

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 1 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 15 A CHURCH OF SAINTS

#### Objectives

- Discover how people learn from family stories.
- Explore some ways to learn from stories about the saints.
- Discover ways people are called to be holy.

#### **Step 1: We Are Invited** (Life Experience), page 90

Ask your child to tell one or more of his or her favorite family stories.

Read the chapter title aloud: **A Church of Saints**. Point out that our faith community is a family with stories to share. Some of those stories are about saints.

Pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 90 by having your child repeat each line after you.

Read aloud the story about Tía Lidia. Ask: How do you think Carlos and María feel as they listen to the family stories? (Possible answers: happy, sad, proud, interested.)

Read aloud the caption question and invite your child to respond. (Help your child recognize that family stories connect us to a larger community while giving us role models to follow.)

#### **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), pages 91–93

Invite your child to look at the picture as you read the caption on page 91. Ask: Where can you see pictures or statues of saints? (in books, in church) Where can you hear stories about saints? (at home, at Mass)

Read aloud **Our Family Stories** on page 91. Ask: What does the Church learn from its family stories? (We learn about special people who did good works and loved God and others. The stories give us examples of how we should live.)

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Make sure your child understands that the saints care for us and ask God to help us. Ask: Which saints do you pray to when you need help or someone to guide you? (Possible answers: Mary, the mother of Jesus, your child's patron saint, the patron saint of your parish.)

Read aloud **All Kinds of Saints** on page 92. Help your child understand that the word *related* in the first sentence means "connected in a special way." Point out that we are related to the saints because they are a part of our Church family. They are holy people in our Church family who lived before us. Use the **Language of Faith** in the back of the textbook to clarify the term *martyrs*. Ask: What kind of lives did all the saints live? (They lived holy lives and followed Jesus in their own ways.)

As you read each caption on pages 92 and 93, have your child point to the saint's picture. Use the material below to help you talk about each saint that is pictured on these pages.

- Mary is shown with a crown on her head because she is often called the Queen of Heaven. We remember Mary in each celebration of the Eucharist as well as on special feast days during the Church year.
- Emphasize what slavery is and that it is wrong. Explain to your child that Saint Benedict is the patron saint of African Americans. His feast day is April 4.
- Saint Martin is the patron saint of the country of France. His feast day is November 11.
- Saint Philip's feast day is May 26.
- Explain that the name *Kateri* is a form of the name Catherine. Blessed Kateri's feast day is July 14.
- Although her life was in danger, Sister Ita Ford served the people of El Salvador until she was killed.

Provide your child with crayons or colored pencils. Explain the **Activity** directions on page 93, and give your child sufficient time to complete his or her drawing.

Read aloud **Our Moral Guide** on page 93. Emphasize that reading about the saints can help us grow in holiness. Ask: How can we follow the examples of the saints? (Encourage your child to name specific actions, such as serving others, praying, and being unselfish. Help him or her recognize how our individual efforts contribute to the Church's collective growth in holiness.)

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 94

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall**, **Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**. Have your child complete the activity.

Read **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish**. Try to follow through on the suggestions found there.

At this point in the lesson, you may wish to have your child work through the **Unit 4 Review** on pages 96–97.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 29–30.

**Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 95

Draw your child’s attention to the picture of the saints and the background picture of the children playing on the beach. Ask: How can we be like saints in our everyday lives? (Possible answers: by praying, by loving God and others, by helping others and sharing with them, by finding joy in our faith.)

Read aloud **How to Be Saints** on page 95. Explain that when a person gives advice, as Saint Paul did in his letters, he or she is giving helpful ideas about how to do something.

Next read the closing **Prayer**, a Scripture verse from Paul’s Letter to the Romans. Ask your child to listen carefully as you pray the prayer aloud once in its entirety. Then pray the prayer again, this time inviting your child to follow along in his or her book and join in whenever he or she can.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 44–46.