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Especially for Families

The five units in this book each begin with a Family Feature. These special pages aim to nurture the spirituality of the entire family, especially the adults in the student's life.

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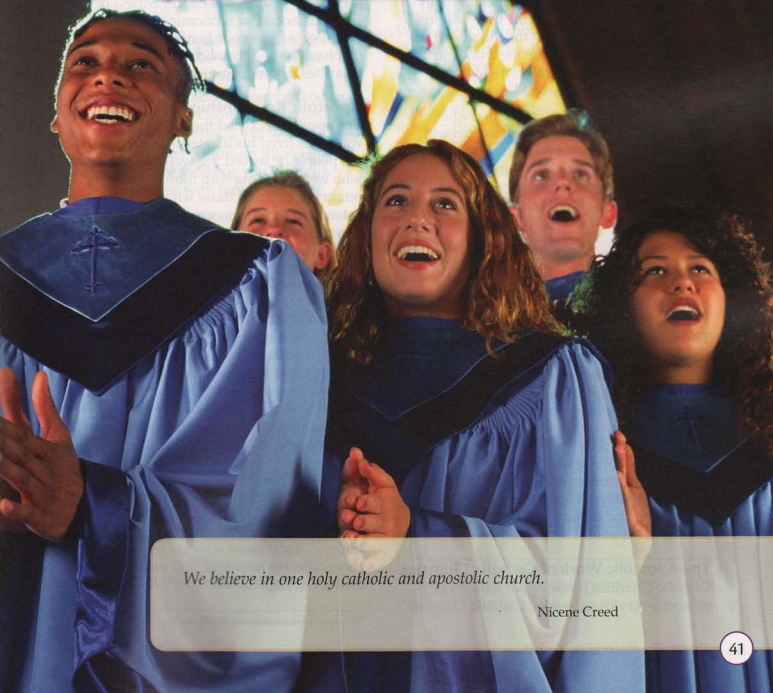
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UNIT

2

The Marks of the Church



We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

Nicene Creed

Family Feature

One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church

Our beliefs and way of living are rooted in the beliefs and actions of the first apostles. This connects our lives today to the time of Jesus. Being apostolic means that the mission of the Church today is to continue the work entrusted to the apostles—to bring Christ's love and healing presence to the world.

Serving the world's needs can be overwhelming. The good news is that when we join with Catholics around the world, we are part of an organization capable of great things. With your family, try to become more aware of the Church's apostolic work and how you can contribute.

"Our times call for a new readiness to assist our neighbors in need."

(*Deus Caritas Est*), Pope Benedict XVI

The Apostolic Work of Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services feeds families, shelters refugees, rebuilds shattered lives, protects health, develops sustainable communities, and restores hope in 99 countries around the world. Take time with your family to learn more about the work of CRS and how you can be part of it. The inspiring stories on their Web site showcase modern-day disciples reaching out with compassion and dignity to those who are the poorest of the poor.

The Apostolic Work of Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities is one of our nation's largest social-service networks. Catholic Charities'



agencies and institutions provide vital social services to people in need, regardless of their religious, social, or economic backgrounds. Investigate ways your family can become involved in the apostolic work of Catholic Charities in your community.

Apostolic Relationships

The apostles modeled their ministry on the way Jesus lived his life. Jesus spent time with the people he served. He walked with those who were poor, ate with those who were hungry, comforted those who were sick, and listened to those who were lonely. Look for ways to build relationships with people you serve. Take time to learn their names and listen to their stories. Be open to ways you can receive as well as give.

Apostolic Action

Make a decision with your family to contribute to an outreach ministry of the Church that serves people in need and promotes justice and peace (for example, Catholic Charities or Pax Christi USA). Contribute money to support the organization's efforts. Pray for the organization and for those being served.

Apostolic Homework

Look to the Corporal Works of Mercy for ways your family can carry on the work of the apostles close to home: feed those who are hungry, clothe those who are naked, shelter those who are homeless, and visit those who are sick or imprisoned.

Visit www.christourlife.org/family for more family resources.



