

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 2 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 13 THE CHURCH IS A COMMUNITY

#### Objectives

- Realize that a community is a group of people who share something in common.
- Demonstrate understanding of the Church as a community with leaders.
- Connect the communities of early Christians with today's Christian communities.

#### Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 78

Discuss with your child a time when he or she was new to a group. Then invite your child to pray the opening **Prayer** by repeating each phrase of the prayer after you.

Note the chapter title: **The Church Is a Community**. Then read the story on page 78 of Jennifer's walk to her new school. Use the **Language of Faith** section to reinforce the meaning of the term *community*. Discuss this question: Why do you think Jennifer felt better after her mother explained how Saint Michael's was a community? (Jennifer understood that the school community was made up of other children with whom she had much in common.)

Draw your child's attention to the picture at the bottom of the page. Read the caption and questions. Invite your child to answer the questions.

#### Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), pages 79–81

Read aloud **Followers of Jesus** and **Catholics Believe** on page 79. Why is the Church a community? (It is made up of people who share the belief that Jesus is the Son of God.) Explain to your child that the word *church* is rooted in the Greek words *kyriakon*, meaning "belonging to the Lord," and *ekklesia*, meaning "assembly." The Church community is unique because we are called by the Lord and we belong to the Lord. Through Baptism we become members of the Church family both worldwide and locally. Using the text, review the meaning of the term *parish*.

Draw attention to the photograph at the bottom of page 79. Read the caption questions and discuss the answers with your child.

Turn to page 80 and ask your child to focus on the Scripture art. Ask your child to describe what he or she sees. Be sure your child understands that this is a picture of the early Christians. How does the picture show that these people are followers of Jesus? (They are celebrating the Eucharist.)

Read or summarize the **Scripture Story: The First Christians**. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to further clarify the term *worship*. How were the first Christians a community? (They were like a family; they shared their faith in Jesus; they shared everything they owned.)

Explain to your child that this Scripture passage comes from the Acts of the Apostles. If possible take out your family Bible and locate the Book of Acts; it comes right after John's Gospel in the New Testament. Tell your child that this book tells us the most about the beginnings of the Church community and the ways in which the early Christians lived out their faith in Jesus. We learn about the struggles of the early Christians, their problems, arguments, and difficulties. Sometimes they were selfish and hurtful. Yet they understood that they belonged to a family that was called together by God and that they were asked to treat one another as Jesus treated everyone he met—with love, kindness, forgiveness, and generosity.

Read the bulleted question at the bottom of page 80, and invite your child to respond to it. (They prayed together, helped those in need, shared what they owned, and celebrated the Eucharist.) Point out that the followers of Jesus still do these things today.

Work on the **Activity** together.

Read together **Church Leaders** on page 81, and make sure your child understands that leaders encourage the community to help one another.

Read **Saints Walk with Us: Saint John Vianney**. Discuss: Besides giving good advice, how else do you think this saintly pastor cared for his parishioners? (Possible answers: He celebrated Mass and the other sacraments with his people.) Explain that a patron saint is a saint the Church calls on to pray for certain people or groups. Help your child find information about their patron saint.

Look at the picture of the parish priest. Read the caption and discuss the questions posed there. (Your child may say that the pastor celebrates Mass, listens to people's problems, and teaches people about Jesus.)

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 82

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.

Refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook for clarification and review of all highlighted words.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 25–26.

**Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 83

Invite your child to name the Church leaders shown in the picture on page 83. (music minister, priest or pastor, people who assist at Mass, Eucharistic ministers)

Read aloud the first paragraph of **Prayer and Support**. How can our prayers help others? (With our prayers we ask God’s help and guidance for the person or persons for whom we are praying.)

Before praying the closing **Prayer**, create a list of Church leaders (local and worldwide). Where the prayer calls for the name of the teacher, use your name. Together pray the prayer slowly and solemnly.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 38–40.