

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 2 / Home Lesson

### CHAPTER 23 MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

#### Objectives

- Associate being a member of a club or an organization with having certain duties or obligations.
- Explore some of the obligations of members of the Church.
- Discover how the gifts from the Holy Spirit help us grow in love and faith.

#### **Step 1: We Are Invited** (Life Experience), page 138

Invite your child to name clubs or organizations of which they are members. Remind your child that he or she is also an important member of the Church community.

Invite your child to pray the opening **Prayer** on page 138 by repeating each phrase after you.

Read the chapter title: **Members of the Church** and the text that follows. Help your child understand that obligations are services and actions that are expected of people because they belong to certain groups. Ask: What might happen to a club or organization if people did not do their duty or perform their obligations? (The club or organization would suffer. It might even stop being active.)

Help your child complete the **Activity**. Instead of discussing the answers to the questions, you might choose to provide crayons and drawing paper so that your child can draw what some of the members of their club might do.

#### **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), pages 139–141

Read aloud **The Duties of the Church** on page 139, and use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted terms. Ask your child what some of those duties might be. Accept his or her response based on prior knowledge. Then explain that he or she will learn more about the duties that we have as members of the Church as they continue to read this chapter.

Discuss with your child each of these precepts on page 139. When you discuss fasting and abstinence, you might explain that healthy members of the Church community who are between the ages of 18 and 59 are asked to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting means eating only one full meal on that day. They can eat two smaller meals and drink liquids as well. Members who are 14 and older are asked to abstain (to not eat meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays in Lent.

Draw attention to the picture. Ask: What Church duty are the people performing? (the duty to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days)

After reading **Catholics Believe**, point out that the precepts of the Church were given to us by Church leaders to help us grow in our faith and in our responsibility to the other members of the community.

Have your child do the **Activity** on page 139. As you read and discuss each of the precepts of the Church, list them on a sheet of paper under the heading *The Duties of Church Members*. Provide art materials for the activity.

After you read the picture caption on page 140, ask your child to name the sacrament that the baby in the picture might have celebrated already. (Baptism) Have your child name sacraments he or she has celebrated. (Possible answers: Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation, the Eucharist.)

Read the first paragraph of **A Sacramental Community** on page 140. Ask: How can we live the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation every day? (Possible answer: by doing actions that help us keep our promise to grow in faith.)

Read the remainder of the text. Review what your child learned about Reconciliation in Chapter 19. Help your child understand that the Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament in which a priest anoints a sick or elderly person and prays special prayers for that person.

Help your child understand the two Sacraments of Service by explaining that Matrimony is celebrated when a man and woman promise to help and care for each other for the rest of their lives, and Holy Orders is celebrated when men make special promises to lead and serve the Church as bishops, priests, and deacons.

After you have read aloud the information about Saint Basil in **Saints Walk with Us**, share the following additional information. Basil was born about A.D. 330 in an area of the world that is now the country of Turkey. He was one of nine children. Basil's family was wealthy and well educated, and he was taught by both his father and his grandmother. After his father died, Basil was ordained in the Christian Church. Besides writing about the sacraments, Basil helped write important rules for monastic life—the life that monks and nuns follow when they live together in religious communities. He also helped set up hospitals and other places where the sick could be treated and those in need could be helped.

Read aloud the heading on page 141: **The Spirit Is with Us**. Remind your child that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Holy Trinity. Ask: Who are the other two Persons in the Holy Trinity? (God the Father and Jesus, the Son of God)

Read the first paragraph. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to help your child understand the highlighted words.

Read over the chart on page 141: **The Gifts of the Spirit**. Ask: What signs of the Holy Spirit do you see in your family? In your parish community? (Help your child identify both the gifts and the fruits of the Spirit in each of these groups.)

Point out the mosaic showing the Holy Spirit. Explain that the Holy Spirit is often symbolized as a dove, rays of light, or a flame. The Holy Spirit cannot be seen, so it is necessary for us to use a symbol. The dove, a gentle bird, is a symbol of the Holy Spirit because it represents peace and purity. Light is a symbol of the Holy Spirit because it represents spiritual brightness. Flames are a symbol of the Holy Spirit because they often stand for enthusiasm and a deep commitment to the faith.

Read the **Scripture Signpost**. To provide context for the Scripture Signpost, share the following information with your child. The Letter to the Romans contains some of the most fully developed of Paul's theology and has had a profound effect on Christian thinkers—including Augustine and Luther—throughout the Church's history. The majority of the letter is devoted to teachings on faith and salvation through Jesus Christ. *Romans 12:11* concentrates on the practical application of these teachings to everyday life.

### **Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 142

Review the material taught in this lesson by completing the sections: **Recall, Think and Share, and Continue the Journey**.

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

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

Complete **Unit 6 Review** on pages 144–145 in the text.

Complete pages 45–46 in your **Faith Journal**.

### **Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 143

Ask your child to recall how we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (through the sacraments) Before reading **Fill Us with Your Life**, invite your child to look at the items pictured on page 143. Have him or her name the sacrament(s) represented by each item. (wedding picture—Matrimony; bread and wine—Eucharist and Holy Orders; Bible—any sacrament; holy oil—Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, Confirmation, and Baptism; stained glass window water image—Baptism)

Read the first paragraph. Ask your child to point to the words *new life*, *strength*, *grow*, and *new energy*. Ask: What do these words tell you about the sacraments? (Possible answer: The sacraments are very powerful; they change us in many ways; they are gifts from God.)

Read the second paragraph and tell your child that in the early Church many new members were adults when they were baptized. Entire families would sometimes become members of the Church at one time.

As you close the lesson with the **Prayer** on page 143, alternate the lines of the prayer with your child.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 68–70.