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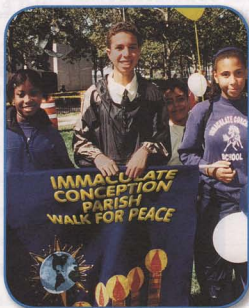
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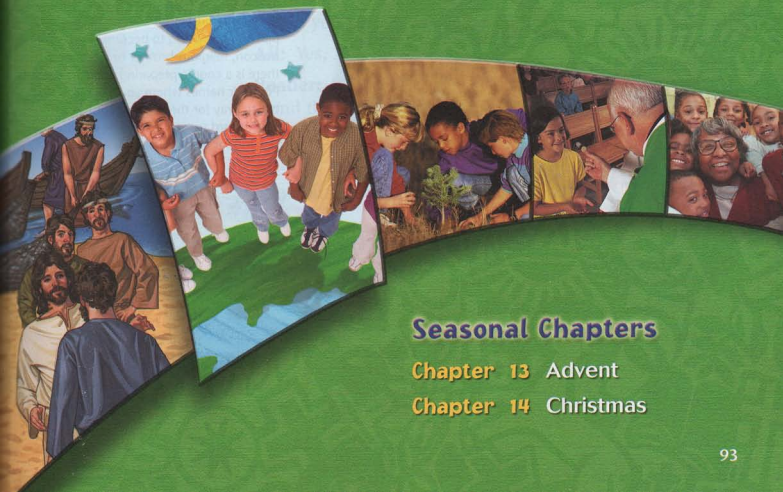
- In the Easter season, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

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We Are Members of the Church

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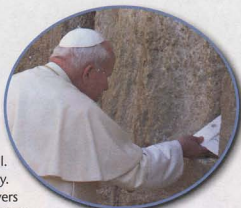
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In Unit 2 your child will grow as a disciple of Jesus by:

- learning that the pope and bishops lead the one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church
- recognizing that the Church is guided by the Holy Spirit to teach the truth
- praying alone and with others to praise God, thank God, ask for forgiveness, offer blessings, and seek God's help
- joining with our parish to worship God and to serve others
- appreciating the ways that people can grow in holiness as laypeople, ordained men, and religious.

Fast Facts

The Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed and rebuilt, and now archaeologists are working to discover what it was originally like. Part of one reconstruction remains—the Western Wall. People still go there to pray. They often write their prayers out and place them in the Wall.



Blessed Pope John Paul II
at the Western Wall.

Question Corner

In Chapter 8 the children will learn about the four marks of the Church—one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Complete the following:

Our parish is united when _____.

Our parish shows holiness when _____.

Our parish is welcoming when _____.

Our parish follows the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles by _____.

Reality Check

"Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2207)

More to Explore

Catholic Charities USA (see page 117) was founded in 1910. Through their work, they carry on the mission of Jesus. Visit their Web site to see some of their current work. Talk about the needs in your own community. What can your family do to respond?

Show That You Care

Chapter 12 talks about the ways we live as disciples of Jesus through different vocations. Find out if anyone in your parish is preparing to become a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister, or if there is a couple preparing for marriage. Put their names where you will remember to pray for them. You might even send a card to let them know you are praying for them!

Take Home

Be ready for:

Chapter 8: Listing family characteristics

Chapter 9: Talking about ways to show respect

Chapter 10: Choosing someone to pray for at Mass

Chapter 11: Praying for people who are sick

Chapter 12: Taking a holiness survey

The Church Has Four Marks

8

✦ We Gather in Prayer

Leader: Jesus spoke to the crowds that followed him. He speaks to each of us, too. Let us listen to his words.

Reader: "I am the light of the world."
(John 8:12)

Will you follow me?

All: Yes, Jesus, we will follow you.

