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**Saint**

Saint Augustine is the patron saint of students — people who study about God. Augustine wrote a book about his personal relationship with God. This book is called *The Confessions*.

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Prayers and Practices of Our Faith

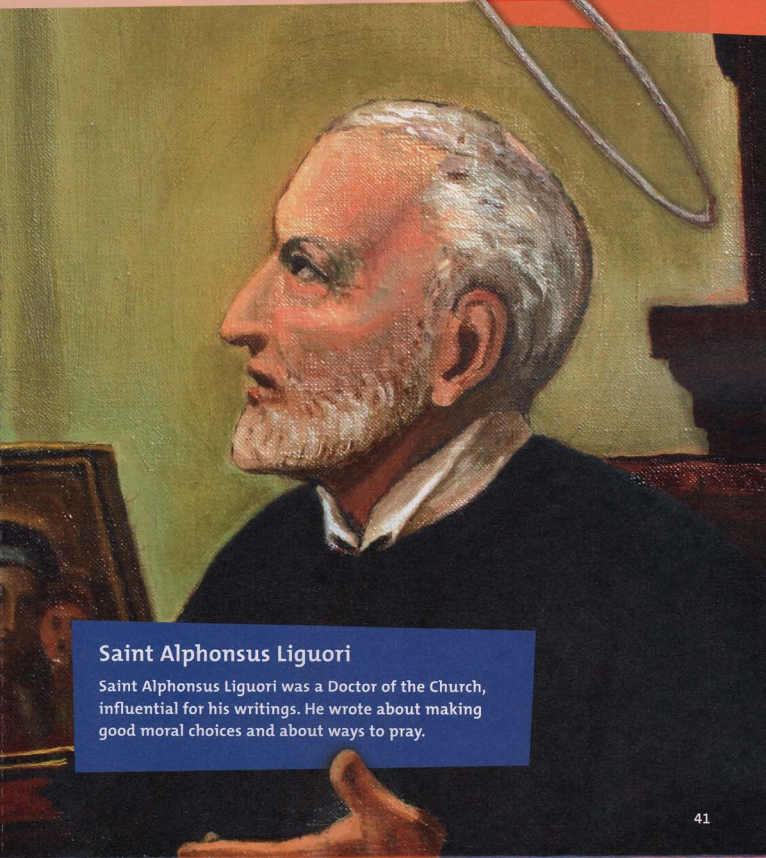
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Son of God, Son of Mary

Unit 2



Saint Alphonsus Liguori

Saint Alphonsus Liguori was a Doctor of the Church, influential for his writings. He wrote about making good moral choices and about ways to pray.

Lawyer and Preacher

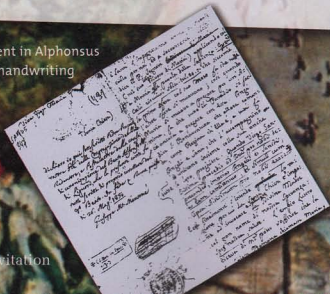
Alphonsus Liguori was born into a noble Italian family in 1696. A brilliant student, he received a degree in law at the age of only 16. He became a famous lawyer. Then he lost a case because of a major oversight. Alphonsus came to see this loss as God's call for him to be humble and to seek a path besides law. Alphonsus prayed to know God's will, and finally at Scala, Italy, he had a vision of his vocation and decided to become a priest.

Despite many difficulties, he founded an order of priests and brothers called the Redemptorists. He became a bishop known for preaching and bringing people back to God. At the end of his life, Alphonsus had many physical sufferings and went through a period of spiritual discouragement, but he did not turn from God. He died in 1787 and was canonized in 1839. His feast day is August 1.

Alphonsus taught people to pray by imagining themselves with Jesus in the Gospels and just talking with him. He taught them to open their hearts to Jesus. He also encouraged people to pray often before the Blessed Sacrament.

