

IMAGE OF GOD SERIES®

TEACHER'S MANUAL
CONFIRMATION

Spreading and Defending the Faith

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION



Second Edition

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CHAPTER 1: THE EARLY CHURCH

Chapter Focus

The purpose of chapter 1 is to familiarize students with the journalistic approach and to review in a newspaper format the scriptural basis for the Sacrament of Confirmation. You will explain the basics of a news article and show students how the Sacrament of Confirmation and its related application in the life of the Church are rooted in the Pentecost event and other events in the early Church.

Point out to students that newspapers have a standard format for reporting news articles. These articles try to answer six questions: *Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How?*

By answering each question, a good reporter will have important information to give readers the essence of the story. This format is helpful to newspaper editors. For example, if a story must be shortened, the important elements will remain, because the essential questions have been answered in the first paragraph. The remaining paragraphs help to explain further the main information that has been captured in that “lede”, or first fact-filled sentence.

You may want to bring a newspaper to class and analyze several articles to help students understand the basic format used by news writers. Once this format has been explained, the students can be given an assignment of answering the “six questions” of some of the articles about the early Church in the first chapter.

Note that articles such as “Mother of Jesus of Nazareth Stays with Disciples during Pentecost Event” are *feature* articles. Feature articles are not written in a standard news article format.

Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The Church—instituted by Christ Jesus: CCC 763–66

The Church—foreshadowed from the world’s beginning: CCC 760

Preparation

The following items are needed for class:

- copies of several news articles from a daily newspaper to hand out to students
- a Bible, to show the correspondence between the biblical stories and the news articles

CHAPTER 1: THE EARLY CHURCH

Explanation

Explanation of News Writing

Have the students read and discuss textbook p. vii.

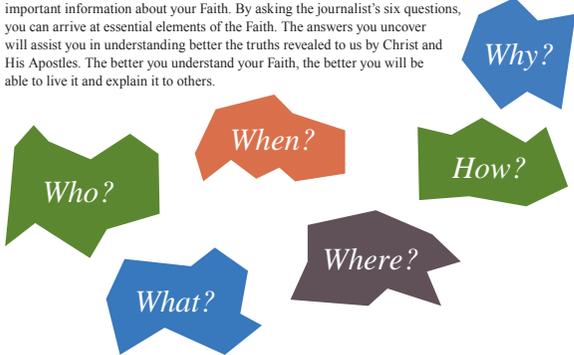
Introduction

Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? are the standard questions a good journalist uses when writing a news article.

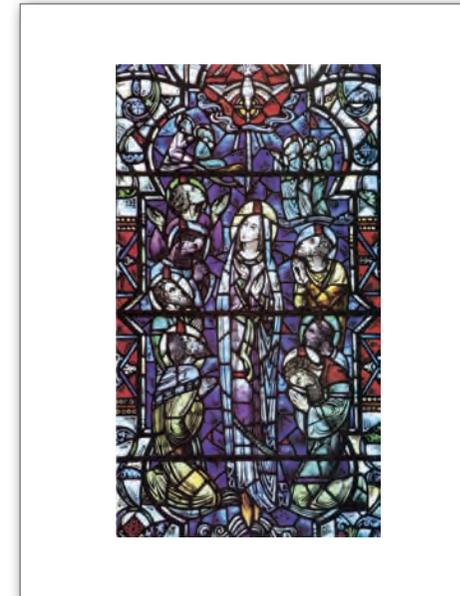
The “lead”, or first sentence of an article, usually answers these questions. The answers capsule the article and give readers essential information about a particular event. The remainder of the article expands upon the information found in the lead and first paragraph.

The standard news article is set up in an inverted pyramid form, in which the most important information is presented first and the least important last. This form enables a copy editor to leave out the last part of an article, if the newspaper does not have enough space for the entire article, and the reader can still obtain the essential information from the abbreviated article.

This textbook on Confirmation has a number of articles about Christ and His Church written in a newspaper format. You will be asked to analyze these articles and answer the essential questions—Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How?—so that you can capsule important information about your Faith. By asking the journalist’s six questions, you can arrive at essential elements of the Faith. The answers you uncover will assist you in understanding better the truths revealed to us by Christ and His Apostles. The better you understand your Faith, the better you will be able to live it and explain it to others.



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Explain the Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? of a good news article. Help the students understand why this approach is used for effective journalism. Explain that an inverted pyramid illustrates the method of including the essential information in the first paragraph of a story, leaving the least important details of the story for the end.

Distribute the copies of several news articles to students. Have them answer the questions Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? Show them how other paragraphs in the article further explain the essential answers to the journalist’s six questions.

Teacher Note: Throughout the Confirmation student textbook, there are numerous stories for the students to read. This reading can be done as homework or aloud in class depending on available class time and classroom dynamics.

CHAPTER 1: THE EARLY CHURCH

Have the students read and discuss the article “Three Thousand Jews Become Followers of the Late Jesus of Nazareth” on textbook p. 1.

CHAPTER 1: THE EARLY CHURCH

Three Thousand Jews Become Followers of the Late Jesus of Nazareth

JERUSALEM—Three thousand Jews were baptized in Jerusalem yesterday, becoming followers of the late Jesus of Nazareth after a series of unnatural events occurred on the Jewish feast of Pentecost. Jesus of Nazareth, who, having been crucified on Golgotha, died about fifty-three days before this feast, has been reported to have risen from the dead.