One in the Spirit

Think of times when you had experiences such as these:

- You meet someone your age and discover that like you, he or she is very interested in music. You instantly become friends.
- You are in another state or country and find someone from your hometown. Excitedly you plan to do something together.
- You walk into an auditorium filled with people. You spot someone you recognize and go over to sit with him or her.

Having things in common creates unity, a sense of oneness among people. Unity is one of the four visible signs, or **Marks of the Church**, that make the Church what it is. Just as you can tell a brand of clothing by its characteristics, you can identify the Church by its marks. Besides being **one**, the Church is **holy**, **catholic**, and **apostolic**. In this chapter and the next three, you will learn about each of these marks.

All for One and One for All

Ana's mother watched her daughter walk across the living room and sink into a chair. Ana looked tired and unhappy.

"How was the car wash?" Ana's mother asked.

"It went well. But that's not the problem. Theresa and I were the only ones who showed up to work!"

"Where were all the others?" asked her mother gently.

"Denise said she had to stay home. Juanita couldn't get a ride. Clare had piano lessons. What upset me is that last Thursday when we talked about it, all of them acted as if they would be there."

Ana's mother walked over and put her arm around Ana's shoulder. "You and Theresa must be tired. You've been working since eight o'clock this morning."

"It's not that, Mom. What bothers me is that all of us are on the basketball team. We all want new uniforms, not the boring gym suits we have now. We all said we would come and work on the car wash to earn money for the team. Where's the spirit of the team? Where's their loyalty?"

How do you know that Ana's basketball team lacks unity?

How could the members of the team have built up unity?

Unity—The Catholic Church Is One

When we say that the Catholic Church is one, we are describing the unity of the Church. A group might work together and eat together but still not have unity. Unity is possible only when people have the same convictions, values, visions, and goals. Time, distance, suffering, and even death cannot break this unity. It is real and solid.

Unity comes from God who, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is one. Human beings, made in the divine image of God, are called to establish unity among themselves and to live in solidarity with one another. The unity of the Church serves as a sign of the unity intended by God for all people.



Unity has been a strong and visible sign of the Catholic Church since its beginning. "The community of believers was of one heart and mind." (Acts of the Apostles 4:32) They were one because Jesus sent the Spirit to unite them in his love. Our unity flows from and reflects the unity of the Trinity. The gift of unity that comes from the Spirit helps us live the way Jesus showed us.

The Catholic Church is one in faith, worship, governance, and charity. The Spirit leads us to ever greater unity in each of these ways.

One in Faith

We are one in what we believe. We believe that Jesus is Lord and that all he taught is true. A *creed* is a statement of the truths we believe. At Sunday Mass, we pray the Nicene Creed to profess our faith in God and in the Church. There are also times when we say the Apostles' Creed.

An Invitation to Faith

One way to build unity is to include others in your plans. What you would say in an e-mail to invite someone to attend Mass with you?

To: _____

Subject: _____

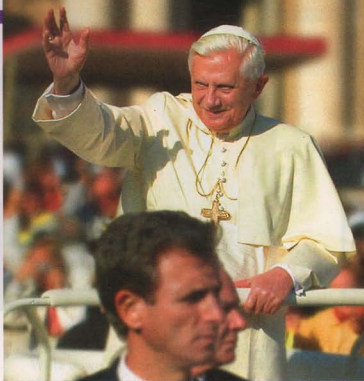
One in Worship

All members of the Church are united in our celebration of the sacraments. We are especially united in the celebration of the Eucharist. When we gather for Mass, we are united with Jesus and with one another. We offer praise to our heavenly Father. With, through, and in Jesus, our head, we thank the Father and ask for what we need. As we share his Body, the one bread, and his precious Blood from the one cup, we symbolize and strengthen our oneness. Nourished by the Word and the Body and Blood of Christ, we are empowered to work for unity.

What parts of the Mass are signs of our unity?

A Moment with Jesus

Celebrating the Eucharist is one of the most powerful ways we are unified as Catholics. Take a moment to thank Jesus for the gift of the Eucharist. Ask him to deepen your desire to be one with him and with others.



