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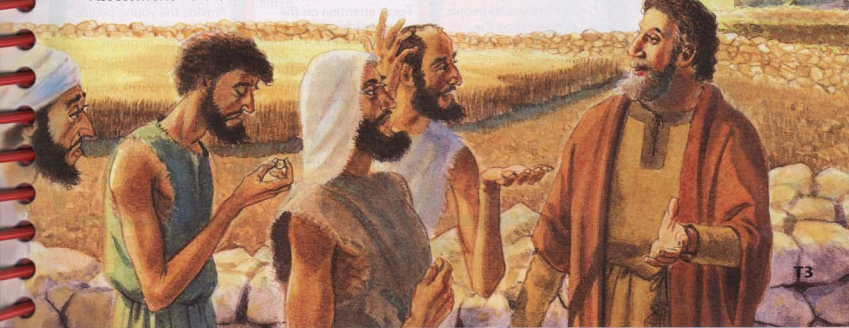
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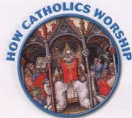
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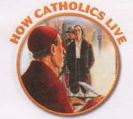


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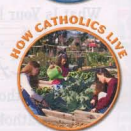
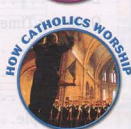
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The Growth of Christendom

UNIT
2

Having survived persecution and internal strife, Christianity burst forth as both the dominant religion of the Mediterranean world and the organizing principle of society. Great cathedrals and basilicas embodied Christianity's spirit of faith and optimism.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17



Medieval cathedrals employed hundreds of skilled artisans, similar to these master stone-carvers, working on the central doorway of St. John the Divine in New York City.



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Catch-Up Catechesis

Topics

To help the young people who need Catch-Up Catechesis, this unit covers the following topics

Ch. 5 The Universal Church

Ch. 6 The Mass

Ch. 7 Church and State

Ch. 8 The Church Prays

Our Catholic Teachings

You may also wish to review the following pages in the Our Catholic Teachings section of the back of the book.



The Mass, p. 409; The Eucharist, p. 408

UNIT
2

The Growth of Christendom

Summarizing the Unit

Say "Unit 2 begins our study of the first centuries of the early Church, describing disagreements between leaders of the early Church and the development of liturgical traditions and teachings of the Church that are essential to our faith today."



Discussing the Scripture

- Invite the young people to share their understanding of the Scripture verse.
- **Say** "In this unit we will read about a time when the Church and the State formed one society. The Scripture verse describes a period when Christianity was dominant."

Discussing the Photograph and Illustration

- Invite the young people to look carefully at the photograph and the illustration. Have a volunteer read the photograph caption.
- **Ask** "In addition to stone-carvers, what other workers were needed to build a cathedral?" (*Answers may include glass artists, masons, architects, quarrymen, carpenters, and blacksmiths.*)
"What reasons might explain why many cathedrals were built on such a grand scale?" (*Answers may include that the grandness reflected the dominance of Christianity at the time.*)

Faith Words

Chapter 5

heresy
Ecumenical Council
Fathers of the Church

Chapter 6

Paschal Mystery Liturgy

Chapter 7

Canon Law Christendom
natural law

Chapter 8

doctrine icon
schism

Introducing the Song

- Read the words of the song with the young people. Discuss the meaning of any unfamiliar words.
- Listen to the recording. It can be found on the BLEST ARE WE Music CD.
- Have the young people sing along with the recording. When you feel they are ready, have them sing along with the instrumental track.
- The verses can be sung or spoken. You might invite the young people to create verses or intercessions of their own.

Using the BLEST ARE WE Song Book

The BLEST ARE WE Song Book contains hymns and Psalms that can be used in a parish setting as well as in the religious education of children. (Recordings and instrumental tracks are also available.) Each chapter contains suggestions from the song book along with the song number.

Choosing Additional Songs

- Each At-a-Glance Planner has music suggestions that correlate to themes in the chapter. These and all suggested songs/hymns can be used in place of or in addition to the unit or program song.
- Review any gestures that may accompany the song or make up your own!
- Suggestions for movement and additional music can be found at blestarewe.com.

Special Notes

Collaborate with your parish director of music ministries to find times during parish celebrations to use the program or unit songs. This will link the music learned in religion class to the liturgical life of the parish. If possible, have someone play the chosen song on the piano or another instrument during the session. Guitar chords and keyboard accompaniment can be found in the BLEST ARE WE Accompaniment Book.

Give Us Your Peace

Michael Maher



VERSE 1 Some days the road I walk is lonely
and it's so hard to find a friend.
Even then I know somewhere in my soul
your love is far too great to comprehend. (Refrain)

VERSE 2 Some days the walking makes me weary
and my soul yearns to be relieved.
You, my Lord, are strong, you pull me along.
Your love is far too great to be believed. (Refrain)

VERSE 3 Some days the strength I need is failing,
and then, O Lord, I turn to you.
I need never fear for you are always near.
Whatever happens, you will pull me through. (Refrain)

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When to use the unit song:

- before or after the opening prayer
- during the prayer celebration
- at the end of the chapter or unit
- during special celebrations

When to use the instrumental tracks:

- as the young people enter the room
- during the opening prayer
- as background music during independent work time
- during the prayer celebration (especially during a meditation prayer service)
- during the Feasts and Seasons lessons

Councils, Cultures, and Conflicts

Chapter

5

Background for the Catechist

Chapter 5 discusses the gathering together of different cultures within the universal Catholic Church. Many U.S. Catholics believe that the universal Church is the Roman Catholic Church. What they do not realize is that the universal Church consists of Eastern Catholic Churches and Western Catholic Churches. The Roman Catholic Church is part of the Church in the West. In all, twenty-two different Church traditions make up the universal Catholic Church.