A group of followers of this former religious leader are led by a man named Peter. This band of followers had been praying in the upper room where Jesus had His last supper before His death. According to a follower of Jesus, named Luke, these disciples, including the Mother of Jesus, had been gathered in prayer in this upper room for the previous nine days.

Bizarre events began to happen on the tenth day, which coincided with the Jewish feast of Pentecost. Luke said that “suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.”

“And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them”, Luke continued. “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

According to eyewitnesses, many Jews from outside Israel were in Jerusalem and assembled together as they all heard these

followers speak in their own languages. The foreigners were able to understand these followers of Jesus as the disciples proclaimed their God’s marvelous deeds.

Some persons in the crowd thought that the disciples of Jesus had been drinking too much. Peter, the leader of these followers, addressed the assembled and said, “These men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day”.

Peter continued with a long speech about what had happened to their leader, Jesus, who had died. He told them that Jesus was “a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know”.

Jesus had been crucified and had risen from the dead, according to Peter. “Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear.”

After Peter boldly asserted that Jesus was “both Lord and Christ”, the assembled crowd was deeply moved and asked Peter and the other Apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

Peter answered, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

According to Luke, approximately three thousand persons were baptized after more testimony was presented to the crowd by Peter (Acts 2:1–42).

Have them answer the journalist’s six questions. Analyze the story and show how the rest of the article expands on the answers to these questions.

Point out to students that the main purpose of Pentecost was the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus who were in the upper room. The followers did not stay in the upper room after this event but went out and began to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to all the world. Explain that Peter, as the head Apostle, was the first to announce this message to listeners from many different places. All of these heard Jesus’ followers speak in their own languages.

Explain that the Holy Spirit moved the Apostles to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ, but it was also the Holy Spirit who moved the minds and hearts of the hearers to believe this message. The same Holy Spirit was active in the early Church, both in those who announced the message and in those who accepted it.



Have the students read and discuss YOUCAT 118 and CCC 731 to learn more about Pentecost.



To learn more about Pentecost read YOUCAT 118 and CCC 731.

CHAPTER 1: THE EARLY CHURCH

Have the students read and discuss the feature article “Mother of Jesus of Nazareth Stays with Disciples during Pentecost Event” on textbook p. 2. Point out to the students that this is not a news article, so it does not follow the standard news format of answering the journalist’s six questions.

CHAPTER 1: THE EARLY CHURCH

Mother of Jesus of Nazareth Stays with Disciples during Pentecost Event

JERUSALEM—Mary, the Mother of Jesus of Nazareth, the man who died and who many claim has risen from the dead, was with the followers of Jesus during the recent Pentecost event. She was also with her son when he was crucified at Golgotha about two months ago.

In an interview, Mary was asked about the extraordinary series of events surrounding Pentecost. She said that her role was to be with her son’s followers, because he had set up a structure for continuing to be present to the world.

Mary viewed her role as praying to her son, who, she said, continues to live. She had stood beneath the cross as her son died, and she helped to lay his body in the tomb.

The Mother of Jesus commented on how painful it had been for her to see her only child die such a cruel death, when she knew that he was an innocent man. “I knew I was helpless”, she said, “but I also knew that he was doing the will of his Father in Heaven. I offered Him to His Father as He Himself poured out His life to His Father.”

She related that she had found great joy in her son’s rising from the dead, but that she missed him very much since He ascended into Heaven. “I long for the day when I can be with Him and see him face-to-face.

“I know He is very much with me and that I can receive Him at the Eucharistic Sacrifice that we celebrate”, she continued, “but I still wait for the time when I can see Him again.”

Mary said that she plans to remain close to the followers of Jesus. One of them, by the name of John, has been said to be the appointed protector of Mary.

“I know that I can aid them in their work of bringing other people to believe in my son, Jesus”, Mary commented. “Their work is a spiritual work, and I can be of service to them by praying to my son to assist them.

“I love my son, Jesus, and He loves me”, she stated. “If I make a request to Him, He is bound to grant it, if it is His Heavenly Father’s will.”

☀ To learn more about Mary read YOUCAT 117.

CHAPTER 1: THE EARLY CHURCH



“I offered Him to His Father as He Himself poured out His life to His Father.”

Explain that Mary was with the followers of Jesus in the upper room at Pentecost. Stress that Mary, by praying for the Church, continues to be a part of the Church’s mission of bringing others to her Son. Show how Mary, by her presence at her Son’s crucifixion, played a role in offering Him to His Father as He poured out His life.

☀ Have the students read and discuss YOUCAT 117 to learn more about Mary.

CHAPTER 1: THE EARLY CHURCH

Read and discuss the article “Peter, John Confirm in Samaria, Rebuke the Magician Simon” on textbook p. 4. Have the students answer the six questions. Show how the Sacrament of Baptism is distinct from the Sacrament of Confirmation. Also, point out how a Sacrament is a gift from God and cannot be bought or earned.

