

The Christian Faithful

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.

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

- Recognize the importance of each member of the Church
- Explain that because of our Baptism, each member of the Church shares in Jesus' roles as priest, prophet, and king
- Describe the work of the laity in supporting the life of the parish community
- Describe the parish's mission to serve others in Christ's name
- Explain why the evangelical counsels are gifts that call people to a consecrated religious life
- Explore the different forms of consecrated religious life

Parents, Consider This: *The opportunities to grow in faith and serve others are often no further away than our own parish church. In fact, many faithful Catholics probably can't even name all of the ministries their local Church provides, as most parishes are quite open to assisting members of most any faith formation, liturgical or human concerns committee, or ministry. If we seriously thought about it, we probably do not take in deeply enough the privilege and responsibility of the priestly, prophetic, and kingly offices of Christ conferred on us at Baptism. Some, maybe even your child, may be called to consecrated religious life or to ordained ministry. We can pray for any young person who has that calling, and we should support them in every way. But for most of us, our life and our service to God and the Church will be as one of the lay faithful. How beautiful would be the Body of Christ here on Earth if we each contributed our gifts with generosity and humility in service to others.*

Children at This Age: *Most eighth-graders are just in the process of forming their own identities as members of a parish. Their experience in the parish may largely depend on the involvement they have had with their families. Your son/daughter will likely respond if provided concrete opportunities to get involved in the Church. Doing so can provide a sense of community and the opportunity to discover and use his/her individual gifts. Your child may have the desire to serve but may not yet have developed the organizational skills nor the independence to find ways to serve. Help by organizing opportunities and working with the staff at your parish to create and support opportunities for your child and other children this age to serve others in your community.*

PART 1: Invite

Turn to Page 195,
The Christian Faithful

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. Have your child take the role of leader and read aloud the prayer. Both of you respond with the part marked “All.”

Explain that we are each called to share God’s love with the world.

Say: Let’s listen to God’s Word on how we can be salt of the Earth and light to the world.



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: Young people, like you, can be active participants in the life of the Church, especially through the ministries of the school and parish. You are not too young to be a light to the world.

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:

- What does it mean to be salt for the Earth and light to the world?
(This question invites us to reflect on the ways our presence changes the groups and communities to which we belong. Do I affect them by actively serving, contributing, or leading others to Christ or am I passive and not really making a difference?)
- What is your place in the Catholic Church? (As an individual’s identity develops, we become more able to see our strengths and how we fit into our local parish as well as in the Church as a whole.)

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

Turn to Page 196,
Getting Started

Read aloud the paragraph.

Tell your child to read the directions. Work together to complete the chart on page 196. As you complete the chapter, you might want to come back and add any new information to the chart.

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 197

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 things that you would tell another family about your parish's staff, ministries, and faith formation.

PART 2: Discover

Direct your child to independently complete pages 198–203. 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 203,
In Summary

When you return, review the “In Summary/Catholics Believe” section. Read each of the bullet points, then ask your child to think about how she/he can play a larger role in helping bring knowledge of God’s Kingdom to the secular world.

Turn to Page 204

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

Parents, Consider This: *The Our Catholic Life section of this chapter reviews some of the many options and directions our vocations can take us in as faithful Catholics. It reminds us it is not what we choose to do that is as important as how we choose to carry out the role or profession in which we find ourselves. Do we accomplish our work with the love of God as our central purpose? It is easy to forget the awesome opportunity we have each day to grow closer to God and more understanding of our family and friends. We are more likely to find the will, the time, and the energy to do this if we choose to listen to God in prayer. We must remember that the Holy Spirit is with us to help us with the small decisions and choices we have in everyday life. The Holy Spirit can also help us to discern the big choices we make regarding vocation, career, and state of life. Let your child know you pray for him/her, especially when he/she has big decisions to make. Remind your son/daughter of your prayerful support, especially in the midst of challenges and in difficult times.*

Point to the photo and ask how the people shown might be bringing the love of God to others.

Ask: What are some of the ways you think you are being called to serve?

Invite your child to share her/his thoughts.

Say: Now let's read about Blessed Edmond Ignatius Rice and how he served by founding Catholic schools and the "Irish Christian Brothers."

Read aloud People of Faith.

Say: We have learned about the importance of the vocation we choose and the way we serve in that vocation. The Consider activity will help us think and pray about our own vocations. We are both going to do this activity and then talk about it.

Once you have both thought about your own vocation in life and written your paragraph, share why you have chosen or plan to choose a particular vocation. Pray the vocation prayer together.

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.