

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explores Jesus' desire for unity among his believers, explains ecumenism and examines the Catholic Church's desire to reunite the Body of Christ.

Scripture



Read **Ephesians 4:3–6** to find out what Saint Paul writes about the importance of unity.

Catholics Believe

- Catholics work toward the unity of all Christians, because God desires it.
- Today the ecumenical movement looks for ways to help all Christians work toward unity.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #813–822 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Charles Borromeo, who is known for working to heal divisions within Christianity.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Christian Unity Your child may have friends from school or other activities who belong to other Christian communities. He or she might be curious about what sorts of issues divide Christians and what things unite us as believers in Jesus. While our ability to worship together is sometimes limited, it is important to respect and recognize one another as believers in Jesus and to encourage one another to the extent possible.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How do you show respect for people whose thinking is different from yours?

The first step in showing respect is an openness to listen. In order to understand another's beliefs we must begin with open hearts. Ecumenism is the effort of various religions to listen to one another and work toward unity of belief. As Catholics, we understand that "ecumenism includes efforts to pray together, joint study of the Scripture and of one another's traditions, common action for social justice, and dialogue in which leaders and theologians of the different churches and communities discuss in depth their doctrinal and theological positions for greater mutual understanding, and 'to work for unity in truth' (UUS, nos. 18, 29). In dialogue the obligation to respect the truth is absolute" (USCCA, p. 128).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain Jesus' desire for us all to be united.
- Talk about how your family respects people of other faiths.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Charles, pray for us that we may work toward the unity of all Christians. Help us accept those whose beliefs differ from our own. Amen.



Visit aliveinchrist.osv.com for additional resources and activities.