

Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 10

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- Sacred Tradition is the teaching handed on to us from Jesus and his Apostles. It is one source of the Word of God. (CCC, 84)
- The Apostles and their successors were empowered by Jesus to act in his name. Apostolic Succession is the authority to lead and teach the Church that can be traced through the centuries from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops. (CCC, 873, 1209)
- The Church continues to teach the truth of Christ through the Magisterium—the Pope, and bishops in union with him, guided by the Holy Spirit. (CCC, 889-892, 2302-2306)
- The Nicene Creed and Apostles' Creed contain the foundational truths of our faith that express our oneness of belief. (CCC, 198-200)

Catechist Background

“They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”—Acts 2:42-43

Reflect What are some things that the Church does today that early Church members did as well?

Imagine the emotions of the Apostles on that hill outside Jerusalem after Jesus' Ascension. Just a few years earlier they had been called by Jesus, leaving their homes and livelihoods to follow him. As they followed him through the hills and valleys of Israel they heard him proclaim the Good News of his Father's unending love. They saw his words of compassion and justice put into action through healing and forgiveness. When they followed him to Calvary, their fear, sorrow, and disappointment seemed overwhelming as they watched him die on the Cross.

It seemed too incredible for the Apostles to believe that this Jesus, who then rose from the dead would leave them again, this time to return to his Father in heaven. The Apostles went back to the upper room and devoted themselves to prayer. A short time later, the Holy Spirit came upon them. The fearful, timid Apostles suddenly became lions of the faith, proclaiming the Gospel to anyone within earshot and setting out on the boldest of missions, to proclaim the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Apostles were the Holy Spirit's willing partners. The choice to accept that partnership was no small matter. As bold as they were, these men were no doubt still afraid—with good reason as it turned out, since most of them would lose their lives for

the faith. But empowered by the Holy Spirit, their passion for the Gospel motivated them and the gift of faith in Jesus Christ was shared with people throughout the known world. We are Catholics now, because of the faith of the Apostles.

Reflect How has the Holy Spirit empowered you to believe and have hope? In what ways do you feel called to share the Gospel news?

Catechist's Prayer

Saints Peter, John, and Matthew, pray for us. Saints Jude, James, and Simon, pray for us. All the Saints, pray for us. Lord Jesus, thank you for sending your Apostles to continue your work. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Eighth-graders have tremendous respect for people who believe in a cause so strongly they are willing to die for it. Perhaps it is because this is the opposite of hypocrisy, for which eighth-graders have a low tolerance. Knowing that Jesus' Apostles were imprisoned and/or died in order to hand on the faith puts a whole new weight on their teachings.

Teaching Tip

Take some time to talk about the stories of the Apostles, including how they died. These stories can capture the imaginations of eighth-graders and inspire them to do something great for God as well.

Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders

History is something we cannot begin to appreciate until we have lived long enough to begin to see the patterns of growth in our own personal histories. Eighth-graders are beginning to discern the patterns of growth. Frame it as the story of our roots, our Catholic ancestors.

- Most young people will become more engaged by universal human themes in the lives of historical characters—their passions, fears, successes, and failures—than they will by the peripheral details of history.
- You can help the youth connect even more closely to Church history, by sharing stories on the history of your diocese and a few of the bishops.

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

Communal Life

- 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

bishop, cardinal, deacon, diocese, hierarchy, Magisterium, Pope

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 Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person, pages 338–339.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Peter Damian on page 180. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 180, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 10 for the prayer on page 181.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - "Go Light Your World," Live, Page 181

Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 10

Invite Page 171

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥ Let Us Pray

Ask the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Pray the leader prayer. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the Psalm verse. Prompt the group's response.

Have the youth move from the prayer space back to their seats.

Explain that our faith has been passed on to us ... that others who have come before us have taught about what it means to follow Jesus.

Say: Let's listen to God's Word and hear how the disciples were devoted to the teaching of the Apostles and to praying, celebrating, and living as Jesus wanted.

† 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: The Catholic Church has always kept the same faith and proclaimed the same Gospel handed on to us from the Apostles.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 174-175

Objectives

- Describe *Sacred Tradition* as the Church's faithfulness in teaching the same faith and proclaiming the same Gospel that was handed on to us from the Apostles
- Define *Apostolic Succession* as the authority to lead and teach the Church that can be traced through the centuries from the Apostles to their successors, the Bishops

Teaching Activity: Handing Down the Truth

Youth will play a game by whispering a phrase down a line to pass a message and learn more about God's truth.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✦ Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download the Catholic Faith Words page
white artificial dove board or chart paper, marker, tape

Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Words on the wall around the room.
- Write the following phrase on a piece of paper: *Aunt Sally baked a Dutch apple pie that tasted awful because she mistakenly used salt instead of sugar.*
- Write an example of God's truth on a piece of paper: *Jesus is truly God and truly man.* Attach the paper to the artificial dove.