Then have the students read and discuss the story “Council Clarifies Teaching on Salvation” on textbook p. 4. Have the students answer the six questions. Point out that it was the Holy Spirit who guided the decision of the first Council of the Catholic Church. Indicate to the students that it was Peter, the leader of the Apostles, who announced the decision of the Council to the assembly. This assembly is usually referred to as the Council of Jerusalem.

★ Have the students read and discuss CCC 882–84 to learn more about Church councils.

Review Questions

- 1. What are the questions every journalist should use to supply the information for the first paragraph of a news story?**
Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? These will help a journalist know if he has put all of the important information in an article. It will also enable the writer to shorten his article, if necessary, without having to rewrite the article, because the essential information can be found in the first paragraph.
- 2. What was Pentecost?**
It was the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the followers of Jesus who were in the upper room ten days after Jesus ascended into Heaven. It was the birthday of the Catholic Church, when the Apostles went out and began to preach the good news about Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 3. What was the role of Mary after Pentecost?**
She continues to pray to her Son for us and the Church.

CHAPTER 1: THE EARLY CHURCH



Peter, John Confirm in Samaria, Rebuke the Magician Simon

SAMARIA—Peter and John, two Apostles of the late Jesus of Nazareth, traveled from Jerusalem, to visit some of Jesus’ followers. These disciples had already heard the word of God preached to them by Philip, and they had been baptized, but they had not received the gift of the Holy Spirit through the imposition of hands (Confirmation).

Simon, a magician, wanted to buy the power of the Holy Spirit from the Apostles. “Give me also this power,” Simon requested, “that any one on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

“Your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!” Peter responded. “Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.”

The magician replied, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me” (Acts 8:4–25).

Council Clarifies Teaching on Salvation

JERUSALEM—The first Church Council held in Jerusalem decided yesterday to permit Gentiles (non-Jews) to be received into the body of believers without first being circumcised. The first group of followers of Jesus of Nazareth had been Jews, while some of the recent converts to the new religion have been Gentiles.

After considerable discussion, Peter, the head of the Apostles, spoke at the assembly, saying, “But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as [the Gentiles] will.” Much discussion ensued among the Apostles and presbyters after a delegation from Antioch related the conversion of Gentiles to the Faith.

Led by Paul and Barnabas, this delegation came to Jerusalem after dissension had arisen in Antioch because a group of followers of Jesus insisted that Gentiles should be circumcised when they became part of this new religion. The delegation came to the Church authorities in Jerusalem to settle the dispute. Followers of Jesus believe that the Holy Spirit guides a council so that the Apostles will correctly interpret the will of Christ.

The same Council further decided that converts from the Gentiles would not have to observe other Jewish practices except “to abstain from [meat that] has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from [meat that] is strangled and from unchastity”. The Council sent two representatives, Judas Barsabbas and Silas, to the Church in Antioch to deliver a letter from the Council about the decisions of the assembly (Acts 15:1–35).

★ To learn more about Church councils read CCC 882–84.

CHAPTER 1: THE EARLY CHURCH

4. Was Confirmation a separate Sacrament in the early Church?

Yes, the Acts of the Apostles tells about Saint Peter and Saint John giving the Holy Spirit to followers who had already been baptized by Saint Philip.

5. How was the controversy settled as to whether Gentiles should be baptized?

The controversy was settled at the first council held in Jerusalem. It was decided that Gentiles could be received into the Church without being circumcised.

Celebration

Have the students say the Prayer to the Holy Spirit on student text p. 77.

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Chapter Focus

The objective of chapter 2 is to help students deepen their understanding of the three Sacraments of Initiation, namely, Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist, which draw us into a relationship with Christ and His Church. Each Sacrament will be explained so that students will see that these three Sacraments are different but related to one another.

Each Sacrament has a unique function in bringing a person into the life of Christ and His Church, so by investigating and understanding the uniqueness of each Sacrament, the students preparing for Confirmation will better appreciate the Sacrament they are about to receive, and will be open to its graces.

Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Baptism: CCC 977, 1275, 1278

Confirmation: CCC 1285

Eucharist: CCC 2177

Sacraments of Initiation: CCC 1299–333

Explanation

Have students read and discuss the news story “Pope Paul VI Issues New Document to Update Sacrament of Confirmation” on textbook p. 5. Have them answer the six questions.

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Pope Paul VI Issues New Document to Update Sacrament of Confirmation

ROME, August 16, 1971—Pope Paul VI issued a letter yesterday addressed to the entire Catholic Church on the Sacrament of Confirmation to update the liturgical celebration of that Sacrament and to assist the faithful in understanding better the effects that this Sacrament has on the lives of Catholics.

The letter, entitled *Apostolic Constitution on the Sacrament of Confirmation*, not only explains the Sacrament of Confirmation, but also shows that Sacrament's relationship to the other Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism and Eucharist. All three Sacraments are related, and together they initiate a person into the life of Christ and His Church.

Pope Paul VI explained in the document that the spiritual life has a certain likeness to the natural life. “The sharing in the divine nature which is granted to all people through the grace of Christ has a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life”, he wrote.

“The faithful are born anew by baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of confirmation, and finally are sustained by the food of eternal life in the Eucharist”, the Pope continued. The document further explained the effects of each of these three Sacraments.