One in Governance

We are joined together under the leadership of the pope and bishops, who are successors of the apostles. They teach us the truths of our faith through Church councils, papal encyclicals (letters from the pope to the whole Church), pastoral letters, and talks. We follow the teaching of the pope and the bishops who, inspired by the Spirit, govern the Church. The bishop of your diocese is a visible sign of the unity of the Catholic Church. We are one with the whole Church through our diocese and parish. As of 2006, two hundred and sixty-five popes have led the Church through the ages.

Who is the present pope?

Who are your bishop and his auxiliary bishop(s), if he has any?

Who is the pastor of your parish?

one another, we create a community actively concerned about its members. By sharing in the Eucharist together, we are strengthened in Christ's love to serve with greater generosity.

The Letter to the Ephesians teaches that charity is the greatest gift in building unity. Read Ephesians 4:1–3 and then answer these questions.

How should we show love for one another?

What binds the unity that the Spirit brings?

How can your love help others in each of these examples?

- Acting friendly and cheerful at school
- Voluntarily doing more than your share of the work at home
- Asking a friend who often skips Mass to attend with you
- Asking forgiveness after an argument
- Expressing an interest in the things that concern your parents or guardians

One in Charity

By practicing the virtues of faith, hope, and love, we come to live in a relationship with the Trinity. We are one with Christ and with one another in love. By putting our faith in God, we deepen our friendship with God and grow in love. By observing Christ's command to love



Gifts for Everyone

Unity in the Church is not only the responsibility of the bishops and priests. It is the responsibility of all the members of the Church. We are to work together, using our individual gifts so all may be one. Within the unity of the Church, there is a diversity of gifts. Paul lists the charismatic gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:4–11. A charismatic gift is a special, spiritual gift used for the good of the entire Church.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–20 and then answer these questions.

Who unites us all in the one body?

How does Paul apply the many parts of the body to the Body of Christ?

Why do you think there are so many different parts?

Mending the Breaks

Chances are, not everyone in your neighborhood is Catholic. Christians are divided into hundreds of faith traditions.

The Spirit guides you and all members of the Church to work for unity with other Christian churches. This effort to unite all Christians is called **ecumenism**. *Ecumenical* refers to the whole world. Christ knew the importance of unity in his Church. At the Last Supper, he prayed “that they may all be one.” (John 17:21) Christians would attract more people to Jesus if they were united. Because of misunderstandings in the history of the Church, however, the Body of Christ has divisions.

The Holy Spirit is calling you to use your gifts and be ecumenical too. You are needed! What can you do? You can pray every day that everyone may be united in Christ.

A good motto for ecumenical work is “Be respectful, but be faithful.” Give all Christians the respect and dignity they deserve. We can often learn from other Christians. At the same time, you show how much you love the Catholic Church by faithfully following its teachings. Be proud of your Catholic faith.

If a friend of yours criticized the way other people worship, how would you respond?

Remember

What are the Marks of the Church?

The Marks of the Church are one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

What are the visible signs of unity in the Catholic Church?

The Catholic Church is one in faith, in worship, in governance, and in charity.

What was Jesus' prayer for the Church at the Last Supper?

Jesus prayed, "[T]hat they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me." (John 17:21)

Words to Know

apostolic

catholic

ecumenism

holy

Marks of the Church

one

Respond

Read Mark 10:35–45. Even the apostles did not get along perfectly. Jesus had to teach them to think more about others than themselves. How do you and your friends spend time serving others instead of thinking of yourselves? When have you helped others work together recently? Answer these questions in your reflection notebook.

Reach Out

1. Cliques and peer pressure can interfere with unity. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10–11. What does Saint Paul say about this? Discuss with some classmates the problems of cliques. How can your class avoid such problems?
2. The family is a miniature Church, so unity is important. Suggest something your family can do together this weekend, or try to cooperate in some other family project.
3. Read Precepts of the Church on page 240. Select one duty and make a poster based on it. Write down an example of how you have seen these duties lived out.
4. Search the Internet or a library for information about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and prepare to celebrate it.
5. Think about a conflict you are experiencing with someone in your life. Strive to approach it with an attitude in which you and the other person both win and peace is maintained. Remember that the other person is sacred, a son or daughter of God who deserves respect.
6. Talk with your parents or guardians about relatives who are not Catholic. Learn what you can about their religious beliefs and practices. Learn more about your Catholic beliefs and practices so that you can join with them in respectful discussion.



