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### 1 We Respond to God's Love ..... 11

★ We reflect the goodness of God. ★ God forgives our sins. ★ We live holy lives. ★ We give witness to Jesus.

Psalms 145:8; John 3:16; 13:15; Romans 8:39; 10:13; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Peter 1:15; 1 John 1:9; 4:8, 16

**Catholic identity:** The Blessed Trinity

**Partners in Faith:** Sister Thea Bowman

**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

### 2 We Make Moral Choices ..... 21

★ Our conscience helps us to make good moral decisions. ★ We are responsible for forming our conscience. ★ God gives us the gifts of forgiveness and grace. ★ Jesus calls the whole Church to follow his example.

Psalms 119:59, 68, 105; Proverbs 16:3; 20:22; 1 Timothy 1:5

**Catholic identity:** The effects of Penance

**Partners in Faith:** Saint Catherine of Siena

**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

### 3 We Follow God's Law ..... 31

★ Following God's law leads to peace, love, and joy. ★ Jesus calls us to conversion. ★ Following Jesus' teachings leads to true happiness. ★ Following Jesus means loving as he did.

Psalms 119:10, 12, 33–34, 101–102, 111–112; Matthew 5:3–10, 17; Luke 15:18, 24; John 13:34–35; 14:15; 15:10

**Catholic identity:** The law within us

**Partners in Faith:** Saint Ignatius of Loyola

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## 4 We Love God and Others ..... 41

★ Jesus teaches us the Great Commandment. ★ We live out the first commandment. ★ We live out the second commandment. ★ We live out the third commandment.

Genesis 2:3; Exodus 3:13–14; 20:2, 3, 7, 8, 9–10; Psalm 66:1–2; Isaiah 43:1; Matthew 5:20; 22:36, 37–39; 23:23; Mark 1:22; Luke 2:47

**Catholic identity:** Theological virtues

**Partners in Faith:** Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

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## 5 We Honor Life and Creation ..... 51

★ We are called to choose life. ★ We live out the fourth commandment. ★ We live out the fifth commandment. ★ We live out the sixth commandment.

Genesis 2:7; Exodus 20:12, 13, 14; Deuteronomy 30:16, 19; Proverbs 1:8; Matthew 5:21–22, 48; 19:16, 17, 18–19, 21; Luke 2:51; John 15:11–12; Ephesians 5:33

**Catholic identity:** Dealing with anger

**Partners in Faith:** The Sisters of Life

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## 6 We Respect All People ..... 61

★ We live out the seventh commandment. ★ We live out the eighth commandment. ★ We live out the ninth commandment. ★ We live out the tenth commandment.

Exodus 20:15, 16, 17; Romans 13:8–10; Matthew 5:37; Luke 12:15; Ephesians 4:25; Philippians 4:8–9

**Catholic identity:** Abstinence programs

**Partners in Faith:** Thomas Merton

**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

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★ The Church begins and grows. ★ Early Christians are martyred for their faith. ★ The Church meets at the Council of Jerusalem. ★ The Church is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 33:20–22; Acts of the Apostles 2:2–3, 36, 37, 38, 42, 44–46; 3:1; 4:32; 6:11; 9:15; 15:2, 6, 8, 11, 30–31; Romans 16:3

**Catholic Identity:** The Magisterium

**Partners in Faith:** Women of the Early Church

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### 8 Christians of the Roman Empire (A.D. 313–476) ..... 85

★ An empire turns to Christ. ★ The Church relies on the word of God. ★ The Church defends the truth. ★ The Church is strengthened by her councils.

Psalm 25:5; Matthew 28:19; John 14:3

**Catholic Identity:** Ecumenical councils

**Partners in Faith:** Saint Ambrose

**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

### 9 Christians of the Early Middle Ages (A.D. 476–1054) ..... 95

★ Monasteries are established throughout the Christian world. ★ The Church brings the good news to pagan tribes. ★ Charlemagne strengthens the Church. ★ The Church encounters division.

Psalm 27:1; Matthew 7:24–25

**Catholic Identity:** Forms of prayer

**Partners in Faith:** Saint Columba

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### 10 Christians of the High Middle Ages (A.D. 1046–1305) ..... 105

★ The Church fights to recover the Holy Land. ★ The Church struggles with corruption. ★ Fearing heresy, the Church launches the Inquisition. ★ Friars witness to Christ.

