

FAMILY+FAITH

REVELATION



UNIT OVERVIEW

The Big Question: How do we learn to be holy through the example of God, Jesus, and the Church?

Our Catholic Tradition

- God made humans in his image and likeness so we could be in relationship with him. God calls each of us to be in relationship with him and to honor the covenant and live by natural and revealed law. (CCC, 45, 54)
- God reveals himself to us in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, and we are called to respond in love by what we say and do. Faith is both a gift from God and a free, human choice. (CCC, 80, 176, 177)
- The Church is a sign of the holiness of God. Being holy is one of the Marks of the Church, and she helps us grow in holiness, especially through prayer and worship. (CCC, 867)

Our Catholic Life

- With a soul, reason, and free will, humans can set their priority and direction in life toward friendship with God. Jesus is the model for living out this relationship. (CCC, 356, 357)
- God's Revelation is contained in his written Word of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition entrusted to the Apostles and safeguarded by them and their successors, the bishops, and handed down verbally to future generations. (CCC, 84)
- Each of us is called to be holy in the ordinary circumstances of our lives. God created humans to share in his glory, to be holy, and to be joined fully with him. (CCC 319, 2013, 2014)

HOW YOUR CHILD UNDERSTANDS

Eighth graders may still understand God's law as a list of "do's and don'ts," rather than an invitation to relationship. They will be more open to God's law when they understand his great love for them and how the law of God helps them be the people they were meant to be.

Many people, including teens, give up on the Christian life not because they don't want to live a holy life, but because they think it's impossible to follow God's law and Jesus' example. Remind your child that we all struggle sometimes. As your youth looks at his or her own life and reflects on the things that get in the way of personal holiness, encourage them to ask for God's help both in prayer and in the Sacraments.

We learn about God's law in Scripture and the Sacred Tradition of the Church. These may seem so distant to some young people that they question why they would trust these as sources of God's Revelation any more than other things, such as their own feelings or the views of other religious groups. This is especially true in an age of relativism, where proclaiming a "truth" is sometimes considered "judging" others.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Blessed Miguel Pro
1891–1927
November 23

Born into a prosperous and devout family in Mexico, Blessed Miguel Pro entered the Jesuits in 1911. Three years later he fled to Spain because of religious persecution in Mexico. He was ordained in Belgium in 1925. Father Pro immediately returned to Mexico, where he served at a Church that was forced to go “underground.” He continued to celebrate the Eucharist and minister the other Sacraments to a small group of Catholics. He and his brother Roberto were falsely accused of attempting to assassinate Mexico’s president. Roberto was spared but Blessed Miguel was sentenced to face a firing squad on November 23, 1927. His funeral became a public demonstration of faith. Despite the risk of death, Blessed Miguel Pro never shied away from being the person God called him to be. Pope Saint John Paul II beatified him in 1988.



CONNECT

As your child is leaving for the day, instead of saying, “Have a good day!” say, “You have a purpose.” Knowing that you believe God made him or her for a purpose, and hearing it each day, will shape your child’s consciousness.

Each time you pick your child up from a communal activity in the next few weeks (team sport, band, drama club), remind him or her of the importance of community and connect that to our need for membership in the Church.

CONSIDER THIS

How many times have you been frustrated by a meeting or event you attended thinking, “What is the purpose of this?”

Whether at work, or a community or school function, we find more meaning in a task or process when we know the purpose. The need for purpose is what drives us to ask the ultimate question, “What is the purpose of my life?” As Christians, the meaning of our lives is proclaimed as the waters of Baptism flow on our heads. God intends for us to live eternally in communion with him by living a life of discipleship—a life in which we make daily decisions to grow in communion with his Son. “We grow in holiness, which is both personal and communal—a matter of personal sanctity and of unity with the mission and holiness of the Church” (*USCCA*, p. 170). We are set on the path of the life-long journey to holiness.

PRAY

A prayer of aspiration is a prayer of limited words. Its simplicity is a key to the ease of memorization and the frequency with which you can repeat it. The purpose of repetition is to root that prayer into the depths of our hearts and enable us, as Saint Paul says, “to pray without ceasing.” Saying this prayer aloud with your child and silently to yourself throughout the day will help deepen your awareness of God’s presence.

Holy Spirit, help me know my purpose. Holy Spirit, help me to say “yes” to your plan for me.