

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 11

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- The Church is both visible and spiritual. We call the spiritual part the Mystical Body of Christ. (CCC, 771, 779)
- The Church is the Body of Christ; she is one because she acknowledges one Lord, confesses one faith, and is born of one Baptism. (CCC, 813-816, 866)
- Each individual member is united with all members as part of Christ's Body. When members of the Church live in communion with the Holy Spirit and with one another, harmony results. (CCC, 341, 752)
- The Church needs the diverse gifts of all members to be a sign of God's Kingdom here on Earth. (CCC, 791, 814)

Catechist Background

"As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body... as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended."
—1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 18

Reflect What does being a member of the Body of Christ require of you?

Belonging to a group—any group—is both a blessing and a challenge. The blessing part comes in the support and companionship of the community, the value of shared wisdom, and the strength in facing adversity together. The challenge comes with differences of opinion and in not always being able to do what you would like to do as an individual. Whether the group in question is your family, your nation, or your church, this has always been a reality.

The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ to which we belong. We discover our true selves as individuals within our communities. Each of us is created for union with God, our one true source of happiness. The Church is the path Jesus has given us in order to fulfill that sacred destiny.

For Catholics, community is central to our understanding of who God is and who we are in relationship to him. In a sense, there is no such thing as a solitary Catholic because even when we are alone, we are still in solidarity with the Church. Catholicism has a communal core to it: the Holy Trinity, our sacramental theology, and our understanding of salvation. To be Catholic is to experience God through the Christian community and for the community to experience God through each individual.

Reflect How has your membership in the Church been both a challenge and a source of blessing for you?

Catechist's Prayer

God our Father, you have blessed me with wonderful traveling companions by calling me to be a member of your Church. Help me to be a faithful companion for those I serve in the Christian community. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Belonging to groups is usually very important for young people this age. The groups to which they belong help them form their identities. Feeling like one doesn't belong can be devastating for seventh graders. They need to see that there is a place for everyone, including them, in God's Church.

Teaching Tip

Lead a discussion on the communities in the lives of your youth. Have them list some of these communities, such as family, church, school, sports teams, social groups, and so on. For each group, reflect on these questions: What are the benefits of this group? What are the sacrifices that you make in order to belong? How would your life be different if you didn't belong to the group?

Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders

Belonging to a peer group is very important, but some young people may see their membership as a matter of conformity rather than a matter of contributing something new and distinct.

- Most people want friends and groups that will accept them without condition and will be there for them in tough times. Seventh graders are no exception.
- The Church is the beginning of the Kingdom of God here on Earth. It is important that we utilize the ministry of catechesis to instill in young people a deep appreciation of the Christian community to which they belong.

Chapter Connections

Tasks of Catechesis

Helping children grow in a faith that is "known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer" (NDC, 20). This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Education for Community Life
- Missionary Initiation

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition**Communal Life**

- Objective: To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church; to know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful

Missionary Spirit

- Objective: To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service; to be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel

Catholic Faith Literacy

Catholic Social Teaching, Church, hierarchy

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Call to Family, Community, and Participation, pages 336–337; or Solidarity of the Human Family, pages 344–345.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint John Bosco on page 192. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 192, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 11 for the prayer on page 193.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - "Alive in One Spirit," Live, Page 193

Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 11

Invite Page 183

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥ Let Us Pray

Choose a volunteer to be the Leader. Have the group gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross.

Ask the Leader to proclaim the opening prayer and Psalm verse, and lead the group in the response.

Have the youth move out of the prayer space and back to their seats. Remind them that the Church has many members, but we are one Body in Christ.

Say: Let's listen to God's Word and see how our individual gifts and talents contribute to the Body of Christ.

† Scripture

Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

Have you ever thought...

Say: Every individual of the Church has unique gifts and talents given by the Holy Spirit that help them to work together united as the Body of Christ to love others in his name.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 186-187

Objectives

- Explore the visible and spiritual aspects of the Church
- Examine how the Church is the Body of Christ
- Tell the young people that unity in the Church is the focus of this lesson.

