

CONTENTS

ABOUT CALL TO FAITH

Program Advisors and Consultants.....	iv
Opening Prayer.....	v
Program Philosophy.....	vi
Sources of Catholic Wisdom.....	vi-vii
Catechetical Approaches.....	viii
Generations of Faith and <i>Call to Faith</i>	ix
Households of Faith.....	ix
Catechetical Process.....	x
Program Scope and Sequence.....	xi-xv
People of Faith.....	xvi
Prayer and Worship.....	xvii
Know the Young Adolescent.....	xviii
Catholic Social Teachings.....	xix
Multiple Intelligence.....	xx
Reaching All Learners.....	xxi
Sustaining Your Spirit.....	xxii
Planning the Year.....	xxiii
Program Components.....	xxiv-xxvi

STUDENT LESSONS

Table of Contents.....	xxvii
Opening Chapter.....	2
Core Chapters.....	6A
Catholic Source Book.....	300

ACTIVITY MASTERS AND TESTS

Chapter Activity Masters.....	TE1
Chapter Tests.....	TE22
Unit Tests.....	TE43

ANSWER KEYS

Chapter Activity Masters Answers.....	TE58
Chapter Tests Answers.....	TE68
Unit Tests Answers.....	TE79

GRADE 7 CONTENTS

Beginning the Year 2

Unit 1: Revelation

1 God Our Creator 6

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

We can come to know God through all that he has created and through human reason.

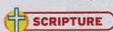


Genesis 1:1–2:4; 1 John 1:5, 4:6

2 Knowing God Through Scripture 18

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

God speaks to us and tells us about himself and his plan for us.

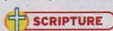


John 1:1–14

3 Jesus, Sign of God's Love 30

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and he perfectly reveals God the Father to us.



John 3:16; Matthew 26:26–30;
Exodus 20:1–17; Deuteronomy 5:6–21

Faith in Action! 42

Catholic Social Teaching Principle:
Care for God's Creation

Unit 1 Review 46

Unit 2: Trinity

4 God Is Trinity 48

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

As Catholics, believing in the Blessed Trinity is central to our faith.

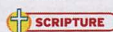


Matthew 28:16–20; John 10:31–38

5 Jesus, Word of God 60

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

Because Jesus is the Son of God, truly divine and truly human, he saves us and brings us back into relationship with God the Father.

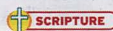


John 1:1–14; Matthew 1:18–23

6 Holy Spirit, Comforter and Guide 72

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

The Holy Spirit is our Advocate, guiding and comforting us, strengthening us to know and live by the truth.



Luke 22:14–20, 11:13; Matthew 26:26–29, 26:38–40;
Mark 14:22–25; John 13:1–17, 14:15–17; Philipians 2:1

Faith in Action! 84

Catholic Social Teaching Principle:
Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Unit 2 Review 88

Unit 3: Jesus Christ

7 Incarnation 90

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

Jesus is the Son of God who became one of us to show us the way to live and the way to the Father.



SCRIPTURE

John 14:6; Luke 11:9–13; 1 Timothy 2:5–6

8 Jesus, Model of Wisdom 102

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

As Catholics, we turn to Jesus as our source of wisdom.



SCRIPTURE

John 3:2; Matthew 5:3–12, 7:24–29; Luke 6:20–26

9 Christ Our Savior 114

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

Jesus the Christ is our Savior, Redeemer, and Messiah.



SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:10–11; John 1:49, 4:25–29, 11:20–27; Matthew 16:13–20

Faith in Action! 126

Catholic Social Teaching Principle: Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person

Unit 3 Review 130

Unit 4: Church

10 The Community of Disciples 132

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

We are disciples of Christ together, following Jesus' example by believing, learning, praying, and reaching out to others.



SCRIPTURE

John 1:43–51, 8:12; Luke 8:1–3; Mark 1:16–20; Matthew 9:9–17

11 The Body of Christ 144

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

The Church is both visible and spiritual, made up of people with many gifts and talents who together work to continue Jesus' mission in the world.



SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:12–20; Acts 9:1–5; John 15:4–5

12 Source of Life 156

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

The Church has a mission to bring all people to believe in God and to be baptized.



SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:9–13, 28:19–20

Faith in Action! 168

Catholic Social Teaching Principle: Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Unit 4 Review 172

Unit 5: Morality

13 Freedom and Responsibility 174

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

We are free to choose, responsible for our choices, and guided in our moral decision making.



SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:2–4, 7:12

14 Valuing Life 186

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

As the People of God, we know that all human life is sacred and a gift from God.



SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139:13–16; Matthew 5:38–48; John 19:23–24

15 Being Virtuous 198

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

We are called to strive for what is right, just, holy, and gracious.



Philippians 4:8, 13

Faith in Action! 210

Catholic Social Teaching Principle:
Solidarity of the Human Family

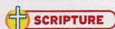
Unit 5 Review 214

Unit 6: Sacraments

16 Christ with Us 216

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

We know that Christ continues to be with us and take care of us in the sacraments.



John 2:1–11, 14:1–10, 21:15–17; Matthew 8:1–4, 16:19, 28:15–20; Luke 22:4–20; Acts 2:1–4

17 Initiation in Christ 228

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

As Christ first welcomed and fed his followers, we are welcomed and belong to the Church through the three Sacraments of Initiation.

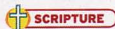


Galatians 3:26–28; Luke 15:1–2, 19:1–10, 22:21–23; Matthew 9:9–13

18 Forgiveness and Healing 240

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

God heals us spiritually, emotionally, and sometimes physically in the Sacraments of Healing.



Matthew 9:35–38, 18:21–35; James 5:13–15

Faith in Action! 252

Catholic Social Teaching Principle:
Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Unit 6 Review 256

Unit 7: The Kingdom of God

19 Called by God 258

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

We share a common call to glorify the Lord by our lives. The Church helps us respond to our unique call.