Working Toward Unity

Chapter 5 explains some of the historical conflicts that led to division between Catholics with different traditions. The existence of different traditions has led to division only when Church members have concentrated on the differences between their traditions instead of on what they have in common. All twenty-two Catholic Churches profess the Nicene Creed, celebrate the Seven Sacraments, and recognize the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, as the head of the universal Church.

Representatives of all twenty-two Churches continue to meet periodically in synods and councils to discuss

issues and work toward unity. Each universal Church member has an obligation not only to pray for Christian unity but to work actively toward that unity.

Faith Focus

Twenty-two different Church traditions make up the universal Catholic Church.

Time for Reflection

How much do I know about other traditions in the Catholic Church? What can I do to increase my understanding of different Church traditions?

A Catechist's Prayer



Lord Jesus, help me learn about and appreciate what Eastern and Western Catholics have in common. Strengthen my openness to listen to other points of view and to help resolve misunderstandings or conflicts. Help me respect everyone as I continue to work toward unity and understanding within the Church. Amen.

At-a-Glance Planner

Special Preparations

15 minutes

Share

Objective To understand that the Church has experienced and continues to experience internal conflicts



- Bookmark Psalm 16 in your Bible.

20 minutes

Hear & Believe

Objective To describe some of the serious conflicts that divided the members of the early Church and how the Church worked to overcome them



20 minutes

Hear & Believe

Objective To identify basic teachings of the Catholic faith about God

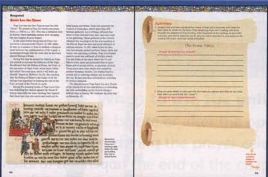


- If using the suggestion in the Multiple Intelligences Activity box, select one of the songs listed on page 86D and have a recording of it on hand.

10 minutes

Respond

Objective To name some ways to stand firm in our Catholic faith, especially in situations when our Catholic faith is challenged

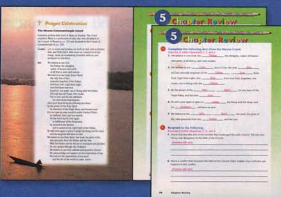


- You may wish to prepare poster board or oak tag cards for the Try This activity.

10 minutes

Prayer & Review

Objective To pray the Nicene-Constantinople Creed



- Select a song from the suggestions on page 86D or a song of your own choosing.

Teaching Steps

Materials

- Pray the Scripture verses.
- Read the text and discuss personal experiences.
- Complete the activity.

Additional Activity

- Develop the art of listening.

- ☐ materials for prayer corner as listed on page 87

- Discuss the illustration.
- Read and discuss the Witness text about the Council of Nicaea.
- Complete the activity.
- Review the Faith Words: *heresy, Ecumenical Council, Fathers of the Church.*

Additional Activity

- Explore the Gospel.

- ☐ Bibles (at least one for every two people)

- Discuss the illustration.
- Read and discuss the Scripture text "Stand Firm."
- Discuss "A Closer Look."
- Explore the doctrine in "Our Church Teaches."
- Discuss the We Believe statement.
- Complete the activities.

Additional Activity

- Hold mock trials about beliefs.

- Discuss the art.
- Read and discuss the text about Pope Saint Leo the Great.
- Do the activities.

Additional Activity

- Role-play council discussions.

- Prepare for prayer.
- Pray the Nicene-Constantinople Creed.
- Distribute the Get Connected pages for the next chapter.
- Complete the Chapter Review.
- If time permits, use the Memory Tip suggestion.

Catholic Social Teaching

- Plan a time to teach the Faith in Action page for this chapter.

- ☐ materials for prayer corner as listed on page 87

Resources

Multimedia Resources

Books



- *Where Is That in the Bible?*
Patrick Madrid
(Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 2001)
This book shows the Scripture roots of important Catholic teachings, enabling readers to defend Catholic beliefs.
- *10 More Good Reasons to Be a Catholic*
Jim Auer (Liguori Publications, 1999)
This book encourages young Catholics to appreciate their faith.

DVDs/Videos



- *Many Though One*
(28 min.) (Maryknoll World Productions)
This video reveals the traditions and practices of seven different Catholic Churches in Egypt, giving young people insight into the breadth of the Catholic Church.
- *Father*
(30 min.) ("Mystery of God" series; Oblate Media & Communication)
Beautiful location photography and storytelling combine to help an audience recognize God's presence in the world. The video contains segments on the Nicene Creed.

Audio/Music



- "Give Us Your Peace"
(Unit 2 song, page 86)
(BLEST ARE WE Music CD, track 9)
- "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" (NICAEA)
Reginald Heber
- "Anthem"
Tom Conry (OCP)
- "Psalm 16: Keep Me Safe, O God"
John Foley, S.J. (GIA)
- "We Believe"
Grayson Warren Brown (OCP)

Activity Masters

Name _____

Church Issues and Opinions

Questions about policy have been debated throughout the history of the Church. Sometimes these disagreements are resolved peacefully. At other times, they lead to conflicts within the Church. This chart lists some issues that Catholics might have differing opinions about today. List arguments that support each side of the debate.