Alphonsus's personal outpouring of love for Jesus was expressed in hymns. One of these is still a popular Italian Christmas song: "You came down from the stars, O King of Heaven, to a bitterly cold cave."

A document in Alphonsus Liguori's handwriting



Saint Alphonsus with
Saint Gerard Majella,
J. W. Printon C.S.S.R.

New Life in Jesus

Session 6



le Beau Dieu
(The Beautiful Lord),
a sculpture,
Chartres Cathedral,
Chartres, France

These images of Jesus are from churches. What do they tell you about Jesus?

What other images of Jesus have you seen? What do they tell you about Jesus?



Jesus as the Good Shepherd,
painting on canvas,
Church of the Messiah,
Copenhagen, Denmark



The Risen Jesus,
stained glass,
Trinity Lutheran Church,
Cloquet, Minn.



PRAYER

Dear Jesus, you lived your life the way God our Father wanted. Help me to do the same thing with my life.

Jesus' Mission on Earth

The Son of God became man to fulfill a mission. With the sin of Adam, there was a break in the relationship between God and humanity. The Son of God came to heal that relationship. The **mystery** of God becoming man while remaining divine is called the **Incarnation**. (A mystery is something we believe although we do not completely understand it.)

Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus reconciles humanity to God. This is the reason Jesus lived on earth. In fact, the name *Jesus* means "God saves."

Jesus is both divine and human, true God and true man. As divine, Jesus is our Lord and Savior and speaks for God. As human, Jesus speaks for us. He knows our needs as well as our ability to love.

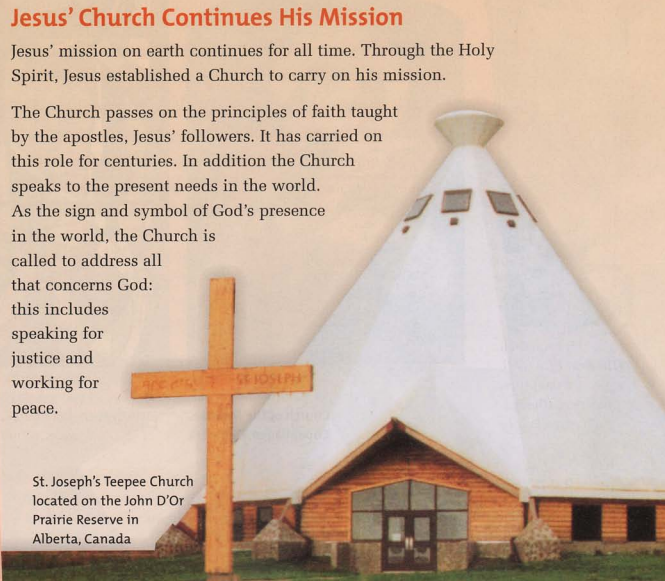
Jesus' Church Continues His Mission

Jesus' mission on earth continues for all time. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus established a Church to carry on his mission.

The Church passes on the principles of faith taught by the apostles, Jesus' followers. It has carried on this role for centuries. In addition the Church speaks to the present needs in the world.

As the sign and symbol of God's presence in the world, the Church is called to address all that concerns God:

this includes speaking for justice and working for peace.



St. Joseph's Teepee Church
located on the John D'Or
Prairie Reserve in
Alberta, Canada

Jesus'—and Our—Role in the Church

The New Testament uses a special image to show the Church's nature.

So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are . . . members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; in him you . . . are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

This passage compares the Church to a temple of living stones. In this temple Jesus is like a keystone. Without that stone the building could not stand. This shows the unity between Jesus and the Church. Other images are also used to show this unity. These images are the Church as Body of Christ and the Church as Bride of Christ. The Church lives from, in, and for Jesus; Jesus lives with the Church and in the Church.

As the people of God, we are like stones in the temple that is the Church. We are the living sign of God's presence in the world. As believers, we have an important role in the Church.



A keystone with a carved face supports this arch.