Reader: "I am the bread of life."
(John 6:35)

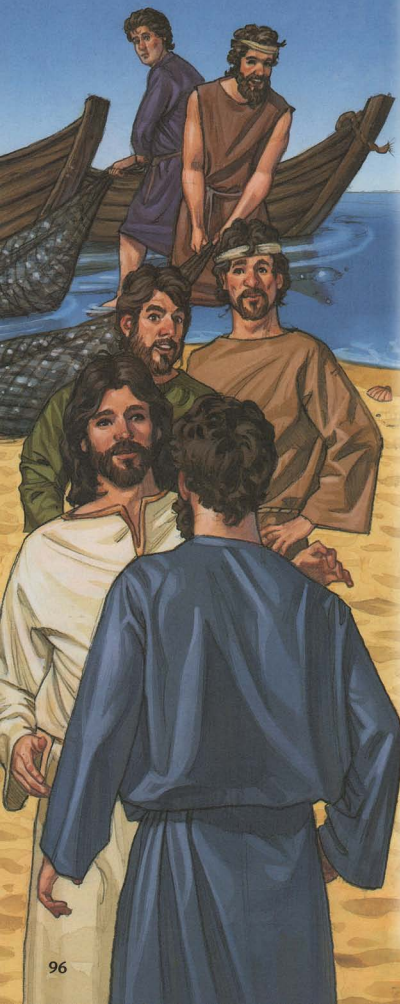
Will you receive me?

All: Yes, Jesus, we will receive you.

Reader: "I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25)

Do you believe in me?

All: Yes, Jesus, we believe in you. Amen.



Jesus chose the Apostles to lead the Church.

WE GATHER

✝ Dear God, we are your people.

Think about the school teams or clubs that you can join. Who are the leaders of these groups?



Write three words that describe a good leader.

WE BELIEVE

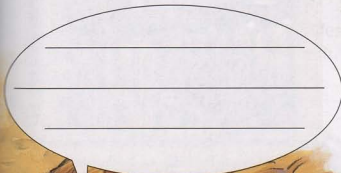
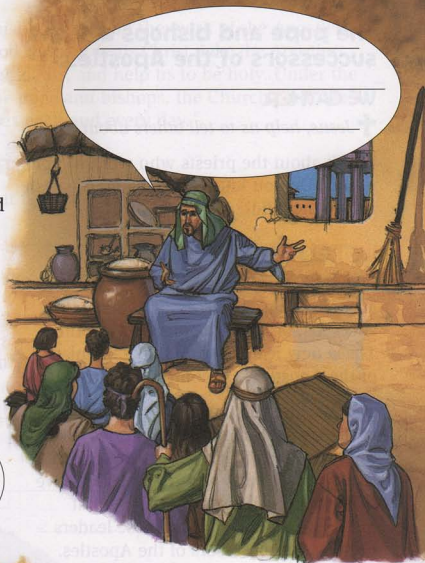
Jesus had many disciples. He chose twelve of them to be his Apostles. He wanted them to share in his mission. Many other men and women disciples gathered with the Apostles to spread the Good News about Jesus.

One of the Apostles was named Simon. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter. The name Peter means "rock." Jesus chose Peter to be the leader of the Apostles. He told Peter, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." (Matthew 16:18)

How many of the Apostles can you name? They are Peter, Andrew, James and John (sons of Zebedee), Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), Thaddeus, Simon, and Judas Iscariot. Later Matthias took the place of Judas.

After Jesus' Ascension the Apostles shared with the people all the good things Jesus had said and done. They traveled from place to place teaching what Jesus had taught them. They baptized people as Jesus had commanded them.

In every location the Apostles gathered the baptized into communities. These communities were the beginning of the Church. As more and more communities were formed, the Church grew. The first members of the Church looked to Peter and the Apostles as their leaders.



WE RESPOND

How did the Apostles help the Church to grow? Who were the other members of the Church who helped it to grow?



Look at the pictures. In the spaces, write something you think the Apostles told people about Jesus.

What would you tell people you know about Jesus?

The pope and bishops are the successors of the Apostles.

WE GATHER

✝ Jesus, help us to tell others about you.

Think about the priests who work in your parish. Do you know who led your parish before they did?