Matthew 5:9, 16; Luke 18:22

**Catholic Identity:** Theology

**Partners in Faith:** Saints Francis and Dominic

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### 11 The Church in Crisis and Change (A.D. 1305–1517) ..... 115

★ The faith of the Church is shaken by the Black Death. ★ The Church faces setbacks in the understanding of the Catholic faith. ★ The Church's leadership suffers as a result of the Great Schism of the West. ★ The Renaissance and humanism influence the life of the Church.

Psalm 27:1; Luke 22:19–20; Revelation 21:3–4

**Catholic Identity:** Women of the Church

**Partners in Faith:** Diane Bowers

**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

### 12 People of Reform and Renewal (A.D. 1517–1648) ..... 125

★ Abuses and scandals weaken the Church. ★ The Church faces the Protestant Reformation. ★ A spirit of reform sweeps Europe. ★ The Church responds with the Counter-Reformation.

Psalm 51:12; Ephesians 2:14

**Catholic Identity:** Faith and good works

**Partners in Faith:** Women of Renewal

**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

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### 13 Keeping Faith in a Changing World (A.D. 1648–1789) 141

★ The Church evangelizes the world. ★ Catholics and Protestants yearn for religious freedom. ★ Religious freedom advances. ★ The Enlightenment presents new challenges to Christian faith.

Isaiah 6:8; Romans 10:13–15, 17; 1 Thessalonians 2:9

**Catholic Identity:** Missionary work

**Partners in Faith:** “Father Farmer” Ferdinand Steinmeyer

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### 14 Depending on God in Times of Fear (A.D. 1789–1814) 151

★ The Church lacks defenses against the Enlightenment. ★ Revolution brings about division within the Church in France. ★ Turmoil in the French Church unleashes the Reign of Terror. ★ Government unrest disrupts the Church.

Mark 8:36; Romans 8:38–39

**Catholic Identity:** A Catholic revolutionary

**Partners in Faith:** Blessed Noel Pinot

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### 15 Teaching Others About Christ (A.D. 1814–1914) 161

★ New revolutions affect the Church. ★ The Church promotes justice in the modern world. ★ Efforts to spread the Gospel grow. ★ Catholicism grows with the United States.

John 16:33; Romans 12:5

**Catholic Identity:** Anti-Catholicism

**Partners in Faith:** Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman

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## 16 Renewing Our Relationship with Christ (A.D. 1861–present) 171

★ The Catholic Church grows in a diverse nation. ★ The world feels the effects of World War I and the Depression. ★ After World War II, the Iron Curtain falls across Europe. ★ The Second Vatican Council renews the life of the Church.

2 Chronicles 5:13–14; John 14:6

**Catholic Identity:** Vatican Radio

**Partners in Faith:** Blessed Pope John XXIII

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### 17 Showing Concern for Future Generations 181

★ Church leaders continue to call for justice and peace. ★ The pope calls the Church to worldwide fellowship and reconciliation. ★ Catholics are called to defend life and faith. ★ Catholics are called to witness to the truth and to change the world.

Micah 6:8; Matthew 19:14

**Catholic Identity:** Canon law

**Partners in Faith:** Pope John Paul I

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### 18 Transforming the World Through Faith 191

★ We are nourished by participation in the liturgy. ★ We are a community committed to justice. ★ We respect and defend the sacredness of all human life. ★ We treasure and proclaim the rich legacy of faith.

Luke 6:47–49; James 2:14, 17

**Catholic Identity:** Protecting life

**Partners in Faith:** Dorothy Day

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## Unit 3 Assessment 201





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### 19 Caring for the Whole Human Family 205

• The risen Christ shares his life and mission with the Church. • The Church must continue the work of Christ on earth. • Catholic social teachings guide the Church in continuing Jesus' work. • The Church lives out the demands of justice and peace.

Isaiah 58:9–10; Romans 12:18, 21

**Catholic identity:** A sacramental view of life  
**Partners in Faith:** Saint María de Jesús Sacramentado  
**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

### 20 Seeking God's Life and Love As a Church 215

• Jesus encourages us to put God at the center of our lives. • As the Church we are the seed and the beginning of God's Kingdom on earth. • Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ helps the Church to live out her mission. • Christ's lasting presence in the Church is revealed in many ways.