Reading God's Word

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD:

See, I am laying a stone in Zion,
a stone that has been tested,

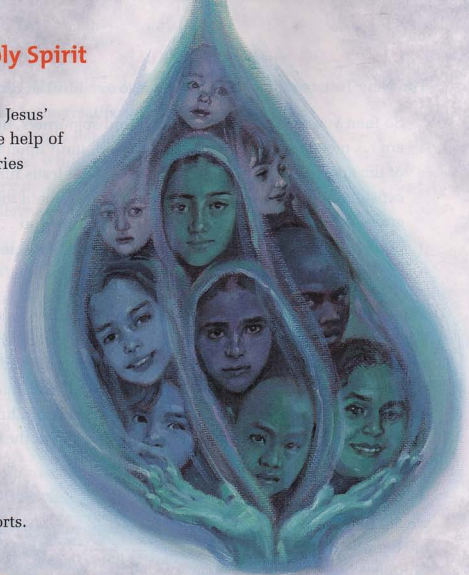
A precious cornerstone as a sure foundation;
he who puts his faith in it shall not be shaken.

Isaiah 28:16

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Mission

The Holy Spirit continues Jesus' mission on earth. With the help of the Spirit, the Church carries on the teaching of Jesus.

The Spirit also works through individuals. In Baptism and Confirmation the Spirit gives us the help we need to fulfill our mission to be living signs of Jesus on earth. This help is called **sanctifying grace**. This special grace is a free gift from God that we cannot earn through our own efforts.



Meet a Holy Person

Angelo Roncalli was elected pope in 1958. His papacy was a turning point in modern Church history. As Pope John XXIII, Roncalli wrote important encyclicals—pastoral letters that are written by the pope—that emphasized the need to work for economic justice and peace. His greatest achievement was calling the Second Vatican Council, whose purpose was to renew the Church. John XXIII died in 1963 and was beatified in 2000.

The Apostles' Creed

From its very beginning—from the time of the apostles—the Church has taught people about God's plan. The basic teachings of the Church are found in the Apostles' Creed. The Apostles' Creed summarizes our beliefs as Christians.



Christ Preaching, Rembrandt, c. 1650

What Does the Apostles' Creed Say?

Review the Apostles' Creed, which is found in the back of the book.

Write **T** for true or **F** for false for each statement below about the Creed.

- _____ 1. It recognizes that there are three persons in one God.
- _____ 2. It describes the Father as Creator.
- _____ 3. It talks about Adam and Eve.
- _____ 4. It refers to the mystery of the Incarnation.
- _____ 5. It mentions that the Bible is the Word of God.
- _____ 6. Jesus' work of salvation is summarized.
- _____ 7. The Last Supper is described.
- _____ 8. It says Jesus returned to the Father after his life on earth.
- _____ 9. The role of the pope is explained.
- _____ 10. It mentions that after death there is resurrection.



Link to Liturgy

The word *creed* comes from the Latin word *credo*, which means "I believe." The creed we pray at Mass is called the Nicene Creed. It gets its name from Nicaea, an ancient city in what is now Turkey, where the first Church council was held in the year 325.

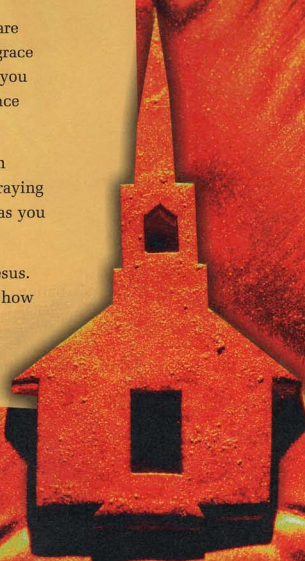


PRAYER

Jesus has called you to be a member of his Church. You are given the gift of sanctifying grace from the Holy Spirit to help you live as a sign of Jesus' presence on earth.

Show your belief and faith in Jesus and his teachings by praying the Apostles' Creed silently as you listen to it prayed aloud.