CHAPTER 6 Review Activities

Witness to Oneness The following statements express our unity. Mark the type of unity each one expresses most clearly. Use this code:

F = unity in faith W = unity in worship G = unity in governance C = unity in charity

- _____ 1. At Sunday Mass, we all stand and recite the Nicene Creed.
- _____ 2. When the Nguyens' house burned down, people in the parish gave them food, clothing, and a place to stay.
- _____ 3. If you travel to a foreign country, a Catholic Mass will be basically the same there as it is in your parish.
- _____ 4. Sometimes a letter from the bishop is read at all Masses in a diocese.
- _____ 5. When Mr. Willis had a heart attack, parishioners sent him cards and flowers, visited him, and had a Mass offered for him.
- _____ 6. The Martínez children participate in religious education to learn Catholic beliefs.
- _____ 7. The U.S. bishops decided for the people of the United States which days were Holy Days of Obligation.
- _____ 8. The parish supports the organization Birthright International because the people believe that abortion is seriously wrong.
- _____ 9. Many parishioners participate in the Easter Vigil and celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with the catechumens.
- _____ 10. A Bible study group meets weekly to read and discuss the Bible.

The Power of One Match the descriptions with the correct terms.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| a. mark | _____ 1. A statement of belief |
| b. charismatic gift | _____ 2. A spiritual gift given to certain members of the Church to be used for the good of all |
| c. one | _____ 3. The mark of the Church that is shown in its faith, worship, governance, and charity |
| d. Eucharist | _____ 4. A letter from the pope to the whole Church |
| e. encyclical | _____ 5. Efforts to unite all Christians |
| f. ecumenism | _____ 6. A visible characteristic of the Church that makes it what it is |
| g. creed | _____ 7. The Person of the Trinity who brings unity to the Church |
| h. Holy Spirit | _____ 8. The sacrament that expresses and strengthens our unity |

On the Marks List the Marks of the Church.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |



Made Holy in the Spirit

Mike bounded out of the school at the ring of the dismissal bell. Zach trailed glumly behind.

"Come on!" shouted Mike. "Let's bike over to the park."

Mike started to whistle as he unchained his bike from the post.

"Not today," Zach mumbled. "I got a D on the science test and my parents have to sign it."

"I got a D, too," Mike answered casually. "But my parents will never know. I'll study harder for the next test." "How are you going to get away without having your test signed?"

"That's easy. I'll sign their names to the paper myself."

"That's forgery. You know, Mr. Thomas checks every test."

"He doesn't check that carefully. I've done it lots of times before. Try it. Other kids do it too. Why get your parents upset over nothing?"

Zach agonized over the thought all the way to the park. Forging his parents' names sounded simple. He could study harder for the next test. His parents would never find out. After all, others did it. He knew how upset his parents could get over one test. Zach argued with himself all evening. Finally he picked up the science test and headed for the living room. "Dad, could I show you something?"

Why do you think Zach made this decision?

The Source of Holiness

Zach chose to do what is right and pleasing to God. The power to choose what is right, to be holy, comes from the Holy Spirit. At Baptism, you were given a share in the life of the Trinity. You received God's grace not because you earned it, but as a gift that God freely chose to give you. The Spirit helps you to do good, to turn away from sin, and to be holy.



The Church is holy because

- it was founded and redeemed by Jesus.
- it is guided and given life by the Holy Spirit.
- its members are led to be holy like God.
- its members participate in Christ's holy mission of saving all people.

The Church is holy and yet always in need of purification, following the path of penance and renewal. All of us in the Church are sinners, already saved in Jesus Christ but still on the way to holiness. Because the Church is holy, it can make room for sinners.