Psalms 84:4–5; 122:1–2, 3–4, 8–9; Matthew 6:25, 33; 13:11; Mark 1:15; Luke 17:21; John 18:36; Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 3:7, 9; 15:28; 2 Corinthians 6:16

**Catholic identity:** The Catholic Church  
**Partners in Faith:** Danny Thomas  
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### 21 Living As the Body of Christ 225

• The Church is the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. • The Church is the People of God. • The Church is one and holy. • The Church is catholic and apostolic.

Matthew 5:13, 14; 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27–31; 13:8, 13; Ephesians 4:4, 5–6, 15–16; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 2:9

**Catholic identity:** The Church, a sacrament  
**Partners in Faith:** Saint Alberto Hurtado Cruchaga  
**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

### 22 Witnessing to Our Relationship with Christ 235

• The risen Christ is always present. • In the sacraments the risen Christ shares God's life with the Church. • Prayer and the liturgy nourish our relationship with God. • The Church witnesses to Christ by praying at all times.

Numbers 6:24–25; Psalm 31:22; 118:21; Matthew 11:25; 26:39; 28:20; Luke 18:13; 23:34; John 17:20–21; Colossians 3:16

**Catholic identity:** The seven sacraments  
**Partners in Faith:** Blessed Teresa of Calcutta  
**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

## 23 Growing in Faith Together 245

• Jesus chose the Apostles to lead the Church. • The pope and the bishops are the successors of the Apostles. • Within the Church there are many ways of serving. • Within our parishes we continue Jesus' mission.

Matthew 10:7–8, 40; 16:16, 18–19; 28:19–20; 1 Corinthians 12:5; Ephesians 4:1–6, 11–12

**Catholic identity:** What is a parish?  
**Partners in Faith:** Saint Charles Lwanga  
**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

## 24 Belonging to the Communion of Saints 255

• Jesus Christ calls all of us into communion with his Father. • Together all faithful members of the Church are joined in the communion of saints. • Mary is our greatest saint and the perfect example of discipleship. • We are the Pilgrim People of God.

Matthew 12:49–50; Luke 1:38; John 15:1, 5; 17:20–21; 19:27; Acts of the Apostles 2:42, 47; Hebrews 12:1–2

**Catholic identity:** Popular devotions  
**Partners in Faith:** The Seven Martyrs of Thailand  
**Sharing Faith with Your Family**

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# Unit 2

## Who Are Our Ancestors in Faith?



### Chapter 7 The Early Church

(A.D. 30–313)

**The Big Question:**  
What connects me to a community?



### Chapter 8 Christians of the Roman Empire

(A.D. 313–476)

**The Big Question:**  
Who or what leads me to the truth?



### Chapter 9 Christians of the Early Middle Ages

(A.D. 476–1054)

**The Big Question:**  
What helps me to focus on what's important?



### Chapter 10 Christians of the High Middle Ages

(A.D. 1046–1305)

**The Big Question:**  
Do I welcome change, or do I fear it?



### Chapter 11 The Church in Crisis and Change

(A.D. 1305–1517)

**The Big Question:**  
How do I respond in times of crisis?



### Chapter 12 People of Reform and Renewal

(A.D. 1517–1648)

**The Big Question:**  
How can a challenge be an opportunity?

## The Early Church

(A.D. 30–313)

**“The community of believers was of one heart and mind.”**

(Acts of the Apostles 4:32)

**+ Leader:** How did the first Christians pray?

**Reader:** Those who came to Christianity as Jews prayed by marking the Jewish times of prayer. They did this by gathering together and singing psalms. As we read in the Acts of the Apostles, “Peter and John were going up to the temple area for the three o’clock hour of prayer” (Acts of the Apostles 3:1). These hours of prayer were the foundation for the Christian practice of prayer that we call the *Liturgy of the Hours*.

**Leader:** Let us pray together in this ancient tradition now.

**Group 1:** Our soul waits for the LORD, who is our help and shield.

**Group 2:** For in God our hearts rejoice; in your holy name we trust.

**Group 1:** May your kindness, LORD, be upon us;  
we have put our hope in you.  
(Psalm 33:20–22)

**Group 2:** Glory to the Father and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:

**Group 1:** As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.

**Leader:** Let us now pray as Jesus taught us:  
(All pray the Lord’s Prayer.)

Lord, be our help always. May our hearts rejoice in you. May we, the people whom you have gathered into your Church, trust in your holy name and hope always in your kindness. We ask this in your name, Lord Jesus.