The Church Is the Body of Christ

Read aloud the text.

- Ask the youth to reflect on why they chose the groups to which they belong.

Visible and Spiritual

Have the youth silently read the text and underline the topic sentence in each paragraph.

- Ask: What is the main thing that you learned from this section?
- Emphasize the importance of both the visible and spiritual aspects of the Church.
- Discuss the questions at the end of this section.

† Scripture Background

Proclaiming the Word of God

Repeating and/or displaying short passages from the Bible allows God's Word to take root in the hearts of the youth. Matthew 18:20 is a powerful promise from Jesus. Just prior to this passage, Jesus is talking about the need to bring an accused brother before the whole assembly of the Temple where God would hear the prayers of the large group. Jesus goes on to say that even the smallest group—two people—gathered in the name of Jesus, is equally important. Saying, "As we gather for prayer let us remember that Jesus promised, 'Whenever two or three are gathered...'" is a powerful example of rooting the Word in the young people's hearts.

One in Christ

Direct the youth to quietly read the first paragraph. Point out the photo on page 187.

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the caption.
- Ask: What are the young people doing as the Body of Christ? ***They are gathering in Jesus' name and showing their support for the Archbishop***

† Scripture

Have the youth read Acts 9:1–5 to themselves.

- Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 Corinthians 12:12–31.
- Discuss the questions as a group.

Read aloud the last paragraph. Ask a volunteer to read aloud the definitions of *hierarchy* and *Body of Christ* from the Catholic Faith Words box on page 186.

Activity

Read aloud the activity instructions.

- Have the youth work in small groups to complete the activity.
- Allow time for each group to share their responses with the group.

Quick Review

The Church is both visible and spiritual and all of her members are united as the Body of Christ.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 11: Group Analysis** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

- Instruct the young people to think of three groups to which they belong.
- Have them complete the chart to “analyze” those groups and their participation in them.
- Provide an opportunity for group discussion on what the charts reveal.

Discover (2) Pages 188-189

Objectives

- Recognize that the Church is one because she acknowledges one Lord, confesses one faith, and is born of one Baptism
- Discover the harmony that results as members of the Church live in communion with the Holy Spirit and one another

Read aloud the opening question and allow volunteers to respond.

Say: Let’s read this first section for an answer to the question.

One Body, Many Members

Invite a volunteer to read the opening paragraph to the group.

- Emphasize that each person in the Church does not get “lost” as part of the one Body of Christ.

† Scripture

Ask the youth if they have heard Jesus’ story about the vine and the branches before.

- Allow volunteers to share what they know.
- Read John 15:4–5 to the group.

All Parts of the Body of Christ Work Together

Read aloud this section and the questions that follow on page 188.

- Give the young people time to reflect on the questions. (If your group prefers to discuss the questions, give them time to do so.)

Work with Words

Point out the Catholic Faith Words box on page 188.

- Ask: What does the word one mean in reference to the Catholic Church?
- Have a volunteer read the definition aloud to the group.

Point out the various photos of churches on page 189. Share that Catholic church buildings can look different but we all share the same desire to help build God's Kingdom.

Activity

Have a volunteer read aloud the instructions.

- Allow the youth to complete this activity with a partner.
- Ask volunteers to share their ideas with the group.

Quick Review

The Church is one because she acknowledges one Lord, confesses one faith, and is born of one Baptism. When members of the Church live in communion with the Holy Spirit and each other, we live in harmony.

Discover (3) Pages 190-191

Objective

- Compare the diversity of gifts that allow the Church to help God manifest his Kingdom

Teaching Activity: Using Our Gifts

Participants will work in pairs or groups to find people with the gifts or skills they need to complete an assigned task.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✦ Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download the Tasks and Skills pages tape

Preparation

- Post the seven Tasks on the wall.
- Cut out the people and skills needed to complete the task on the other side of the room. Make sure the people and skills are randomly placed around the room and not grouped together.