Activity Directions

Begin the activity by lining up the participants in a line in the same direction so they are facing each other's backs.

Say: Today we are going to start with a fun game. I am going to give you a sentence to whisper to the person behind you. Be sure to repeat the exact phrase that you heard.

Hand the paper with the phrase written on it to the first person in the line. After the participants have whispered the phrase all the way down the line, ask the last person in the line to say the phrase out loud. Then, ask the first person in the line to read aloud the sentence on the paper. There should be a difference between the two. Ask the participants to remain in the line.

Say: It is very difficult to repeat the same phrase and not have it change. What are some reasons that can happen? Today, we are going to learn more about God's truth, which does not change. To do so we have to think about an important word. Sometimes the same word can have slightly different meanings. The word tradition means practice, customs, or rituals that we do repeatedly that have meaning in our

lives. How your family celebrates birthdays or when you decorate the Christmas tree are part of the tradition you have as a family. While we have many traditions in our Catholic Church, like crowning Mary in the month of May, or blessing ourselves with holy water when we enter the church, we use the word tradition in another way that has much more meaning.

Write the phrase *Sacred Tradition* on the board or chart paper.

Say: When we say Sacred Tradition, we mean God's Word safeguarded by the Apostles and their successors—the bishops, and handed down verbally in her Creeds, Sacraments, and other teachings—to future generations.

As you say the words above write *Creeds, Sacraments, and other teachings* underneath the phrase Sacred Tradition on the board or chart paper.

Say: As Catholics we believe that the truth God wants us to know and that was given to us perfectly in Jesus had to be handed on through many generations. 2000 years later we believe that same truth has been handed on to us faithfully because the Holy Spirit protects that truth.

Point out the definition for *Pope* that is posted on the wall and read it aloud.

Say: Jesus knew he would not be visible to us forever, so he gave the Church a visible head, Saint Peter, who was his Vicar (or representative) on Earth. The Pope, as the successor to Saint Peter is called the "Vicar of Christ." Our Catholic belief is that beginning with Peter, our first Pope, and the Apostles, and then through the leaders of the Church (the Popes and bishops who came after them) God's truth was handed on faithfully.

Now take a dove that has God's truth attached to it and hand it to the first person in line. Ask them to read the truth aloud and hand it on to second person in line. Have each participant read the truth aloud as the dove is passed down the line.

Say: Jesus gave the Twelve Apostles the authority to lead the Church under Saint Peter. This authority has been handed down directly from the Apostles to the Pope and bishops of the Church today. This is called *Apostolic Succession*. Do you see the word Apostle in that phrase? Succession is a way of saying it keeps going in order.

Point out the Catholic Faith Word *Apostolic Succession* that is posted on the wall and ask a volunteer to read aloud the definition to the group.

Say: What you are learning when we gather, what you experience in all the Sacraments, and what you say in the Creed are that treasure of faith that is given to

you with confidence that it is God's truth, offered to us in the words and actions of Jesus. It is what God wants you to know about him and living in relationship with him. That truth, guarded by the Holy Spirit, is given to you as a gift through our Catholic Church.

Ask the participants to return to their seats.

Discover (2) Pages 176-177

Objectives

- Explain the authority of the Magisterium
- Recognize the Nicene Creed and Apostles' Creed as containing the basic truths of our faith that express our oneness of belief

Point out that the title of this lesson partially answers the opening question. The original teacher is Jesus.

Teaching from the Apostles

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the first paragraph. Invite someone else to summarize what was read. Have the young people silently read the next two paragraphs.

Work with Words

Write the words *Magisterium*, *infallible*, and *Nicene Creed* on the board with plenty of space around each one.

Elicit from the youth words and/or short phrases that help define these terms; write them in the surrounding space.

To discuss the Nicene Creed further, review with the group the Where It Happened box at the top of page 177.

Unity Amid Diversity

Read aloud this section.

- Ask questions to determine whether the young people understood what was read.
- Perhaps making a chart on the board that shows some of the mainline denominations that split from the Church would be helpful.
- Ask the youth to go to the Church History timeline or to an online resource to find the years that the separations occurred.
- Invite discussion about other Christian denominations. Be aware, young people may have parents or guardians who belong to different faith traditions.

Activity

Invite the youth to name three truths of faith we profess in the Nicene Creed.

- Allow volunteers to share their responses with the group.

Quick Review

The Catholic Church contains the fullness of the teachings of Christ handed on directly to us from Peter and the Apostles to the Pope and the bishops. We work toward unity among all Christians by praying together, respecting one another, and learning more about what other Christians believe.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 10: Living What I Believe** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (3) Pages 178-179

Objectives

- Discuss the importance of ordained ministers in preaching the Good News

Ask: How do ordained ministers continue the work of the Apostles?

