

Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 3

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- Each of us is called to be holy in the ordinary circumstances of our lives. God created humans to share in his glory, to be holy, and to be joined fully with him. (CCC, 357, 2013)
- Angels have been present since creation and throughout the history of salvation. They are spiritual beings that praise God and serve him as messengers to help people understand God's plan or to keep them safe from harm. (CCC, 331–333)
- As the perfect and complete revelation of God, Jesus shows God's holiness. It is in the Church that Christ fulfills and reveals his own mystery as the purpose of God's plan. (CCC, 772–773)
- The Church is the Body of Christ and a sign of the holiness of God. She helps us grow in holiness, especially through prayer and worship. (CCC, 823–829)

Catechist Background

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds! ... seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides." —Luke 12:22–24, 31

Reflect What does it mean to put your trust completely in God?

Many people during the time of Jesus thought of holiness as completeness. Only God was truly holy because only God was complete. God has nothing to get in the way of happiness. He is perfect in serenity, perfect in fulfillment and perfect in goodness. We human beings, on the other hand, are not perfect.

We are tempted by wants, things, and actions that distract us from living as virtuously as we would like. Despite our weaknesses we are capable of living holy lives because Jesus shared the divine life with us. If we respond to that gift of life, and as long as we keep our focus on God as our one true source of happiness, we can grow in holiness. We don't do this alone. This happens in and with the Church community, which guides us in our prayer, worship, and moral living. We grow in holiness and perfection when we accept God's grace in the sacraments, respond to his call to live a life of service and love and when we look at the ordinary events of our daily lives through the lens of the Good News. Ordinary people do extraordinary things when they are open to the Holy Spirit working in their lives.

Reflect What are some signs of holiness in your everyday life?

Catechist's Prayer

Holy Spirit, you have been with all people of faith throughout the ages. Be with me, guide me to see your holy influence in my life and the lives of my children. I ask this through Jesus' name. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Many people, including teens, give up on the Christian life not because they don't want to live a holy life, but because they think it's not possible for them. Keep young people from being discouraged as they look at their own lives and reflect on the things that get in the way of personal holiness.

Teaching Tip

Help the young people see holiness as a daily choice and recognize saintly behavior in the people in their own lives. Be generous in sharing stories of people who have inspired you, as a catechist, to grow in holiness. Remind the youth that they are still growing to be the people God called them to be, and God will give them the grace to do what he asks of them.

Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders

Younger adolescents often think about God, but not in a deep theological way, as many adults do. As young people grow, you can lead them through prayer, catechesis, and reflection into deeper ways of appreciating what holiness means for them today.

- Children this age are able to better appreciate the holiness of God when they glimpse it in the lives of saintly people in the world today. Help youth recognize saintly behavior in the people in their own lives.
- Many eighth-graders are just beginning to learn how rich an experience prayer can be. They are starting to open their minds to such things as guided meditation and praying with music. Provide opportunities for various forms of prayer in your group celebrations.

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:

- Moral Formation
- Teaching to Pray

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition

Moral Formation

- Objective: To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching

Prayer

- Objective: To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life

Catholic Faith Literacy

Church, holy, prayer

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Life and Dignity of the Human Person, pages 334–335; or Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person, pages 338–339.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Blessed Miguel Pro on page 84. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 84, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 3 for the prayer on page 85.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - "Psalm 40: Here I Am Lord," Live, Page 85

Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 3

Invite Page 75

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.

Have one volunteer pray the opening lines for the leader and another pray the Psalm verses. Prompt the group's response. Have the youth return to their seats.

Explain that God is most holy, and we are called to be holy.

Say: God wants us to put our trust in him and know that he made us and we belong to him. Let's learn more about seeking holiness and God's Kingdom.

† 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: God wants us to show what it means to be holy in our everyday lives.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 78-79

Objectives

- Recognize holiness as intentionally living in God's presence and with his love each day
- Identify angels as spiritual beings that praise God and serve him

Read aloud the question and elicit responses from the group. Record their responses on the board or on chart paper.

The Holiness of God

Use this content to review with the group the meaning of *holiness*.

Ask a couple volunteers to plan and lead the review of pages 78 and 79.

Sharing God's Glory

Remind the leaders of the following points as they review this section:

- Cover all the material.
- Provide an opportunity for sharing, either in small or large groups.
- Pause for responses from the large group.

Ask your leaders to begin, proceeding in order as the material is presented on the page.

† Scripture

Have one of the leaders proclaim the Scripture on page 78.

Encourage them to ask the question at the bottom of page 78.

Messengers

Remind the volunteer leaders that their sections contain a variety of materials, all needing to be covered in some fashion. Invite them to add some creativity to the review on angels.

- Offer supplies, like poster paper and markers, contact paper, colored paper, scissors, tape and glue, and anything else you may keep on hand for creative art activities.
- Remind the leaders to involve the entire group in accomplishing the tasks. Encourage them to include as many participants as possible.

Activity

Have the leaders review the activity instructions with the group.

