. Encourage children to read the passage from Acts.

## Activity

Explain the activity. Help children think of ways to show the love of the Holy Trinity.

## People of Faith

Tell children about Saint John of Matha.

- Saint John of Matha worked to honor God by helping others. He visited people in hospitals and comforted them. He was an excellent student who used his abilities to help others.
- After introducing the People of Faith feature, remind children to cut it out and add it to their People of Faith albums.
- Encourage children to pray the prayer at home with their families.

GOonline

Visit www.osvcurriculum.com for weekly scripture readings and seasonal resources.

## Family Eaith

## Catholics Believe

- The Holy Trinity is three Persons in one God.
- Jesus, God the Son, taught about God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.


## SCRIPTURE

Acts $2: 1-4$ is about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Talk about how the Holy Spirit helped the Apostles.
www.osvcurriculum.com


For weekly scripture readings and
seasonal rosources


A Saint John of Matha 1160-1213

## People of Faith

John was born in France, and he studied in Paris. He was ordained a priest and started the Order of the Most Holy Trinity, known as the Trinitarians. The order worked to free Christian prisoners and slaves. The Trinitarians set up hospitals and now run schools. Saint John's feast day is December 17.

## Family Prayer

Saint John, pray for us that we may honor the Trinity by working to serve others. Amen.

## (2) HOW DID I DO?

## This week my religion classes were


some of the best ever! $\square$ pretty good. $\square$ in need of improvement. In what discussions and activities were children most interested?

What activity did I most enjoy teaching?

In what area do I need to improve?

Name $\qquad$ Date $\qquad$

## Trinity Puzzle

Solve this puzzle by unscrambling the words. Then find the message below


We EBLVIEE in the

## OHYL NTIIRYT


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