

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 6 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 15 TOGETHER AS ONE BODY

Objectives

- Examine how the Church community is one body.
- Explain how the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
- Explore each person's role in the Church community.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 112–113

Ask your child to identify various “workers” in the Church community. (priests, deacons, pastoral assistants, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, parish council members, and so on) Explain that this chapter will explore how each person contributes to the Church community. Pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 112.

Read **Together as One Body**. Discuss with your child what would happen to the Church community if members stopped making their unique contributions. Ask: In what ways do you contribute to the Church community? Have your child do the **Activity** on page 112.

Discuss the caption questions. Then read **Many Members, One Community** and **Scripture Signpost** on page 113. Ask the signpost question: What brings the members of the Church together as one? (Possible answers: the Holy Spirit, belief in one God, belief in one body of teachings, our leaders, the Eucharist, Baptism.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 114–117

Remind your child that since the beginning people have recognized the Church as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic; these are called the marks of the Church.

Read **The Church Is One** on page 114. Ask: How can you summarize what Saint Paul taught about unity or oneness? (We are all one in Christ; the Holy Spirit binds us together; we are all equal in Christ; we serve the same Lord.) Why is it important to remember this unity in Christ? (Possible response: it helps us carry out our mission: bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to all people.) Ask your child to respond to the caption item.

Read together **Catholics Believe** on page 114. Explain to your child that because we all share the same bread—the Body of Christ in the Eucharist—we become one body united in love and purpose. Paul said in 1 *Corinthians* 10:17, “Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we partake of the one loaf.”

Read **The Church Is Holy** on page 115. Ask: How can humans who sometimes sin be called “saints” or “holy ones”? (As part of the Body of Christ all are called to holiness; no one but God is perfect.) How is the Church holy? (The Spirit’s presence and Christ’s love are found in the Church.)

Read **The Church Is Catholic and Our Moral Guide** on page 115. To aid your child in answering the question, introduce the term *ecumenism*—the movement to promote unity among Christians and help them recognize the faith they hold in common.

If time permits, do the **Activity** along with your child.

Now read **The Church Is Apostolic** on page 116. Emphasize that Jesus sent his apostles into the world to preach the good news. Ask: How is the Church apostolic? (It is built on the foundation of the apostles’ teachings and has a mission to spread the gospel.) What does it mean to be an ambassador of Christ? (It means to live the gospel through our actions.)

Read **Saints Walk with Us: The Women of El Salvador** on page 116. Explain to your child that the photograph shows the memorial for the women of El Salvador. The memorial is located in San Pedro Nonualco, where their bodies were hidden after their murders.

Read the various letters on page 117 and see if you and your child can summarize each in just one easy sentence. Point out that when Christians take the advice in these letters they help the Church grow.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Daily Life), page 118

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

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 **Unit 4 Review** in your textbook on page 120–121.

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

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 119

Look together at the stained-glass art and the photo of the parish members gathered to celebrate Mass on page 119. Discuss how both the apostles and the parish community are being prayerful. Ask: Which prayer do we pray each Sunday that proclaims our beliefs, the same beliefs held by the apostles? (Check page 224 for the answer.) Read **The Faith of the Apostles** and refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for further explanation of the word *creed*.

Pray the closing **Prayer**. (The Apostles' Creed can be found on page 218.)