Celebrating Life's Mysteries

The sacraments are one way you participate in the Church's holiness. Through the seven sacraments, you are bound closely to Christ, the head of the Church. You are strengthened in faith. You are empowered to share in the mission of the Church and to work to promote the well-being of all people, especially those who are poor and vulnerable.

The Seven Sacraments

The seven sacraments are often arranged into three categories: **Sacraments of Initiation**, **Sacraments of Healing**, and **Sacraments at the Service of Communion**. Baptism, the Eucharist, and Confirmation are Sacraments of Initiation. Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are Sacraments of Healing. Matrimony and Holy Orders are Sacraments at the Service of Communion.

Read the descriptions of experiences in people's lives and then write the name of the sacrament that matches them.

- For three months, Beth has not spoken to Cecilia for what she did to her. Beth wants to grow in God's grace and live in holiness. Now she is going to ask forgiveness in the Sacrament of _____.
- Kneeling before the bishop on ordination day, Carlos thanks God for his vocation to serve God's people in word, sacrament, and service. He rejoices as he celebrates the Sacrament of _____.
- Mrs. García smiles at her husband, Jim, and turns toward the door of the hospital room as she hears a guest approaching. Jim's heart surgery is set for 8 A.M. tomorrow. Tonight Father Tan is coming to administer the Sacrament of the _____.
- Bridget's older brother is to be married in May. She notices that he and his fiancée are attending pre-Cana classes to prepare for the Sacrament of _____.
- Deng and Mei Chen have brought their baby to be initiated into the Church. They are glad the whole parish can rejoice with them, as during Mass their child will celebrate the Sacrament of _____.
- Juana writes in her reflection notebook as she prepares to be strengthened in the Spirit. She records how the acts of service and what she is learning about her faith will help her long after she celebrates the Sacrament of _____.
- Tom arrives at his parish church five or ten minutes early each Sunday. He did not eat or drink anything but water for the past hour or so. Now he wants to have a little time before Mass to prepare for the Sacrament of the _____.

We've Got What It Takes

Discuss how the following lead us to holiness:

- Scripture
- the lives of the saints
- the teachings of Jesus
- acts of penance
- sacramentals
- prayer
- devotions such as the Rosary and the Way of the Cross
- service



When the wife of King Henry VIII did not bear him a male heir to the throne, Henry decided that he wanted to divorce her and marry another woman. Henry asked the pope for permission but did not receive it. Angry, he demanded that everyone in England sign an oath recognizing him and not the pope as the head of the Church in England. Henry sought Thomas's approval in this matter but Thomas, a man of faith who loved God and the Church, followed his conscience and refused to sign the oath. King Henry had Thomas removed from office, jailed, and condemned to death.

Once, when Thomas's daughter Margaret visited him in prison, she begged him to sign the oath in order to save his life. She asked him to say the words of the oath but to think otherwise in his heart. Thomas's answer to his daughter showed the kind of wisdom that guided his choice. He explained that when a man takes an oath, it is as if he is holding himself in his hands. He cupped his hands and told Margaret that it is like holding water in your hands. He said that if he opened his fingers (meaning, if he took the oath), he would lose himself just like he would lose the water. Thomas used the gift of wisdom to put God first and to make decisions based on how God sees things, not on how people see things.

Life is filled with choices. The gift of wisdom is the ability to put God first and to love the things of God. It enables you to see things from God's point of view and to recognize the sacredness of all people and the real value of things. Are you facing decisions? Pray to hear the voice of wisdom within you, helping you choose wisely.

The Gifts of the Spirit

Everyone is called to be holy. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit (based on Isaiah 11:1–3) help us grow in holiness and live lives of virtue. These are seven permanent, spiritual gifts as named in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. (The terms used in the Rite of Confirmation are in parentheses).

