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# Councils, Cultures, and Conflicts

## Chapter

# 5

### Background for the Teacher

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

### Working Toward Unity

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

Representatives of all twenty-two Churches continue to meet periodically in synods and councils to discuss issues and work toward unity. Each universal Church member has an obligation not only to pray for Christian unity but to work actively toward that unity.

### Faith Focus

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

### Time for Reflection

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


### A Teacher's Prayer



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



## 5 Get Connected with Family and Friends

# Home Connection

Pre-chapter activities for families

Getting ready for Chapter 5

## Get CONNECTED

with family and friends

### Councils, Cultures, and Conflicts

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

#### Activity

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



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

Do one of the following:

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

## Trivia

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

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

### Quotable scripture

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

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Getting ready for Chapter 5

## Get CONNECTED

with family and friends

### Scripture Background

#### Before the Time of Jesus

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

## WEEKLY PLANNER

### On Sunday

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

### On the Web

blastarewe.com  
Check your web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

### Saint of the Week

**Saint Sophronius**  
330–430

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

**Feast Day:** March 11

### A Prayer Week

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

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## Sunday Connection

Visit Our Web Site Teachers and parents can visit [blastarewe.com](http://blastarewe.com) for:

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



## More About the Saint of the Week

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



### Praying

## A Prayer for the Week

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

## 5 Councils, Cultures, and Conflicts



I bless the LORD who counsels me. . . .

I keep the LORD always before me.

Psalms 16:7, 8

### Share

In the fourth century the Church began to have more freedom, thanks to emperors Constantine and Theodosius. No longer did Church members have to fear being persecuted for what they believed.

Church leaders could now openly debate theological disagreements that arose in the Church.

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



### Activity Accept all appropriate answers.

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

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

When I have a disagreement about something not too important,  
I usually handle it by \_\_\_\_\_.

When I have a disagreement about something I strongly believe in,  
I usually handle it by \_\_\_\_\_.

What  
disagreements  
did you  
create  
problems for  
the early  
Church?

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### Additional Activity

#### Developing the Art of Listening

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

## Day 1 Share Objective

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

### 1 Introduction



#### Praying with Scripture

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

### 2 Development

#### Sharing Experiences

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

#### Doing the Activity

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

### 3 Conclusion

Conclude the lesson with a prayer for Church harmony.



**Looking Ahead** Have the students reflect on the question in the arrow, and explain that they will learn the answer in the next day's lesson.

## Day 2

## Hear &amp; Believe

## Objective

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

## 1 Introduction

## Sharing Experiences

**Ask** “When have your beliefs ever differed from those of your friends? In what situations?”  
(Answers will vary.)

## 2 Development

## Discussing the Witness Text

## The Illustration

• Draw attention to the illustration on page 90.

• **Ask** “What do the expressions on the men’s faces tell you?” (Answers will vary.)

## The Text

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

## Hear &amp; Believe

## Witness The Council of Nicaea

18 August, the Year of Our Lord 325

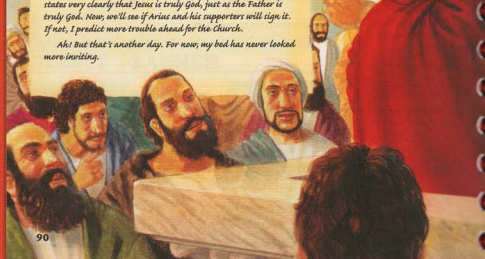
*such a stonking in my head! Another full day of argument and debate! But every day has been the same since this council opened in May. I hope this will be over soon, so I can go home to Libya. And yet, I know our work here is necessary to preserve the integrity of Christ’s Church.*

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

*And what controversies! The biggest one is because of a heresy being spread by that priest from Alexandria—Arius. What trouble he’s caused. We thought we were rid of him five years ago when we excommunicated him. But did that stop Arius? Not off he went to Syria and Palestine to spread his heretical ideas. And many bishops, even Ptolemais and Theonas from my own homeland, support him. And what does Arius preach? That our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ, is human, but not divine! And just look at the confusion that is causing. If people start thinking that Jesus is not God, the next thing they’ll think is that salvation is not from God. Thanks be to God for that young deacon, Athanasius! He’s doing a great job debating Arius’ ideas.*

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

*Ah! But that’s another day. For now, my head has never looked more inviting.*



## Historical Background

## The Nicene Creed

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



### A Religious Debate

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

### Other Heresies

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

### Council of Chalcedon

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

### Fathers of the Church

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

#### Activity

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

Accept all appropriate answers.

