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Glory to the Father (Doxology)	Angel Guardian
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Thanksgiving After Meals	<i>Angelus</i>
Act of Faith, Hope, and Love	How to Pray to the Rosary
Prayer to the Holy Spirit	The Mysteries of the Rosary
The Apostles' Creed	Prayer of Petition
Act of Contrition	Prayer of Community Petition
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Unit 2 Trinity

In this unit you will...

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



Faith in Action!

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

The Holy Trinity



Let Us Pray

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

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you."

2 Corinthians 13:13

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

Activity

Let's Begin

● **Mysteries of Nature** Some things in this world just can't be explained. Only God fully understands the mysteries of his creation.

Why did God make the sky blue and the grass green?

Why can't mud be a prettier color?

Why do insects have so many legs?

Why don't dogs meow and cats bark?

What questions do you have about the mystery of God's creation?

• What questions do you have about the Catholic faith?

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



Learning About Mystery

**Focus**

What did Saint Patrick teach about the Holy Trinity?

Faith Fact

Bishop Patrick lived about 400 years after the birth of Jesus.



A STORY

Three in One

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

Patrick explained the **Holy Trinity** by plucking a shamrock from the ground. He held it up for the people to see. “The shamrock I am holding is one plant, but it has three leaves. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are not three gods. They are three Persons in one God. This is a mystery that we accept on faith.”

❓ What helped the people better understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity?

One God

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

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



SCRIPTURE

John 14:6-7, 16-17

The Father and the Spirit

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

Jesus promised to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to teach the people.

From John 14:6-7, 16-17

? What did Jesus say about the Father and the Spirit?



Activity

Share Your Faith



Think: Think about the Holy Trinity and the shamrock.

Share: Talk to your group about how the shamrock is like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Act: Draw a shamrock and label one leaf "Father," one leaf "Son," and one leaf "Holy Spirit."

Words of Faith

The **Holy Trinity** is the name for the three Persons in one God.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

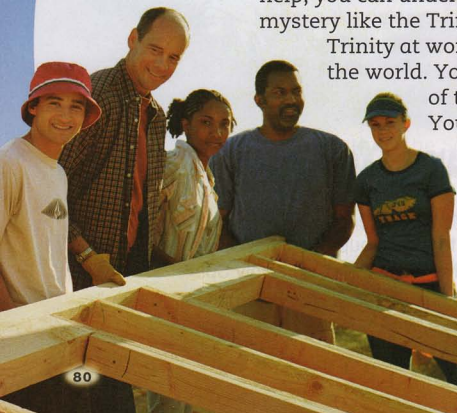

Focus
What is the work of the Trinity?

Jesus called God “Father,” and he taught his followers to call God “Father,” too. By his actions Jesus showed that he is God the Son, who became human to save all people. Jesus asked his Father to send the Holy Spirit, who is God’s love and grace, to be present with you.

The most important thing about the Holy Trinity is that he is a loving communion of Persons joined as one in love. The Holy Trinity is a *mystery*, a truth of faith that Catholics believe even though they cannot understand it completely. A mystery is a truth that only God can fully understand.

Through God’s revelation and with his help, you can understand more about a mystery like the Trinity. You can see the Trinity at work when you see love in the world. You can see the reflection of the Trinity in the Church. You will better understand the Trinity when you see God in heaven.

? What are some other mysteries of faith?



Honoring the Trinity

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

"I believe in God, the Father . . .

and in Jesus Christ . . .

I believe in the Holy Spirit . . ."

Working Together

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

Words of Faith

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



? When can the Holy Spirit help and guide you?

Activity

Connect Your Faith

Write a Prayer Finish each prayer in your own words.

God our Father, _____

Jesus, Son of God, _____

Holy Spirit, help us _____



Asking Questions


Focus

Who answers your questions about the Church?

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

Finding Answers

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

- The Bible
- Church library
- Religious Web sites recommended by catechists

- Religious books
- Encyclopedia
- Videos



? What questions do you have about God or the Church?

Activity

Live Your Faith

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

Dear _____



Celebration of the Word



Let Us Pray

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.



Sing together.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
There is one God who is Father of all.

"There Is One Lord", Taizé Community, © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé,
GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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

Reader: A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.
Read Ephesians 4:1-6.

The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Let us share our belief in the Trinity.
Do you believe in God the Father?

All: **I do.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son?

All: **I do.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life?

All: **I do.**

Leader: This is our faith. This
is the faith of the Church.

All: **Amen.**



A Work with Words Complete the following statements.

1. One of the Church's oldest creeds is the _____.
2. The name given to the three Persons in one God is the _____.
3. A truth that only God can fully understand is called a _____.
4. A gift from God that lets people believe mysteries is _____.
5. Saint Patrick taught about the Trinity by using a _____.

B Check Understanding Fill in the circle next to the answer that best completes each statement.

6. Saint Patrick taught people in _____.
☐ Ireland ☐ Israel ☐ America
7. Jesus called God _____.
☐ Trinity ☐ Father ☐ Sir
8. Summaries of faith are called _____.
☐ prayers ☐ Scripture ☐ creeds
9. The Holy Spirit helps bring _____ to the world.
☐ peace ☐ sin ☐ riches
10. You _____ learn more about your Catholic faith from people in the Church.
☐ can ☐ cannot ☐ should not



Family Faith



Catholics Believe

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



SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1–4 is about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Talk about how the Holy Spirit helped the Apostles.



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Activity

Live Your Faith

Show Love Talk about your family's life together. List ways that you show the love of the Holy Trinity to one another. Place a paper shamrock on the refrigerator or wall in your kitchen. Each time someone in your family shows love, place a sticker on the shamrock. When the shamrock is filled, go out for a family treat together.



▲ Saint John
of Matha
1160–1213

People of Faith

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



Family Prayer

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