- **wisdom**
- **understanding**
- **counsel** (right judgment)
- **knowledge**
- **fortitude** (courage)
- **piety** (reverence)
- **fear of the Lord** (wonder and awe)

We receive these gifts at Baptism, and they are strengthened at Confirmation. Through these gifts, the Holy Spirit increases our ability to believe in Christ, to love and serve God and others, and to avoid sin. Saints and good Christians in every age have witnessed to Christ by living lives of outstanding faith and charity. They have shown us how the Gifts of the Spirit can lead us to become holy.

Holy Through Wisdom

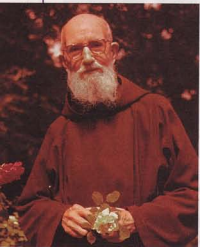
Saint Thomas More was the chancellor of England under King Henry VIII. He was known as a wise and holy man, a famous scholar, writer, and lawyer. Thomas was a loving husband and father. So why was he executed by King Henry VIII?

Whom do you know who has the wisdom of Saint Thomas More?

Holy Through Understanding

Barney Casey was the oldest of 16 children of an Irish-American family from Superior, Wisconsin. Barney had academic difficulties, and he took manual-labor jobs such as lumber worker, prison guard, and streetcar operator. Then, hearing the call to priesthood, Barney left for Detroit to enter the Capuchin order. There he took the name Solanus.

At the monastery, however, Solanus's academic struggles continued. He was ordained a priest, but his teachers recommended that his priestly duties be severely restricted. He was not allowed to hear confessions unless it was an emergency. Instead Father Solanus offered to help people in distress by listening to their problems. His superiors were shocked by the insights that Father Solanus had to offer to the people. It seemed that Father Solanus, though not academically gifted, had the gift of understanding.



Word spread quickly and people came from all over to speak to Father Solanus. Even in his old age, he received hundreds of letters each day.

Father Solanus, who died in 1957 at age 86, had insights into the truths of faith. He grasped what they meant and lived by them. You have the gift of understanding too. By learning more about your Catholic faith, you can gain insights and understanding into the meaning of life. You can recognize that we are all brothers and sisters with the responsibility to care for one another. In 1995 the Church recognized Father Solanus's heroic virtue and sanctity and declared him venerable, the first step to being declared a saint.

Whom do you know who has the gift of understanding? How does this person help you?

Holy Through Counsel (Right Judgment)

Since the time of Saint Peter, the pope of the Catholic Church has been the bishop of Rome. However, from 1305 to 1378, seven popes chose to live in Avignon, France. Saint Catherine of Siena felt strongly that the pope should lead the Church from Rome, where Saint Peter had been. In a letter to Pope Gregory XI, she wrote with daring and force: "Be a man, Father! Arise! . . . Begin the reform of the Church by appointing worthy priests. Make peace in Italy, not by arms, but by pardon and mercy. Return to Rome." It was Saint Catherine who finally convinced the pope to make the move back to Rome.

It was highly unusual that a woman should tell the pope what to do. In the Middle Ages, holy women were expected to stay in convents and pray. Catherine did pray very much, but she was not afraid to take action in following God's will. Though she had little education, in 1970 she was named a **Doctor of the Church**.

Catherine had the gift of counsel, also known as right judgment. This gift helps us know what to do in life, to make good decisions, and to accept our responsibility to care for others. It makes us seek good advice from others and follow it. It enables us to advise others. You use the gift of counsel when you seek advice about living your Catholic faith. You use it when you participate in the Sacrament of Penance or when you ask others for help or offer help to others.

Whom might you ask about the following?

A high school to attend

A solution to a family problem

A way to help a friend in trouble

Learning more about the Mass and why it is important

Holy Through Knowledge

Angela Merici was born in northern Italy around 1470. Her mother died while she was young, so she went to live with her uncle. Angela was concerned about the lives of girls, who were largely uneducated at the time. She was driven by a deep relationship with Jesus and the belief that we all are meant to know, love, and serve God. Angela knew that if families could help their young girls deepen their relationship with Jesus and their knowledge of God, their lives could be improved immensely.

In 1535 she and some of her friends founded a religious order called the Order of Ursulines. It was named after Saint Ursula, the patron saint of Italy.

