

The Church Is Apostolic

Preparation for the Session

This session has parts that will take place at different times. You will gather with your child for Part 1: Invite. Your child will then work independently on Part 2: Discover, and you will read that section of the chapter on your own as well. Finally, you will come together again later in the week for Part 3 to review and complete the In Summary & Live section.

Parents, Consider This: *One of the most inspiring gifts in an eighth-grader's life is the idealism they can hold for those who stand up for what is right and good. They have deep respect for those who believe in a cause so strongly they are willing to die for it. Perhaps that is because the opposite of this is hypocrisy. Most young people this age have a low tolerance for duplicity. As you work on this chapter together, you and your son/daughter will be reminded of the depth of the legacy of faith we share as Catholics. Learning about the Apostles of Jesus and how they stood up for their beliefs, even to the point of imprisonment and death, can be very inspiring. Help this history come alive in the way you share your beliefs and in the telling of their stories. These stories can capture your child's imagination and perhaps reignite your own faith and desire to do something great for God!*

Children at This Age: *History is something we cannot begin to appreciate until we have lived long enough to begin to see the patterns of growth in our own personal histories. Eighth-graders are often beginning to discern these patterns of growth. Frame your discussion of the apostolic Church as the roots of our Catholic ancestors. Engage your son/daughter in the lives of the Apostles as well as the present-day leaders of the Church. Share with him/her the passions, fears, and successes of those who led the early Church. Those leaders are still part of our heritage today. Find the website for your diocesan office and search for information about the bishop of your diocese and past bishops so the history of your local Church becomes more real for your child.*

In this chapter, your child will cover the following objectives:

- Describe Sacred Tradition as the Church's faithfulness in teaching the same faith and proclaiming the same Gospel that was handed on to us from the Apostles
- Define Apostolic Succession as the authority to lead and teach the Church that can be traced through the centuries from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops
- Explain the authority of the Magisterium
- Recognize the Nicene Creed and Apostles' Creed as containing the basic truths of our faith that express our oneness of belief
- Discuss the importance of ordained ministers in preaching the Good News

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 171,
The Church Is Apostolic

Make sure you have a Bible, writing tools for both of you, and some paper.

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 Together make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the first line of the leader prayer. Invite your son/daughter to read the Psalm verse. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Explain that our faith has been passed on to us—that others who have come before us have taught about what it means to follow Jesus.

Say: Let’s listen to God’s Word and hear how the disciples were devoted to the teaching of the Apostles and to praying, celebrating, and living as Jesus wanted.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word ritual you learned in the Introduction Session.

- Proclaim the Scripture 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.

Say: The Catholic Church has always kept the same faith and proclaimed the same Gospel handed on to us from the Apostles.

Now, look at the *Have you ever thought...* box.

Invite your child to respond to the questions found in the box in the Student Book, also listed here:

- How are things we think and do today as a Church connected to people from the past? *(This question invites us to reflect on what it means to be an apostolic Church. Our teaching and leadership reaches back to Jesus Christ and the Apostles.)*
- Why should we care about what people in the Church believed long ago? *(As the Body of Christ, we are connected to those who came before us in faith, even those who are no longer living. Through our rituals and traditions, we stay connected to the Church throughout our history.)*

Ask what else your son/daughter might wonder about God’s Word and what it means to us today.

Turn to Page 172,
Getting Started

Read aloud the paragraph.

Tell your child to read the directions and complete the chart on page 172. When he/she is finished, ask your child to share a couple of his/her answers. Add any leaders or servers you are aware of that your son/daughter might not have thought about.

Preview the Catholic Faith Words at the top of the page. Ask your child what she/he thinks the words mean. The definitions can be found in the glossary at the end of the Student Book.

Turn to Page 173

Have your child silently read the directions for this page, as you do. Then have him/her complete the activity in the book. You can complete it on a separate piece of paper. When you both are finished, share with each other some traditions that have been passed on in your family and parish. Discuss the ones that seem most important to you.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 174–179. Have him/her highlight the main sentence in each paragraph while reading through the text. This includes completing all on-page activities. Ask your child to write any question he/she might have about a Catholic Faith Word in the margins of the text. You can review these when you gather again to complete the session.

Be sure to read these pages as well. Doing so will give you insight into chapter topics and will help you engage your child in later discussions.

PART 3: In Summary & Live

Turn to Page 179,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each bullet and ask your child to rephrase it in his/her own words. Discuss how each of the roles mentioned in the text are necessary for carrying out the Church’s mission.

Turn to Page 180

Direct your daughter/son to silently read Our Catholic Life.

Parents, Consider This: *In the Our Catholic Life section of this chapter, your child will be reading about the Nicene Creed. This Creed is the summary of what we believe that we proclaim together at every Sunday Mass around the world. It is a reminder and testimony of our belief in God's faithfulness to us. While the language of the Nicene Creed can sometimes be daunting for a young person, it can help your child to embrace the spirit of the community of believers that transcends time and place, and marvel at how God's faithfulness has been consistent through the ages and pervasive through different cultures. It is a privilege to have such a rich heritage of faith. Encourage your child to gain confidence in God who personally loves each of us so much and who remains faithful throughout history. We grow into understanding of the meaning of the Creed as we live our faith. Through prayer, we can receive the guidance to understand what we need for each age and stage of our lives to live faithfully.*

Ask: What happens when we focus too much on what we know and understand about faith rather than trust in God's providence? *(The journey of faith is of the heart as well as the head. Bringing our trust to God in prayer and trying to be faithful to God in action will help us to keep balance in how we live our faith.)*

Ask: What do you think might be happening in the picture? *(Young people are sharing something, maybe a memory or picture, with an elderly person. They are living their faith in loving relationships with others.)*

Read aloud the story of Saint Peter Damien and how his faithfulness to God influenced others and brought about reform in the Church.

Say: We have learned about the Creed and how it articulates our beliefs and is an affirmation of our faith. Saint Peter Damian reminds us that sometimes we have to be leaders who stand up for what is right though it may not always be comfortable or what we may want to do. Now let's look at the List activity. We are both going to do this activity and then talk about it.

Once you have both come up with something that reflects the work of the universal Church, share your answers with each other.

Conclude the session by praying the Evening Prayer.

Lord, from the rising of the sun to its setting, your name is worthy of all praise. Let our prayer come like incense before you. May the lifting up of our hands be as an evening sacrifice acceptable to you, Lord our God. Amen.



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