“In baptism, the newly baptized receive forgiveness of sins, adoption as sons of God, and the character of Christ, by which they are members of the Church

and for the first time become sharers in the priesthood of their Savior”, Pope Paul VI stated.

The Sacrament of Confirmation confers a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who gives “special strength”. “Moreover, having received the character of this, they are ‘bound more intimately to the Church’ and ‘they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith both by word and by deed as true witnesses of Christ’”, the Pope continued.

Pope Paul VI also explained that the Sacrament of Confirmation should be administered in the following manner. It is to be “conferred through the anointing with Chrism on the forehead, which is done by the laying on of the hand, and through the words: ‘Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

★ To learn more about what Sacred Scripture says about Confirmation read YOUCAT 204.

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Talk with them about how the effects of the Sacraments of Initiation correspond to the natural life of a person.

Natural life	Spiritual life
Birth	Baptism—born in the Lord
Growing in strength	Confirmation—strengthened by the Holy Spirit
Nourishment	Holy Eucharist—nourished by Jesus

After they have read and discussed the news story, then have them list the effects of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

Baptism: sins forgiven, adopted as children of God, receive baptismal character, share in priesthood of Christ

Confirmation: receive strength from the Holy Spirit, receive confirmation character, bound more intimately to the Church, obliged to spread, defend, and live the Faith

Holy Eucharist: sustained by the food of eternal life

Your students may not have seen the Sacrament of Confirmation administered, so conclude discussion of the news story by explaining how Confirmation is administered.

 *Have the students read and discuss YOUCAT 204 to learn more about what Scripture says about Confirmation.*

Baptism and Confirmation

Have the students read and discuss “Baptism—Related to Confirmation” and “Effects of the Sacrament of Baptism” on textbook pp. 6–7. Talk about the list of the effects of the Sacrament with the students. You may want to have students memorize these effects.

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Baptism—Related to Confirmation

To understand the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is necessary to understand the Sacrament of Baptism. Exactly what does the Sacrament of Baptism do for the person receiving it? The Sacrament, which consists in the pouring of water with the words, “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”, has several effects. Baptism first of all cleanses an individual of all sin, both Original Sin and any actual sins that might have been committed. This enables the baptized person to be a friend of the Lord, something that would have been impossible if the person had not been freed from Original Sin or any mortal sin. For Original Sin deprived Adam and Eve and all their descendants of the sanctifying grace that made them friends with God.

Through Baptism, which forgives sins, you are made a friend of God. Baptism, through the power of the Holy Spirit, unites you to Jesus, who becomes your Brother. You, then, become an adopted child of the Father.

Through this union with Jesus, you take on the character of Christ. Because Christ and His Church are one, you, then, become united with the Church and enter and become a member of the Church.

The baptized person also becomes a sharer in the priesthood of Jesus, who offers Himself to His Heavenly Father, particularly in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. You, therefore, are given the responsibility of offering praise and worship to the Heavenly Father through words and deeds.

The baptized person is not only made a priest (not an ordained priest), but also a prophet and a king. For Jesus is Priest, Prophet, and King. As a prophet, you have the responsibility of bringing the good news of Salvation to others. As a king, you serve, and you have dominion over the created world by reordering all things according to Christ’s will.

Because Baptism has made you an adopted child of the Father, it also has made you an heir to Heaven. You now can attain Heaven for all eternity, so long as you do not forfeit Heaven by dying in the state of mortal sin.

Baptism also gives you the gifts of faith, hope, and charity, which enable the baptized person to know God, to hope in Him, and to love Him and His other sons and daughters. This first Sacrament of Initiation also confers the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Baptism, then, is the first Sacrament all Catholics must receive before any of the other Sacraments. It is the Sacrament that applies to each person the merits of Jesus’ death and Resurrection, which won Salvation for all mankind.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, then, Baptism is given as a means of personal Salvation. The individual is redeemed and born into the life of God. This initial life is further strengthened and nourished by the work of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT



Effects of the Sacrament of Baptism

1. Takes away all sin (Original and actual), which deprives one of friendship with God
2. Gives sanctifying grace, which establishes a friendship with God
3. Makes us adopted children of God
4. Confers the character of Christ
5. Makes us members of Christ's Church
6. Makes us priests, prophets, and kings
7. Confers the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity
8. Bestows the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
9. Makes us heirs of Heaven
10. Applies the merits of Jesus' death and Resurrection

★ Learn more about the Sacraments of Christian Initiation by reading CCC 1275 and the Sacrament of Baptism by reading CCC 1276–84.

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Have the students read and discuss the section “Confirmation—What Is It?” on textbook p. 8. Show the connection of Confirmation to Pentecost and how, like the Apostles, we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit “to spread and defend the Catholic Faith both by word and by deed as true witnesses of Christ”. Point out to students that the mission of the Church is to spread and defend the Faith and to make Christ present to the world. By Baptism they are already priests, prophets, and kings, but in Confirmation the Holy Spirit will be given to strengthen them in living these offices.

Also, point out that the Sacrament makes the candidate a “soldier of Christ” in the spiritual realm. The confirmed person is called upon to defend the Faith when others persecute followers of Jesus and His Church. Point out that the normal minister of Confirmation is a bishop. The bishops are successors of the Apostles. That is, they were ordained to carry on the work of the Apostles in the Church. Be sure the students understand the meaning of “successor”. You can explain that our current president is a successor of George Washington.

