

Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 21

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- The Church grew from a persecuted, illegal religion to the religion of the Roman Empire. The Edict of Milan gave Christians the freedom to worship. People like Saint Augustine, Benedict, and Pope Gregory the Great helped believers keep their faith despite political and social situations. (CCC, 2104-2109)
- Within the Catholic Church, there may be diversity in ministry but we have a unity of mission. (CCC, 873)
- The Council of Trent worked to make Church teachings clearer and reform abuses. (CCC, 1376)
- The Church continues to address the needs of the poor and the oppressed in the new world. The documents and decisions from the Second Vatican Council invite all the members of the Church to give a Catholic response to the challenges we face in the modern world. (CCC, 2443, 2444)

Catechist Background

Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as if something strange were happening to you. But rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.—1 Peter 4:12-14

Reflect How does the Church respond to the needs of the world today?

As we reflect on the history of the Church, we see the guidance of the Holy Spirit unfold the teaching of Christ through the ages. The Holy Spirit's presence has not, however, saved us from the challenges that come from outside and within the Church. For the first generation of Christians, challenges came in the very clear form of persecution and martyrdom. Today, in our pluralistic American culture, we are challenged by the many ways the dignity of the human person is degraded and harmed. Material possession and individualism tend to take precedence over the common good. Throughout our history, we have been threatened by forces from without and within, from attacks by kings and dictators to abuses of power on the part of our own leaders. But through it all, the Church has not only survived, but continued to live out the mission of Christ.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would always be with the Church. We see our history as the fulfillment of that promise. In every age, we have proven to be more

than the sum of our parts; for while the Church is made up of individuals who are themselves imperfect, as the Body of Christ, the Holy Spirit's continuing presence guides us and calls us to meet the challenges of the day.

Reflect What is one of the challenges for you in living as a Christian today; what is one of your sources of strength?

Catechist's Prayer

God of every age, your Spirit has guided the Church through good times and bad. Help me, in my day, to be an honorable minister of your Word and a joyful agent in the building of your Kingdom. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

When they read the stories of the martyrs, eighth-graders may tend to think of religious persecution as something that happened long ago, or at least something that happens in other places, far away. They need help in understanding that persecution comes in a number of different ways, from peers and from the popular culture as well as from oppressive governments. They can take courage from the Saints who have endured such hardships to hand on the faith to us.

Teaching Tip

Talk about the many different ways persecution can occur today, such as in peer situations and in media portrayals of Christians. Ask: Does it take more courage to be physically tortured and/or die for one's faith or to be isolated or have one's reputation ruined? Why?

Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders

Eighth-graders sometimes tend to judge the mistakes of others while rationalizing their own. They need to be taught to see both clearly and honestly.

- Most adolescents are still learning to establish healthy, unselfish relationships. Celebrating the successes of others is a good way to foster selflessness.
- You can help the youth develop a spirit of commitment within the Church community by encouraging actual involvement in the many ways the Church exercises and carries out her mission.

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
- Missionary Initiation

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

Missionary Spirit

- Objectives: 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

Church Council, crusades, Protestant

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 Care for God's Creation, pages 346–347.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Marianne Cope on page 324. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 324, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 21 for the prayer on page 325.

► Music Option

Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.

- "Go Make a Difference" Live, Page 325

Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 21

Invite Page 315

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 leader prayer. Choose 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 while life can be difficult, and sometimes full of struggles, we see the Spirit of glory and of God resting on us.

Say: The earliest Christians experienced trial by fire—they faced challenges and struggles and insults for believing in Christ and living their belief. Yet, God calls us to be his Church and continue to be his voice in the world.

† 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 Church has responded to the needs of the world throughout history.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 318-319

Objectives

- Describe the general life situation of the early Christians before Constantine
- Examine how the Edict of Milan changed the development of Christianity

The Early Church

Have a volunteer read aloud the text. Emphasize the strength of the faith of the early Christians despite their fear of being arrested.

Free to Worship

Summarize this section for the group.

- Point out that Christians won the freedom to worship in A.D. 313.

Power Struggles

Have the youth read the text and tell how Pope Gregory was a witness to faith.