Who: \_\_\_\_\_

What: \_\_\_\_\_

Why: \_\_\_\_\_

### Faith Words

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

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

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

Where can we find the beliefs of the Church?

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## Understanding the History

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

## Doing the Activity

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

### Faith Words

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

## 3 Conclusion

Conclude the lesson by addressing any misunderstandings about Catholic beliefs presented in this lesson. Then have the class silently pray for one another, asking God to increase their faith.



### Liturgy Connection

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

## Day 3

## Hear &amp; Believe

## Objective

To identify basic teachings of the Catholic faith about God

## 1 Introduction

## Sharing Experiences

**Ask** "How do we defend the teachings of the Church?" (Answers will vary.)

## 2 Development

## + Discussing the Scripture

## The Illustration

- Invite the students to study the man illustrated on the left side of the page. (Paul)

## The Scripture

- Have a volunteer read aloud the introductory paragraph to "Stand Firm." Then invite another volunteer to read the Scripture passage.
- **Ask** "What false teaching does Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians deal with?" (that the "day of the Lord," or the Second Coming of Christ, was about to happen)
- "What advice does Paul give?" (Do not be deceived. Stand firm and hold fast to your faith.)

## A Closer Look

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

## Understanding the Doctrine

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

## Hear &amp; Believe

## + Scripture Stand Firm

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

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

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

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

## A Closer Look

## Saint Augustine of Hippo



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

## Our Church Teaches

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

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

## We Believe

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

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

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## Multiple Intelligences

## Musical/Verbal-Linguistic

Explain that sacred music is a wonderful way to express and celebrate our Catholic faith. Have the students listen to one of the songs listed on page 87D and share their reactions to it. What Catholic belief(s) does it express? How does it help the students feel joyful about their Catholic faith? Invite the students to write lyrics and a title for their own song expressing their Catholic faith.



## Activities

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

## We believe in the Holy Trinity.

There is one God in Three Divine Persons.

## We believe that the Eucharist is Christ's Body and Blood.

At Mass the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

## We believe that God is Creator of all.

God created everything good and out of nothing.

## We believe that Jesus Christ is God; he became one of us and died for us.

Jesus is one, divine Person who is truly God and truly man.

## We believe in everlasting life.

After we die, we live forever in a new way.

## We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

Jesus really died but three days later he rose to new life.

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

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

## JESUS

## Truly Human

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

## Truly God

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

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

How does a Christian stand firm in faith?

93

## Additional Activity

## Holding Mock Trials About Beliefs

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

## We Believe

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

## Doing the Activities

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

## 3 Conclusion

Read aloud the last sentence in the Scripture text on page 92. Conclude with a class prayer asking God will strengthen them as they try to follow the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles, especially during difficult circumstances.



## Curriculum Connection

## Social Studies

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



## Day 4

## Respond

## Objective

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

## 1 Introduction

## Sharing Experiences

**Ask** "In what ways do people you know show that they are strong in professing the Catholic faith?" (Answers will vary.)

## 2 Development

## Discussing the Story

## The Art

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

## The Story

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

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

## Respond

## Saint Leo the Great

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

94



## Curriculum Connection

## Language Arts

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

## Activities

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

## The Rome Times

Accept all appropriate answers.

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

Accept all appropriate answers.

How do we  
continue  
today to  
profess our  
faith?

95

## Doing the Activities

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

## 3 Conclusion

- Ask** "Why was the Nicene Creed developed?" (to clarify faith in response to a heresy about the true identity of Jesus)
- Invite the students to return to page 92 to read the We Believe statement. With the class, pray a concluding prayer that uses this statement as a response.

## Additional Activity

## Role-playing Council Discussions

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



## Try This

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



## Day 5

## Prayer

## Objective

To pray the Nicene-Constantinople Creed



## Prayer Celebration

## Preparing for Prayer

- Orient the students to the prayer celebration "The Nicene-Constantinople Creed" on page 96.
- Read aloud the lines inviting the students to stand and profess their faith. Remind them to bow their heads as indicated in the text as they pray the lines about Jesus' birth.