Ask: **How can a young person can spread the Faith by both word and deed?** (Answers will vary but should include examples that indicate the following.) *By not following peer pressure to do something known to be wrong, by giving Faith a priority over sports, etc.*

It should be pointed out that after Confirmation, the Holy Spirit helps us to accomplish these ways of spreading the Faith. Have the students look up the definition of the word “martyr”, either online or in a dictionary. Point out that the word “witness” is used in the definition. Have the students research some of the saints who were martyrs and write a brief report on one of them. Some examples are Saint Peter, Saint Paul, Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Saint Andrew, Saint Justin Martyr, Saint Anastasia, etc. Catholic Online is a good source for information on saints.

★ *Have the students read and discuss CCC 1275 to learn about the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and CCC 1276–84 to learn more about the Sacrament of Baptism.*

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Confirmation—What Is It?

The Sacrament of Confirmation is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit in which a baptized person is sealed with the gift of the third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Granted, the baptized person has already received the Holy Spirit in Baptism, but this special sealing with the Holy Spirit is given to bind the person even more closely to Christ and His Church.

Baptism is given for personal Salvation, but Confirmation is given to thrust an individual outward and send that person on a “mission”. Confirmation is the Pentecost event for a baptized person. Like the disciples who received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and went out to proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ, those who are confirmed are given the Holy Spirit to energize them “to spread and defend the Catholic Faith both by word and by deed as true witnesses of Christ” (*Apostolic Constitution on the Sacrament of Confirmation*).

The gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation is given to bind you more closely to Christ and His Church, and the mission of the Church is to bring others to Christ by speech and action. The purpose of Confirmation is to help you fulfill your responsibilities within the mission of the Church. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are given the grace to become an active agent for Christ, and not merely a passive recipient of God’s gifts.

In the Sacrament of Baptism you have been anointed priest, prophet, and king, in order to give worship to God, to proclaim the good news, and to serve others and reorder creation according to Christ’s will. In Confirmation, these responsibilities are energized by the Holy Spirit, so that you, as a member of the Church, will take on the tasks connected with these offices of Jesus Christ, which have now been delegated by Him to the Church.

Confirmation strengthens the gifts of faith, hope, and charity and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, which were given for the first time in the Sacrament of Baptism. Now, as these gifts are strengthened, they can be used to spread and defend the Faith.

As a defender of the Faith, you are made a soldier of Christ, that is, someone willing to withstand attacks against the Catholic Faith, even to the point of death. You are a soldier of Christ in a spiritual sense, not in the sense of being willing to face physical battles. But a soldier of Christ might well be asked to suffer persecution for the sake of the Catholic Faith, and you will have the spiritual strength to defend the Faith when it comes under attack from others.

To show the connection between Confirmation and Pentecost, the normal minister of Confirmation is a bishop, because the bishops are successors of the Apostles, who were present at the first Pentecost. In special situations, the bishop may delegate a priest to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

★ To learn more about the Sacrament of Confirmation read **YOUCAT 203** and **CCC 1315–21**.

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★ *Have the students read and discuss YOUCAT 203 and CCC 1315–21 to learn more about Confirmation.*

Confirmation and the Meaning of Life

Have the students read and discuss “Finding Life’s Meaning through the Sacrament of Confirmation” on textbook p. 9.

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Finding Life’s Meaning through the Sacrament of Confirmation



“You will be sent!” “You will have a mission!”

That mission was given to you when you were baptized, but that mission will be strengthened and energized when you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. For that Sacrament will bestow on you a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit to send you into the world “to spread and defend the Catholic Faith both by word and deed as true witnesses of Christ”.

Because you are sent by the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith, you will always have a purpose in life. This means that you will have to look for opportunities to bring the good news of Salvation to the people around you.

These opportunities are plentiful, because all people can grow in their understanding and love of Jesus. Every day you will be with people (relatives, friends, neighbors, teachers, and people with whom you work) who need to hear and see that the redemption of the world affects their lives.

We can spread the good news by talking to others about the Faith and also by our example, that is, our good deeds of service to others. If you look for opportunities to spread the good news, you will find them everywhere.

You do not have to talk about Jesus all the time to give witness to your Faith. You can show others that you are a believer by living your Faith and by doing acts of service and kindness.

Even someone sick in bed or dying of cancer has the opportunity and the mission to bring others to Christ by word and deed. Of course, one effective way to bring others to the Lord is by prayer, and ill or disabled persons can lovingly offer their pain and suffering to the Father with the sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross for sinners, for the missions, for the good of the Church, or for others who need prayers.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, of the Child Jesus, is the patroness of missions in the Church. She was a young nun who died at the age of twenty-four, who never went to the foreign missions herself. She did, however, offer her prayers and actions for those in need, particularly those in the missions, so she was proclaimed a patroness of missions.

Someone who constantly looks for ways to spread the Faith will find ways, because opportunities exist all around us. Each morning a baptized and confirmed person has a good reason to get up—the mission to spread the good news to others!