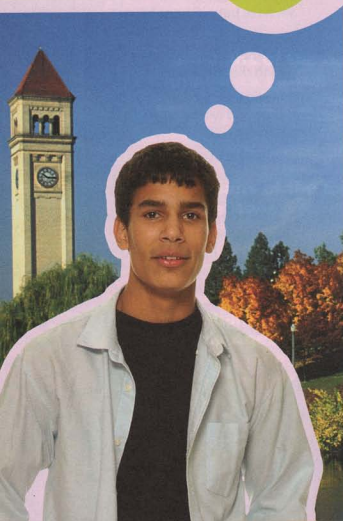
**All:** Amen.



Visit [www.weliveourfaith.com](http://www.weliveourfaith.com)  
to find appropriate music  
and songs.

## The BIG Question:

What connects me to a community?



**Discover** how much you know about the first Christian community. Answer these questions about the disciples of Jesus Christ. (You might want to use your Bible.)

**1** Who were they?

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**2** Where did they come from?

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**3** Why did they come together?

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**4** What happened to them after Jesus died? after he rose from the dead? after he ascended to his Father?

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How are you connected to Jesus' first disciples? How is your life similar to theirs? different from theirs?

### In this chapter

we will explore the origins of the Church and her expansion into the world. Through this chapter, we hope



**to understand**  
the history behind the spread of the early Church



**to appreciate**  
the faith and courage of the early Christian believers



**to resolve**  
to follow Jesus as they did, in sincerity of heart.





*Labor Day in Bungalowville* by Charles Wysocki (1929–2002)

**T**hink about all of the different types of communities, small and large, that exist in the world. Communities can consist of people linked together by many different things. A community may be made up of people with common interests or hobbies. Or a community may simply be a group of people that live in the same area. A group of people who actively cooperate with one another is also considered a community. A group of people who share the same religious beliefs is a community, too. Though their members may be scattered throughout the world, they are united by their beliefs. The word *community* can also be used to describe a group of people who share similar economic or political backgrounds. People with a common profession also can form a community; for example, doctors make up the medical community.

“There are no strangers in this world,  
only friends we haven’t met yet.”

(Anonymous)

**Activity** Right now you belong to several communities. Below, list the communities that you are a part of—those of which you are a member by choice and those to which you belong by circumstance. Then, consider why each of these communities is important to you. How does each community influence your life, and how do you affect each community?





## The Church begins and grows.

Imagine that you were living in Jerusalem around the year 30—the year of Jesus' death. From a political point of view you were living in the Roman Empire, a vast grouping of territories controlled and governed by Roman rule. And ultimately the Roman emperor had the highest authority. But you were also part of the first Christian community. What might you have experienced at that time? Perhaps you saw and heard Jesus teach. Perhaps you witnessed the horrors of his suffering and death and then rejoiced at the news of his Resurrection from the dead and Ascension into heaven. Perhaps, too, you were present on the morning of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the community of Jesus' disciples.

On that morning, Peter and the other disciples were gathered together in a house in Jerusalem. Suddenly, "there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on

each one of them" (Acts of the Apostles 2:2–3). At that moment the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. They were strengthened to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. It was then that "the Church was openly displayed to the crowds and the spread of the Gospel among the nations, through preaching, was begun" (CCC, 767).

Peter told the people of Jerusalem, "Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts of the Apostles 2:36). When people in the crowd asked, "What are we to do?" Peter answered, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit" (Acts of the Apostles 2:37, 38). Amazingly, as we can read in the Acts of the Apostles, about three thousand people were baptized that very day. All those who were baptized received the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was with the members of the first Christian community, guiding them to believe in Jesus and helping them to remember and live out Jesus' teachings. And the members of this first Christian community, the early Church, "devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. . . . All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes" (Acts of the Apostles 2:42, 44–46).

With the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the community of Jesus' disciples had become something that we can recognize today, over two thousand years later: the Catholic Church growing and working as a community to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Activity** What are some ways that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, you proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in the communities to which you belong?

## Early Christians are martyred for their faith.

The world in which Christianity began offered some advantages to those who wanted to spread the Gospel. The Roman Empire was at peace, with networks of good roads and safe harbors. Romans spoke Latin but also favored the widely spoken Greek language. Thus, Christian missionaries who spoke Greek could preach far and wide and be understood by many. The most famous of these Christian missionaries was Paul.