Spend a few minutes with Jesus. Tell him in your own words how much you believe and trust in him.



Living My Faith

Faith Summary

The mystery of God becoming man in Jesus is called the Incarnation. Jesus' mission on earth continues through his Church. As members of the Church, we are signs of Jesus' presence on earth. God, through the Holy Spirit, gives us sanctifying grace, which helps us live like Jesus.

Words I Learned

Incarnation mystery sanctifying grace

Ways of Being Like Jesus

Jesus followed the practices of Judaism during his life, actively participating in Holy Days and following traditions. You can be like Jesus by being an active participant in your parish.

With My Family

Take a ride to two or three churches near you. Pick up church bulletins, and compare how these churches are trying to live out Jesus' mission.



PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for loving and caring for us so much that you became one of us to save us. Thank you for making me a living sign of God's presence in the world.

My Response

Think of ways that you can be closer to Jesus. These ways might be inward, such as prayer; or outward, such as helping at home. Write an action that you will do in the next week.



RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Focus on Faith

What Is God Like?

Children can ask what may seem like impossible questions. One of these is “What is God like?” All sorts of abstract answers come to mind. Words such as *all-powerful* and *almighty* swirl in our heads. The Christian answer is to look to Jesus Christ. He is the one who came to tell us and show us what God is like. God is our loving Father. Jesus shows us how to love. Our children are receiving their fundamental understanding of what God is like from the way we relate to them. From us they are learning how a loving parent acts. From us they are learning the dignity of being a brother or sister in Jesus.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Encourage your child to ask questions about God and about your family’s religious practices. Together look for answers to puzzling questions.

Our Catholic Heritage

The Second Vatican Council was a major event in the recent history of the Catholic Church. This meeting of bishops from around the world was called by Pope John XXIII in 1959. The council opened on October 11, 1962. It instituted numerous changes in liturgical practices, the most striking of which was the use of native languages—instead of Latin—in celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments. Greater understanding and communication among Christian churches was another major outcome of the Council.



Focus on Prayer

Renew your belief in Jesus’ saving mission by saying the Apostles’ Creed together with your child. You can find the exact words to the Apostles’ Creed at www.FindingGod.org.



Spirituality in Action

Visit the cathedral in your diocese or a shrine or any other special place of worship. Help your child see that he or

she is united in Christ with many people in many other places who share the same faith and liturgy.

Review

Session 10



The Son of God, while remaining divine, became man. He healed our relationship with God by his suffering, Death, and Resurrection. The Church continues his mission. Jesus continues to be present in the sacraments, which call us to a new life.



PRAYER

Jesus, help me share your love and goodness so that I will show your presence through my example.

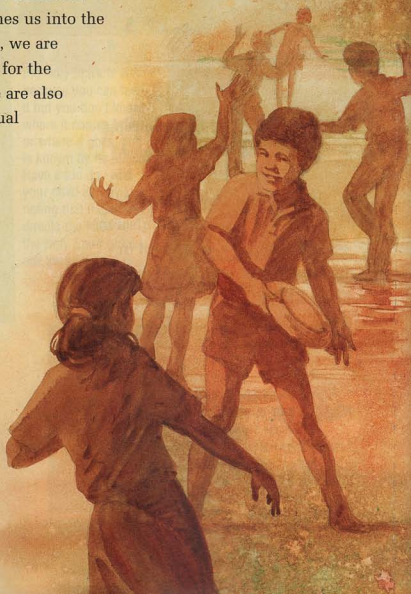
Faith Summary

God so loved the world that he sent his Son Jesus to save the human family. The mystery of the Son of God becoming man in Jesus is called the Incarnation. Jesus' mission on earth continues through the Church, of which he is the head. As members of the Church, we are living signs of Jesus on earth. God, through the Holy Spirit, gives us a special gift called sanctifying grace, which helps us live like Jesus.

