



We Worship

Begin

Read aloud the unit title. Work together to write a definition of the word *worship*. Then compare your definition with the definition in the Glossary. **Say:** *In this unit we will explore how worshipping together as a community helps us grow in our relationship with God.*

Introduce the Saint

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraph on page 89. Explain that Thomas Aquinas's family was not opposed to all religious orders; they were only opposed to Thomas joining the Dominicans. **Say:** *In Thomas Aquinas's time, the Dominican community was new. It was considered by many to be too unconventional.* Point out that the early Dominicans supported themselves by begging for food and clothing. **Say:** *This is not the life that Thomas's wealthy parents had in mind for him.*

Invite your child to read aloud How the Saint Relates. Point out the contributions that Saint Thomas Aquinas has made to the Church. **Say:** *God blessed Thomas Aquinas with many gifts. In response, Thomas Aquinas chose to share these gifts with the Church.* Give your child a moment to reflect on the gifts he or she has received from God and how these gifts can be shared with the Church. Discuss the ideas.

Turn to page 90. Invite your child to read aloud Writer and Teacher. **Say:** *Thomas Aquinas poured his heart and soul into his work, which included writing the Summa Theologiae.* Emphasize that Aquinas's writings demonstrate that the truths revealed by God can be understood through the use of human reasoning.

Ask your child to write the word *transubstantiation*. **Say:** *Transubstantiation is a long word that we don't often use in conversation. The first part, trans, means "to change." The root of the second part of the word refers to substance.* Point out that through the words of consecration, the substance of the bread and wine change into the Body and Blood of the risen Christ that we receive in Holy Communion.

Read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. **Say:** *The role of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is to ensure that the Church remains faithful to the truths that have been revealed by God.*

With your child, add Thomas Aquinas's feast day, January 28, to your calendar. Celebrate his life by playing a recording of *O Salutaris* or *Pange Lingua*. Remind your child that these hymns written by Thomas Aquinas can help us grow in our relationship with God and our appreciation of the Eucharist.

The Church and Society

Engage: Page 91

- ▶ Display images that groups might use to identify themselves, such as team logos. Discuss how these logos help others identify each group. **Ask:** *What images might we use to help others identify us as Catholics?* (Possible answers: Bible, cross, crucifix)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and discuss the text in the blue box. **Say:** *In this session we are going to learn about contributions the Church made to the world during the Middle Ages. We're also going to learn about the Marks of the Church. These are attitudes and behaviors that help us identify the Church and its members.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 92–93

- ▶ Write this phrase: *beginning, _____, end.* **Ask:** *What word is missing? (middle) In our study of Church history, what might we consider the beginning?* (Possible answers: Jesus' birth, the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost) **Say:** *In this session we will look at a "middle" point in Church history.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the title The Middle Ages and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *Why did the bishops work to establish the Truce of God?* (Possible answer: to remind people that God wants us to treat our neighbors as ourselves)
- ▶ Read aloud the sections The Split Between East and West and Cities and Universities. Emphasize that while the split between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church continues to exist, leaders of both Churches are working toward reconciliation. Point out that few people could read and write in the Middle Ages. **Say:** *It was a privilege to attend a college or a university. Those who did made contributions to the Church that continue to shape our understanding of the Church and its teaching.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Religious Orders on page 93. Point out that members of the Mendicant Orders built up the Kingdom of God through direct service to others.
- ▶ Together read aloud Francis of Assisi. **Ask:** *Why did Francis's lifestyle attract followers?* (Possible answer: His followers were also interested in living a simple life dedicated to the Gospel.) Point out that the wounds that Francis of Assisi experienced are known as the stigmata and that other holy men and women have experienced the wounds as well.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Cross of Jesus. **Say:** *When we help alleviate the suffering of others, we also alleviate Jesus' suffering.*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 94–95

- ▶ Write a large Z. Explain that this mark was used by the fictional character Zorro, a Spanish hero who helped people who were poor. **Ask:** *If you traveled the world standing up for oppressed people, what mark would you leave behind?* Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *In this article we are going to read about the Marks of the Church, four characteristics that identify our global Catholic community.*

- ▶ Read aloud the title The Marks of the Church and the first paragraph. **Ask:** *What has Jesus instructed the Church to do?* (continue his mission in the world)
- ▶ Read aloud The Church Is One. Emphasize that the bishops, united under the pope, are the strongest sign of the unity of the Church because they are the direct successors of the Apostles.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Ready for Confirmation. Explain that through Confirmation, we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Read aloud The Church Is Holy on page 95. **Ask:** *Why is the Church holy?* (It is one with Jesus Christ.)
- ▶ Together read aloud The Church Is Catholic and The Church Is Apostolic. **Say:** *It is important for us to remain in conversation with our Christian brothers and sisters from other denominations.* Explain that the gift of infallibility does not mean that the pope is perfect or without sin.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Catholic Character. Together name individuals who, by their lives, model for us the four Marks of the Church.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 96–97

- ▶ Read aloud the title and the paragraphs in the left column. **Ask:** *How does our community work together to live the way Jesus showed us?* (Possible answer: by sponsoring food drives or service trips)
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together. Then give your child time to reflect silently. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ **Ask:** *When you were little, what did you want to be when you were older?* Discuss your child's response. **Say:** *As we grow and mature, we continue to learn more about ourselves and the gifts we have received from God.* Read aloud the introductory paragraph of Where Do I Fit In? on page 97. **Say:** *The journey toward our vocation is often an adventure.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud How Do We Know What God Wants of Us? **Say:** *God has a clever sense of humor. What is clever about the fact that Father O'Brien heard his call outside a courthouse?* (Possible answer: Courthouses are where people decide the truth about an issue.) Explain that sometimes people receive the call to serve God in new ways after they have already begun a profession that they might enjoy.
- ▶ Allow time for your child to write a personal prayer in the section Listen to God.

Respond: Page 98

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions and answer each question. Point out that he or she can use the page references for help.
- ▶ Ask your child to list, define, and use in sentences the terms under Say What? Use the Glossary if necessary.
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Invite your child to complete the activity. **Say:** *By living out the Marks of the Church, you put into practice the words you proclaim when you pray the Nicene Creed.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to pray a 3-minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.