Issue	Arguments For	Arguments Against
The Church should lobby the government to provide help for the poor.		
Catholics should show reverence at the Eucharist by how they dress.		
Retired religious brothers and sisters should receive pensions.		
Tuition for Catholic school students should be funded by the government.		

Circle the arguments that are closest to your own feelings on each topic. Which issue do you feel most strongly about? Why?

To the Teacher: Use this activity to reinforce the Share section.

BLEST ARE WE Faith & Word

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Course 5

Name _____

The Early Church

This activity takes the form of a popular game show. In each category, three answers are given. Note a question that corresponds to each answer.

Church Fathers	Heretics	Church Responses
Q.	Q.	Q.
A. Athanasius	A. Arianism	A. ecumenical councils
Q.	Q.	Q.
A. Saint Augustine	A. Arian	A. First Council of Nicaea
Q.	Q.	Q.
A. Pope Leo the Great	A. Jesus was divine but not human	A. Council of Chalcedon

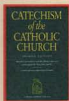
To the Teacher: This activity helps reinforce the Hear & Believe section.

Course 5

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BLEST ARE WE Faith & Word

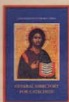
Catechism Connection



The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) discusses the mystery of the Trinity, the divine nature of Jesus Christ, and the sacred nature of the Scriptures. It states that Jesus is not part God and part man, nor a confused nature of divine and human. Remaining

truly God, he became truly man. The CCC also presents Mary as cooperating with Christ in the work of Redemption. CCC references: 230, 315, 446, 448–450, 455, 464, 483, 964, 968

GDC and NDC Connections



The *General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) acknowledges the changing eras in the Church, from its beginning to patristic times to the post-Vatican II Church. GDC references: 6202, 286

The Ecumenical Councils were concerned about the exact language needed to communicate the Church's faith. The *National Directory for Catechesis* explores how we use language and method appropriately in Chapter 3, "This Is Our Faith; This Is the Faith of the Church." NDC reference: 23–26

Visit blestarewe.com

Visit our Parish Catechesis section for:

- interactive and printable activities
- Liturgical Calendar
- Lesson Planning Resources



The Prayer Corner

Gather the following materials for your prayer corner.

- Bible and Bible stand
- crucifix
- large candle, taper and snuffer
- prayer cloth (color of liturgical season)
- objects used in Baptism, namely, bowl of water, a white garment, oil, and a candle
- BLEST ARE WE Music CD and songbook
- CD player

Arrange the items on the prayer table, placing the candle near the enthroned Bible. Make sure to begin and end each lesson with prayer.

Faith in Action

Parish Maintenance Staff

To reinforce Catholic identity and present opportunities for evangelization and putting into practice the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, invite the young people to turn to page 135 and complete the Faith in Action lesson for this chapter.

5 Get Connected with Family and Friends

Home Connection

Pre-chapter activities for families

Getting ready for Chapter 5

Get CONNECTED

with family and friends

Councils, Cultures, and Conflicts

The early Church faced many challenges as it tried to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Apostles. There were often disagreements in the Church over certain teachings; and gatherings of Church leaders, or councils, were called to clarify beliefs. In this chapter, you will learn about two early councils of the Church and about Pope Leo the Great, Athanasius, and Augustine of Hippo, courageous men who defended the truths of the faith of the Church.

Activity

Kevin asked his older brother Anthony to help him practice for a debate in history class. Kevin made strong attempts to convince Anthony that President Lincoln alone was responsible for the abolition of slavery. Anthony tried to convince Kevin that many factors helped bring an end to slavery. The boys soon realized they could not settle their disagreement



without doing research, talking to others who knew more than they did, and choosing to work out their differences. We need to do the same to better understand our Catholic faith and see how it helps us with our everyday decisions.

Do one of the following:

1. With a family member or friend, discuss a faith issue about which you have some questions. Together, try to discover what our Church teaches so that you can decide on a faithful response.
2. Talk with a friend who has a different faith tradition than yours. Ask your friend to describe the most important beliefs and practices of their religion. Try to appreciate each other's differences while learning what you share in common.

Trivia

- Church History
- Social Studies
- Arts & Culture
- People & Places

Nicaea, once a glorious city within the Byzantine Empire, is known today as Iznik, Turkey. The city, which lies in the basin of a lake, was which lies in the fourth century by a Constantinian king.

Quotable Scripture

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I lack. In green pastures you let me graze. —Psalm 23:1-2

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Getting ready for Chapter 5

Get CONNECTED

with family and friends

Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

The Psalms The Old Testament Book of Psalms contains hymns of praise and thanksgiving and laments of ancient Israel—150 altogether. Written over a long period of time, the Psalms present varying ways of addressing God. Some speak of the God of a single people and place, while others speak of a God of all people. The Psalms describe virtually every aspect of everyday life. The Book of Psalms is truly the common book of prayer of Christians and Jews. Choose a favorite Psalm to read.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

During the Prayer of the Faithful, pray that all Catholics will be faithful to the teachings of the Church.

On the Web

Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week

Saint Sophronius
680-690

Sophronius was a native of Damascus. He lived his last sixteen years in Jerusalem, after Persians had seized the city's holy sites in 614, but before he died, Sophronius had to negotiate Jerusalem's surrender to the Muslim invaders.