After a conversion to belief in Jesus Christ, Paul spread the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire. The Lord said of Paul, "This man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites" (Acts of the Apostles 9:15).

But Paul and the other early Christian missionaries faced many challenges. One was the tension that emerged with the Christians' Jewish neighbors. This tension was evidenced when the disciple Stephen was put to death in Jerusalem, falsely accused of "speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God" (Acts of the Apostles 6:11). Stephen became a martyr by witnessing to the faith and dying rather than denying his belief in Christ.

**"You will receive the gift of the holy Spirit."**

(Acts of the Apostles 2:38)

There was also tension with the Roman authorities. They did not require Jews within the empire to worship the Roman gods. So, at first they also ignored the early Christians who seemed to be a group within Judaism. But the Romans soon became suspicious of the Christians. And, in time, the authorities began to fear that Christianity, with its emphasis on the dignity and equality of all people in God's eyes, might also be a revolutionary political movement.

When the Christians refused to worship the Roman gods and denied that the Roman emperor was himself a god, the Romans started to persecute the Christians. The first recorded persecution of Christians

began in Rome around A.D. 64, under the Emperor Nero. Other persecutions followed, and thousands of Christians accepted death rather than deny their faith. But the more the Romans persecuted the Christians, the more the number of converts to Christianity grew.

**Activity** Name some ways that people today are persecuted. How can our communities work together against these kinds of persecutions?

## Saints Peter and Paul

Every year on June 29, the Church celebrates the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul. This feast day is noted on even the oldest existing Roman calendar, which dates back to A.D. 354.

Peter was entrusted by Jesus to lead the Apostles and to guide the growing Church. In the Acts of the Apostles we find that, when any major decisions were to be made, it was Peter to whom the other Apostles and leaders of the early Church turned. And Paul constantly journeyed to bring the good news of salvation to the world:

• On Paul's first journey he traveled to the island of Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean, to the city of Antioch

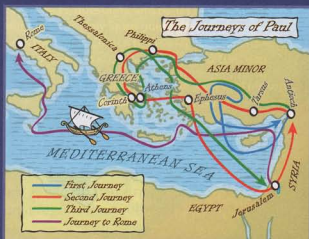
in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), and to other cities in what are now Turkey and Syria.

• On his second and longest journey, he traveled to Greece, where he established a center of Christian faith in the city of Corinth.

• On his third journey he returned to Asia Minor, where he helped set up other Christian communities, including one in the city of Ephesus.

Nothing could stop Paul from preaching the Gospel. When he couldn't travel to a community to share the Christian faith, he would write a letter.

Both Peter and Paul died in Rome as martyrs. Their courage and witness are important for Catholics everywhere to honor and celebrate. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for them.



## The Church meets at the Council of Jerusalem.

*When have you had to stand up for your faith?*

The young Christian community, the early Church, not only faced external problems, but also faced many issues and questions from within. It was toward the end of his first missionary journey that Paul and a disciple named Barnabas visited the Christian community at Antioch. And in Antioch, in about the year 40, the word *Christian* was first used to refer to the followers of Jesus Christ. But many of these Christians were **Gentiles**, or people who, like the Romans and the Greeks, were not Jews. So, at Antioch, a controversy arose. People were asking whether Gentiles first needed to become Jews before becoming Christians. So, "it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem" to ask the leaders of the Church about this question (Acts of the Apostles 15:2). In Jerusalem the Christians of Antioch were to present their dispute to the Apostles and to a new generation of leaders called *presbyters*—men whom Catholics today would call priests. When they reached Jerusalem, however, Paul and Barnabas discovered that the Church leaders there were struggling with the same question.

As good Jews, the earliest Christians had always respected and obeyed the **Torah**, the sacred law of faith given by God to Moses. Now people were asking whether men and women who had not been born Jews could be excused from some of the requirements of Jewish law. So, "the apostles and the presbyters met together to see about this matter" (Acts of the Apostles 15:6). They were confident that, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they could make the right decision. This meeting became known as the Council of Jerusalem, the first great council of the Catholic Church. It took place in Jerusalem in about the year 49. As the arguments



Model of ancient Jerusalem at the time of Herod the Great (first century B.C.)

went back and forth, the Apostle Peter told the council that "God, who knows the heart," granted Gentiles "the holy Spirit just as he did us" (Acts of Apostles 15:8). Peter also reminded the council that "we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they" (Acts of the Apostles 15:11).

