



# We Are Sent

## Begin

Read aloud the unit title. Display both secular and religious items, such as baseball cards, cereal bars, rosaries, and prayer cards. Invite your child to separate these items into logical categories and explain what categories he or she used. Write the words *secular* and *sacred*. Together define these words. (secular—not overtly or specifically religious; sacred—dedicated or set apart for the worship of God) **Say:** *The sessions in this unit will teach us that there is no distinction between sacred and secular.*

## Introduce the Saint

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraph on page 177. **Ask:** *What tradition did John XXIII change after he became pope? (He hired a cook and began inviting people over for dinner.) What did the meals he shared with others help him do? (remain close to the people he served as pope) Why is it important for the pope to remain close to the people he serves? (Possible answer: so that he can better respond to their needs)*

Invite your child to read aloud How the Saint Relates. **Ask:** *What did John XXIII's spirituality enable him to do? (serve God's people) Encourage your child to develop his or her own spirituality by praying often.*

Turn to page 178. Invite your child to read aloud the title Elected Pope and the first two paragraphs. Point out that during the time John XXIII was pope, people often worked long hours for little pay. **Say:** *By standing up for social justice and the rights of workers, Pope John XXIII reminded people that we all have inherent dignity as human beings because we are made in the image and likeness of God.* Remind your child that an encyclical is a letter written by the pope that is meant for the whole Church.

Read aloud Prayer and Reflection. **Say:** *Pope John XXIII's strong prayer life helped him hear God's voice in his life.* Point out that keeping a journal is one form of prayer.

Have your child read aloud Calling a Council. **Say:** *At the Second Vatican Council, Church leaders worked together to discern how God's Spirit was calling the Church to respond to changes in society.* Explain that the council demonstrated the Church's ability to find a balance between remaining faithful to Tradition while also remaining open to God's ongoing Revelation.

With your child, add Pope John XXIII's feast day, October 11, to your calendar. To honor his memory, take time to nurture your prayer life to receive the strength and passion you need to live out your vocation.

## Truth Revealed by God

### Engage: Page 179

- ▶ Together think of times someone offered you constructive criticism and share your stories. **Ask:** *How did you feel afterward?* (Possible answer: slightly embarrassed, grateful) Point out that if we remain open to the comments, we can use the feedback to improve ourselves.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and discuss the text in the blue box. **Say:** *In this session we're going to read how the Church responded to criticism it faced during the modernist movement.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 180–181

- ▶ Ask your child to recall a time he or she made an important decision. **Ask:** *Did you rely more on your emotions or on your ability to reason? Why?* Point out that it's important to consider both our thoughts and emotions.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the title Responding to Modernism and the first five paragraphs. **Ask:** *What did people begin to believe during the modernist movement?* (that we can use logical, scientific means to understand the world thoroughly and that we can understand and control the world through rational thought) Ask your child to define *pantheism* in his or her own words. **Say:** *As Catholics we believe that God created the universe, not that God is the same being as the universe.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud The First Vatican Council. Explain that the Eastern Catholic Churches are branches of the Catholic Church that have their own liturgical rites. Remind your child that the Liturgy of the Hours is the universal prayer of the Church. **Say:** *The Liturgy of the Hours is comprised of Scripture readings, hymns, and writings by the Fathers of the Church.* Explain that canon law is the Church's collection of laws. **Say:** *We can use both faith and reason to help us discover God's truth. The danger comes when we rely on one more than the other.*
- ▶ Read aloud Our Catholic Character. Point out that for a pope to decree something as infallible, the teaching must already be accepted as true by the majority of the faithful and confirmed true by the entire Magisterium.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Explore: Pages 182–183

- ▶ With your child, come up with slang phrases for these sentences: *How are you today? What are you doing? You make me laugh. I had a great time at your party.* **Say:** *There are many ways to express a message. To communicate effectively, we have to consider our audience and speak their language.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title Witnesses to Truth, the first paragraph, and Reach Out to Others. **Ask:** *What are the main ideas of modernist thought?* (We can use logical, scientific means to understand the world thoroughly, and we can understand and control the world through rational thought.) *What is the goal of reaching out to people through forms of communication that are familiar to them?* (to get to the heart of people's daily lives) *What*

*does the word evangelization mean? (the process of sharing the Good News) How can you engage in this process? (Possible answer: treat others with kindness)*

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. **Ask:** *What is the goal of the Paulists? (to spread the truth about the Church and its teachings)*
- ▶ Read aloud Modern Evangelization on page 183. If possible, explore together the Vatican and your diocesan and parish Web sites, and explain some of the resources that are available there. Share any other faith-based Web sites and television or radio stations of which you are aware.
- ▶ Read aloud Use Technology Wisely. Point out that thoughtlessly drifting toward a screen or a gadget during downtime can eventually become an unhealthy habit that is difficult to break. Explain that the Church wants us to remember that technology is best used in moderation.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Ready for Confirmation. **Ask:** *What does the gift of fortitude do? (It strengthens us to do the will of God in all things.)* **Say:** *The Holy Spirit will always give you the strength to remain faithful to God.*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Reflect: Pages 184–185

- ▶ Read aloud the page title and the paragraphs in the left column. Point out that the Peace Prayer is a good one to carry with us because it provides comfort and direction in trying times.
- ▶ **Say:** *Ask Jesus to show you how you can be a peacemaker in the world today. When you're ready, pray the prayer. Allow your child time to pray the Peace Prayer silently. Conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.*
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory paragraph of Where Do I Fit In? on page 185. Together share stories about times when God reaches out to us in surprising or unusual ways. Point out that God, in his love, sometimes reaches out to us in creative ways that make us more fully aware of his presence.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud What Does God Want Me to Do? **Ask:** *What exactly did Sister Dorothy ask for? (She asked God to tell her where to go and what to do.) Where did God send her? (to the very places she wanted to go) Point out that we do not know where God will send us. In God's presence, even in places of drudgery or misery, we will discover the joy of using our gifts in his name.* **Say:** *God will lead us to a place that fills us with joy and makes good use of the gifts he has given us.*
- ▶ Allow time for your child to write answers to the questions in the section God Guides.

### Respond: Page 186

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions and write a short answer to 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:** *Using technology wisely is one way to build up the Kingdom of God. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.*
- ▶ Invite your child to pray a 3-minute Retreat at [www.loyolapress.com/retreat](http://www.loyolapress.com/retreat).