Fest Day: March 11

Prayer for the Week

Lord, let us be people of courage and peace. Give us willing hearts to do our part to help those in need. Help us treat all people with the dignity and with the respect that you have for people. Amen.

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Sunday Connection

Visit Our Web Site Catechists and parents can visit blestarewe.com for:

- resources related to the Sunday liturgy
- summary of the Sunday Scripture readings
- Reflection Question of the Week
- seasonal activities



More About the Saint of the Week

Saint Sophronius Patriarch of Jerusalem. Challenged heretical ideas in the seventh century through sermons, letters and other writings, some of which have survived. Also wrote poems reflecting his longing for the holy city of Jerusalem.



Praying

A Prayer for the Week

Saint Sophronius defended the truths of the Catholic faith received from the Apostles. In reading Chapter 5, the young people will encounter other people of faith who had the courage to stand firm in their faith.

5 Councils, Cultures, and Conflicts



I bless the LORD who counsels me. . .
I keep the LORD always before me.

Psalms 16:7, 8

Share

In the fourth century the Church began to have more freedom, thanks to emperors Constantine and Theodosius. No longer did Church members have to fear being persecuted for what they believed. Church leaders could now openly debate theological disagreements that arose in the Church.

By this time, the Church had spread rapidly throughout the Mediterranean world and had divided into the Church in the West and the Church in the East. The Western Church was centered in Rome and included the Roman empire's territory in northern Africa. The Eastern Church was centered in Constantinople. During this time leaders in the Church began to resolve their disagreements, and the Church worked to clarify her beliefs about who Jesus Christ was.



Activity Accept all appropriate answers.

Disagreements happen between people about all sorts of things. Sometimes the disagreements can be about something relatively unimportant, such as which movie to go see. At other times disagreements can be about something very important, such as which person is best suited to be president of the class or of the country!

Think about some disagreements you have had with other people. Then complete the following sentences.

When I have a disagreement about something not too important,
I usually handle it by _____

When I have a disagreement about something I strongly believe in,
I usually handle it by _____

What disagreements created problems for the early Church?

89

Additional Activity

Developing the Art of Listening

- Briefly explain that to understand different points of view, it is important to avoid jumping to conclusions before a person has fully expressed their views.
- Invite the young people to jot down reasons why they liked or disliked a certain book or movie.
- Have the youth work in pairs, taking turns to use their notes to express their views. Stress that they are not to interrupt during their role as "listeners." Have the "listeners" repeat back to their partners a summary of the ideas they heard.
- Discuss the experience with the large group.

Share Objective

To understand that the Church has experienced and continues to experience internal conflicts



Praying with Scripture

- Explain that we should be open to and respectful of one another's opinions. When there is conflict, it helps to pray for guidance to resolve those conflicts.
- Light the candle near the Bible in the prayer corner. Pray together the Scripture verses at the top of page 89. Sing the unit song on page 86.

Sharing Experiences

- Ask** "If you had a conflict with a friend, and both of you were convinced that your own views were correct, how would you resolve this conflict?" *(Answers will vary.)*
- Point out that early Church leaders often disagreed about issues. Invite the young people to read the Share paragraphs.
- Ask** "What freedoms did Emperor Constantine give to the Church?" *(to profess beliefs openly and to debate doctrinal issues)*
"What did the Eastern Church and Western Church disagree about?" *(They could not agree on who Jesus was.)*

Doing the Activity

Invite the young people to read the paragraph and complete the activity. Encourage individuals to share ways they handle disagreements.



Call attention to the Page Turner questions throughout the chapter.

Hear & Believe

Objective

To describe some of the serious conflicts that divided the members of the early Church and how the Church worked to overcome them

Discussing the Witness Text

The Illustration

- Draw attention to the illustration on page 90.
- **Ask** "What do the expressions on the men's faces tell you?" (*Answers will vary.*)

The Text

- Point out that early Church leaders worked to remain faithful to the teachings of Christ.
- **Say** "We are going to read a first-person account that suggests what it was like to be present at a Church Council in A.D. 325."
- Explain that a priest named Arius led a faction in the Church that taught that Christ was not divine, or equal with God.
- Invite volunteers to read aloud the Witness account of the Council of Nicaea.
- **Ask** "What does this account tell us about the emotions of the men involved in this debate?" (*Emotions were heated. Arius was determined to stress his viewpoint. There was doubt about whether Arius would declare his faith in Christ's divinity.*)
- **Say** "We profess our faith at Mass when we pray the Creed."
- Point out that the heretical teachings of the Nicene Creed sought to counter were still held by some centuries later.
- As time permits, have the young people read 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 in their Bibles.

Hear & Believe



Witness The Council of Nicaea

18 August, the Year of Our Lord 325

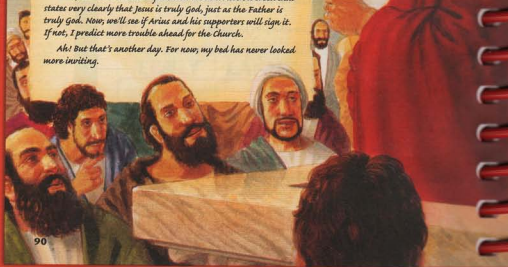
Such a throbbing in my head! Another full day of argument and debate! But every day has been the same since this council opened in May. I hope this will be over soon, so I can go home to Libya. And yet, I know our work here is necessary to preserve the integrity of Christ's Church.