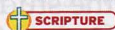


Luke 2:41–52, 10:2; Proverbs 3:5–6

20 Act with Justice 270

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

Jesus made justice a priority. It was the heart of his message of the kingdom toward which we all work.



Luke 4:14–22, 18:18–30; Matthew 13:31–32

21 Our Reason for Hope 282

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

By his death and Resurrection, Jesus makes it possible for believers to have eternal life—life with God forever.



John 11:1–44; Matthew 25:31–46

Faith in Action! 294

Catholic Social Teaching Principle:
Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Unit 7 Review 298

Catholic Source Book

Scripture 300

Creed 301

Liturgy 302

Morality 305

Prayer 308

Words of Faith Glossary 310

FAITH FOCUS

- The Trinity is a mystery that can never be totally understood by the human mind, but can be approached through faith. The Father sent the Son and the Holy Spirit to help us know him and to guide us to him.
- The love that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have for each other shows us what our own relationships should be like.
- God has a plan of loving goodness for all his people and offers the gift of grace so that we can become more like him. This sharing in divine life helps us trust in God, have faith in him, and work for his kingdom.

CATECHISM

For more background on chapter content, refer to paragraphs 261, 267, 455, 314, 316, 320, 743, 1890, 2248, 2254, and 2680.



Visit www.osvcurriculum.com for a correlation to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

NATIONAL DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS

The faith that we profess as Christians is an explicit faith in the Holy Trinity. All catechesis, no matter what its subject matter or immediate goals, should have belief in the Trinity as its foundation. (see *NDC*, 25)

RENEWING THE VISION

One of the essential faith themes for younger adolescents is teaching about the Holy Trinity as an "introduction to God's unique self-revelation as three in one and some implications for living Christian faith and spiritual life." (*RTV*, page 31)

God Is Trinity

CHAPTER BACKGROUND



"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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Know What You Profess

By belonging to a Church with a highly developed liturgical life, we may discover that sometimes we take our rituals for granted, especially those that we participate in from memory. Take, for example, the Nicene Creed that we recite every Sunday. The Creed is a magnificent, incredible, and truly radical statement of Trinitarian faith. How would we sound on Sunday if we truly listened to the words we were reciting? Professing the core of our Catholic beliefs with passion and meaning can energize our spirits and remind us to live out what we say we truly believe.

The Heart of the Matter

We profess belief in one God in three distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three persons created, redeemed, and continue to sanctify and inspire us. This is a mystery we accept as an article of faith. While we cannot completely understand the Trinity, we must embrace it as truth if we are to appreciate the unique character of Christianity. Like our Jewish and Islamic brothers and sisters, we believe in one God, but what distinguishes us is our understanding of that God as an eternal community of divine Persons. Everything we, as Christians, hold to be true flows from our understanding of the relationship between the Father, Son, and Spirit.



How do the different relationships in your own life help you to better understand the individual Persons in the Blessed Trinity?

TIPS FOR TEACHING CHAPTER 4

- We can better understand the mystery of the Trinity in terms of the relationships in our own lives. Help the students explore the implications of their own relationships with family members, friends, and others. Lead them in a discussion on the different obligations and responsibilities that come with each relationship.
- Understanding the basic concept of the Trinity is important because it helps us understand who Jesus is and why he did what he did in his ministry on earth. How did the relationships in his life (as both a human being with family and friends and as the Son of God) challenge him? How did he balance those relationships? What can we learn about ourselves in looking at the example of Jesus, who lived honorably in all his relationships?

SEVENTH GRADERS SAY

Self-Image

"How can I understand God?"

- ▶ Young people still understand God primarily through the lens of their own lived experience, especially those experiences in their family of origin, their prayer life, and the world around them.
- ▶ At this age, they are expanding their imagery of God. They are beginning to identify with God in different ways as they attempt to understand him more.

SUSTAINING YOUR SPIRIT

Engagement with Others

Blessed assurance in yourself is important. It is also important to work closely 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.

Reflect Rate yourself on the scale below:

Lone Ranger	Engaged with Others			
1	2	3	4	5

Visit www.osvcurriculum.com for more ideas on Sustaining Your Spirit.



TEACHER PRAYER

Dear God, I worship you with my whole being. Help me to always hold you in my heart as I teach, that your love and truth may ever be the cornerstone of my catechesis. Amen.

MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES



Book

Prove It! God. *Welborn, Amy. Our Sunday Visitor. Answers to tough questions about God, the Church, evolution, other religions, good and evil, and more.



DVD/VHS

The Mystery of the Trinity (Thirteen 30-minute programs on three tapes). Vision Video. Fr. Benedict Groeschel exhorts us to contemplate the Trinity.

*Available at www.osvcurriculum.com



TEACHER RESOURCES

www.osvcurriculum.com

- ▶ for interactive lesson planner, chapter resources, and activities
- ▶ for free materials and information

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Chapter 4 **OUR CATHOLIC FAITH**, pages 58–59

▶ **WHAT NOW?**

▶ **LIVE YOUR FAITH**

▶ **PEOPLE OF FAITH** Saint Frances of Rome










Visit www.osvcurriculum.com for more family and community connections.

WEEKLY PLANNER

CHAPTER BACKGROUND

FAITH FOCUS

	Objectives	Materials	Prayer & Scripture
DAY 1 INVITE	GOD IS TRINITY To explore the idea of three Persons in one God Pages 48–49	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing paper <input type="checkbox"/> Pens	 PRAYER FOR FAITH
DAY 2 EXPLORE	GOD IS ALWAYS THERE To investigate ways we get to know God Pages 50–51	<input type="checkbox"/> Modern globe or map <input type="checkbox"/> Blank Biblical map <input type="checkbox"/> Colored pencils	 PRAYER  Scripture Matthew 28:16–20
DAY 3 EXPLORE	THREE DIVINE PERSONS IN ONE GOD To examine the mystery of the Trinity Pages 52–53	<input type="checkbox"/> Pens or pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of Activity Master 4, page TE4 <input type="checkbox"/> Colored markers or pencils	 PRAYER  Scripture John 10:31–38
DAY 4 EXPLORE	GOD'S PLAN FOR US To discover how the Trinity implements God's work Pages 54–55	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing paper <input type="checkbox"/> Pens or pencils	 PRAYER
DAY 5 CELEBRATE	MEDITATION ON PRAISING THE TRINITY To praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Page 56	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Call to Faith</i> 7 & 8 Music CD1 <input type="checkbox"/> Bible <input type="checkbox"/> Colorful patterned cloth <input type="checkbox"/> Symbols of the Trinity	 PRAYER MEDITATION ON PRAISING THE TRINITY