Then the Apostle James spoke up to present the position that the council accepted. This position has been the law of the Church ever since. Many aspects of the law of Moses—the Ten Commandments and certain marriage laws, for example—would still be the law for all Christians. But some Torah requirements—for instance, circumcision for men—would be done away with for Gentile converts, those who did not come to Christianity through Judaism. The council leaders sent Paul, Barnabas, and two other delegates back to Antioch with a letter describing the council's decision. When the delegates arrived in Antioch, "they called the assembly together and delivered the letter. When the people read it, they were delighted" (Acts of the Apostles 15:30–31).

At the Council of Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit worked through the community of the Church, helping the leaders to decide on important matters about which Jesus had left no specific instruction. And with the Holy Spirit's guidance, the Christian faith was now on its way to becoming a faith for the whole world.

### Faith Words

Gentiles  
Torah

**Activity** Pray together a prayer to the Holy Spirit to guide the Church today in all of her decisions.



## The Church is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The good news of Jesus was conveyed by word of mouth from the first believers to those who followed. But as the first eyewitness Christians began to die, the Christian community became aware that future generations would need something more than this existing oral tradition. So, the early Christians began to write things down. Many scholars agree on the following timeline.

The Gospel of Mark was the first account of Jesus' life and teachings to be written down, sometime around the year 70. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke were written down next, between A.D. 80 and 90. Matthew and Luke based their accounts on that of Mark as well as on other early Christian sources. These three Gospels are closely related, with many similarities. The fourth Gospel, the Gospel of John, was written later, probably around A.D. 100. This Gospel describes words and deeds of Jesus that are similar to those recorded by the other three Gospel writers, but it also addresses incidents and issues that are not included in the other three Gospels.

**"We are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus."**

(Acts of the Apostles 15:11)

Other books of the New Testament were also written at this time. Fourteen of these, said to be the oldest books in the New Testament, are *epistles*, or letters, to the early Christian communities that were written by, or at least attributed to, Saint Paul. Seven are letters that were written by other leaders of the early Church. There is also an account of the very earliest days of the Church—the Acts of the Apostles—and a book called the Book of Revelation, which is the last book of the Bible and calls believers in Christ to look forward with hope to eternal glory. The human authors of these sacred texts, just as the authors of existing Scripture, were inspired by God the Holy Spirit to write what would faithfully present God's saving truth. And as the early Christians lived their faith, facing issues that were unknown to earlier generations, the Holy Spirit was also working in the Church, guiding the

development of Tradition. Tradition refers to the written and spoken beliefs and practices that have been passed down to us from the time of Christ and the Apostles. Together, Tradition and Scripture make up "a single sacred deposit of the Word of God" (CCC, 97). As the Church relies on the Bible as a book of faith, the Church looks to Tradition as a living witness of faith.

For more information on Scripture, see "Bible Basics" on pages 310–311.

**Activity** Reread this page to find out how many books there are in the New Testament. Share with a partner a New Testament passage that has particular meaning for you.

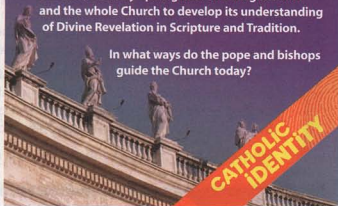
## The Magisterium

**T**he pope today can trace his authority directly back to Saint Peter, and our bishops can trace their authority directly back to the first Apostles. This is what we mean when we speak of "apostolic succession." Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the pope and the bishops lead the Church to be faithful to God's original Revelation in Jesus and to the developments in Tradition that have taken place over the long history of the Church.

We call the teaching authority of the pope and the bishops the *Magisterium*, the living teaching office of the Church. The Magisterium's presence in the Church guarantees the continuing guidance of the Holy Spirit through apostolic succession.

Through letters, statements, and documents for the whole Church, the Magisterium continually teaches us about the truth. And when the Church encounters new circumstances, questions, and issues of importance to our faith, the Holy Spirit guides the Magisterium and the whole Church to develop its understanding of Divine Revelation in Scripture and Tradition.

In what ways do the pope and bishops guide the Church today?