My head swims to think of all the changes that have occurred since our emperor, Constantine, gave religious freedom to the Christians just twelve years ago. In the old days, I could have been thrown in prison, tortured, and killed for being a Christian. Now look at me! I'm a bishop at a council called by the emperor himself to help Christians resolve their controversies.

And what controversies! The biggest one is because of a heresy being spread by that priest from Alexandria—Arius. What trouble he's caused. We thought we were rid of him five years ago when we excommunicated him. But did that stop Arius? No! Off he went to Syria and Palestine to spread his heretical ideas. And many bishops, even Ptolemais and Theonas from my own homeland, support him. And what does Arius preach? That our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is human, but not divine! And just look at the confusion that is causing. If people start thinking that Jesus is not God, the next thing they'll think is that salvation is not from God. Thanks be to God for that young deacon Athanasius! He's doing a great job debating Arius' ideas.

Well, our work is almost finished. We've written a creed that states very clearly that Jesus is truly God, just as the Father is truly God. Now we'll see if Arius and his supporters will sign it. If not, I predict more trouble ahead for the Church.

Ah! But that's another day. For now, my bed has never looked more inviting.



90

Historical Background

The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed, which was written at the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, was further developed at the Councils of Constantinople in 381, Ephesus in 431, and Chalcedon in 451. The Nicene Creed focuses on the belief that Christ is divine and equal in all things to God, the Father. This is expressed in "consubstantial with the Father; . . ." The Nicene Creed also teaches that Mary is the Mother of God, not simply the mother of the "human nature" of Jesus. This truth of our faith was also in dispute at the time the Creed was developed.

A Religious Debate

Emperor Constantine convened, or arranged, the First Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 because conflicting teachings about Jesus Christ were disrupting Christian life. This council was the first **Ecumenical Council** of the Church. More than 200 bishops met, debated, and developed the Nicene Creed, which states that Jesus Christ is "true God from true God." In the Old Testament, God was called "Lord." In the Creed, Jesus Christ is called Lord, meaning that he is equal to his Father and therefore divine. As expected, Arius, who had disagreed with this teaching, refused to sign the Creed, and continued to teach the **heresy** called Arianism. The young deacon Athanasius became bishop of Alexandria and argued against Arianism. For a time, the emperors and most of the bishops from Egypt supported Arius, so Athanasius often lived in exile or in hiding. But he bravely continued his defense of the truth of the Church's teaching about Jesus.

Other Heresies

Other major heresies also attacked the Church in the fourth century, and another champion, Saint Augustine, rose to its defense. One of these heresies denied the goodness of humanity and creation. Augustine argued against this heresy, saying that all that God created is good, including humankind. He taught that Jesus' birth by the power of the Holy Spirit is proof that the created world is good. Evil, he said, enters the world when people freely turn away from God. Augustine's writings and sermons helped the Church understand and more clearly define the faith of the Church.

Council of Chalcedon

In the fifth century a heresy claimed that Jesus was divine but not human. The argument became so intense that Pope Leo the Great sent a letter to the Council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451 condemning this heresy. He guided the Council to clearly teach that Jesus was one divine Person who had two natures, a human nature and a divine nature.

Fathers of the Church

During the first centuries of Christianity, the leaders of the Church resolved many theological issues and questions. Holy men, such as Pope Saint Leo the Great, Bishops Saint Athanasius and Saint Augustine, and others, were responsible for clarifying the Church's teaching about Jesus Christ. Many of these men are honored today as saints and as **Fathers of the Church**.

Activity

Pretend you are at the Council of Nicaea. You have the opportunity to ask a question of Arius, Constantine, or one of the bishops. Of whom would you ask a question? What would you ask, and why?

Accept all appropriate answers.

Who: _____

What: _____

Why: _____

Faith Words

Ecumenical Council An ecumenical council is a worldwide gathering of all the bishops called by the Pope or approved by him.

heresy A heresy is a teaching that is contrary to Church doctrine.

Fathers of the Church Bishops and other writers during the first eight centuries of the Church whose writing helped develop the teachings of the Church are known as the Fathers of the Church.

Where can we find the beliefs of the Church?

91

Understanding the History

- Have the young people read "A Religious Debate" on page 91.
- **Ask** "What was debated at the Council of Nicaea?" (*that Jesus is truly divine and equal to God the Father*)
- **Say** "We believe that Jesus is divine, overcame sin and death, and was raised to new life by his Father."
- Invite a volunteer to read aloud "Other Heresies."
- Point out that Augustine experienced the decline of Roman power and waves of invasions against the Roman Empire. He studied various philosophies before converting to Christianity.
- **Say** "Augustine's conversion affirmed that people need God's grace to avoid sin."
- Invite the young people to read "Council of Chalcedon" and "Fathers of the Church."
- **Say** "During this period, the Holy Spirit provided the Church with strong leaders."

Doing the Activity

Invite a volunteer to read the activity directions. Give the young people time to reflect. Then direct them to complete the activity and share responses.

Faith Words

Ask volunteers to explain the meaning of the Faith Words in their own words.