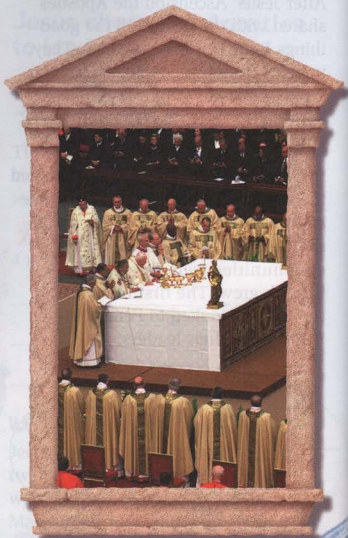
WE BELIEVE

Like Jesus, the Apostles chose leaders to succeed them. A *successor* is one who succeeds, or takes the place of, another. These new leaders would take the place of the Apostles and continue their work.

The Apostles laid their hands on the heads of these new leaders. The Apostles asked the Holy Spirit to strengthen these men in their work. In this way the Apostles gave these leaders the same authority that Jesus had given to them. These leaders became the successors of the Apostles.

As time passed each of these leaders was given the title of bishop. **Bishops** are the successors of the Apostles. The bishops continue to lead the Church. They lead local areas of the Church called **dioceses**.

The **pope** is the bishop of the diocese of Rome in Italy. He continues the leadership of Peter. Together with all the bishops, he leads and guides the whole Catholic Church.

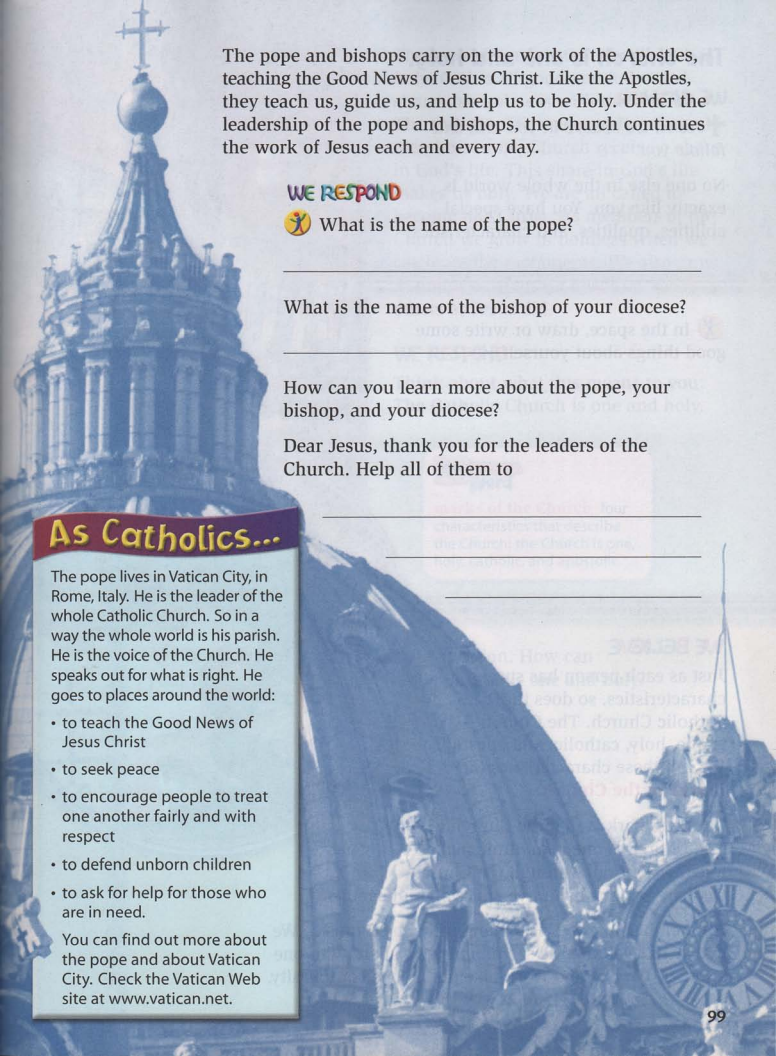


Key Words

bishops the successors of the Apostles who lead the Church

dioceses local areas of the Church led by bishops

pope the Bishop of Rome, who leads the whole Catholic Church



The pope and bishops carry on the work of the Apostles, teaching the Good News of Jesus Christ. Like the Apostles, they teach us, guide us, and help us to be holy. Under the leadership of the pope and bishops, the Church continues the work of Jesus each and every day.