The Ursulines lived as religious sisters, but they did not go off to live in monasteries or convents. Instead they continued to live in their homes and went to others' homes to teach them. The Ursulines helped young girls develop a knowledge of God as well as skills in reading and writing.

Saint Angela Merici had the gift of knowledge: she knew God and knew who she was. She used her experiences and faith to act according to Jesus' message.

How can we grow in knowledge of God and our faith?

Holy Through Fortitude (Courage)

Blessed Miguel Pro, a lively, fun-loving young Jesuit priest, faced the firing squad without flinching. He had refused the blindfold and asked only for time to pray. In 1927 the Mexican government was against the Church. Father Pro secretly had done the work of Christ among the Mexicans. His quick thinking

helped him in many narrow escapes. Finally he was arrested and falsely accused of an assassination attempt on a general. With no witnesses and no trial, he was condemned to death. A moment before Father Pro was about to be shot, he spread his arms out as if on a cross and shouted, "Long live Christ the king!" Then the bullets silenced him.

Followers of Christ have shown heroic fortitude, even giving up their lives for him. The risks you take to follow Christ may be small, but they are challenging. The gift of fortitude, also known as courage, gives you inner strength to do what is right in the face of difficulties.

Name one way you can endure a difficulty for Christ today.

A Moment with Jesus

Living as a Catholic in today's society is not always easy. Although you most likely do not face the dangers that Father Miguel Pro encountered, you still face challenges in living as a follower of Jesus. Take a moment to ask Jesus for the courage you need to be his follower. Thank him for the times he has helped you do what was right in the face of difficulties.



Holy Through Piety (Reverence)

Saint John Chrysostom was born in 347 to a wealthy family of nobility. As he matured and began his studies in preparation for the priesthood, he began to live a very simple life, giving up the wealth he was born into. He became an inspirational preacher and spoke powerfully about the importance of being generous to those in need. He spoke out strongly against the abuse of wealth and personal property.

In 398 John Chrysostom was made the bishop of Constantinople. He was not happy with the fact that this position entitled him to great privileges. He refused to host lavish events, something that angered the wealthy. John also made great efforts to reform the clergy, who were growing accustomed to being part of the wealthy class.

Saint John Chrysostom recognized the importance of showing reverence and worshiping God through the liturgy. He expressed his reverence for prayer, telling people that "It is simply impossible to lead, without the aid of prayer, a virtuous life." His piety was not limited to the time he spent in church. Rather, he believed that we cannot separate our reverence for God from our reverence for all of God's people. He expressed this in his writings: "Do you wish to honor the body of Christ? Do not ignore him when he is naked. Do not pay him homage in the temple clad in silk only then to neglect him outside where he suffers cold and nakedness."

Piety, also called reverence, is a gift of the Spirit that helps us love and worship God. Praying is one way to show reverence. Other ways are showing respect for the dignity of others, because they are sons and daughters of God, and being concerned for all that God created.

The following actions show reverence. Check the ones you practice.

- ☐ Paying attention at Mass
- ☐ Praying regularly
- ☐ Staying for the entire Mass
- ☐ Refusing to use God's name in vain
- ☐ Making visits to the Blessed Sacrament
- ☐ Giving to those who are poor



Holy Through Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)

Saint Clare of Assisi sat down next to her Aunt. "Aunt Bona, guess who I saw today."

Bona looked at Clare suspiciously. "Who?"

"Francis, all dressed in a brown robe. I know that Francis has decided to live for God, but he dresses so poorly and owns nothing. Why?" asked Clare.

"Francis wants to trust God, his Father, completely," her aunt explained. "That is why he has given up his property and riches. He depends on God rather than on things."

"Papa says Francis is a madman," said Clare. "What do you think?"

Aunt Bona laughed. "I think Francis is just crazy about God. He adores God. He obeys God as a child joyfully obeys his father and is afraid to make God angry. The next time he preaches, Clare, I'll take you to hear him."

Saint Francis possessed the gift of fear of the Lord, also called wonder and awe. He marveled at God's greatness and love. This gift kept him from offending God.

