

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 6 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 25 ALL THE FAITHFUL

Objectives

- Explore an image of heaven.
- Explore what it means to be a member of the communion of saints.
- Relate participation in the communion of saints to charity and intercessory prayer.
- Examine steps in intercessory prayer.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 186–187

Have your child brainstorm a list of biblical heroes, ancestors, saints, and martyrs he or she has studied. Invite your child to choose the name of a person from this list whom he or she would most like to meet. Write the name on a piece of paper for later reference.

Tell your child that this chapter on **All the Faithful** explores how the living and the dead continue to have a relationship through the communion of saints. Then pray together the **Prayer** on page 186.

As your child reads the text on pages 186–187, add the names of people he or she reads about to the paper you set aside earlier. Note that these people are talking about subjects that were important to them while on earth. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for further clarification of the term *mystic*.

Have your child imagine in what setting he or she would find the banquet shown in the photograph on page 186. Invite your child to explain why the setting appeals to him or her. Then invite responses to the caption question. (Help your child identify the characteristics of a banquet—celebration, nourishment that is both physical and spiritual, companionship—and make the connections to our hopes for life with God.)

Focus on these words: *People of every race and nation, every language and time, are sharing in this banquet.* Ask: What do these words reveal about heaven? (What matters is whether you served God and others, not your race or the language you spoke.) How do we know from this text that earthly things like money and power are unimportant in God's kingdom? (Those who were once poor and homeless sit next to presidents and prime ministers.) What must we do to be invited to this banquet? (serve God instead of ourselves in every decision we make)

Call attention to the painting of the wedding banquet on page 187. Have your child note that Jesus is seated at the center of the banquet table. Ask: How does this wedding banquet give us a glimpse of heaven? (Possible response: Jesus, the center of everyone's life, is present; it is a happy celebration with many people in attendance.)

Discuss the **Activity** with your child—each of you making your own list.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 188–191

Remind your child that our relationships with God and others are ever changing. Invite him or her to name ways we can deepen these relationships.

Point out that the photograph on page 188 shows a Byzantine Rite liturgy in an Eastern Rite Catholic Church. Have your child compare it to a Latin Rite liturgy, describing observable similarities and differences. Read the **Landmark**.

Read **Holy Gifts for Holy People** and refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted term. Point out that whenever we share God's holy gifts, we strengthen the entire faith community.

Read **Catholics Believe** and explain that since ancient times, the Church has proclaimed its belief in the communion of saints. We proclaim our belief in the communion of saints when we pray the Apostles' Creed.

Read the **Scripture Story: Everything in Common** and the remaining text on page 189. Refer to the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook for further clarification of the highlighted term.

Point out to your child that the practices of the early Church inspired many women and men to found, or begin, religious communities. Ask: How would the Church of today be different if more people shared their wealth.

Read **Our Moral Guide** and answer the questions posed here. (Explore the connections between people who share a life together. Have your child consider his or her family life. Lead him or her to observe that when one person is cheerful, generous, or kind, it can affect everyone else; when one person is moody, rude, or selfish, it also can affect everyone else. Draw the conclusion that acts of charity build up a community and acts of sin tear it down.)

Have your child note the community members offering earthly treasure for the good of others. Then invite your child to answer the question. (Storing up treasure in heaven means living as selfless members of the Christian community. We live this way when we care for the needs of all our brothers and sisters in Christ. The charity we show to others is considered treasure in heaven.)

As you read **One Holy People**, use the **Language of Faith** section at the back of the textbook to clarify the highlighted word.

Ask: Why do we pray for the faithful who have died and are not yet with God in heaven? (Prayers help them through their purification so that they will soon experience God's glory.)

Read the **Scripture Signpost**, and have your child respond to the question. (Possible answers: All those who follow Jesus will live with God forever; we are united by faith and prayer to those who have gone before us; we can look forward to joining them at God's banquet of love.)

Provide art materials for the **Activity**.

Ask your child to describe what the people in the photograph on page 191 are doing. Before reading the **Stepping Stones: Using Intercessory Prayer** section, discuss with your child times he or she has prayed for another person or for a worthy cause. Then read about intercessory prayer, pausing after each step to offer the prayer indicated. Ask: Why are intercessory prayers important? (they help others; they make us active participants in the communion of saints)

This week at Mass listen closely to the Intercessory Prayers and perhaps add those needs to your individual prayers for the week. Read **Where Will This Lead Me?**

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 192

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 pages 49–50 in your **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 193

Help your child notice the use of candles during prayer. Explain to your child that some people light a candle when they wish to pray as a way of recognizing that Jesus brings light to our world and this light helps us in times of need.

Ask your child to describe the photograph at the bottom of page 193. Invite him or her to mention meaningful prayer times he or she has shared in a group.

Read **Pray for Us!** and then close the lesson by writing your own Litany of Saints. Make a list of the patron saints of all family members, some of your favorite saints, saints you have read about in the chapters of this book. When the list is complete, take a moment to prepare for prayer the invoke each saint's name, followed by "pray for us." (for example: Saint Peter, pray for us. Saint Mary Magdalene, pray for us.)