

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter identifies the Marks of the Church, describes the characteristics of unity, and examines the Holy Spirit's movement and presence in the Church and her mission.

Scripture



Read **Ephesians 4:1–6** to find out what Saint Paul wrote about the importance of unity.

Catholics Believe

- As members of the Church, we are all united in living out the mission of Christ.
- The Church's unity is expressed in the images of the Body of Christ and the People of God.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #738, 775, 776, 813–816, 820 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Robert Bellarmine, who was known as much for his rigorous defense of the Catholic faith as he was for praying for his enemies.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Christian Unity The number of different churches is often puzzling to children at this age. Their black-and-white style of reasoning might lead them to focus on who is "right" and who is "wrong." As Catholics, we recognize that we can experience unity in diversity, both in the Catholic Church and as we work with other Christians to live the teachings of Jesus in our world. Discussing similarities in beliefs as well as differences can be important when helping children at this age attain this sense of unity with others.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Recall a time when you experienced a deep sense of oneness with someone.

These experiences of oneness, of union in our lives, find their source in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. From the same Holy Spirit the Church experiences union and communion. As Catholics, we know that "the Holy Spirit, the bond of love between the Father and the Son, unites all the members of the Church as the one People of God. The Church professes one Lord, one faith, and one Baptism and forms one body (cf. CCC, no. 866)" (*USCCA, p. 127*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name the four Marks of the Church.
- Talk about why the Church is called the Body of Christ.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Robert Bellarmine, help us to remember to pray for the unity of all Christians. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.