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CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Have the students read and discuss “Pope Benedict XVI Calls a Synod to Confer about Church’s Mission to Evangelize” on textbook p. 10. If students are interested in Church synods, information can be found online. Point out that a missionary is one who is sent, and that by Baptism and Confirmation, each of us is sent to spread and defend the Faith by what we say and do. Show how this mission can give a person meaning in one’s life, even if one is sick or dying. Show the relation between suffering and spreading the Faith. Have students talk about opportunities of bringing the Faith to others in their daily lives, in what they say and do.

 *Have the students read and discuss YOUCAT 11 and 123 to learn more about the mission of the Church.*

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Pope Benedict XVI Calls a Synod to Confer about Church’s Mission to Evangelize

VATICAN CITY, October 7, 2012—Pope Benedict XVI has convened a synod of bishops to confer on the Church’s role in evangelization. The Pope will meet with approximately 250 bishops and cardinals from throughout the world (less than 5 percent of the total number) to discuss various issues surrounding the proclamation of the Faith to believers and nonbelievers.

The Pope usually convenes a synod every two to three years to receive advice and counsel from his brother bishops about various problems in the Church and goals which need to be accomplished. A synod is different from an ecumenical council, which gathers all of the bishops of the world together with the Pope, who is head of the college of bishops. In the two thousand-year history of the Catholic Church there have been only twenty-one ecumenical councils. Whereas synods are advisory, ecumenical councils may teach authoritatively and even can use their authority to declare some teaching of the

Church infallible, that is, without possibility of error

This synod is focusing on evangelizing, which means proclaiming the good news so that people can come to believe in Jesus Christ and His teachings. One of the problems to be addressed is the re-evangelization of Catholic countries where many believers have lost their faith and there is a need to bring them back to the Catholic Church.

 To learn more about the mission of the Church read YOUCAT 11 and 123.

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Have the students read and discuss the feature story about Father John Maronic, O.M.I., on textbook p. 11. Fr. Maronic, O.M.I., founded the Victim Missionary Group. Point out to students that as a feature story, it differs from a news story. Show how those who are sick or disabled can be missionaries of the Church by uniting their suffering with Jesus' death on the Cross and making their sufferings a prayer for others in the Church, such as missionaries in foreign countries; priests and those considering vocations; those who are tempted; or family members and others who need our prayers.

★ Have the students read and discuss **YOUCAT 66 and 280** to learn more about suffering and human dignity.

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Father John Maronic, O.M.I., Founds Victim Missionary Group for Sick and Disabled Persons

BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS, 1964—Father John Maronic, O.M.I., founded a group to help chronically ill and disabled people see their suffering in the light of the gospel. This group, called the Victim Missionaries, has as its goal assisting its members to unite their sufferings with the sacrifice of Jesus' death on the Cross.

Father Maronic, who has been working at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, gathered a group of handicapped and sick persons together in order to support one another in a Christian understanding of their suffering. Because the sick and disabled were traveling to Marian Shrines throughout the world, Father Maronic decided to organize them as they came to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows.

A member of the religious order called the Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, Father Maronic called this new organization "Victim Missionaries" because he wanted the sick and disabled to understand that they could offer their sufferings to their Heavenly Father in imitation of Jesus, an innocent Victim, who gave His life for all sinners. He used the word "missionaries" because he hoped that the members of this group would see themselves as missionaries sent to help the Church by



offering their prayers and sufferings for the good of the Church.

Father Maronic saw the sick and the disabled as a real "gold mine", ready to be tapped for the good of the Church. "This suffering will be wasted if we do not help these people see that their lives can bear spiritual fruit for the rest of the Church", he said.

Members of the Victim Missionaries gather together once a month for a day of recollection, in which they have conferences on the spiritual life, pray together, and celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

★ To learn more about suffering and human dignity read **YOUCAT 66 and 280**.

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Have the students read and discuss “Confirmation Is Linked to the Sacrament of the Eucharist” on textbook p. 12. Explain that those who are baptized and confirmed are drawn into the life of Christ and His Church, and that in the Holy Eucharist we are united with Jesus Himself and the Church, whose union with Christ is perfectly expressed in the Holy Eucharist.

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

Confirmation is Linked to The Sacrament of the Eucharist

Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist are related to one another, and together they are called the Sacraments of Initiation, because they initiate and draw those who receive them more deeply into the life of Christ and His Church.

The Holy Eucharist is the Sacrament that perfectly expresses our relationship with Christ and His Church. When we receive this great Sacrament, we are united with Jesus Himself as He is risen from the dead. When we receive the Eucharist, we receive the Risen Lord.

When we receive the Eucharist, we are also united with the rest of the Church, for, in the Eucharist, members of the Church become one in the Lord, just as grains of wheat come together to form one bread. The Eucharist perfectly expresses the Church coming together and being united to Jesus.

We were created to know and love the Lord. Baptism and Confirmation help us to know and love the Lord. In the Eucharist we have the perfect opportunity to know Jesus and to give ourselves totally to Jesus, who in union with the Holy Spirit, presents us to the Father.

Those who have been baptized and confirmed are sent as priests, prophets, and kings to serve Jesus and His Church. As missionaries and ambassadors of Jesus and His Church, they are to draw all people together in faith, hope, and charity, so that they will be able to give praise and honor to the Father.