- Recommend that they add role-playing or small group discussions after the lists have been completed.

Quick Review

God wants us to show holiness in our everyday lives. He sent messengers to help us understand his plan and to keep us safe.

Discover (2) Pages 80-81

Objectives

- Explain why we are called to share the goodness of God with others
- Relate Jesus' holiness to the holiness of the Church

Teaching Activity: Growing in Holiness

Participants will choose ping-pong balls with words that describe God's holiness written on them. They will complete corresponding worksheets to help them see how we grow personally in holiness through our relationship to God through the Church.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✦ Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download God's Holiness Worksheet and Catholic Faith Words pages

Ping-pong balls (1 per participant), marker, container, cardboard box, and tape

Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Words pages on the board for reference during the activity.
- Label the ping pong balls with one of the following words: beauty, truth, justice, peace, love
- Write the words "God's Holiness" on the outside of the container and place the ping pong balls inside of it.
- Cut open the cardboard box so that it has windows and a front door that opens and closes. You will use the cardboard box to represent a church building.

Activity Directions

As the activity begins, stand in front of the definition of *Marks of the Church* that is posted on the board, so the group can't read it.

Say: Who remembers what the Marks of the Church are?

After a few responses, move away from the definition posted and have a volunteer read it aloud.

Ask: So what are the four Marks of the Church again?

As participants respond, write each of the four Marks of the Church on the board. **one, holy, catholic, apostolic**

Say: Today we have already been thinking about holiness. The word *holiness* applies to God, the Church, and even to us. We use it first to describe the center of the mystery that is God. Holiness is a way to talk about all that exists in God. God is beauty, truth, justice, peace, and love. To help us think about that in a personal way, I am going to come around with this container that represents God's holiness. I want you to choose a Ping-Pong ball out of it without looking. You will see a word written on it. Go up to the table and find a sheet of paper that has the same word at the top, take one and return to your seat and follow the directions on the paper.

When students have stopped writing invite all those who have a beauty ping-pong ball to stand and read their lists. When they have finished have them toss the balls into the container from where they stand, saying “beauty” as they toss. Continue until everyone has read their lists and tossed the balls.

Say: God’s holiness was perfectly shown to us by Jesus. Because we are the Body of Christ Jesus’ holiness is given to the Church. And holiness that comes from love is seen primarily in prayer and actions.

Pour the balls into the open top of the Church.

Say: We grow in holiness when met God in a personal way through prayer and worship. Let’s look at the chart on p. 81.

Ask for a volunteer to read each line and then invite them up to the Church to open the door and get a ping-pong ball.

Say: You can see why we say, “Holy. Holy. Holy Lord,” why holy is one of the Marks of the Church, and how we grow personally in holiness through our relationship to God through the Church.

Discover (3) Pages 98-99

Objectives

- Relate holiness to prayer and loving actions
- Identify that we must intentionally choose to grow in holiness throughout our lives

Have a young person read aloud the question at the top of the page. Invite a volunteer to write the responses on the board or on chart paper.

Holiness in Action

Have a volunteer read aloud the text in this section. Remind the youth:

- Being holy means expressing love of God through love for all creation and all people.
- Prayer is an important part of being holy.
- Holiness that comes from love is shown in your actions.

Go to the Source

Send the young people to their Bibles to read 1 John 4:16–21. Invite them to discover more about the relationship between the love of God and the love of our brothers and sisters.

We Grow in Holiness

Summarize the first two paragraphs, and invite volunteers to read aloud the bullet points.

- Remind the youth that the gift of holiness develops and grows throughout our lives.

† Scripture Background

Love One Another

In the three letters of John, the author reflects a fractured community. An important teaching in the first letter of John is that one cannot love God without loving one's sisters and brothers.

- In essence this is the core of Catholic Social Teaching and the central focus of Jesus' teachings and ministry. The Great Commandment points to this, as do the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.
- Christian love is lived in the concrete manner of love for one another and Jesus shows us the way.

Activity

Read aloud the instructions and draw a similar acrostic on the board or on chart paper.

- Have the youth work independently to make a list of ways the Church helps and supports them.
- After they have completed their work, call on a volunteer for each letter and add their word or phrase to the acrostic on the board or on chart paper.
- Remind the young people that as members of the Church, they are also called to help and support others.

In Summary

Read aloud the introductory sentence.

- Have three volunteers each read one of the bullet points.
- Discuss as a group what characteristics and actions make up a holy person.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 3: Leadership Skills** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Live Pages 84-85

Objectives

- Discuss ways to bless God and others
- Explore the faith life of Blessed Miguel Pro
- Offer the Prayer of Service

Our Catholic Life

Ask a volunteer to read aloud this section.

- Arrange the youth in groups of two or three to answer the questions about feeling God's blessing.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Blessed Miguel Pro was a Christian martyr who died for his faith.

- Have one of the leaders read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Review with the group the People of Faith Background box.
- Facilitate a discussion of other martyrs that the young people might be familiar with.

