

# Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 9

## Catechist Background

### Doctrinal Content

- The Church is Apostolic because her teaching authority comes directly from Jesus and his Apostles to the bishops of the Church who are their direct successors. (CCC, 857)
- The Catholic Church is made up of diverse people from different cultures who express their common faith in different ways. (CCC, 810)
- Roman Catholics and Eastern Catholics celebrate some Rites in different ways, but they are united by a common Creed, the Seven Sacraments, and the Pope's leadership. (CCC, 185-190, 1297-1301)
- The Church of Christ subsists in the Catholic Church. Catholics pray, hope, and work toward unity among all Christian (ecclesial) communities. (CCC, 818-822, 874)

## Catechist Background

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone."—1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

**Reflect** What belief do you share with all Christians?

The first Christians shared a common culture and were small enough in number to form an intimate community. When they met in their homes to share memories of Jesus and break bread together, they knew in whom they believed and therefore who they were. They worked tirelessly to spread the faith and their efforts bore great fruit, but with it came great challenges.

The first, and most urgent challenge centered on maintaining the integrity of the faith. The more time passed, the greater the potential was for the Gospel message to become distorted. There were many organizational and logistical challenges that came with great expansion and growing numbers. In those early centuries, the Church of Christ grew from being a small group of disciples to a worldwide Church.

The Catholic Church has maintained her central mission, imperfectly at times because of our humanness. Yet, because we are guided by the Holy Spirit, we have stayed true to the Gospel. While responding to the needs of every culture and generation, we have never changed or compromised the Gospel message, for it is eternal. We have been industrious in discovering new and dynamic ways to spread the Gospel throughout the world. We have done so through the leadership of the popes and

bishops, whose authority was handed down from Christ himself, and with confidence in the continual presence of the Holy Spirit to guide us.

**Reflect** How is being a member of such an immense institution as the Catholic Church both a blessing and a challenge to you?

### **Catechist's Prayer**

Blessed Trinity, help me to know you better so that I may be equipped to enter into dialogue with those of other faiths. Help me to respect who they are without forgetting who I am. Amen.

## **Sharing the Message**

### **How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics**

Eighth-graders have begun to learn that adults are not always right, and they frequently challenge authority, at least internally, if not out loud. It's important for them to understand that the authority of the Catholic Church comes from Jesus through the Apostles. Still, there may be times when they begin to question some Catholic teachings, especially if they have friends who believe differently. Meet their questioning with openness and understanding. Reassure them that it is okay to have questions, and encourage them to keep walking with the Church and searching for the answers.

### **Teaching Tip**

Invite a parish priest or deacon, or the diocesan ecumenical officer, to speak to the youth about ecumenism. You might want to find resources on Pope Saint John Paul II's encyclical, *Ut Unum Sint* (On Commitment to Ecumenism) to prepare yourself and the group.

### **Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders**

Younger adolescents tend to understand truth with a high degree of acceptance of others, not yet having the skills to think critically about the issues.

- They can be susceptible to the notion that one religion is as good as another and it doesn't matter what one believes because all belief systems have equal value. We know this as relativism.
- As eighth-graders begin to reach out to others outside of the Catholic Church, it's important that they know and understand the essentials of the Catholic faith. Help them to express with confidence the truths and values of the Church.

## **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:

- Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
- Education for Community Life

### **NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition**

#### **Knowledge of the Faith**

- Objective: To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life

#### **Moral Formation**

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

### **Catholic Faith Literacy**

Apostles’ Creed, ecumenism, Roman Catholic

### **Catholic Social Teaching**

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person, pages 338–339; or Solidarity of the Human Family, pages 344–345.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Peregrine Laziosi on page 164. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 164, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 9 for the prayer on page 165.

### **Music Option**

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
  - "One Bread, One Body," Live, Page 165

# Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 9

## Invite Page 155

### Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

### ♥Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross.

Pray the entire prayer together as a group. Have the youth move from the prayer space back to their seats.

*Say:* The Church is a community of diverse people who share in the mission of Jesus. Let's listen to God's Word and hear Saint Paul describe some of the spiritual gifts we are given as followers of Christ.