★ To learn more about what happens when the Eucharist is celebrated read YOUCAT 217.

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

We can offer our studies to the Lord as a prayer of praise to our Heavenly Father.



★ Have the students read and discuss YOUCAT 217 to learn more about what happens when the Eucharist is celebrated.

Review Questions

1. Name the Sacraments of Initiation. What do they accomplish in the life of a believer?

Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. Initiate means to begin, so these Sacraments bring believers for the first time into the life of Jesus and into His Church.

2. What is the relation between natural life and the supernatural life?

<i>Natural life</i>	<i>Spiritual life</i>
<i>Birth</i>	<i>Baptism—born in the Lord</i>
<i>Growing in strength</i>	<i>Confirmation—strengthened by the Holy Spirit</i>
<i>Nourishment</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist—nourished by Jesus</i>

CHAPTER 2: CONFIRMATION, THE SACRAMENT

3. What is Baptism?

It is the Sacrament in which by water and the gift of the Holy Spirit we are made adopted sons and daughters of God, members of the Church, and heirs to Heaven.

4. What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

It is the Sacrament by which a bishop or priest anoints a person on the forehead with holy chrism in a laying on of hands. The confirmed is thereby strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Catholic Faith by words and deeds.

5. What is the Pentecost event for a Catholic?

It is the Sacrament of Confirmation in which the believer is sent out (like the Apostles) to spread and defend the Faith. The Apostles were in the upper room, and by the power of the Holy Spirit they went out and began to preach the Faith to all nations. After we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, our mission is to bring the Faith to the rest of the world through our words and deeds.

6. What is a “soldier of Christ”?

Soldiers protect and defend their countries. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, a person is given the Holy Spirit, who gives the confirmed person the spiritual strength and courage to defend the Faith.

7. Doesn't a believer receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism?

Yes, but in the Sacrament of Confirmation, there is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit to thrust us into the mission of bringing the Faith to the world. Baptism is given more for the sake of our Salvation, whereas Confirmation pushes us outward to help us take up our role in the Church whose mission is to bring others to Jesus Christ. By cooperating with the Holy Spirit in Confirmation we take up our roles in God's plan of Salvation, and in the process we become the saints we are called to be.

8. What is the role of suffering in bringing others to Christ and His Church?

We can unite our sufferings with those of Jesus, and these sufferings can be offered as a prayer for others. They can become a prayer for sinners, for vocations, those who are being persecuted, or for our family, friends, benefactors, and enemies who need our prayers.

9. What is the Holy Eucharist and what is this Sacrament's relation to the Sacrament of Confirmation?

The Holy Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus made present so we can receive Jesus Himself, who unites us with Him and the rest of the Church. This Sacrament perfectly expresses our relationship with Christ and His Church, so that in it, Baptism and Confirmation come to an earthly fulfillment which looks forward to fulfillment in Heaven.

Celebration

As a way to show students the connection between their sufferings and the Salvation of others, have the students pray the Morning Offering (Prayers to Know, student text p. 73).

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Chapter Focus

This chapter shows how we are called to be part of the Church that Jesus founded to make Himself present to the world until He comes in glory at the end of time. The Catholic Church is so united with Jesus that we refer to this reality as the Mystical Person of Christ. We are not just a number in this Church; we play an important role as we bring our gifts and talents to the Lord and unite ourselves with Him. In this chapter, students preparing for Confirmation are given an opportunity to reflect on these gifts and talents and on how they can be utilized in service to the Church.

Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The Church—Body of Christ: CCC 787–95

Vocation (Call of all by Jesus): CCC 542–43

Christ’s faithful—hierarchy, laity, consecrated life: CCC 871–933

Preparation

The following items are needed for class:

- a Bible for each student

Explanation

Have students read and discuss textbook p. 15. Point out how different persons have different roles to play in the Church, which, with Christ, forms the Mystical Person of Christ. We should assess our gifts and talents and decide our roles in the Church, not for the future but right now, as young Christians.

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

By our Baptism, we became united to Jesus Christ, and we were united to the other members of His Church. Christ and all the members of the Church form one Mystical Person. As Pope John Paul II quotes from Saint Augustine, “Christ and the Church are one single mystical person.”

That means that you have a role to perform in the Church. The Church has many members, and we all have a role to play in its activity.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux asked the Lord in prayer what her role in the Church was supposed to be. He answered her by enlightening her mind as she reflected on the Scriptures about the Church being the Body of Christ.

She came to realize that her function was to be the heart because the heart was connected with love. Saint Thérèse wrote, “If the Church was a body composed of different members, it couldn’t lack the noblest of all; it must have a Heart, and a Heart BURNING WITH LOVE. And I realized that this love alone was the true motive force which enabled the other members of the Church to act; if it ceased to function, the Apostles would forget to preach the gospel, the Martyrs would refuse to shed their blood” (CCC 826, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, *Autobiography of a Saint*, trans. Ronald Knox [London: Harvill, 1955] 235).

All of us need to figure out what role we play in the Church. Just as each person in a family must cooperate with the other members of the family, so too, as members of the Church, we cooperate with Christ and others in the Church.