Our Catholic Faith, page 58 • People of Faith, page 59

Chapter 4 Review, page 57 • ACRE Connection, page 57 Domain 1 • Assessment, page TE25

Words of Faith

Blessed Trinity
grace

Activities

LET'S BEGIN

Making History, page 49

Multiple Intelligence: Interpersonal,
Intrapersonal

ADDITIONAL

Prepare a Skit, page 49

Multiple Intelligence: Verbal/Linguistic,
Interpersonal, Visual/Spatial

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Feeling Close, page 51

Multiple Intelligence: Interpersonal

ADDITIONAL

Cross-Curricular: Geography, page 50

Multiple Intelligence: Verbal/Linguistic,
Interpersonal, Visual/Spatial

CONNECT YOUR FAITH

Faith, Friends, and Family, page 53

Multiple Intelligence: Intrapersonal

ADDITIONAL

Activity Master 4: An Ancient Symbol,
page 52

ADDITIONAL

Cross-Curricular: Music, page 53
Multiple Intelligence: Musical

USE YOUR FAITH

Help on the Journey, page 55

Multiple Intelligence: Intrapersonal

Enrichment

QUICK TIP

Guided Meditation, page 48

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

The Great Commission, page 51

JUSTICE AND PEACE

Sanctity and Dignity, page 54

TEACHER BACKGROUND

Celtic Spiritual Tradition, page 55

LECTIONARY LINK

Break Open the Word, page 56

GO online

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

WHEN MINUTES COUNT!

Use this plan

► during a shortened week ► in parish settings

INVITE • Pages 48–49

Objective: To explore the idea of three Persons in one God



PRAYER FOR FAITH



ACTIVITY LET'S BEGIN

Making History, page 49

EXPLORE • Pages 50–55

Objective: To investigate ways we get to know God



Scripture Matthew 28:16–20



ACTIVITY SHARE YOUR FAITH

Feeling Close, page 51

Objective: To examine the mystery of the Trinity

Objective: To discover how the Trinity implements

God's work



Scripture John 10:31–38



ACTIVITY LIVE YOUR FAITH

Help on the Journey, page 55

CELEBRATE • Page 56

Objective: To praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit



PRAYER MEDITATION ON

PRaising the Trinity

Our Catholic Faith • Pages 58–59

GOD Is Trinity

OPEN

Invite students to remain seated. Ask them to close their eyes and imagine they are sitting in a clearing with God. Give students time to imagine the scene and encourage them to make it their own.

PRAYER Read the prayer softly. Allow for a gentle pause. Then ask the reflection questions, pausing in between each question. Tell the students these are questions they can talk about with God.

Repeat the prayer softly and quietly. Invite the students to open their eyes.

Provide time for discussing their experience of guided meditation.

BUILD

Ask five volunteers to read each of the paragraphs in the story on pages 48 and 49.

Invite the rest of the class to look at the accompanying pictures and reflect on what they think the story is about while the volunteers prepare to read.

CHAPTER 4

GOD Is Trinity



PRAYER

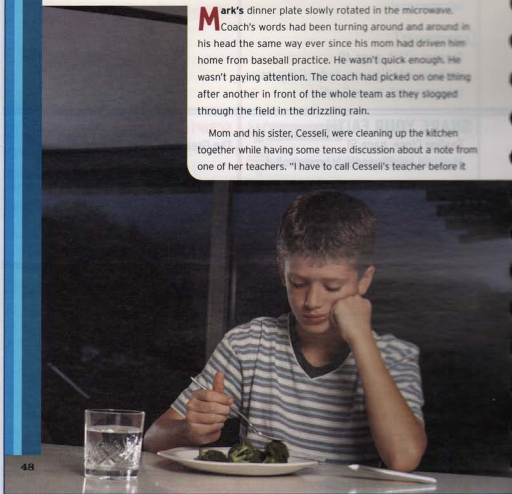
O God, help me have faith to understand you better.

What is God like?

How can I understand God?

Mark's dinner plate slowly rotated in the microwave. Coach's words had been turning around and around in his head the same way ever since his mom had driven him home from baseball practice. He wasn't quick enough. He wasn't paying attention. The coach had picked on one thing after another in front of the whole team as they slogged through the field in the drizzling rain.

Mom and his sister, Cesseli, were cleaning up the kitchen together while having some tense discussion about a note from one of her teachers. "I have to call Cesseli's teacher before it



QUICK TIP

Guided Meditation This is a form of prayer that allows people to visualize and enter into a scene they create in their imagination.

- The focus is to understand God's revelation for our lives.
- The process allows students to create mental scenes in which they are comfortable and feel safe.
- Insights can be gained that help young people realize how God is inviting them to live.
- Keep students focused by guiding the scene in a soft tone.

GOD IS ALWAYS THERE

gets too late," Mom apologized, and gave him a hug as they left the room. "We can all have dessert in the family room together afterward, okay?"

Yeah, great, Mark thought, not in a mood for cake or talking. Slowly chewing his mushy leftovers, Mark stared into the den where his dad was working at the computer. His eyes fell on the family portrait hanging there. It had been taken at his grandparents' anniversary party last summer. Everyone was smiling that day. Mom was looking at Dad with a special look that said she was both proud and relieved at how well everything had turned out.