### † Scripture

Guide children 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:* The Catholic Church is made up of people from many different cultures, but we are united by our common beliefs and practices.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

## Discover (1) Pages 158-159

### Objectives

- Examine the beliefs contained in the Creeds that unite members of the Catholic Church
- Discover that the Church is apostolic

### Teaching Activity: Expressing Our Beliefs

Participants will work in groups to create hand motions to the song "Yes Lord I Believe" to help others remember lyrics that describe our beliefs.

## Before the Lesson

### Materials Needed

✦ Go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com) and download “Yes Lord I Believe” lyrics, “Yes Lord I Believe,” and Catholic Faith Words pages  
tape

### Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Words page on the board for reference during the activity.
- Cue up the song “Yes Lord I Believe” to play during the activity.
- Print out four copies of the “Yes Lord I Believe” lyrics pages.

### Activity Directions

Have the young people raise their hands if they have heard the term *apostolic* before. Then have them keep their hands up if they can describe when and where we use that term. Have volunteers share until the correct answer is offered.

Say: That is correct. We use this term to describe the Church when we state our beliefs in two important summaries of our faith—the Nicene Creed and the Apostles’ Creed.

Point to the Catholic Faith Word *Apostles’ Creed* and read aloud the definition.

Say: But what does it mean to be *apostolic*?

Say: The Church is apostolic because her teaching authority comes directly from Jesus and his Apostles. Through an unbroken line of bishops and popes, who are the direct successors of the Apostles, we can trace our history and teaching all the way back to the Apostles.

Direct the youth to review the definition of *apostolic* posted on the board.

Say: In the Creed, we profess that the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. What do we mean by one? In Baptism we enter into our Lord, Jesus Christ, and so we enter his Body—the Church. Because we believe in Jesus, even though we are all different, we are *one* in our belief in him.

Have a volunteer read from the board. the definition for *one*.

Say: As Catholics we are united by our creeds, the Seven Sacraments, and our ordained ministry. Throughout the years you have learned about our creeds many times. We say the Apostles’ Creed during Baptisms, and sometimes during Mass. Today, I am going to ask you to teach the Apostle’s Creed to our third-graders in a special way.

Organize the participants into four smaller groups and distribute the lyrics to "Yes Lord I Believe."

*Say:* This song, "Yes Lord I Believe," helps teach children what we believe through the lyrics. Children will learn the words to the song more quickly if they also perform hand motions that help them think about the words that they are singing.

Assign a different part of the song to each small group. Ask one group to perform the chorus, another group to perform the first verse, another the second verse, and another the third verse.

*Say:* You have just seven minutes to decide on your hand motions and synchronize them as a group. Then, we will all perform the song together with the music.

When enough time has passed, gather the groups and cue the song. Ask each group to stand and perform the hand motions together when it's time for their part of the song. If time allows, play the song a second time and allow the groups to perform their part again. Ask volunteers to share some of the reasons their group chose those motions for the lyrics.

Next week, we will go to third-grade and teach the song and hand motions to them.

## **Discover (2) Pages 160-161**

### **Objectives**

- Compare the Latin (Roman) Catholic Church and the Eastern Catholic Church
- Discuss the distinctions in the celebration of some of the Rites in the Eastern and Latin Church

Point out the question and tell the group that they will learn the answer as they cover the next two pages.

### **United but Unique**

Point out that there is one Catholic Church but there are two main traditions of the Church: the Latin, or Roman, Catholic Church and the Eastern Catholic Church. Explain the following:

- Although we have different ways of worshipping, we share a Creed, Sacraments, and leadership under the Pope.
- The Eastern Catholic Church has five different branches with several churches in each. The Roman Catholic Church has one Church.
- Despite differences, we all worship the one Triune God. Have a large group discussion around the questions at the bottom of the page, using the board to create lists when necessary.

## **The Catholic Church**

Invite the young people to silently read the paragraph. Give them an opportunity to ask questions or make comments about the material.

Have the youth work with a partner to read the Catholics Today feature.

- Summarize the main differences between the Eastern Catholic and Roman Catholic Churches.

## **Activity**

Organize the group into three smaller groups. Assign each small group one of the Sacraments of Initiation.

- Have each group work together to write a description of their assigned Sacrament as if writing to a person who has never seen any Catholic Sacraments.
- Invite the small groups to share their descriptions with the large group.

## **Quick Review**

Remind the group that despite some of the differences between Eastern and Latin Churches, as Catholics, we are united by a common Creed, the Sacraments, and the leadership of the Pope.

