

## Monasteries and Communities

### Engage: Page 63

- ▶ **Ask:** *Why do we follow rules?* (Possible answer: to help us live together peacefully) Together make a list of rules that you both think can help people live together peacefully.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and discuss the questions in the blue box. **Say:** *In this session we are going to learn about the monastic movement in the early Church. Living and working in a community can be challenging, but it can also be rewarding.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Sit together in a dark room. **Ask:** *What can you see? How does the darkness make you feel?* (Possible response: anxious) Turn on a flashlight. Discuss how the light makes you feel better because it is easier to see your surroundings. **Say:** *In this article we are going to learn how the Church served as a beacon of light during the Dark Ages.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the title A Response to the Dark Ages and the first three paragraphs. **Ask:** *Where can people turn for help when they are facing difficult situations?* (Possible answers: family, friends, charitable institutions, the Church) Point out that just as it does today, the Church served as a source of comfort for people during the Dark Ages. **Ask:** *How did the Church serve as a beacon of light during this time period?* (Church leaders worked to preach the Gospel to invading tribes, heal people who were sick, and reestablish society. Bishops served as civic leaders and protected the people from dishonest tax collectors.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Catholic Character. **Say:** *The word rule comes from the Latin word regula, which means “guidepost,” or “a source of direction when one is lost.”*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud The Rule of Saint Benedict. **Ask:** *Why did Benedict write his Rule?* (Possible answer: to remind the monks to seek God in prayer, silence, work, and service to guests and one another) *How did Benedictine monks serve the Church?* (offering shelter to travelers and pilgrims, feeding those who were hungry, healing those who were sick, keeping historical records)
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Art feature on page 65. **Say:** *Visual art expresses something that we cannot express in words. As we see here, people often go to extraordinary lengths to save and preserve art.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the section A New Rule. Invite your child to complete the activity independently and share his or her response with you.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Explore: Pages 66–67

- ▶ Together look through newspapers or magazines for ads that reinforce the notion of immediate gratification. **Ask:** *What is an example of a way that we can give up instant gratification to achieve lasting joy?* (Possible answer: refrain from buying the latest video game to save money for college)

- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the title The Evangelical Counsels and the first six paragraphs. **Ask:** *How can we live out the virtues of poverty, chastity, and obedience? (We can live out the virtue of poverty by donating part of our allowance to charity. We can live out the virtue of chastity by refraining from sexual relationships. We can live out the virtue of obedience by respecting those who are responsible for our care.)*
- ▶ Read aloud Strengthened by the Counsels. Point out that during physical labor, monks and nuns practiced meditation by reflecting on God's presence in the world and the gifts he has given us. **Say:** *We can meditate throughout our day as well. One of the greatest contributions that Saint Ignatius of Loyola made to the Church is his spirituality, which reminds us to look for God in the world around us.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Past Meets Present. Point to the word *monasticism*. **Say:** *Long before Saint Benedict founded his first monastery, people lived together in religious communities. This movement is known as monasticism.*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.
- ▶ Remind your child that we are all called to practice the evangelical counsels. Take time to summarize ways we can live out each one.

### Reflect: Pages 68–69

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the title and the paragraphs in the left column. **Say:** *As Jesus' followers we are called to heal broken relationships rather than walking away from them.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Take a moment to center yourself. Open your heart to God's presence. Together pray aloud the prayer. Say: Take a moment to pray a short prayer, asking God to bring healing to a broken relationship that you might be experiencing. After giving your child time to pray silently, conclude by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.*
- ▶ Ask your child to recall a small disagreement or difference of opinion he or she has experienced in the last few days. Discuss how the disagreement was resolved. **Ask:** *How might the disagreement have been a gift from God in disguise? (Possible answer: It gave me a chance to be generous and understanding.)* Read aloud the introductory paragraph and the title in Where Do I Fit In? on page 69.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Why Do We Need Community? **Ask:** *Why is it difficult for us to prefer someone else's fulfillment over our own? (Possible answer: Our society tells us that it is more important to be concerned with our needs than the needs of other people.)*
- ▶ Have your child complete the activity Called to Community independently. Invite your child to share his or her response.

### Respond: Page 70

- ▶ Read aloud the directions. Remind your child to read all the choices before choosing one. Have him or her complete the activity independently.
- ▶ Ask your child to list, define, and use in sentences the terms under Say What? Use the Glossary if necessary.
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? **Say:** *Practicing the virtues of poverty, chastity, and obedience helps us build up God's kingdom and live together peacefully.* Have your child complete the activity and then 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).