Mark remembered how excited Dad had been to plan just the right celebration together. Mom had spent hours cooking and creating decorations. They had asked Mark to put together a slideshow telling the story of his grandparents' lives and how much their marriage meant to everyone. The portrait now made him think about how his family had always been there and would always be there for each other.

As he put his plate in the sink, Mark saw that his dad had left the den to join his mom and sister on the sofa. They were relaxed now that Mom's phone call with Cesseli's teacher had cleared things up. Mark smiled and then tossed his soggy baseball glove on the stairs and joined them.



49

ACTIVITY

LET'S BEGIN Discuss the relationships in this story. Beyond worries and stresses, what keeps Mark's family going? How do they manage? What draws Mark to join his parents and sister?

- What are some different items in your home that show your family and its history? Why are these items on display? How does having a history together make a difference?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Prepare a Skit Invite the entire class to create and perform a short skit based on the story of Mark and his family.

- Involve the entire class in some way.
- Allow students to make as many decisions as possible.

Multiple Intelligence: Verbal/Linguistic, Interpersonal, Visual/Spatial

ACTIVITY Discuss the relationships in the story.

- Ask: *How did Mark's mood change? It went from despair to hope. What caused Mark's mood to change? He observed his surroundings and thought about what really mattered to him.*
- Write on the board the responses to the following question: *What keeps Mark's family going? Commitment and love for one another.* Allow the young people to add additional reasons.

Give students time to respond to the personal questions on page 49.

CLOSE

PRAYER Invite students to pray the opening prayer together.

ACTIVITY Discuss the relationships in this story. Beyond worries and stresses, what keeps Mark's family going? How do they manage? What draws Mark to join his parents and sister?

What are some different items in your home that show your family and its history? Why are these items on display? How does having a history together make a difference?

WHEN MINUTES COUNT!

INVITE

PRAYER Have students quietly reflect on the words of the opening prayer.

Invite two volunteers to each read aloud one line of the reflection questions. Ask the group to brainstorm some responses. Record them for all to see.

Have students silently read the story.

ACTIVITY Discuss the Let's Begin questions.

- Encourage students to talk about Mark's change and why they think he changed.
- Have students complete the remainder of the activity by writing out their thoughts.

DAY 2

GOD IS ALWAYS THERE

OPEN

PRAYER Invite students to return to the imagined place they created during their guided meditation experience.

Invite them to look at God and ask themselves the question, “How did I get to know you?” Give them a few seconds to ponder.

Recite the prayer on page 48 together.

Focus Point out the Focus question and ask the students to read the first two paragraphs on page 50.

BUILD

Have everyone close their eyes and quiet themselves.

Ask: If you and God were playing hide and seek, and God was doing a really good job of hiding, where would you go, or what activity would you do, or whom would you go with to be more certain of finding God?

Have students answer with a show of hands.

- ▶ Who went to a specific place to find God?
- ▶ Who went for a certain action or activity to find God?
- ▶ Who went to a certain person, or group of persons, to find God?

God Takes the First Step

Direct students to read the text on page 50.

WHERE IT HAPPENED Have two students each read one of the paragraphs. If possible, show students a map of the places Peter and Paul traveled.

WHERE IT HAPPENED

WHERE DID the disciples think Jesus was sending them? Peter traveled from Jerusalem after Pentecost to Lydda, Joppa, and Caesarea. He lived in Antioch for a while, and in Rome, where he preached the message before being martyred.

The disciple Paul traveled widely to proclaim the Good News. On his first journey, Paul sailed from Antioch to Cyprus and regions that are now in Turkey. On his second and third journeys, he traveled through Asia Minor and Greece, eventually returning to Jerusalem.



GOD IS ALWAYS THERE

Focus How do we get to know God?

Have you ever ended up with a problem turning around and around in your head, not sure what to do about it? With so much going on, you might not think of turning to a family member. You might wonder how others could even understand what you are feeling, much less help you. Sometimes family and friends can help. Different individuals within a family relate to each other in love—over time and through difficult times.

God is always there, even when you don't think family and friends can help much. The sure guide through the ups and downs of life is our faith in his presence and in his words.

God Takes the First Step God created the universe and keeps it going through Jesus Christ, the Word who has existed forever, and through the Holy Spirit, the giver of all life and goodness. We know God because he chooses to show himself to us. If it were left totally up to us, we could never really know the true God, because he is a mystery beyond our own comprehension. Only with faith can we begin to know God.

Fortunately, God doesn't wait for us to make the first move. He has been there from the beginning of time and he is with us from the first day of our life. He understands us, even when we don't understand him. On our own, we would be stuck in misunderstanding and confusion. We would never get close enough to God to understand the truth. But he loves us so much he wants us to know the way. God the Father sent his Son and the Holy Spirit to help us find our way to him. Whenever God sends his Son to us, he also sends his Spirit.



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Cross-Curricular: Geography Provide students with biblical maps (maps can be found in some Bibles). Have on hand a modern map of the Eastern Mediterranean area. Refer to Where It Happened for place names.

- Organize students into small groups and ask them to locate the places Peter and Paul traveled.
- Compare the ancient places with a map of today.
- Ask them to discuss if the good news is present in these areas today.

Multiple Intelligence: Verbal/Linguistic, Interpersonal, Visual/Spatial

Help from Heaven The Son of God came down from heaven to show us the way to God the Father and to bring salvation to all.

SCRIPTURE When his earthly mission was accomplished, Jesus returned to his heavenly Father: Before he left, Jesus told his Apostles to continue his work, sharing his message of hope and new life to people everywhere. He instructed them, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. . ." (Matthew 28:19). Jesus told them to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. He promised his friends he would always be with them.

Jesus is always with us, too. When we are baptized, we become members of God's family, the Church, and receive the gift of faith. Through faith, we can believe in and rely on God, even though we don't completely understand.

So help from heaven does not stop with Jesus' time on earth, his public ministry, and his Ascension. Through the Apostles, Christ established the Church. He sent the Holy Spirit as a guide and counselor to the Church. Since the time of Jesus and the Apostles, believers have proclaimed God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



ACTIVITY

SHARE YOUR FAITH Think about the following questions and share your thoughts with a partner.

