



# The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

## Begin

Before you meet with your child, find a picture of Jesus or a church to cut up to make puzzle pieces. Give half of the pieces to your child and keep the other half. **Say:** *Let's work together to complete the puzzle.* When the puzzle is complete, point out how you both contributed pieces to the puzzle. **Say:** *The community of Jesus is similar to this puzzle. Each of us plays an important role.* Read aloud the unit title on page 61. **Say:** *Our new unit will help us learn about how we belong to a community of believers.*

## Introduce the Saint

Direct your child's attention to the picture of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Read aloud the text. Discuss if your family knows any priests or brothers who are Jesuits.

Turn to page 62. Have your child read aloud the text. **Ask:** *How do we imitate Jesus? (by being kind to others, serving the community, volunteering at church)* **Say:** *Saint Ignatius went on a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat. He left his sword on the altar, gave up his riches, and went on to write the Spiritual Exercises. These writings help people find God's will for them and the courage to follow God's call.*

**Say:** *We remember Saint Ignatius of Loyola because he founded the Jesuit community to serve the Church and teach Jesus' Word.*

With your child add Ignatius's feast day, July 31, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the dedication of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

## The Church Is One

### Engage: Page 63

- ▶ Talk about celebrations that are American customs, such as Thanksgiving and Independence Day. **Ask:** *Why do you think celebrating an ethnic heritage or nationality is important to many people?* (It is part of their history and tradition.)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Say:** *In this session we will learn how the Church celebrates God's Word in various ways around the world.*
- ▶ Share experiences you have had celebrating Mass in different places. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Ask your child to name different roles that people can take to serve the Church.
- ▶ Read aloud Different Roles for Church Members on page 64. Point out the vocabulary words. **Ask:** *What is the role of the laity?* (They are called to be holy, to be a witness to Christ in the world, and to foster Gospel values in society.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Unity in Beliefs. Help your child locate the Apostles' Creed in his or her book to complete the activity.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Jesus knows that the differences among us do not keep us apart, but add to our unity.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 65. **Ask:** *Who are the visible signs of unity in the Church?* (the pope, the bishops) *Why do you think Pope Gregory the Great called himself the "servant of the servants of God"?* (He served the people of God, who are called to serve others.)

### Art Exploration: Page 235

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a community praising God together.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the colors and the expressions on the faces of the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *Psalm 100 says that God is the Lord of all lands and of all ages. He is without race, and he is timeless.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 235. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.

- ▶ Read aloud Unity and Diversity in the Church. **Ask:** *Why is the body a good way to describe the unity and diversity in the Church?* (Like a body, the Church is one unit with many parts.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud In My Parish . . . Complete the activity together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Find opportunities to listen to the liturgy celebrated in a language different from your own.
- ▶ Using household items and art supplies, ask your child to make his or her own musical instrument. Encourage him or her to write a song about unity and diversity in the Church and to use the instrument to express the rhythm of the song.

### Reflect: Pages 66–67

- ▶ Together look at page 66 and discuss the picture. **Say:** *The Apostles' Creed is like a family heirloom. It is passed from generation to generation.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. **Say:** *As members of the Church, we are united in our belief, regardless of where we live and what language we speak. Let's pray the prayer that expresses these beliefs as it was taught by the apostles and is still taught by the Church.* Pray aloud the Apostles' Creed together. Then slowly read aloud the next two paragraphs. Give your child time to reflect on the prayer. Read aloud the last paragraph. **Say:** *The Apostles' Creed reminds us to practice Jesus' teachings in our daily lives.*
- ▶ Read aloud Examining the Eastern Tradition on page 67. If possible, find a map of the areas described. **Say:** *Though there are differences in how we and the Eastern Church celebrate, there is unity in the Eucharist and in many of its accompanying prayers, as well as in the participants of the congregation.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Comparing the Liturgies and complete the chart. Discuss the similarities and differences between the traditions.

### Respond: Page 68

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can respect and love all people.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.