Activity Directions

Before the activity begins organize the participants into seven groups or pairings. Assign each group with one of the seven tasks that are posted on the wall.

Say: Today we are going to imagine ourselves in the adult world. Your group will be in charge of completing one of the tasks you see on the wall. In order to accomplish your task you will need the help of others with various skills. The people and skills you need are posted on the other side of the room. With your partner (or group), find the people or the skills you need to accomplish your work.

Give the groups five minutes to collect the skills or people they need to successfully complete their task. Encourage them to work together as a large group to make sure everyone has what they need to do their job.

Say: If you aren't sure if the person or skill you have is something you need for your task, check with the other groups to see if you can for the people or skills you need. Work together until all groups have the skills or people they need to complete their assigned task.

When the search has concluded ask the young people to post the people and skills they have collected under their task. Quickly review why they needed people with these particular gifts to complete the task.

Landscape a Project: Soil Expert, Arborist, Someone Who Loves to Plant, Water Feature Technician

Manage Construction for Habitat for Humanity: Painter, Carpenter, Concrete Layer, Plumber, Electrician

Plan a Wedding: Florist, Musician, Caterer, Photographer, Calligrapher

Manage the Creation of a School Playground: Good with Children, Someone with Knowledge of Safety Standards and Guidelines, Someone with Playground Equipment Installation Experience, Heavy Lifters

Organize a Spaghetti Dinner: Cleaning people, Someone Who Likes to Cook, Servers, Ticket Sellers, Event Promoter

Restore a Vintage Car: Auto Body Repair Specialist, Mechanic, Auto Electrician, Someone with Upholstery Repair Experience

Survive a Ship Wreck: Leader, Someone with Knowledge of Plant Life, Someone with Survival Skills, Someone Who is Inventive

Say: God creates each of us with a purpose. He wants us to share our gifts to bring Christ to others and the message of salvation to the world. The Church is missioned to help God bring his Kingdom to this world. That mission is greater than planning a wedding or building a house. The gifts of each member are needed. We are a sign of God's Kingdom when we reach out to others in need. Let's turn to Matthew 25:35-36 and invite Jesus' words to remind us of how we must be servants. Jesus tells a story about the Last Judgment to teach us that we will be judged by how we show our love for him in the ways we help others. Invite a volunteer to read the Scripture aloud.

Live Pages 192-193

Objectives

- Learn ways we can use our personal gifts to serve others and the Church
- Explore the faith life of Saint John Bosco
- Offer the prayer celebrating the Word of God

Our Catholic Life

Have the young people silently read the Our Catholic Life feature.

- Ask them to reflect on the gifts they have that they can share with their communities.
- Allow volunteers to share their responses to the question with the group.

People of Faith

Explain to the youth that Saint John Bosco devoted his life to helping troubled children come to know Christ.

- Share important points from the People of Faith paragraph.
- Provide additional information to the group from the People of Faith Background box.
- *Say:* God revealed Saint John's calling to him through his dreams. • *Ask:* How has God reached out to you?

Here are some additional details about Saint John Bosco to assist you in presenting this section:

- Saint John gave the children in his orphanage a safe place to live and receive daily love and care, ministered to them, made sure they attended Mass, and showed them how to follow Jesus' example.
- He left a lasting legacy of helping those who were less fortunate. Saint John Bosco is an excellent example of someone who took the teachings of Jesus to heart and daily lived out those teachings.

Activity

Explain the activity to the young people.

- Pass out hymn books.
- Have the youth work in small groups to find the specific types of hymns asked for in the activity.

Celebration of the Word

♥Ask each participant to make a simple drawing of something that symbolizes one of his or her gifts. Add their drawings to the prayer space.

- Divide the group into three smaller groups; designate each group to say the part of Reader 1, Reader 2, or Reader 3.
Take the role of Leader yourself and read the invitation to prayer.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by playing the song, or inviting the youth to sing, "Alive in One Spirit," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

Chapter Review

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively provide feedback to the young people about their work.