- Who or what helps you maintain your relationship with God? When have you felt closest to God in the last six months?

CHAPTER Words of Faith

Blessed Trinity
grace

SCRIPTURE

GO TO THE SOURCE

To get the full story of Jesus' commissioning of the Apostles, read Matthew 28:16–20. This gathering took place soon after Jesus' Resurrection. How do you think the Apostles felt about Jesus' words? If you had been with Jesus in this story, what would you have asked him? How do Jesus' words speak to you as a member of the Church?

- ▼ The Disciples Attempt to Fish in Lake Tiberias without Success, from the Preds Codex by Cristoforo de Predis (mid-1400s)

51

Help from Heaven

Invite three volunteers to each read one of the paragraphs on page 51.

Ask students to share what they know about their Baptism.

Suggest to students that they can talk about things such as when were they baptized. Do they know who their godparents were? Do they have any mementos from their Baptism? Do they know the story of their Baptism?

CLOSE

SCRIPTURE Ask for a volunteer to read Matthew 28:16–20. Discuss the information in the Go to the Source box.

Help students link their Baptism stories with the story in Matthew.

ACTIVITY Assign the Share Your Faith questions for discussion in small groups.

WHEN MINUTES COUNT!

EXPLORE

PRAYER Ask students to recite the prayer on page 48.

Read the material under God Takes the First Step.

SCRIPTURE Ask a volunteer to read the passage from Matthew.

Organize everyone into triads and ask them to identify ways their baptismal story is linked to the Scripture passage.

ACTIVITY Give students an opportunity to read the section under Where It Happened on page 50 and to complete the activity on page 51.



SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

The Great Commission The passage from Matthew 28:16–20 is also known as The Great Commission.

- Scholars believe these words were used in Matthew's community, and point to the union of the person with the community and with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit through Baptism.
- The passage is also known for its clear expression of the Trinitarian understanding of God and for its emphasis on the teachings of Jesus as the standard for moral conduct.


DAY 3

THREE DIVINE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

OPEN

PRAYER Pray the prayer on page 48, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

BUILD

 **Focus** Ask students to respond to the Focus question: *How can we understand a mystery?* *Accept all answers.*

Tell students that Catholics are Trinitarian. We believe in only one God in three divine Persons.

Ask for three volunteers to read the bullets on page 52.

Repeat that Catholics believe in only one God in three distinct Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three share the same divine nature.

SCRIPTURE Instruct students to work in pairs to answer the Go to the Source question.

Refer students to the graphic organizer on page 52 and give them time to read it.

52 Chapter 4

THREE DIVINE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

IFocus How can we understand a mystery?

At the beginning of every Mass, we make the Sign of the Cross and say, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Our belief in three Persons in one God is the center of our celebration. When we pray at Mass, we pray in the name of our Trinitarian God. We base our faith on this central belief.

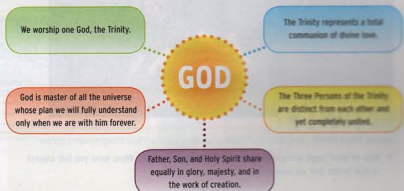
Christians use a special description for God. We describe God as the **Blessed Trinity**, which means that there is only *one* God in three divine Persons.

► The Father is God, the first Person of the Trinity, who brings everything into existence by the Son through the Holy Spirit.

► Jesus Christ the Son is God, the second Person of the Trinity, who was sent by the Father and became man.

► The Holy Spirit is also God, the third Person of the Trinity, who comes from the Father and the Son.

It's somewhat like your family. You and your dad and mom are unique individuals, but are inseparable as one family. The three members of the Blessed Trinity are distinct from one another, so we can talk about them as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but are inseparable in what they do. Each member of the Trinity is fully God and has the same divine nature. There is only one God in three divine Persons.



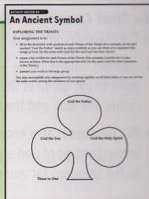
52

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Activity Master 4: An Ancient Symbol

Organize students into groups of three and distribute copies of Activity Master 4 along with colored markers or pencils.

- Tell students they can work on the project by sharing tasks (three unique individuals working together to accomplish one project).



Activity Master 4, page TE4


How Can This Be? The Blessed Trinity is a mystery. We are never going to understand this mystery until we meet God face-to-face in heaven. Meanwhile, the gift of faith assures us that what Christians know about the Blessed Trinity is true.

Being human, we still ask questions and search for answers. As people of faith, we often are guided in our relationships by our heart, not only by our head. Despite his hard times as a baseball player, Mark remembered the joy his family felt in planning the anniversary party for his grandparents. He recognized that the love they felt for each other grew and spread throughout his family. This love made his family stronger than they could be individually.

Our relationship with God is something like this, too. When we sense God's presence and respond to him in our lives, he responds back with love. When we place our trust in his love, we feel it in our heart, and we come to believe in it and know it with our mind.

Love is the answer to the mystery of the Trinity. The truth is that the Son loves the Father and the Father loves the Son. The Holy Spirit shares his exact same love with both the Father and the Son.

This love between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is a model for the connections, affection, and bonds we can make with one another. Human communities such as families, schools, and groups of friends can mirror the unity of the Trinity.

 When have you felt really loved by God? Out of touch with his love?





We use comparisons from our life experience to talk about and describe God. However, our comparisons are limited. They do not capture the true mystery of God. So, God is like a human parent, a strong father, a loving mother, someone who has our best interests at heart, someone who makes sacrifices for our benefit. But God is also different from a parent. Even though we speak of God as "Father," the mystery of God goes beyond any human experience or worldly images we use.

How Can This Be?


Ask students if they have any questions after reading the text on page 53. Give them an opportunity to struggle with understanding.

Remind them that we will fully understand this mystery when we are united with God in heaven.

