

The Church's Message

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 163,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 327

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize the Church's mission to bring Christ to the world
- Identify the four Marks of the Church, which distinguish Christ's Church and her mission to bring Christ to the world
- Recognize the Church as an assembly, a gathering of the People of God, the Body of Christ
- Appreciate that the Church is one because the power of the Holy Spirit unites all the members in one faith, in the celebration of the Sacraments, and under the authority of the Pope

Turn to Page 153,
The Church's Message
Vivos en Cristo, Page 307

Read the Consider This feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *What are the visible signs of the invisible love you have for your children? It may be the braces on their teeth, a scream of encouragement at a sports meet, or a hug after a disappointment. Those signs signal to anyone who can hear or see that love is present. The Church is the visible sign of Christ's presence here on Earth. As the Body of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we signal to anyone who can hear or see that God's love is present in the world. Your family is the domestic Church; your home is the most fundamental microcosm of the Church.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Loving God
- Yes, Lord I Believe

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: The first Mark of the Church is unity. As the People of God, we are called to be one with one another. The reading from Ephesians tells us about this unity.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: The Church and all her members have Good News to share with everyone on Earth. Jesus entrusted us, the Church, with his mission.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else he/she might wonder about being a sign of unity to the world.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 156,
A Time of Renewal
Vivos en Cristo, Page 313

Before you begin reading, ask your child to pay attention to the importance of the Council. Point to the name Blessed Pope John XXIII. Explain that Popes choose a new name when they become Pope. Pope John was the 23rd Pope to choose the name John.

Direct your child to read the first paragraph.

Read aloud the two paragraphs under “Pope XXIII Opens Vatican Council.”

Tell your child to underline the three goals of the Council. Discuss why they were important.

Turn to Page 157,
Observers at the Council
Vivos en Cristo, Page 315

Read the information on this page to your child.

Together, identify the main idea in each paragraph. (There were observers from many different groups at the council; the council had a worldwide audience.)

Activity

For the Share Your Faith activity, act as a team and think of three questions you would have asked Pope John XXIII about the Council.

Give your child a separate sheet of lined paper. Ask her/him to imagine that there is going to be another Council. Think of the five greatest problems in the world today that the Church would need to speak about.

Parents, Consider This: *In the life of your family, there are moments when you must respond to the events happening in your community. It may be a decision to join some neighbors in asking for a speed bump on your street, or collecting clothing and toys for a local disaster. At various crucial moments in history, the Church has responded to the needs of the world by clarifying the beliefs of our Catholic faith. She calls an ecumenical (from a Greek word meaning “the entire inhabited world”) council. An ecumenical council is a meeting of many of the world’s bishops. Vatican II was the twenty-first ecumenical council.*

Turn to Page 158,
Essential Characteristics
Vivos en Cristo, Page 317

Have your child silently read the first paragraph.

Ask how he/she is a sign of God’s Kingdom.

Summarize the next paragraph.

Point out the two names in the last paragraph that can be applied to the Church. (**People of God and Body of Christ**)

Ask your child to read the definitions for **Marks of the Church** and **Body of Christ** in the Catholic Faith Words Box.

Explain that, like a human body, the Church is made up of diverse members or parts. The members serve different functions, but all are important.



Proclaim the Scripture passage.

Create a vocabulary card for the Catholic Faith Word, **laity**.

Ask: What qualities does a person need to have to become a “living stone,” or sturdy part of the Church? (**faith, love, and forgiveness**)

Turn to Page 159,
Signs of Unity
Vivos en Cristo, Page 319

Read the text silently together.

Review the three main ways in which the unity of the Church is visible.

Ask: In what ways do you show others at home and in school that you are “one” (united) with the Church—the Body of Christ? (**compassion, courage to speak for the weak, being aware of what others may need**)

Go to the “Marks of the Church” chart at the top of the page and review the Marks of the Church.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 160,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 321

Read aloud the first paragraph. This section will help you focus on images associated with the Church.

Introduce the four images in the “The Church in the Bible” chart that describe the Church.

Read aloud each of the descriptions.



Complete the gold-star activity.

Share with your child which image of the Church speaks to you most deeply. For more information on the Church, you can turn to page 309 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of your child’s book.

Turn to Page 161,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 323

Read the paragraph about Saint Robert Bellarmine.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways your family can respectfully share the Catholic Faith with others.

Activity

Discuss the illustration in the Live Your Faith activity. Ask your child to illustrate an example of how she/he can be a sign of Christ’s love in the world.

Turn to Page 163,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 327

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.