- Invite the group to respond.

The Work of the Apostles

Invite volunteers to read aloud the first two paragraphs.

† Scripture

Proclaim Romans 10:13–15.

Write this heading on the board: *The Three Degrees of Holy Orders*

- Direct the young people to read the next paragraph to find the three degrees.
bishops, presbyters (priests), and deacons

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the two paragraphs on bishops.

- Discuss what a diocese is, the name of your diocese, and the name of your bishop(s).
- Have another volunteer read aloud the paragraphs on priests from pages 178 and 179.
- Ask the rest of the group to summarize how priests are connected to bishops.
- Have a volunteer read this last section on deacons.
- Ask the youth if they know any deacons and what they have seen deacons do in their church.
- Ask: What would be missing in the Catholic Church today if we didn't have each of these orders?

Activity

Read aloud the questions and activity instructions.

- Allow a few minutes for reflection.
- Have the young people create a list of the ways his or her priest serves his parish.
- Invite them to share the questions they wrote to ask their priest.

In Summary

Have volunteers read aloud the opening sentence and each of the three summary points.

- Close by asking the youth to discuss how each of the roles mentioned in the text are necessary for carrying out the Church's mission.

Live Pages 180-181

Objectives

- Examine the Nicene Creed
- Explore the faith life of Saint Peter Damian
- Offer the Prayer of Petition

Our Catholic Life

Have a volunteer read aloud the paragraph.

- Discuss, as a group, the different elements that make up the Nicene Creed.
- Invite the young people to share their answers to the questions with a partner.

People of Faith

Explain to youth that Saint Peter Damian helped many different Popes during his lifetime.

- Ask a volunteer to read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Share some additional information on Saint Peter Damien from the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the young people to reflect on what living a self-sacrificing life might be like.

Here are some additional details about Saints Peter Damien to assist you in presenting this section:

- Saint Peter Damien lived a strict, self-sacrificing life, spending his time in prayer and learning.
- He was often called upon to mediate disputes between religious orders, government officials, and within the Church structure itself.
- A prolific writer, Peter Damien wrote about the Saints and important topics. He also wrote poetry.
- He was appointed Cardinal of Ostia in 1057.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the activity on page 180.

- Allow the youth time to read through a copy of his or her parish bulletin and reflect on the questions.
- Once everyone has completed their work, allow volunteers to share their answers with the group.

Prayer of Petition

♥ Assign two volunteers to be readers.


- Gather the group around the prayer table with the readers standing in front of the group.
- Play “Go Light Your World” as the young people are gathering and preparing to pray. Indicate to the readers when it is time to begin.
- After each prayer, lead the group in the response.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song “Go Light Your World,” 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 10 Lesson Plan


Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
The Church Is Apostolic Page 171	 Psalm 101:1 Pray the opening prayer.  Acts 2:42–43 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions.	
Discover, 45 minutes		
Upon This Rock Pages 174–175 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe Sacred Tradition as the Church’s faithfulness in teaching the same faith and proclaiming the same Gospel that was handed on to us from the Apostles Define Apostolic Succession as the authority to lead and teach the Church that can be traced through the centuries from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching Activity Youth will play a game by whispering a phrase down a line to pass a message and learn about God’s truth. 	 Catholic Faith Words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> white artificial dove
Teaching from the Apostles Pages 176–177 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the authority of the Magisterium Recognize the Nicene Creed and Apostles’ Creed as containing the basic truths of our faith that express our oneness of belief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the teaching authority of the Church Activity Name three truths of faith we profess in the Nicene Creed. Activity Master Living What I Believe 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens  Activity Master 10
The Work of the Apostles Pages 178–179 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the importance of ordained ministers in preaching the Good News 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about the three degrees of Holy Orders.  Read Romans 10:13–15. Compare and contrast the roles of bishops, priests, and deacons. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 180	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the questions in the Our Catholic Life section. People of Faith Learn about Saint Peter Damian. Activity Read a parish bulletin. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Prayer of Petition Page 181	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign two readers. Follow the order of prayer. 	 “Go Light Your World”

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Pope, Apostolic Succession, Magisterium, infallible, Nicene Creed

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 182

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Name _____

Date _____

Living What I Believe: The Nicene Creed

*I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,*

At the words that follow, up to and including *and became man*, all bow.

*and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.*

*He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.*

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

*I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

Date _____

Column B

Catholic Faith Words

Pope the successor of Peter, the bishop of Rome, and the head of the entire Catholic Church.

Catholic Faith Words

Apostolic Succession the term used to describe that the authority to lead and teach the Church can be traced through the centuries from the Apostles to their successors, the Pope and bishops.