 **Initiate** discussion on how God is similar to—and different from—a human parent.

 Give students an opportunity to respond to the question at the end.

CLOSE

 **ACTIVITY** Have students individually complete the activity on page 53.

Assure them that their thoughts will remain private unless they choose to share them.

ACTIVITY

CONNECT YOUR FAITH Think of three friends or family members. Write something about your friendship with each person, including how that friendship differs from the other two. Is your faith a part of any of these friendships? If so, how? If not, how can you share your beliefs with your friends?

53

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Cross-Curricular: Music Distribute hymnals and have the students look for hymns directly related to the Trinity.

- Ask students to write down the name of the hymn. Next to the name ask them to identify an important idea about the Trinity that the words of the hymn convey.
- Invite volunteers to share their discoveries.
- Close the activity by singing a familiar hymn.

Multiple Intelligence: Musical

WHEN MINUTES COUNT!

EXPLORE

Summarize these points:

- ▶ Our faith is based on the central belief that God is three Persons in one divine nature.
- ▶ Understanding the Trinity is at once a matter of truth, faith, and mystery. We will fully understand when we are united with God in heaven.
- ▶ Love is at the core of the Trinitarian relationship.

Assign page 53 as homework. Invite parents and guardians to share their own experiences and answers to the questions in Connect Your Faith.

DAY 4

GOD'S PLAN FOR US

OPEN

PRAYER Repeat the prayer on page 48.

Ask students to name one thing they know about God.

Give them time to connect this knowledge to their lives.

Note: This can be done as a group activity or as a personal reflection time.

Focus Tell students that God is active in the world, so that means the Trinity is active in the world.

Ask: What do you think I mean by that? How does the Trinity do God's work?

BUILD

Invite three volunteers to read the paragraphs on page 54.

Ask students to offer examples of God's plan as they understand it.

CHECK THIS OUT! Divide students into groups of four or five.

Ask them to read about authority.

Challenge them to identify the rules they have in their families, in school, and in their community.

Have them make a list of how the laws of Jesus are connected to those rules.

Allow the groups to share their information.

EXPLORE

CHECK THIS OUT!

To be in relationship with God means I should know and obey his laws. But there are lots of other rules from other sources. What about my parents' rules? What about the laws of our country and our state?

The authority of our parents comes from God's authority, so parents and children need to honor their relationship in a loving way, as the Fourth Commandment tells us. Civil authority (the authority of our government) also comes from God's authority and his care for all people. Those who govern do so as a service for the good of all. Those in charge of governments should uphold the rights and dignity of all citizens and should also promote justice and peace.

GOD'S PLAN FOR US

Focus How does the Trinity work?

The three Persons of the Blessed Trinity work together through their relationship with each other something like the way a loving family works together for the same goals. The Father sent the Son on his mission of salvation. The Son acted in obedience to the Father to set humanity free from sin. The Holy Spirit comes to help us be part of a loving relationship as members of the Church.

The work of all three relates to God's plan of loving goodness. God does have a plan for all his children. He wants us to know and share in his love, to bring his goodness and love to others. He desires us to become like him, and so he cares for us and guides us with his wisdom and love. The Father works through the Son, his Holy Spirit, the Church, and the actions of people to help us. God doesn't give up on us. He continues to show his care and act on our behalf.

The unity, love, and goodness within the Blessed Trinity radiate outward toward all. This outpouring reaches its peak when the Trinity shares his own life and special helps with us. We call this sharing of divine life **grace**. God offers us this free, undeserved gift so we can become his adopted children. Sometimes we do not feel God's love, even though it's there. Our own actions and stubbornness may block God out or make it difficult to feel his presence. But God's grace is still available to us—if we trust in him and his hopes for us. Then, our lives can get back on course, going in the right direction.



JUSTICE AND PEACE

Sanctity and Dignity Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of Catholic social teaching. The dignity of each and every human being is rooted in God's love and desire for every person to be united with him.

Invite the students to discover ways they can become involved, both locally and globally. Check out Catholic Relief Services, the Red Cross, and other agencies linked at www.osvcurriculum.com. Decide what project the class can help involved in.

Catholic Social Teaching: Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Home Is Where the Heart Is The gift of faith is like a compass that points us in the right direction. If we stay directed by faith, then our actions will build up God's kingdom. Our lives will show Gospel values such as justice, peace, and love.

This is why it is so important to learn and remember what we believe. The teachings of our Catholic faith help us understand and strengthen our relationships with God and others. We are to give our minds, hearts, and lives to God in love and for love. As long as your life is moving in God's direction in that relationship with him, you will be journeying into deeper truth, wisdom, and love. You will be on your way home.

- 1. Imagine that your life is a story in a book. In what ways is the story of your life following God's love and the teachings of faith?
- 2. What would you like to change about the way you are living in order to follow the guidance of faith more closely?

LOOKING BACK

In the Middle Ages, most people couldn't read. Churches used stained-glass windows and architecture to teach important truths of faith such as the blessed Trinity. The doorways below are an example. The single triangular arch holds within it three interlocking circular arches. In the same way, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three in one.



Home Is Where the Heart Is

Direct the students to do some self reflection. Ask them to read the two paragraphs on page 55.

LOOKING BACK Invite students to read the sidebar about stained-glass windows and the symbols of the Trinity. Ask if they have seen the symbol pictured elsewhere in the church.

- 1. Ask students to journal their responses to the questions.

ACTIVITY Have them to go back to their journaling and complete the three questions.

CLOSE

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

Have students recite the bullet points on page 55. Pause between each reading to offer an opportunity for questions or clarification.

ACTIVITY

LIVE YOUR FAITH If you give your mind, heart, and life to God, you are journeying into a deeper truth, wisdom, and love. Reflect on what these ideas mean by answering the questions below.

1. What does it mean to you to give your mind to God?
2. What is one way you have given your heart to God?
3. Who is someone you know who gives his or her life to God? How do you see that he or she has done this?

IN SUMMARY

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

As Catholics, believing in the Blessed Trinity is central to our faith.