WE RESPOND



What is the name of the pope?

What is the name of the bishop of your diocese?

How can you learn more about the pope, your bishop, and your diocese?

Dear Jesus, thank you for the leaders of the Church. Help all of them to

As Catholics...

The pope lives in Vatican City, in Rome, Italy. He is the leader of the whole Catholic Church. So in a way the whole world is his parish. He is the voice of the Church. He speaks out for what is right. He goes to places around the world:

- to teach the Good News of Jesus Christ
- to seek peace
- to encourage people to treat one another fairly and with respect
- to defend unborn children
- to ask for help for those who are in need.

You can find out more about the pope and about Vatican City. Check the Vatican Web site at www.vatican.net.

The Church is one and holy.

WE GATHER

✚ *Jesus, we believe in you and will follow you.*

No one else in the whole world is exactly like you. You have special abilities, qualities, and characteristics.

👤 In the space, draw or write some good things about yourself.

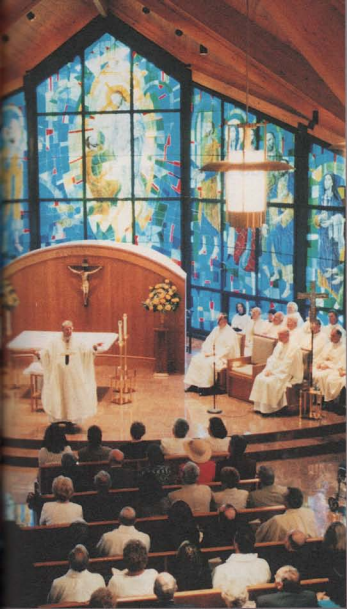


WE BELIEVE

Just as each person has special characteristics, so does the Catholic Church. The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. We call these characteristics the **marks of the Church.**

The first mark is that the Church is *one*. The Church is one community called together by God. Through the Church, God strengthens us to live and worship together.

All members of the Church are united by Baptism. We gather to celebrate the sacraments. We share with one another. We live and work together as one community.



The second mark is that the Church is *holy*. God is all good and holy. God shares his holiness with the Church. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, all members of the Church receive a share in God's life. This share in God's life makes us holy. We are all called to become like Christ. As members of the Church we grow in holiness when we celebrate the sacraments. We also grow in holiness when we love God and others as Jesus did.

WE RESPOND

Think about what this means to you:
The Catholic Church is one and holy.

Key Word

marks of the Church four characteristics that describe the Church: the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.



Draw a picture to answer this question. How can your parish show that the Catholic Church is one and holy?

The Church is catholic and apostolic.

WE GATHER

✝ *Dear Jesus, help us to be one with you and with one another. Help us to live holy lives.*

What do you think it is like to be new in a neighborhood? in a school?

How can you welcome others and help them to feel that they are accepted?

WE BELIEVE

What is the name of your parish? Think about the people in your parish. Is everyone exactly the same? Is everyone the same age? Does everyone speak the same language? Probably not.

God loves all people. God shares his love with us through the Church. The Church is open to all people. It is universal. The third mark of the Church is that it is *catholic*. The word *catholic* means "universal."

Jesus sent his Apostles out to every part of the world. They spread the Gospel to everyone, and the Church continued to grow. Even today people everywhere are invited and welcomed to become members of the Church. There are Catholics on every continent and in every country.

The fourth mark of the Church is that it is *apostolic*. The word *apostolic* comes from the word *apostle*.



Jesus chose the Apostles to be the first leaders of the Church. Their mission was to teach the Good News and to baptize new members. By Baptism all members of the Church share in the work of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.




The bishops are the successors of the Apostles. They continue the mission of the Apostles in three very important ways.