Possible responses: He fed the poor; he built churches and opened schools; he converted workers to better prepare priests; he worked for peace

The Pope or the Emperor

Point out the artwork on page 318 of the crowning of Charlemagne.

Have the young people silently read this text on pages 318 and 319 to discover the relationship between Charlemagne and the Church.

- Ask: What does this time period tell us about the relationship between religion and political institutions?
- Have the youth summarize what they learned about Church history on these two pages.
- Invite a volunteer to write the responses on the board or on chart paper.

Activity

Have the young people silently read and answer the question. • Invite them to share what they wrote with a partner.

Quick Review

During the time of the early Church, Christians struggled to witness to their faith. People like Augustine, Benedict, and Pope Gregory the Great helped believers keep their faith despite political and social situations.

Discover (2) Pages 320-321

Objectives

- Explain how the use of indulgences was one of the factors that led to the Reformation
- Examine how the Council of Trent worked to make Church teachings clearer and reform abuses

The Church in Transition

Introduce the lesson by having a volunteer read aloud the introductory paragraph.

A Challenging Time

Summarize the text as follows:

- Pope Gregory VII tried to limit the influence of the Holy Roman emperor.
- The crusades tried to place the Holy Land under Christian control.
- The Church grew, with schools and cathedrals serving the faithful. New religious orders were founded.
- The Inquisition began as an attempt to stop the spread of heresy, or false teaching, in the Church.

A Painful Change

Have the youth work in groups to outline the changes in the Church in the 1500s.

Their outlines should include:

- Indulgences were often abused. They were sometimes sold, which was against Church teaching.
- Martin Luther protested this abuse and eventually began the Protestant Reformation.
- England left the Church when • King Henry VIII was not granted a divorce.
- The Council of Trent responded by clarifying Church teachings.

New Lands

Invite a volunteer to read the paragraph about the spread of Catholicism.

Activity

Provide the youth with newspapers or news magazines.

- Have them work in groups and use the resources to come up with a list of challenges.
- Encourage volunteers to share some of their answers.

Quick Review

The Church struggled with several challenges during the Middle Ages. The selling of indulgences was just one of the factors that led to the Protestant Reformation. Catholic leaders gathered at the Council of Trent to make Church teachings clearer and discipline stronger.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 21: Changes in the Church** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (3) Pages 322-323

Objectives

- Identify how the early Christians changed after Jesus' Ascension and then Pentecost

Teaching Activity: Addressing the Needs of Others

Participants will imagine that they are the Pope and write a short message to address that Church that focuses on the need to help God build his Kingdom of justice and peace.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✚ Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download How the Church Builds the Kingdom and play the *Pope Francis Visits Varghina Favela* video clip
tape

Preparation

- Cue the *Pope Francis Visits Varghina Favela* video clip for use during the activity:
<http://youtu.be/PRqS4Hx5RDw>

Activity Directions

Say: We have been learning about some of the important moments in Church history. Now we are going to fast-forward to the 1800's and 1900's in our country. Catholicism in America increased dramatically with influx of immigrants arriving from Europe. They came from places like Poland, Italy, and Ireland. Today, Catholic immigrants come from other places like Asia, Latin America, and Africa. There are more than a billion Catholics in the world and about 16% of Americans call themselves Catholic.

Pope Saint John Paul II, who led the Church from 1978 to 2005, spread the Gospel around the globe. He lived out the call of the Second Vatican Council to collaborate with other churches and apply our beliefs to the world's needs.

Post the How the Church Builds the Kingdom pages on the board or wall.

Say: The Church is our world today continues to help God build his Kingdom of peace and justice. She...

Have four volunteers read the ways that the Church builds God's Kingdom of peace and justice aloud to the group.

Say: Let's listen and watch to Pope Francis when he goes to an impoverished area Rio De Janeiro, in Brazil. This area is commonly referred to as a slum. It is where the poorest of the poor live. Even his decision to go to visit the people in that part of the city speaks to all of the world about our need to "see" and care for the poor.

Play the *Pope Francis Visits Varghina Favela* video clip for the group.

Direct the participants to select a partner. Distribute paper and pencils or pens. Ask them to imagine that they are the Pope and write a short message (of six or so sentences) that they would deliver to the world. Ask them to focus on the need to help God build his Kingdom of justice and peace.