Jesus' touch healed people and brought them life and peace. Jesus touches our lives today through the celebration of the sacraments. A sacrament is a sign by which Jesus shares God's life and blessings—grace—with us. The sacraments celebrate Jesus' presence among us. Two Sacraments of Initiation that relate to our "birth" in the community of Christians are Baptism and Confirmation.

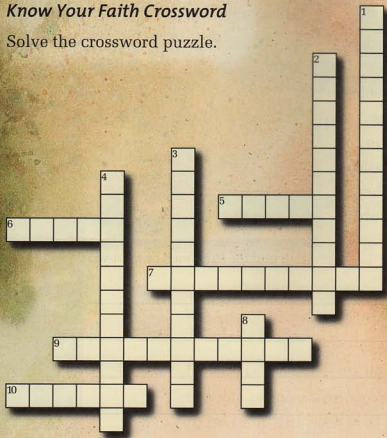
Baptism is a call to a new life in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. It unites us with the death and resurrection of Jesus, and it welcomes us into the Church. As members of the Church, we are asked to share our time and talents for the good of the Church community. We are also asked to work for peace and the equal sharing of the earth's goods by all.

In Confirmation we receive the Holy Spirit, our bond with Christ is made stronger, and we are better able to give witness to the faith. Confirmation completes Baptism. Through the Spirit, we receive the grace to live our call as Christians: to live holy lives dedicated to God and to participate in the Church's mission of proclaiming the good news about Jesus.



Know Your Faith Crossword

Solve the crossword puzzle.



Across

5. The Apostles' ____ summarizes our beliefs as Christians.
6. The main sign of Baptism is ____.
7. The Sacraments of ____ are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
9. In Baptism we first receive ____ grace.
10. The oil used in both Baptism and Confirmation is called ____.

Down

1. Baptism unites us with the Death and ____ of Jesus.
2. The act of sharing our time, money, and talents to contribute to God's kingdom on earth is called ____.
3. The mystery of the Son of God becoming man is called the ____.
4. In Baptism a person receives ____ of original sin.
8. Fortitude is a ____ of the Holy Spirit received in Confirmation.

Jesus' Work on Earth

You have learned about Jesus' work as a healer and as a teacher. You have also learned that Jesus performed miracles. Find the following passages in the New Testament. Write them on the lines. Then write whether the passage shows Jesus as a healer, as a teacher, or as a worker of a miracle in nature.



Jesus and the Fishermen by an 11-year-old in Honduras

Luke 8:23-24

Shows Jesus as: _____

Mark 8:23-24

Shows Jesus as: _____

Matthew 5:43-44

Shows Jesus as: _____



PRAYER SERVICE

Leader: *Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross.
God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have given us
new life in Baptism. We promise to live our faith.*

Reader: *A reading from the Letter to the Romans.*

[Romans 6:3–5]

The Word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

Leader: *Let us now promise to live the life in Jesus that we were
called to when we were baptized. Do you believe in the
teachings of Jesus given to us by the apostles?*

All: *We do.*

Leader: *Do you promise to give witness to Jesus by living the faith?*

All: *We do.*

Leader: *Do you promise to give your time and talents in the
service of the Church and to help bring peace and
justice to earth?*

All: *We do.*

Leader: *Let us take a moment with God to think about what
we just promised.*

*Let us conclude by praising the Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit by saying the Glory Be to the Father.*

Living My Faith

Ways of Being Like Jesus

The Son of God became man and wants us to be with him and share in his new life. We are like Jesus when we share our time, talents, and possessions with others.

With My Family

Tell your family about the ways to be like Jesus that you have learned. Share with your family the ways you have tried or might try. Ask your family about the ways they try to be like Jesus.



PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for calling me to a new life, and for continuing your presence in my life through the sacraments.

My Response

You have learned and thought about many ways to be like Jesus. Which way seems important for you? How will you try to put that way into practice in your life? Write your ideas.