- They *teach*. The bishops are the official teachers of the Church. They make sure that the members of the Church know and believe the teachings of Jesus.
- They *lead*. The bishops are the main leaders of the Church.
- They *sanctify*. The bishops work to make the People of God holy. This is what it means to sanctify. They do this through prayer, preaching, and the celebration of the sacraments.



WE RESPOND

 How can your parish show that the Catholic Church is catholic?

Vatican Council (1962)

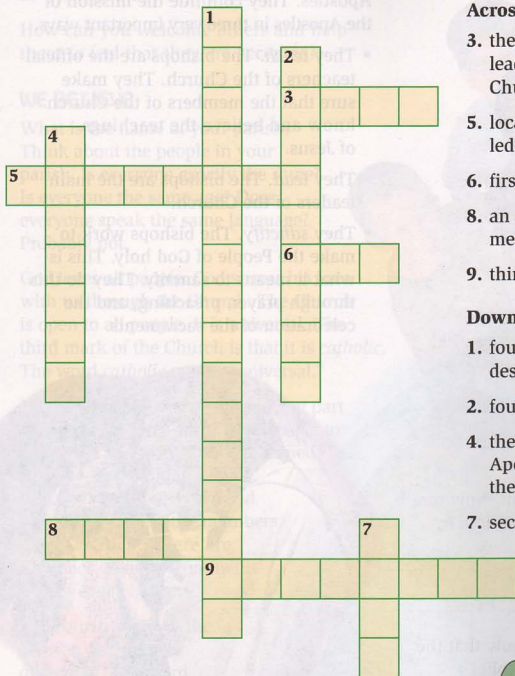
How can your parish show that the Catholic Church is apostolic?



PROJECT

Show What *you* Know

Read the clues. Write the answers in the crossword puzzle.



Across

3. the Bishop of Rome, who leads the whole Catholic Church
5. local areas of the Church led by bishops
6. first mark of the Church
8. an Apostle whose name means "rock"
9. third mark of the Church

Down

1. four characteristics that describe the Church
2. fourth mark of the Church
4. the successors of the Apostles who lead the Church
7. second mark of the Church

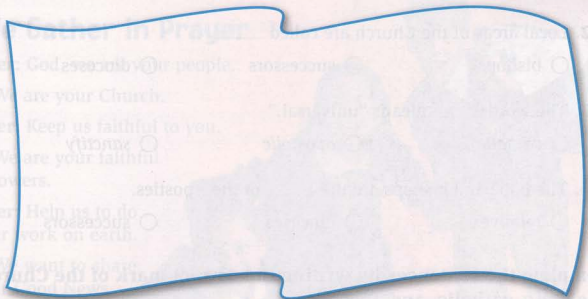


DISCIPLE



Picture This

The Church is universal. This means it is open to all people. Design a pennant that shows that the Church welcomes people from all over the world.



Now, pass it on!

Make it Happen

At 76 years of age, Pope John XXIII gathered the bishops from all over the world for the Second Vatican Council (1962). Together they worked to strengthen the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.



DISCIPLE CHALLENGE Decide on a way to live out one mark of the Church.

Take Home

The Church has four marks or special characteristics. What makes your family special? Write your family characteristics.

The _____ Family

Grade 3 Chapter 8

CHAPTER TEST

Fill in the circle beside each correct answer.

1. Jesus chose _____ to be the leader of the Apostles.

☐ Matthias

☐ Peter

☐ Judas

2. Local areas of the Church are called _____.

☐ bishops

☐ successors

☐ dioceses

3. The word _____ means "universal."

☐ catholic

☐ apostolic

☐ sanctify

4. The pope and bishops are the _____ of the Apostles.

☐ relatives

☐ dioceses

☐ successors

Complete the sentences by writing the correct mark of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

5. The Church is _____. All members of the Church are united by Baptism.

6. The Church is _____. It is open to all people.

7. The Church is _____. Through Baptism we receive a share in God's life.

8. The Church is _____. All members of the Church share in the mission Jesus gave the Apostles.

Answer the following.

9-10. Write two ways the pope and bishops carry on the work of the Apostles.