- The Trinity is a mystery that can never be totally understood by the human mind, but can be approached through faith. The Father sent the Son and the Holy Spirit to help us know him and to guide us to him.

- The love that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have for each other shows us what our own relationships should be like.
- God has a plan of loving goodness for all his people and offers the gift of grace so that we can become more like him. This sharing in divine life helps us trust in God, have faith in him, and work for his kingdom.

55



TEACHER BACKGROUND

Celtic Spiritual Tradition This tradition is centered on the Trinity. Many Celtic prayers highlight Trinitarian belief even in the way they are organized.

- Check out the works of Esther De Waal and J. Philip Newell for examples of Celtic prayer.
- The *Carmina Gadelica*, compiled by Alexander Carmichael, contains the oral prayers and songs from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, also influenced by the Trinity.

WHEN MINUTES COUNT!

EXPLORE

SCRIPTURE Invite a volunteer to read the passage from John 10:31-38.

Point out that rules rooted in love actually respect the human dignity of each and every person.

ACTIVITY Organize students into small groups and ask them to complete the questions in Live Your Faith on page 55.

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

Emphasize the bullet points.

DAY 5

MEDITATION ON PRAISING THE TRINITY

PREPARE


PRAYER Ask for four volunteers to serve as leader and readers.

Give students a few minutes to read over their assigned passages.

Remind them to read slowly and reverently.


Set the prayer table by covering it with a colorful patterned cloth. Place on it symbols of the Trinity and a Bible opened to the Gospel according to Matthew.

Ask the students to seat themselves in a circle with the prayer table in the center. The readers should read from their places among the community.


 Practice Track 4, "We Praise You," from the *Call to Faith* 7 & 8 Music CD1 so that the students are familiar with it.

Ask students to offer examples of God's plan to understand it.

PRAY

 Begin by leading the students in the refrain of "We Praise You."

Signal the first reader to begin.

 Conclude by playing the song again and inviting the students to sing along.

Prayer Extension Invite the students to create symbols for the Trinity. After each recitation of the response, ask some of the students to place their symbols on the prayer table.

WHEN MINUTES COUNT!

CELEBRATE

Guide the group through the meditation using the details above.

PRAYER

MEDITATION ON PRAISING THE TRINITY

Leader: We gather here this day
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Prepare yourselves to be in Jesus' presence.
Close your eyes and focus on opening your mind and heart to God.
Take a deep, relaxing breath, and enter into the meditation:
(read the following, slowly and meditatively)

Reader 1: O God, our Father,
creator,
and maker of all creation,
we praise you, and we bless you! (pause)

We thank you for this good earth,
the air we breathe,
the rain that cools our nights,
the sun that warms our days,
and the life you give to each and every one of us. (pause)

Reader 2: O God the Son,
our Brother, teacher,
and Savior,
we praise you, and we bless you! (pause)


We thank you for showing us the way to live,
to trust in the Father and to love one another,
to serve our sisters and brothers,
and to take care of the poor and those in need. (pause)

Reader 3: O God the Spirit,
Our Holy guide,
and friend for the journey,
we praise you, and we bless you!

We thank you for walking with us,
in our struggles,
our choosing,
our playing, and in our praying. (pause)

Open your eyes and let us pray together, in song.



 "We Praise You"
David Haas, © 2002, GIA Publications, Inc.

56



LECTIONARY LINK

Break Open the Word Read the Gospel for this coming Sunday. Invite students to think about what the reading means to them as they learn about the Trinity.



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

REVIEW

A. Work with Words Complete each sentence with the correct term.

- Jesus gave the disciples a command to go and make _____ of all nations.
- Christ established the _____ Church through the Apostles.
- God the Father sends his Son to us; he also sends the _____ Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is a _____ counselor to the Church.
- The love in the _____ Blessed Trinity is a model for the connections and love we can have with others.

Word Bank

Blessed Trinity
disciples
miracles
Holy Spirit
counselor
Father
Gospel
Church

B. Check Understanding Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the sentence.

- Christians describe God as the _____, meaning one God in three Persons.
a. Father **c. Blessed Trinity**
b. Holy Spirit d. a and b
- The Persons of the Blessed Trinity are _____.
a. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit c. Matthew, Mark, and Luke
b. Jesus and the Holy Spirit d. Paul, Silas, and Timothy
- Through _____, the free, undeserved gift of God's love and life, we can become God's children.
a. faith c. hope
b. grace d. baptism
- _____ is the second Person of the Trinity.
a. God, the Father c. The Holy Spirit
b. God, the Son d. all of the above
- Through the sacrament of _____, we become members of God's Church.
a. the Eucharist c. the Holy Spirit
b. Confirmation **d. Baptism**

C. Make Connections: Draw Conclusions Write a one-paragraph response to the questions.

What is God's plan of goodness and love? How does grace fit into God's plan of loving goodness?

Students will explain that God's plan is for us to know and share in his love, to bring his goodness and love to others, and to desire us to become like him. God guides us in knowing him by sharing his divine presence through the gift of grace.

57

REVIEW

A. Work with Words Direct students to use the Word Bank to select the term that best completes each sentence.

B. Check Understanding Have students circle the letter of the term that best completes each sentence.

C. Make Connections: Draw Conclusions Direct students to write a one-paragraph answer on a separate sheet of paper.

Assessment

Chapter 4 Test

- Which word best describes the gift of grace?
a. love b. grace
c. hope d. faith
- Which word best describes the gift of grace?
a. love b. grace
c. hope d. faith
- Which word best describes the gift of grace?
a. love b. grace
c. hope d. faith
- Which word best describes the gift of grace?
a. love b. grace
c. hope d. faith
- Which word best describes the gift of grace?
a. love b. grace
c. hope d. faith
- Which word best describes the gift of grace?
a. love b. grace
c. hope d. faith
- Which word best describes the gift of grace?
a. love b. grace
c. hope d. faith
- Which word best describes the gift of grace?
a. love b. grace
c. hope d. faith
- Which word best describes the gift of grace?
a. love b. grace
c. hope d. faith
- Which word best describes the gift of grace?
a. love b. grace
c. hope d. faith

▲ Page TE25

Option: If using the Chapter Assessment, distribute it and give students time to complete it. Have students hand in their completed papers.

