

# WALKING by FAITH

## Grade 3 / Home Lesson

### **CHAPTER 21: WE BECOME PART OF THE CHURCH**

#### **Objectives**

- Describe the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Identify Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist as the Sacraments of Initiation.
- Compare the actions and effects of the Sacraments of Initiation.

#### **Step 1: We Are Invited** (Life Experience), pages 126–127

Invite your child to recall stories or television shows about a family welcoming someone new. Ask: How did the family members welcome the newcomer? (Answers might include: by having a party or sharing a special meal.)

Remind your child that our Church family welcomes new members, too. With this in mind, pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 126.

Read the chapter title: **We Become Part of the Church**. Then read the story and explain that the Easter Vigil is a special liturgy celebrated on Holy Saturday evening, the night before Easter Sunday. The Vigil is special because at this liturgy, adults and children are sometimes baptized, and the entire community renews its baptismal promises. Point out that *candidates* are people who are preparing to join the Church family.

Discuss any Baptisms that your family has celebrated or witnessed.

Invite your child to read aloud the caption. Emphasize that water is a sign reminding us that Baptism washes away original sin and, for older children and adults, personal sins. We die to our old life and are given new life in Jesus.

Draw your child's attention to the photograph on page 127. Explain that the woman on the right is the other woman's sponsor. A sponsor is a Church member who agrees to help the new member grow in faith. Ask: What kind of person does a sponsor need to be? (someone who has a strong faith; is able to share that faith with others; and practices the virtues of faith, hope, and love in daily life)

Have your child read aloud the **Landmark** caption. As he or she does so, write the signs of Baptism on a piece of paper, and add *washing with water* to the list. Discuss with your child the meaning of each sign.

Read aloud **Scripture Signpost** and explain that a *sojourner* is a wanderer, a person who roams from place to place and has no home. When we are baptized, we are no longer sojourners and strangers but are joined together in Jesus' family and have a new home in the Church. Invite your child to answer the question. (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist)

## **Step 2: We Explore** (Doctrine), pages 128–129

Ask your child to describe an experience he or she had being initiated or welcomed into a new group such as a club or a scout group. Ask: How did you feel when the members welcomed you into their group? (happy, proud, and so on)

Read **A Special Relationship** on page 128 and clarify the highlighted terms for your child using the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook.

Read **Catholics Believe** and emphasize that the Sacraments of Initiation join us to Jesus and the Church community and strengthen us with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Have your child describe the photograph. Ask him or her if they can tell you what the bishop is using to mark each person's forehead. (oil) Explain that this oil is called *chrism*. Make sure your child notices the white garments, which symbolize new life in Christ. Draw attention to the baptismal candle, which symbolizes Christ, who is the Light of the World.

Read aloud the caption and emphasize that Confirmation strengthens our relationship with Jesus and with the entire Church community.

Continue reading the text at the top of page 129. Emphasize that when we celebrate a sacrament, the Holy Trinity acts in the entire Church community and in each of us individually.

Ask your child to identify some actions and their possible effects (an example of an action might be doing a chore at home with the effect of making a happier family). Explain that in a similar way, actions in a sacramental ceremony produce certain effects or results.

Read aloud the chart on **The Sacraments of Initiation**, sacrament by sacrament. Explain the meanings of any unfamiliar words.

Ask your child to identify the sacrament shown in the photograph. (Baptism) Remind your child that washing with water symbolizes our rebirth in Christ.

**Step 3: We Reflect** (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 130

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**. Complete the activity.

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

Complete the **Faith Journal** pages 41–42.

**Step 4: We Celebrate** (Prayer and Conclusion), page 131

Ask your child to recall times when they made promises to friends or family members. Ask: What does *making a promise* mean? (giving your word that you will do something)

Help your child identify the pictures on page 131: people praying together during an Easter Vigil; a baptismal font; a bishop and priest leading a liturgical celebration.

Read aloud **Remembering Our Promises**. Point out that we have many opportunities to renew our baptismal promises in our daily lives. Ask: What are some ways you can renew your baptismal promises? (by celebrating the Eucharist frequently, praying every day, treating others as Jesus would, and so on)

Place a small bowl of holy water on a table near you. Begin the **Prayer** celebration with the Sign of the Cross. Pray together the prayer and invite your child to dip his or her fingers in the holy water and make the Sign of the Cross. End the celebration by singing a familiar hymn, or by listening to a recording.