Additional Activity

Exploring the Gospel

- Arrange the young people in groups.
- Distribute Bibles—at least one for every two people.
- Invite each group to read Matthew 16:13–20 and to compose an answer for someone who questions the belief that Jesus is the Son of God.
- Discuss each group's suggested answer.



Liturgy Connection

Reciting the Creed Catholics pray the Creed after the homily during the Liturgy on Sunday. It is a custom to bow one's head when saying, "... by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man."

Hear & Believe

Objective

To identify basic teachings of the Catholic faith about God



Discussing the Scripture

The Illustration

- Invite the young people to name the man illustrated on the left side of the page. (*Paul*)

The Scripture

- Have a volunteer read aloud the introductory paragraph to "Stand Firm." Then invite another volunteer to read the Scripture passage.
- Ask** "What false teaching does Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians deal with?" (*that the "day of the Lord," or the Second Coming of Christ, was about to happen*)

"What advice does Paul give?" (*Do not be deceived. Stand firm and hold fast to your faith.*)

A Closer Look

- Point out that the prayers and guidance of his mother and the bishop of Milan convinced Augustine to reform his life.
- Ask** "What did Augustine mean when he said 'our heart is restless until it rests in you'?" (*Answers will vary.*)

Understanding the Doctrine

- Read aloud "Our Church Teaches."
- Say** "These mysteries of faith stated in the Nicene Creed may be difficult for us to understand, but they are central teachings of our faith."

We Believe

- Use the following question to reinforce the We Believe statement.
- Ask** "What is one of the central mysteries of our faith?" (*that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man, or that we worship one God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*)

Hear & Believe

Scripture Stand Firm

In the first century, after Christ's Death and Resurrection, Christians had to confront people who spread false opinions that were not true to the teachings of Christ and his Apostles. Paul wrote to the Church in Thessalonica warning about the false teaching that Christ's Second Coming and the Final Judgment were at hand. Paul wrote:

"Brothers and sisters do not be led astray by the false teaching that the day of the Lord will come about very soon. Let no one lead you away from the truth

you have received. God chose you for Salvation through your holiness by the Holy Spirit, your belief in truth, and to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Stand firm in your faith in the traditions that you were taught either by word of mouth or by a letter of ours."

Based on 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 13-15

A Closer Look

Saint Augustine of Hippo



Born in A.D. 354, Saint Augustine was one of the most important theologians in the history of the Church. A great preacher and writer, he used his power of logical thinking and passionate love of God to explain and defend Church teachings. As Bishop of Hippo in northern Africa, he steered the Church through a sea of controversy. Augustine understood that when God reveals himself to his people, he remains a mystery beyond words. Augustine wrote, "If you understood him, it would not be God" and "You have made us for yourself; our heart is restless until it rests in you."

Our Church Teaches

As the early Church struggled to proclaim her beliefs, conflicts and heresies arose. Ecumenical Councils were called to teach the faith of the Church. At the First Council of Nicaea, the Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, wrote the Nicene Creed. The Creed clearly states that Jesus, the Son of God, truly became man while remaining truly God. "By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary,

and became man." Jesus is one divine Person with two natures, human and divine. There is one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We Believe

Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man. We worship one God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Church today continues to proclaim the mystery of God and his love. When conflicts and problems divide the Church, Catholics continue to work toward understanding and unity among all Christians.

92



Multiple Intelligences

Musical/Verbal-Linguistic

Explain that sacred music is a wonderful way to express and celebrate our Catholic faith. Have the young people listen to one of the songs listed on page 86D and share their reactions to it. What Catholic belief(s) does it express? How does it help the young people feel joyful about their Catholic faith? Invite them to write lyrics and a title for their own song expressing their Catholic faith.

Activities

1. How would you stand firm in your beliefs if they were challenged? Read the basic Catholic beliefs stated here. Below each statement, write an explanation of its meaning.

We believe in the Holy Trinity.
There is one God in Three Divine Persons.

We believe that the Eucharist is Christ's Body and Blood.
At Mass the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

We believe that Jesus Christ is God; he became one of us and died for us.
Jesus is one, divine Person who is truly God and truly man.

We believe in everlasting life.
After we die, we live forever in a new way.

We believe that God is Creator of all.
God created everything good and out of nothing.

We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead.
Jesus really died but three days later he rose to new life.

2. The truth that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man is an essential teaching of our Catholic Faith. Identify whether the phrases below describe Jesus' humanity or divinity by writing each on the line below the correct heading.

• Jesus • Gesù • Yé su • Jesús • Jesus • Gesù • Yé su • Jesús • Gesù • Yé su • Jesús •
hears our prayers
experienced bodily pain
had parents, relatives, and friends
loves us with an everlasting, perfect love
experienced death

performs miracles and healings
was tempted by sin
saves us from sin
sends the Holy Spirit to help us
felt weak and saddened

JESUS

Truly Human

experienced bodily pain;
experienced death; born of Mary;
had relatives and friends;
felt weak and saddened;
was tempted by sin

Truly God

hears our prayers; loves us with
an everlasting, perfect love;
performs miracles and healings;
saves us from sin; sends the
Holy Spirit to help us

• Jesus • Gesù • Yé su • Jesús • Jesus • Gesù • Yé su • Jesús • Jesus • Gesù • Yé su • Jesús •

How does a Christian stand firm in faith?