Here are some additional details about Blessed Miguel Pro to assist you in presenting this section:

- Blessed Miguel Pro Juarez was born in Guadalupe, Mexico. He was ordained as a priest in 1925 when anti-Catholic feelings were still strong in Mexico. Miguel would spend the rest of his life in a secret ministry. He cared for the spiritual and physical needs of the people.
- Nearly 90 percent of the Mexican people are Catholic. Mexico celebrates los Dias de los Muertos (Days of the Dead) to remember family members who have died.

Activity

Invite a leader to facilitate the activity on modeling holiness. Assist him/her in determining the best way to carry out the assignment.

Prayer of Adoration

♥ Appoint one participant to serve as leader and divide the rest of the group into two sides.

- Participate in the prayer experience along with young people.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song "Psalm 40: Here I Am, Lord," 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 3 Lesson Plan

| Objectives | Process | Materials |
|--|--|---|
| Invite, 15 minutes | | |
| The Church Is Holy Page 75 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Psalm 100:3–5 Pray the opening prayer. 📖 Luke 12:22–23, 31–34 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. | |
| Discover, 45 minutes | | |
| The Holiness of God Pages 78–79 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize holiness as intentionally living in God’s presence and with his love each day • Identify angels as spiritual beings that praise God and serve him | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how we can be holy. 📖 Read Psalm 8:4–7. • Talk about messengers from God. • Activity Connect daily routines to opportunities to grow in holiness. | <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper |
| The Holiness of the Church Pages 80–81 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why we are called to share the goodness of God with others • Relate Jesus’ holiness to the holiness of the Church | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Use words that describe God’s holiness to show how we can personally grow in holiness through our relationship with God as well as through the Church. | <input type="checkbox"/> God’s Holiness Worksheet, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> marker and tape <input type="checkbox"/> ping-pong balls (1 per participant), container, cardboard box |
| Holiness in Action Pages 82–83 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate holiness to prayer and loving actions • Identify that we must intentionally choose to grow in holiness throughout our lives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show how worship and prayer help us grow in holiness. 📖 Read 1 John 4:16–21. • Activity List ways the Church helps and supports her members. • Activity Master Leadership Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens 📶 Activity Master 3 |
| Live, 15 minutes | | |
| Our Catholic Life Page 84 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the questions in the Our Catholic Life section. • People of Faith Learn about Blessed Miguel Pro. • Activity Name models of holiness. | <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens |
| Prayer of Service Page 85 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint a prayer leader and the group into two sides. • Follow the order of prayer. | 📶 “Psalm 40: Here I Am, Lord” |

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

holiness, angels, holy, Marks of the Church

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 86

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

Name _____

Date _____

Leadership Skills

Answer the questions below to gauge your level and understanding of leadership.

1. What are the characteristics of a good leader? _____

2. Do you think you are a leader? Why or why not? _____

3. What skills do you think are necessary for a good leader to have? _____

4. How do you think a person develops leadership skills? _____

5. List the names of people you consider to be good leaders. _____

6. What skills help these people to be good leaders? _____

7. What skills made Jesus the leader he was? _____

8. What one skill can you develop now to help you be a good leader? _____

9. Who can you ask to help you develop your skill? _____

Name _____

Date _____

Complete each sentence with the correct term.

1. The word _____ comes from Greek and Hebrew words that mean "messenger from God."
2. Being holy is one of the _____ of the Church (the four essential or distinguishing characteristics of the Church).
3. God created human beings in his image with an intellect and _____.
4. _____ is becoming more God-like, living in his presence and with his love.

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

5. ____ of the Church year remind us of events and people that are important models for holiness.
a. Feasts b. Devotions c. Sacraments d. Liturgy
6. Because the Church is ____, her holiness comes from Christ.
a. a mystery b. a tradition c. the Body of Christ d. a community
7. All of creation is related because everything, including human beings, has been ____ by God.
a. blessed b. loved c. imprinted d. created
8. Members of the Church grow in ____ as they reflect on how to put God's Word into action.
a. numbers b. worship c. holiness d. blessings

Write a response on the lines below.

9. What does it mean that God has promised us the fullness of glory when we arrive at his heavenly Kingdom?

10. What did Saint John teach us when he said that the way we can tell someone is in union with Christ is by how that person lives like Christ?

God's Holiness

Beauty: Name three things of beauty that fill your heart with awe.

Truth: Name three truths of Jesus that you know are necessary for a happy life.

Justice: Name three acts of justice (everyone gets what they need) that you have seen or heard about in your own life or in the news.

Peace: Name three experiences of peace (when someone asked forgiveness, or there was reconciliation), one in your family, one in our country, one in the world.

Love: Name three acts of selfless love you have seen or heard about.

Catholic Faith Words

holy a mark of the Church. The Church is holy because she is set apart for God and his purposes and God is holy. Christ gave himself up to make the Church holy and gave the Church the gift of the Holy Spirit to give her life.

Catholic Faith Words

Marks of the Church the essential characteristics that distinguish Christ's Church and her mission: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.