# RESPONDING...

## Recognizing Our Faith

Recall the question at the beginning of this chapter: *What connects me to a community? What connects you to your family? your neighbors? your parish? the world?*



## Living Our Faith

How will you share the good news of Jesus Christ with others?

## Women of the Early Church

The lives of Lydia, Prisca, and Perpetua give us some of the greatest examples of the role of women in the early Church. Lydia was baptized by Saint Paul. Her conversion to Christianity was very important because she was one of the first prominent Gentiles to accept Christian belief.



## Partners in FAITH

Prisca, also called Priscilla, was a Gentile married to Aquila, a Jew. They became Christians at a time when Christianity was not accepted by the Romans. Forced to leave Rome, the couple relocated to Corinth, in Greece, and became involved in Saint Paul's mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ. In his letter to the

Romans, Paul called this couple "my co-workers in Christ Jesus" (Romans 16:3).

Perpetua, an early Christian living in North Africa, and her servant Felicity were arrested and imprisoned for practicing their Christianity. Perpetua's wealthy father visited her and begged her to give up the faith. Yet she refused. Eventually, the Roman emperor ordered the deaths of Perpetua and Felicity. They became martyrs of the early Church.

Who are some women who share the good news of Jesus Christ today?



For additional ideas and activities, visit [www.weliveourfaith.com](http://www.weliveourfaith.com).

## Putting Faith to Work

Talk about what you have learned in this chapter:



**We understand** the history behind the spread of the early Church.



**We appreciate** the faith and courage of the early Christian believers.

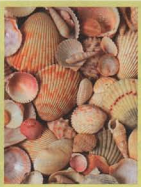


**We resolve** to follow Jesus as they did, in sincerity of heart.

Decide on ways to live out what you have learned.



## ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD



Life in the early Christian community is described in the Acts of the Apostles:

**“The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and . . . had everything in common”**

(Acts of the Apostles 4:32).

- ➡ **READ** the quotation from Scripture.
- ➡ **REFLECT** on the following question:  
What are some ways your parish fulfills this Scripture passage?
- ➡ **SHARE** your reflections with a partner.
- ➡ **DECIDE** on ways to help other young people in your parish become part of a “community of believers.”

Choose four events discussed in this chapter and explain their significance to the Church then and now.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Write **True** or **False** next to the following sentences. On a separate sheet of paper, change the false sentences to make them true.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture is the only means by which God's Revelation comes to us.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ At the Council of Jerusalem, the Apostles made a decision that is no longer the law of the Church today.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The fourteen letters, or epistles, that are attributed to Paul are said to be the oldest books of the New Testament.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ As the Church relies on the Bible as a book of faith, the Church looks to Tradition as a living witness of faith.

9–10. **ESSAY:** Explain the importance of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the community of Jesus' disciples.



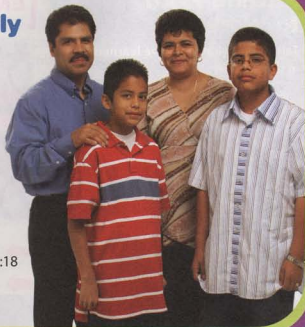
## Sharing Faith with Your Family

Discuss the following with your family:

- The Church begins and grows.
- Early Christians are martyred for their faith.
- The Church meets at the Council of Jerusalem.
- The Church is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Spend a week with Saint Paul. Each day this week, look up one of the Scripture passages referenced here. Each is from one of Saint Paul's letters. Copy each reference on a separate index card and display the card as you read and discuss the Scripture passage together.

1 Corinthians 13:13	Ephesians 4:32	1 Thessalonians 5:18
Romans 8:31	2 Corinthians 5:7	Philippians 4:4
	Galatians 2:20	



## The Worship Connection

Many of our Catholic liturgical practices have their origin in Jewish worship. The reciting and singing of the psalms is one such practice. During Mass pay special attention to the *responsorial psalm* that follows the first reading.

## More to Explore

Research Catholic people and organizations who are helping to fight persecution throughout the world.

## Catholic Social Teaching ☒ Checklist

**Theme of Catholic Social Teaching:**

Solidarity of the Human Family

**How it relates to Chapter 7:** As Catholics we respect and care for all human beings as one human community, one human family—no matter where they live.

**How can you do this?**

☐ At home:

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ At school/work:

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ In the parish:

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ In the community:

\_\_\_\_\_

Check off each action after it has been completed.