



The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

Begin

Write the word *mission* on a sheet of paper. **Ask:** *What is a mission?* (a job or goal to achieve) **Say:** *In Unit 2 we learned that Jesus sent his apostles and disciples on a mission. What was the mission?* (to proclaim God's Word and to continue the work of Jesus Christ) Read aloud the unit title on page 61.

Say: *Since then, many members of the Church have accepted a mission to continue the work for Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. In this unit we will learn more about the Catholic Church and its gifts, as well as about important leaders of the Church.*

Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture. **Say:** *Katharine Drexel accepted a mission from the pope to serve the Kingdom of God. Have your child read aloud the text. Say: People who go places to help people and tell about God are missionaries.*

Turn to page 62 and point out the picture. Have your child read aloud the first three paragraphs. **Say:** *Katharine Drexel continued the work of Jesus Christ through her generosity to Native American and African American people.*

Read aloud the last paragraph. **Ask:** *What group did she organize to help others?* (Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament) *What is Jesus' mission for you?* (be generous and kind, help and respect others, obey your parents, share God's love)

With your child add Saint Katharine's feast day, March 3, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the generosity of Saint Katharine Drexel.

Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit

Engage: Page 63

- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine that today is your birthday and that we are throwing you a big party. How do you feel? (excited, loved) What other kinds of events make you feel this way?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. **Ask:** *What is a disciple? (a person who is a follower of Jesus')* **Say:** *The disciples were excited when the Holy Spirit visited them. In this session we will learn how the Holy Spirit is part of our lives.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how the Holy Spirit helps him or her. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Place a fan in front of your child. Turn it on its highest setting for a few seconds. **Say:** *There was a strong wind when the Holy Spirit first visited the disciples.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 64. **Ask:** *What amazed the crowd about the disciples? (The crowd spoke different languages, but each person could understand everything the disciples said.)* Point out the picture. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit was making it possible for the disciples to reach all people with God's message.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Accepting Jesus' Mission on page 65. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Every Christian has a duty to give witness to the Good News about Jesus, which is that he loves us and wants us to love God and one another.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Holy Spirit Builds the Church. **Ask:** *How does the Holy Spirit continue to build the Church today? (by giving us the strength to spread God's Word)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus' Mission in Our Lives and complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her responses with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *On Pentecost Sunday, priests wear red vestments in memory of the tongues of fire at the first Pentecost.*

Art Exploration: Page 237

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a dove representing the Holy Spirit.

- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting.
- ▶ **Say:** *Sometimes we feel closest to God and the Holy Spirit when we are with God's wonderful creations in nature.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 237. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *The Holy Spirit Is with Us*. **Ask:** *What does the Holy Spirit help us do?* (to live prayerful lives and to guide us on our journey to Heaven) Give your child time to complete the sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud *Doves*. **Ask:** *What does a dove remind you of?* (peace, hope, forgiveness, inspiration, the presence of the Holy Spirit) Have your child complete the activity and invite him or her to share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. **Say:** *A shrine is a place that is set aside for people to visit because it is associated with a special person or event.*
- ▶ Remind your child that a dove is often used to represent the Holy Spirit. Before taking a walking tour around your home, hide several doves made out of white paper inside or outside. Give your child time to see if he or she can find the hidden doves. Remind him or her that the Holy Spirit is always with us.

Reflect: Pages 66–67

- ▶ Together look at page 66. **Ask:** *How does the mother in the picture comfort her daughter?* **Say:** *We open our hearts to the Holy Spirit so our actions show the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.*
- ▶ Have your child get comfortable as you read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to pray aloud the prayer with you. Read aloud the last sentence and give your child time to reflect. Lead him or her in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud *The Fruits of the Holy Spirit* on page 67. **Ask:** *What happens when we let the Holy Spirit guide our actions?* (We see the results of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *The Spirit in Our Actions*. Give your child time to complete the activity and invite him or her to share the sentences with you.

Respond: Page 68

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can show kindness to others.
- ▶ 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.