Chapter 11 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
Christ Present Among Us Page 183	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 133:1 Pray the opening prayer. 1 Corinthians 12:12–18 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
The Church Is the Body of Christ Pages 186–187 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the visible and spiritual aspects of the Church • Examine how the Church is the Body of Christ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine how the Church is both visible and spiritual. Read and reflect on Acts 9:1–5 and 1 Corinthians 12:12–31. • Activity Master Group Analysis 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Bibles <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
One Body, Many Members Pages 188–189 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that the Church is one because she acknowledges one Lord, confesses one faith, and is born of one Baptism • Discover the harmony that results as members of the Church live in communion with the Holy Spirit and one another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that the Church is made up of many unique members, unites as one Body of Christ. Read John 15:4–5. • Activity List ways that Church members use their gifts to be a sign of God’s Kingdom. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> parish bulletins
Many Gifts for the Good of All Pages 190–191 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare the diversity of gifts that allow the Church to help God manifest his Kingdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Participants will work in pairs or groups to find people with the gifts or skills they need to complete an assigned task. 	Tasks and Skills <input type="checkbox"/> tape
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 192	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Our Catholic Faith question. • People of Faith Learn about Saint John Bosco. • Activity Make a list of hymns that mention the Body of Christ. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> hymnbooks
Celebration of the Word Page 193	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide the youth into three groups. • Follow the order of prayer. 	“Alive in One Spirit”

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Mystical Body of Christ; hierarchy; one, as a Mark of the Church

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 194

[aliveinchrist.osv.com](https://www.aliveinchrist.osv.com) Customize and Download Assessments, Interactive Student Reviews, eAssessments

Name _____

Date _____

Group Analysis

Name of Group: _____

Purpose of Group: _____

Why I Belong: _____

What I Get from the Group: _____

What I Give to the Group: _____

Name _____

Date _____

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

1. The Church is ____ because the power of the Holy Spirit unites all her members through one faith and one Baptism.
 - a. apostolic
 - b. communal
 - c. one
 - d. catholic
2. The organization of the Church into different levels of leadership and membership is the _____.
 - a. hierarchy
 - b. vine and the branches
 - c. Mystical Body of Christ
 - d. Communion of Saints
3. In the Beatitudes, Jesus asks us to recognize his presence in _____.
 - a. our parish priest
 - b. the Church hierarchy
 - c. people who are poor or persecuted
 - d. the prayer of great Saints
4. Saul (Paul) became a believer and wrote that the Church is _____.
 - a. always going to be persecuted
 - b. the Body of Christ
 - c. people in a building
 - d. sad that Jesus died

Complete each sentence with the correct terms.

5. Because of the different _____ of her members, the Church is able to help build God's Kingdom in many ways and places.
6. The _____ is the Church, united to Christ and one another through the Holy Spirit, forming one holy people with Christ as her head.
7. Acts that meet people's physical needs are the _____.
8. A word that means a "gathering" or an "assembly" is _____.

Write a response on the lines below.

9. Why do we need both the physical and spiritual parts of the Church?

10. How do you think you can make a difference in the Church? Why is each member important?

Landscape a Project

Manage Construction For Habitat For Humanity

Plan a Wedding

Manage the Creation of a School Playground

Organize a Spaghetti Dinner

Restore a Vintage Car

Survive a Ship Wreck

Arborist

Auto Body Repair Specialist

Auto Electrician

Calligrapher

Carpenter

Caterer

Cleaning People

Concrete Layer

Electrician

Event Promoter

Florist

Good with Children

Heavy Lifters

Leader

Mechanic

Musician

Painter

Photographer

Plumber

Servers

Soil Expert

Someone Who Is Inventive

Someone Who Likes to Cook

Someone Who Loves to Plant

Someone with

Playground Equipment
Installation Experience

Someone with Knowledge
of Plant Life

Someone with Knowledge
of Safety Standards
and Guidelines

Someone with Survival Skills

Someone with Upholstery
Repair Experience

Ticket Seller

Water Feature Technician