TEST TAKING TIPS

Share these tips with students:

- Get plenty of rest and have a healthy breakfast the day of the test.
- Wear comfortable clothes and don't bring items that might distract you.

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

WHAT NOW? Ask four volunteers to read the four points aloud. Then ask: *Why do you think these four points are listed? Why are they important?*

Ask for specific examples and encourage all students to contribute to the discussion.

ACTIVITY Give students an opportunity to share a recent dilemma and how God cared for them in the process of finding a solution. **Note:** Don't spend too much time here, as some will be uncomfortable in revealing personal stories.

Organize students into groups of three and ask them to complete the activity on page 58.

Allow for some large group sharing, if time permits.

PRAYER Read aloud the prayer on page 58 slowly and reverently.

the Call to Faith? & 8-Music CD so that the students are familiar with it.

PRAY

Begin by leading the students in the refrain of "We Praise You."

Signal the first reader to begin.

Conclude by playing the song again and inviting the students to sing along.

Prayer Extension Invite the students to create symbols for the Trinity. After each student of the response, ask some of the students to place their symbols on the center table.

Option 1: Distribute it and give students 10 minutes to complete it. Have students hand in their completed papers.

Option 2: Share these tips with students.

Get them to test their symbols.

CELEBRATE

Make sure you have the right materials for the celebration.

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

WHAT NOW?

- Think about how you treat others.
- Resolve to show others the love and interest God shows you.
- When you make the Sign of the Cross, think about what the words and gestures mean.
- Reflect on what your image of God is.

ACTIVITY

LIVE YOUR FAITH Think of a dilemma you faced recently. How do you see that God showed his care for you in the solution to your problem?

Write one descriptive word for each Person in the Trinity. Then list a circumstance when you would pray to that Person.

God		
the Father	the Son	the Holy Spirit
Description	Description	Description
Circumstance	Circumstance	Circumstance

GO Visit www.avecurriculum.com for more family and community connections.



PRAYER

God, show me your way.



CHRISTIAN LIVING SKILLS

Introduce the Skill: How to Pray In prayer we raise our minds and hearts to God. There are many forms of prayer, including blessing and adoration, petition for our own needs, intercession for the needs of others, and praise and thanksgiving. By experimenting with various forms of prayer, we can learn new things about ourselves and discover levels of spirituality that we didn't know we had. Prayer can be a great source of comfort, hope, guidance, and growth once we learn to overcome distractions.

- Have students list three obstacles to prayer.
- Ask them: What helps you pray? Music? Pictures or images? Nature?

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Saint Frances of Rome

God and with the Roman people she served by her good deeds. You could think of her as a living example of the Trinity of God.

Frances was born in Rome in 1384 to a wealthy, noble family. She learned to have a peaceful personality and a serious devotion to God from her mother. From her father, however, she inherited a strong will. That will gave her the strength to devote her life to helping people less fortunate than herself.

On the orders of her father, she married Lorenzo Pontiziani at the age of thirteen. He was noble and wealthy, and he loved her very much. Her mother-in-law pressured Frances to entertain as part of Rome's social scene, but her heart was with the city's poor people.

Frances and her sister-in-law Vannozza became close friends, and prayed together. They visited prisons to give comfort and served in hospitals. It was not fashionable for noblemen to help the poor, and people gossiped about two girls out alone. However, Lorenzo supported his wife's efforts and did not try to stop her from doing the work of God.

In the early 1400s, a flood brought disease and famine to Rome. Frances and Vannozza went out to the poor with corn, wine, oil, and clothing from their family's possessions. Her father-in-law tried to stop her, but a miracle happened. The family's empty corn loft suddenly filled with corn and their empty wine cask was full. These incidents completely converted Lorenzo and his father.

With her husband's and father-in-law's blessings, Frances sold her jewels and clothes and distributed money to the needy. When civil war came to Rome, Frances' house was destroyed. She was able to fix it up, and she turned it into a hospital and a homeless shelter.

After the war was over, Frances started a lay order of women attached to the Benedictines called the Oblates of Mary. The women lived in the world but pledged to offer themselves to God and to serve the poor. They bought a house where the widowed members could live in community.

After Lorenzo's death, Frances moved into the house with the other Oblates and was made mother superior. At the age of fifty-two, she fulfilled her lifelong dream of becoming a nun. She died four years later. Her last words were, "The angel has finished his task—he beckons me to follow him."

Starting when she was just eleven years old, St. Frances of Rome had a very special three-way relationship with



▲ *Madonna and Child with Saint Frances of Rome*, by Orazio Gentileschi (1563-1639)

GLOBAL DATA



- Rome is the capital of Italy and its third largest city.
- Rome is the home of the Roman Catholic Church and the pope.
- Rome is built on seven hills overlooking the Tiber River.
- Rome was once the center of a vast empire stretching from England to the Middle East.

59

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Ask students to read the story of Saint Frances. One way to do so is by asking for eight volunteers and assigning each one of the eight paragraphs.

Open a discussion by asking for responses to how God was working in Saint Frances' life.

Encourage more than a surface reading by telling the students to look deeply into Saint Frances' possible motivations.

GLOBAL DATA Share some of the information in the Global Data feature as well as the content from the Teacher Background box below.

Allow time for the students to name people they know today who live lives similar to this saint.



TEACHER BACKGROUND

Saint Frances of Rome This saint was canonized in 1608 by Pope Paul V.

- She is famous for her devotion to angels and for her charity to the poor.
- Her relics lie in the church of Santa Francesca Romana in Rome, Italy.
- Her feast is celebrated on March 9.
- A prayer to Saint Frances includes the words: "Please pray for Catholics in our day that they may be as dedicated to God as you were."