## The Nicene-Constantinople Creed

- Focus the students' attention on the enthroned Bible and the candle. Invite them to recall that they are in the presence of God as his faithful people, preparing to raise their minds and hearts in prayer.
- Light the candle near the Bible and invite a volunteer to read aloud the introductory paragraph.
- Proclaim the Creed together.
- Close the celebration by singing the song suggested on page 87D or another song you have chosen for today's celebration.



## Prayer Celebration

## The Nicene-Constantinople Creed

Catholics profess their faith at Mass on Sunday. The Creed prayed at Mass is a profession of faith that was developed at the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 and finalized at the Council of Constantinople in A.D. 381.

**Leader:** Let us stand and profess our faith in God, who is Father,

Son, and Holy Spirit, who loves us, created us in his image, made an everlasting Covenant with us, and promises us Salvation.

**All:** I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

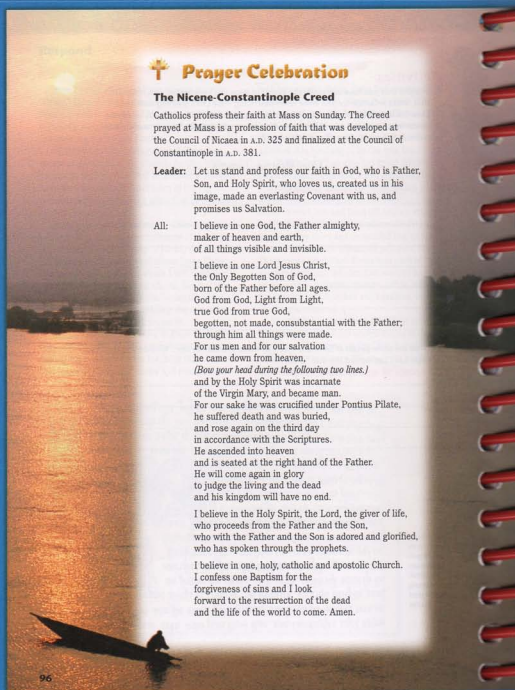
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (Bow your head during the following two lines.) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



96



## Looking Ahead to Chapter 6

## Get Connected

Tear out the Get Connected pages for the next chapter. Remind the students to work on these at home with their parents, other family members, and friends.



## 5

## Chapter Review

- A** Write a brief summary of what you learned in this chapter, using the words in the box.  
Exercise A fulfills Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

Answers will vary.

Eastern Church  
Constantine  
Arius  
heresy  
Nicaea  
Western Church  
Chalcedon  
Creed

- B** Match Column A with Column B by writing the correct number in the space provided.  
Exercise B fulfills Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>A</b>                 | <b>B</b>  |
| 1. heresy                | 3. a world gathering of the Pope and all the bishops  |
| 2. Fathers of the Church | 1. a teaching that is contrary to Church doctrine   |
| 3. Ecumenical Council    | 2. the bishops and other writers in the first eight centuries of the Church whose teachings helped develop Christian doctrine |

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

Exercise C fulfills Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

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

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Chapter Review 97

## Day 5

## Chapter Review

## Reviewing the Chapter/Test Preparation

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

## Completing the Exercises

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

## Answer Locator

<b>A</b>			
pp. 89–94			
<b>B</b>			
1	p. 91	3	p. 91
2	p. 91		
<b>C</b>			
1	p. 91	4	p. 92
2	p. 92	5	p. 94
3	p. 91		



## Day 5

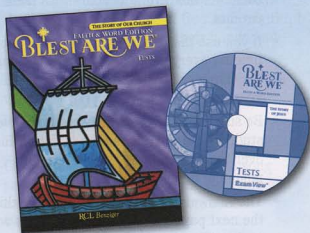
## Chapter Review

## Memory Tip

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

## Optional Testing

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



## Self-Evaluation

This session was

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

What worked out best was \_\_\_\_\_

For next time I would change \_\_\_\_\_

I will be sure to prepare for \_\_\_\_\_

## 5

## Chapter Review

## D Complete the following lines from the Nicene Creed.

Exercise D fulfills Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

1. We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

2. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.

3. By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

4. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

5. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

## E Respond to the following.

Exercise E fulfills Objectives 2, 3, and 4.

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

Answers will vary.

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

Answers will vary.

## Answer Locator

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

## Faith in Action

## Parish Maintenance Staff

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