93

Additional Activity

Holding Mock Trials About Beliefs

- Arrange the young people into three groups: jury, defense team, and prosecuting team. Invite young people from the defense team to take turns playing defendant and defense attorney and young people from the prosecuting team to take turns playing prosecuting attorney.
- Write the six statements of Catholic beliefs on page 93 on the board. Explain that, for each trial, the group is to pretend that a defendant is accused of not supporting one of the beliefs on the list.
- Have the whole group act out a trial.

Doing the Activities

- Have the young people read the directions to the first activity, and invite them to complete it. You might allow them to discuss the belief statements in small groups before they write their responses.
- Ask the young people to read the directions to the second activity and complete it independently. Review the answers with the group.



Enriching the Lesson

Nicaea

Explain that Nicaea, once a glorious city within the Byzantine Empire, is known today as İznik, Turkey. The city, which lies in the basin of a lake, was founded in the fourth century by a Macedonian king. It was fortified with a wall thirty-three feet high with more than a hundred towers. Today, the city's west wall still rises out of the lake. Nicaea prospered as a trade center with a mostly Christian population before the Crusades. In addition to hosting the council at which the Nicene Creed was developed, the city was the site of another ecumenical council in A.D. 787. During the Crusades, Nicaea fell to the Turks.

Respond

Objective

To name some ways to stand firm in our Catholic faith, especially in situations when our Catholic faith is challenged

Discussing the Story

The Art

- Direct attention to the art on page 94.
- **Say** "Saint Leo the Great is noted for guiding the Church during a difficult era."

The Story

- Invite the young people to silently read the text about Saint Leo the Great on page 94.
- **Ask** "What are some examples of Saint Leo resolving conflicts in a peaceful manner?" (*He mediated a disagreement between two administrators in Gaul, convened the Council of Chalcedon to counter heretical teachings, and persuaded Attila the Hun to spare Rome.*)

"What teaching of the Church did Pope Leo defend concerning the role of the Pope?" (*that the Bishop of Rome is the leader of all the bishops and the head of the Church*)

Respond

Saint Leo the Great

Pope Leo was the first Pope to earn the title "Great." He served as Pope for twenty-one years from A.D. 440 to A.D. 461. This was a turbulent time in history, when barbarian armies were ravaging the once mighty Roman Empire.

In the years before being elected Pope, Leo served as a deacon of the Church. In 440, while he was on a mission to Gaul to mediate a disagreement between two administrators of the region, a messenger brought him the news that he had been elected Bishop of Rome.

During the time he served the Church as Pope, Leo strived to increase the influence of the Pope. He affirmed that the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, is the successor of Saint Peter, whom Jesus Christ had called "the rock upon which I will build my Church" (based on Matthew 16:18). His teaching that the Bishop of Rome is the leader of all the bishops was important in defining the role of the Pope as head of the Church on earth.

Among the pressing issues of Pope Leo's time was defending the Church against the threat of heresy, especially the false teaching that claimed that Jesus had only one nature and could not be

both human and divine. Pope Leo convened the Council of Chalcedon, where more than 600 bishops gathered. Leo's writings affirmed that Jesus is truly God and truly man, and were read at the gathering. Those gathered at the Council affirmed this teaching to be the true teaching of the Church. Pope Leo also had great influence in political matters. In 452, when Attila the Hun, who had already sacked northern Italian cities and towns, was marching on Rome, Pope Leo headed north to meet him and head off Attila's attack. Leo met Attila at the place where the Po and Minio rivers meet and persuaded him to spare Rome and to accept tribute, or payment, instead. Three years later when Rome was sacked by another Germanic invader, Leo worked hard to provide aid to suffering citizens and to restore the city. He had churches and basilicas, including St. Peter's, restored.

The Church honors Pope Saint Leo as a Doctor of the Church for all his contributions to defending the faith and building up the Church during a difficult time in history. We celebrate his feast day on November 10.



Illustrated manuscript. Pope Leo I meeting with Attila the Hun, persuading him not to attack Rome.

94



Curriculum Connection

Language Arts

Distribute copies of the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed for a compare-and-contrast exercise. Have students circle belief statements that the creeds share. Invite students to point out differences in the language the Creeds use to state the same beliefs. The use of this language arts compare strategy is useful to help the students come to better know their Catholic faith.

Activities

1. Imagine that you have witnessed the events of Pope Leo's encounter with Attila the Hun. Write an article for *The Rome Times* describing Pope Leo's meeting with Attila. Describe the objective of that meeting, what happened at the meeting, its successful outcome, and what it meant for Rome. Also, be sure to describe for your audience the scene at this event. Give your article a headline.

The Rome Times

Accept all appropriate answers.

2. What are some details of Saint Leo's life that make you admire him? Why do you think Pope Saint Leo earned the title "Great"?

Accept all appropriate answers.

How do we
continue
today to
profess our
faith?

95

Additional Activity

Role-playing Council Discussions

- Encourage the young people to imagine themselves as active participants at a Church council meeting.
- Invite volunteers to role-play council discussions based on the beliefs mentioned on page 93.

Doing the Activities

- Read aloud the directions for the first activity on page 95. Encourage the young people to use descriptive details in reporting on the historical meeting between Pope Saint Leo and Attila the Hun. Invite volunteers to present their reports to the group.
- Direct the young people to complete the second activity. Suggest that they underline some key points about Saint Leo's life mentioned on page 94 before writing their responses.