When all of the pairs have finished writing their message to the world, ask volunteers to share the message with the large group.

Live Pages 324-325

Objectives

- Identify the influence of role models
- Explore the faith life of Saint Marianne Cope
- Offer the Mission Prayer

Our Catholic Life

Ask a volunteer to read aloud this section.

- Arrange the young people in groups of two or three to discuss the question about Catholic role models.

People of Faith

Explain to youth that Saint Marianne Cope joined Father Damian in Hawaii to help minister to the lepers on the island.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Review with the group the extra information in the People of Faith Background box.
- Facilitate a discussion on other Saints that have ministered to the sick.

Here are some additional details about Saint Marianne Cope to assist you in presenting this section:

- In 1883 Saint Marianne Cope and six of her Franciscans made the long journey to Hawaii during an epidemic of leprosy.
- When Saint Marianne and Father Damien met, he had already contracted leprosy from his work.
- Mother Marianne's loving service continued Saint Damien's mission to care for the most alienated and forgotten.

Activity

Read aloud the activity introduction and instructions.

- Have the youth work independently to come up with their answers.
- Invite volunteers to share changes they've seen in the Church.

A Mission Prayer

♥ Assign a leader and three readers. Allow them time to review their lines.





- Invite the young people to enter the prayer space with these words: Let us gather together to accept the challenges of living the Gospel in our world today.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by singing with the young people or playing the song "Go Make a Difference," 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 21 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
From Age to Age Page 315	 Psalm 150:6 Pray the opening prayer.  1 Peter 45:12–14; 5:10–11 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions.	
Discover, 45 minutes		
The Early Church Pages 318–319 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the general life situation of the early Christians before Constantine Examine how the Edict of Milan changed the development of Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the indistinct relationship between the Church and state that led to the confusion of political and spiritual leaders in the Church. Activity Interview someone from Church history. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> newspapers, news magazines
The Church in Transition Pages 320–321 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how the use of indulgences was one of the factors that led to the Reformation Examine how the Council of Trent worked to make Church teachings clearer and reform abuses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe some of the challenges the Church faced during the Middle ages and the Reformation. Activity Name and discuss some challenges that missionaries might face today. Activity Master Changes in the Church 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper  Activity Master 21
The Church in the Modern World Pages 322–323 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the growth of the Church in the New World Identify how the Church continues to address the needs of the poor and the oppressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching Activity Participants will imagine that they are the Pope and write a short message to address the Church that focuses on the need to help God build his Kingdom of justice and peace. 	 <i>Pope Francis' Visit</i> Video Clip, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens, tape
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 324	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the Our Catholic Life question. People of Faith Learn about Saint Marianne Cope. Activity Identify and describe changes that are happening in Church now. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
A Mission Prayer Page 325	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select a leader and three readers. Follow the order of prayer. 	 "Go Make a Difference"

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

martyr, monastery

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 326

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Name _____

Date _____

Changes in the Church

Fill in the chart with information from the textbook.

[illegible]

Name _____

Date _____

Match each description in Column A with the correct term in Column B.

Column A

- ____ 1. Holy person who loses his or her life witnessing to Christ
- ____ 2. Protected art and writings in the Early Middle Ages
- ____ 3. Churches founded as a result of Luther's complaints
- ____ 4. Conducted by Roman rulers on Christians
- ____ 5. Church founded by Henry VIII in England

Column B

- a. Anglican
- b. monasteries
- c. martyr
- d. Protestant
- e. persecutions

Complete each sentence with the correct term.

6. To regain the Holy Land, many soldiers left Europe to fight in the _____.
7. Martin Luther protested the selling of _____.
8. The emperor who gave Christians the freedom to worship openly was _____.
9. The Holy Roman Emperor crowned in A.D. 800 was _____.

Write a response on the lines below.

10. How did Church leaders respond to the challenges presented by Martin Luther and Henry VIII?

How the Church Builds the Kingdom

- The Church speaks out for the poor and outcasts.
- She supports basic human rights: education, healthcare, and voting rights.
- The Church encourages all people to be good stewards of the environment.
- She protects the most vulnerable members of society—especially the unborn.