Psalms praise the almighty God, who loves us. Write a line of praise from Psalm 146.

Remember

Why is the Church holy?

The Church is holy because she was founded by Christ, she is guided by the Holy Spirit, and she leads all people to holiness.

How do the sacraments help us grow in holiness?

In the sacraments, we are bound closely to Christ. We are empowered to share in the mission of the Church and to promote the well-being of all people.

What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are seven permanent, spiritual gifts received at Baptism and strengthened at Confirmation.

Words to Know

counsel

Doctor of the Church
fear of the Lord

fortitude

knowledge

piety

Sacraments at the

Service of Communion

Sacraments of Healing

Sacraments of Initiation

understanding

wisdom

Respond

Copy into your reflection notebook the Prayer to the Holy Spirit on the inside front cover of this book. Substitute *me* for *them* and *us*, and *I* for *they* or *we*. Then read the prayer again. The Holy Spirit really comes to you with these wonderful gifts. Draw on the strength of the Spirit and think about whom you could help. What could you do to help the person(s)? Write your thoughts in your reflection notebook. Then pray the following prayer for the person(s) you have noted.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety. Fill them with the spirit of fear of the Lord in your presence.

Reach Out

1. If you have not yet been confirmed, start to prepare for your Confirmation and for the strength you will receive from the Holy Spirit by doing one of the following:

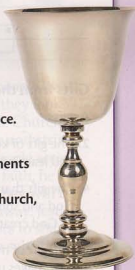
- Read and reflect on one of these Scripture passages: Matthew 16:24–28; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 4:16–22; John 14:15–17, 23–26; Acts of the Apostles 2:1–6.
- Talk to your parents or guardians about choosing a sponsor for the time when you will begin preparing for Confirmation. Look for someone who lives a good Catholic life and could help you in your faith.
- Try harder to be a follower of Christ.
- Pray more. For help on how to do this, see pages 231–238.

2. Read the following Scripture passages about the Spirit in the life of Jesus and his followers. For each one, think about how the Spirit can help you in a similar way and write it in your reflection notebook: Luke 1:26–38; Luke 4:1–2; Acts of the Apostles 4:13–31; Acts of the Apostles 9:1–9.

3. Ask your parents or guardians to help you think of a modern-day example for each Gift of the Holy Spirit. Think about the people you know, search the Internet or newspapers, and talk to others for ideas.

4. Think of a way you can take a stand for what is right and then act on it. You might ask your parents or guardians to help you write a letter, make a phone call, or help an organization that works for justice.

5. Participate as a family in the celebration of one of the sacraments in your parish other than the Eucharist. As members of the Church, pray for those people who are receiving the sacrament.



Wholly Holy Fill in the blanks.

The Church is holy because

it was f _____ by Jesus, it is guided by the S _____, its members are made holy in the s _____, its members participate in Jesus' m _____, and its m _____ strive for holiness.

Sanctifying Our Lives Unscramble the names of the sacraments.

Sacraments of Initiation

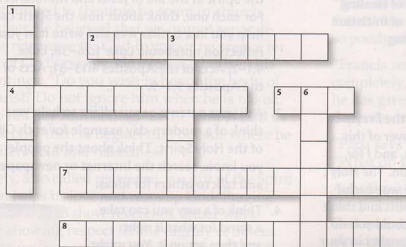
tabpsim _____ ihaucrest _____ oancftnoimri _____

Sacraments of Healing

accorleinoitn _____ onantigni fo eth cisk _____

Sacraments at the Service of Communion

rmtiyonam _____ yhlo sdroer _____



Gifts from the Spirit Fill in the crossword puzzle.

Across

- The gift of knowing the truths of the universe and learning about them from experience
- The gift that helps you love and worship God and show respect for others and for all God created
- The gift of marveling at God's goodness and love that makes us avoid displeasing God

7. The gift of having insight into the truths of faith, grasping what they mean, and living by them

8. The gift of giving or seeking advice about the Christian life

Down

- The gift of doing difficult things for Christ
- Same as 5 Across
- The gift of putting God first in your life and seeing things as God sees them