Try This

Studying the Creed

Write the individual statements of beliefs of the Nicene Creed on poster board or oak tag cards. Lead the young people in a brief discussion of each belief. Answer any questions. As time permits, invite volunteers to arrange the beliefs in the correct order.

Prayer

Objective

To pray the Nicene-Constantinople Creed



Prayer Celebration

Preparing for Prayer

- Orient the group to the prayer celebration "The Nicene-Constantinople Creed" on page 96.
- Read aloud the lines inviting the young people to stand and profess their faith. Remind them to bow their heads as indicated in the text as they pray the lines about Jesus' birth.
- Focus the young people's attention on the enthroned Bible and the candle. Invite them to recall that they are in the presence of God as his faithful people, preparing to raise their minds and hearts in prayer.

The Nicene-Constantinople Creed

- Light the candle near the Bible and invite a volunteer to read aloud the introductory paragraph.
- Proclaim the Creed together.
- Close the celebration by singing the song suggested on page 86D or another song you have chosen for today's celebration.



Prayer Celebration

Eucharistic Prayer II

The Eucharist is the central act of worship of the Church. Like the travelers on the road to Emmaus, we meet the Risen Jesus in the Breaking of Bread. Let us now stand and pray together.

Reader 1: You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

Reader 2: At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks,

Reader 3: broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

All: TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

Reader 4: In a similar way, when supper was ended, he gave the chalice

Reader 5: and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

All: TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

Reader 6: The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Roman Missal



Looking Ahead to Chapter 6



Get Connected

Tear out the Get Connected pages for the next chapter. Remind the young people to work on these at home with their family and friends.

5

Chapter Review

- A** Write a brief summary of what you learned in this chapter, using the words in the box.

Exercise A fulfills Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

Answers will vary.

Eastern Church
Constantine
Arius
heresy
Nicaea
Western Church
Chalcedon
Creed

- B** Match Column A with Column B by writing the correct number in the space provided.

Exercise B fulfills Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> heresy Fathers of the Church Ecumenical Council | <p>B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a world gathering of the Pope and all the bishops a teaching that is contrary to Church doctrine the bishops and other writers in the first eight centuries of the Church whose teachings helped develop Christian doctrine |
|---|---|

- C** Write the name of the person described by each clue.

Exercise C fulfills Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

- I became the Bishop of Alexandria and fought against Arianism. Saint Athanasius
- I was the Bishop of Hippo and one of the most influential theologians in the history of the Church. Saint Augustine
- I sent a letter to the Council of Chalcedon condemning the claim that Jesus Christ was not human. Pope Saint Leo the Great
- I told the Thessalonians not to be deceived by false teachings about Christ's Second Coming. Saint Paul
- When Attila the Hun was marching on Rome, I headed off his attack. Pope Saint Leo the Great

Chapter Review

Reviewing the Chapter

- The Chapter Review will help the young people recall the key concepts of the chapter.
- Be sure to review the key concept that the central beliefs of the Catholic Church are rooted in Christ's teachings and have needed to be defended or clarified from time to time.

Completing the Exercises

- You may wish to use the Chapter Review during the session with the group or encourage the young people to complete the review at home with their parents.
- If you use the review with the group, provide time for everyone to look back at the pages in the chapter in their books to locate the answers.
- Be sure to discuss the answers and have the young people correct any mistakes they made. Go over the concepts that were generally misunderstood or forgotten.
- The Answer Locator at the bottom of this and the next page gives the page numbers where each answer can be found.

Answer Locator

A

pp. 89–94

B

1	p. 91	3	p. 91
2	p. 91		

C

1	p. 91	4	p. 92
2	p. 92	5	p. 94
3	p. 91		

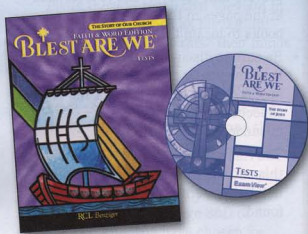
Chapter Review

Memory Tip

To help the young people memorize five basic statements from the Nicene Creed, suggest that they think of each statement as a specific work performed by that Person of the Holy Trinity.

Optional Testing

After the young people have completed the Chapter Review, you may wish to administer the Chapter 5 Test from the reproducible pages in the Test book or from the CD-ROM for *The Story of Our Church*. If you use the CD-ROM version of the testing program, you may customize the test to meet the needs of your group.



5

Chapter Review

D Complete the following lines from the Nicene Creed.

Exercise D fulfills Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

1. We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
2. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.
3. By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
4. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
5. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

E Respond to the following.

Exercise E fulfills Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

1. Name and describe one of the heresies that challenged the early Church. Tell why this heresy was dangerous to the faith of the Church.

Answers will vary.

2. Name a conflict that threatens the faith of the Church today. Explain how Catholics can respond to this conflict.

Answers will vary.

Self-Evaluation

This session was

- ☐ one of the best.
- ☐ pretty good.
- ☐ in need of improvement.

What worked out best was

For next time I would change

I will be sure to prepare for

Answer Locator

D	
1-5	p. 96
E	
1	pp. 92, 93
2	Responses will vary. Accept all appropriate responses.

Faith in Action

Parish Maintenance Staff

Invite the young people to turn to *Faith in Action* on page 135. Discuss the ministry and then have them complete the related activities.