## **Extend the Lesson**

Use **Activity Master 9: The Christian Family Tree** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

## **Discover (3) Pages 162-163**

### **Objectives**

- Describe the Mystical Body of Christ as an image of Church, which unites all  
Describe events leading to the Great Schism
- Examine the origin and the consequences of the Protestant Reformation
- Explain why Catholics pray, hope, and work for unity among all Christians

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the question. Comment that the title of today's lesson gives us a clue to this question.

## **Brothers and Sisters in Christ**

Ask a volunteer to read the first two paragraphs.

## **The Christian Family History**

Point out the following:

- For the first 1,000 years, Christian churches were primarily united under the leadership of the bishop of Rome—the Pope.

- The Eastern Church split from the Roman (or Western) Church in 1054. This is known as the Great Schism.
- In 1517 Martin Luther began calling for reforms in the Church. His actions led to the Protestant Reformation.

### **† Scripture Background**

#### **Jesus Was Jewish**

In trying to understand the life and teachings of Jesus, it is important to remember that Jesus, his family, and his followers were Jewish.

- In the Gospels, we read about Jesus celebrating the Jewish feasts and teaching at the synagogue.
- In the early years after Jesus' Death and Resurrection, when the Apostles went out to share Jesus' teachings, they continued to see themselves as faithful to their Jewish faith and viewed Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise to the Jewish people.

### **Work with Words**

Point out the Catholic Faith Words box on page 162.

- Ask a volunteer to read aloud the vocabulary word and its definition.
- Explain that ecumenism requires a lot of communication and cooperation among people of all Christian faiths.

### **Christians Today**

Have the young people read the text. Emphasize the following.

- All people baptized as Christians are joined as family by our belief in Christ.
- In spite of separation from Protestants, as Catholics we value that there is much truth and holiness found in other faiths. • We pray for unity with all Christians.

### **In Summary**

Read aloud the Catholics Believe summary points as a group.

- Allow time for the youth to reflect on ways that they are united with all members of the Catholic Church.

## **Live Pages 164-165**

### **Objectives**

- Examine behaviors that make visible our Catholic identity
- Explore the faith life of Saint Peregrine Laziosi
- Offer the Prayer for Unity

### **Our Catholic Life**

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the paragraph.

- Have the youth quietly reflect on the question.



## People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Saint Peregrine Laziosi was once an anti-Catholic who changed his life when he began to pray. Eventually, he became a Catholic priest.

- Have a volunteer read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Review with the group the additional content in the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the young people to discuss the importance of unity.
- Encourage the youth to do additional research on Saint Peregrine from home and bring the information back to share with the group.

Here are some additional details about Saint Peregrine Laziosi to assist you in presenting this section:

- Share with the group that during his youth, Saint Peregrine had a reputation for passionate preaching and being a good confessor.
- When his cancerous foot needed to be amputated, he spent the night before the operation, in prayer. The following morning he was completely cured.
- Saint Peregrine is the Patron Saint for cancer patients.

## Activity

Invite the youth to work on their own to complete the exercise.

## Prayer for Unity

♥ Appoint one leader and three readers.

- Set the prayer table with a white cloth and a white pillar candle.
- Include colored birthday candles.
- Invite the young people to gather around the table. Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.
- During the final prayer, invite the volunteers to take turns placing a birthday candle briefly into the fire of the pillar candle causing the colorful wax to drip onto the white candle. Explain that the colors represent the diversity in the Body of Christ.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song "One Bread, One Body," downloaded from **[aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://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 9 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
<b>Invite, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>One in Christ</b> Page 155	 <b>Psalm 84:5</b> Pray the opening prayer.  <b>1 Corinthians 12:4–11</b> Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions.	
<b>Discover, 45 minutes</b>		
<b>Different But the Same</b> pp. 158–159 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine the beliefs contained in the Creeds that unite members of the Catholic Church</li> <li>Discover that the Church is apostolic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Teaching Activity</b> Participants will work in groups to create hand motions to the song “Yes Lord, I Believe” to help younger children remember lyrics that express our beliefs.</li> </ul>	 “Yes Lord, I Believe” Lyrics, “Yes Lord, I Believe,” Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> tape
<b>United but Unique</b> pp. 160–161 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare the Latin (Roman) Catholic Church and the Eastern Catholic Church</li> <li>Discuss the distinctions in the celebration of some of the Rites in the Eastern and Latin Church</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain that there are two overarching Churches: the Latin or Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Catholic Church.</li> <li>Discuss how the universal Church is one Catholic Church.</li> <li><b>Activity</b> Describe one of the Sacraments of Initiation.</li> <li><b>Activity Master</b> The Christian Family Tree</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board  Activity Master 9
<b>Brothers and Sisters in Christ</b> pp. 162–163 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe events leading to the Great Schism</li> <li>Examine the origin and the consequences of the Protestant Reformation</li> <li>Explain why Catholics pray, hope, and work for unity among all Christians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss how Christian churches of the world came to be.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
<b>Live, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>Our Catholic Life</b> Page 164	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss the question in the Catholic Life section.</li> <li><b>People of Faith</b> Learn about Saint Peregrine Laziosi.</li> <li><b>Activity</b> Youth will list ways they show they are Catholic.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
<b>Prayer for Unity</b> Page 165	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appoint one leader and three readers.</li> <li>Follow the order of prayer.</li> </ul>	 “One Bread, One Body”

## CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Apostles’ Creed; apostolic, as a Mark of the Church; one, as a Mark of the Church; ecumenism

## ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 166

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Christian Family Tree

Use the space below to draw a Christian family tree. Drawing an actual tree of our Christian family can help you visualize the development of the Christian Church over the past 2,000 years.

Consider where to place the following on your tree.

- Jesus Christ
- The Roman Catholic Church
- The Eastern Catholic Church
- The Protestant Church

Write on, or next to, your tree words that describe the ways the Christian family is united.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. The Eastern Catholic and Roman Catholic Church \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. have the same Seven Sacraments
  - b. worship in different languages
  - c. have different customs
  - d. all of the above
2. Catholic customs and experiences are made deeper by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the Creed
  - b. diversity
  - c. tradition
  - d. the Reformation
3. The \_\_\_\_ Church is part of the Eastern Catholic Church.
  - a. Byzantine
  - b. Episcopal
  - c. Lutheran
  - d. Baptist
4. The unity of the Catholic Church comes from the unity of our \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. ecumenism
  - b. way of worship
  - c. prayers
  - d. Creed, Sacraments, ordained ministry
5. The Eastern and Roman Catholic Churches are guided by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. an ecumenical council
  - b. the Pope, the Bishop of Rome
  - c. an apostolic council
  - d. two different leaders

Complete each sentence with the correct term.

6. The celebration of \_\_\_\_\_ is one example of how Eastern and Roman Churches celebrate the same beliefs in different ways.
7. The effort to build unity and community among all Christian people is \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Christ desires all his followers to be \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The split of the Eastern Church from the West is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

Write a response on the lines below.

10. Describe how the Protestant church split from the Roman Church. When did that happen? What was it called?

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## **Yes Lord I Believe!**

1. Do you believe in God the Father?

**Yes Lord I believe!**

Who made the Earth and all we see

**Yes Lord I believe!**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**Yes Lord I believe!**

God's only son born of Mary

**Yes Lord I believe!**

### **Chorus**

**I believe in God the Father**

**I believe in God the Son**

**I believe in the Spirit**

**And the strength that makes us one**

**I believe that Mother Mary**

**Is the Mother of God's Son**

**I believe**

**I do believe**

2. Do you believe that Jesus died?

**Yes Lord I believe!**

He died for us so we could live

**Yes Lord I believe!**

Do you believe He rose again?

**Yes Lord I believe!**

He's seated now at God's right hand

**Yes Lord I believe!**

3. Do you believe in God's great Church?

**Yes Lord I believe!**

And all the Saints who have walked with God

**Yes Lord I believe!**

Do you believe in God's forgiveness?

**Yes Lord I believe!**

That we will rise to life again

**Yes Lord I believe!**

**This is our Faith**

**Which we profess**

**Yes Lord I Believe!**

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# Catholic Faith Words

**Apostles' Creed** one of the Church's oldest creeds. It is a summary of Christian beliefs taught since the time of the Apostles.

# Catholic Faith Words

**apostolic** a Mark of the Church. The Church is apostolic because her teaching authority comes directly from Jesus and his chosen Apostles, handed down through the bishops of the Church, who are direct successors of the Apostles.



# Catholic Faith Words

**one** a Mark of the Church. The Church is one because the power of the Holy Spirit unites all the members through one faith and one Baptism.