 **To learn more about the unity of Christ and the Church read CCC 813.**

At this point in our lives we are called to be students, so it is important to study well in preparation for adult roles in the Church. The more prepared we become through our studies, the better we will be able to serve the Church in the future.

We can offer our studies to the Lord as a prayer of praise to our Heavenly Father and as a prayer of petition for sinners, missionaries, or others who need our prayers. Our desk can become an altar on which we offer our sacrifices to the Lord. These sacrifices can, then, be presented to the Lord every time we participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

But our lives have more aspects to them than study. We are sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, friends, or neighbors. We participate in sports, play musical instruments, or have hobbies. We read books, watch television, and go to movies.

All these relationships and activities involve our virtues and talents. We are better children of our parents if we have the virtues of charity, respect, obedience, patience, and generosity. We are better friends if we are patient, understanding, and forgiving.

Some of us have athletic talent, while others have the ability to play musical instruments or to sing. Maybe some of us are good with computers, while others are good at cooking.

All these virtues and talents can be put at the service of the Lord and His Church, if we offer them to the Lord. Some can be directly put at the service of the Lord, for instance, by making a cake for a bake sale at church or by singing in a church choir. We should look for ways in which we can help our parish and our Catholic institutions, because they help to build up the Mystical Person of Christ through the sacramental, educational, or service functions that they provide.

But it is not only in church-related activities that we can use our talents for building up the Mystical Person of Christ. We can offer a basketball or baseball game to the Lord as a prayer of worship and petition for sinners to come back to the Church or for some other need. We can start off the game with a prayer in our hearts like the following: “Jesus, thank You for the ability to play basketball. Help me to play well. I give this game (or practice session) to You as a gift of my love, and I offer it as a prayer for sinners who need my prayers.”

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

★ *Have the students read and discuss CCC 813 to learn more about the unity of Christ and the Church.*

Focus on the lives of students and how their sacrifices can be offered to the Lord. Point out how other aspects of their lives can make Christ present to their relatives, friends, and neighbors.

The parish brings Christ to the world through Sacraments, education, and service. We can assist with the work of the parish through our prayers, time, and talents. Furthermore, the Church goes beyond the parish to make Christ present in the community, the world of business, and the political arena. We can all use our talents and virtues to make Christ present to the people we encounter daily. Emphasize that many times our prayer (or good works or suffering offered as prayer) helps to open the hearts of others to God's message of Salvation.

Have the students read and discuss textbook p. 16. Review the Morning Offering (Prayers to Know, student text p. 73) and point out how this prayer helps us to unite our "prayers, works, joys and sufferings" of each day with Jesus. Emphasize that in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass we offer in a special way our sufferings with the sacrifice of Jesus' death on the Cross, made present in an unbloody manner.

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH



The Morning Offering is another way of presenting our virtues and talents to the Lord, for in that prayer we offer "our prayers, works, joys, and sufferings" of each day to the Lord for special intentions of the Church. Even though we say this prayer at the beginning of each day, we can pause throughout the day and offer what we are doing to the Lord. It is a way of lovingly recognizing that our virtues and talents come from Him and should be returned to Him.

The celebration of Mass, however, is the best way of offering our lives to the Lord. For in the Mass we have the sacrifice of Jesus' death on the Cross made present. We have the opportunity to offer all our virtues and talents to the Father with Jesus, as He offers Himself to the Father in the same sacrifice He offered on the Cross.

We were not present for the Paschal Mystery, Jesus' dying on the Cross and rising from the dead, the most important and central event of all history. But God in His wisdom has made this event present to us every time Mass is celebrated. So, each time we go to Mass, it is as if we are standing beneath the Cross with Mary, offering Jesus to the Father and offering our own sacrifices, prayers, virtues, and talents to the Father through Jesus' sacrifice.

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Gifts and Talents

Have students read “What Virtues and Talents Has God Given Me?” on textbook p. 17. Then have them divide a sheet of paper into four columns with these headings: “Virtues and Talents”, “God”, “The Church”, and “The Community”. Then have the students list:

- their God-given virtues and talents in the first column;
- how their talents can serve God in the second column;
- how their talents can serve the Church in the third column; and
- how their talents can serve the community in the fourth column.

The textbook gives the students an example of this assignment. Point out to them that they may yet discover additional talents or cultivate additional virtues.

 Have the students look up and discuss YOUCAT 299 to learn more about virtues.

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

What Virtues and Talents Has God Given Me?

The Lord has given each person a variety of virtues and talents to serve Him. When each of us uses these gifts from the Lord, and we work together as one family, His Church, then Jesus’ Heavenly Father is glorified.

To use these gifts well, it is important that we know what these virtues and talents are. Make a list of your talents, write ways in which they can be used in the Church, and be sure to thank God regularly for His gift of these talents.

When listing these virtues and talents, make sure to remember the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity, which were given to you in Baptism and which will be strengthened and deepened by the Sacrament of Confirmation. In addition, remember to list the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, also given in Baptism and strengthened and deepened in Confirmation.

Virtue or Talent	How It Can Be Used to Serve ...		
	God	The Church	Others
Faith	Praise of God	Praying for those in Purgatory or for vocations	Praying for peace
Hope	Having confidence that God gives grace when we do good for others	Encouraging others in the Church to trust when they are suffering	Helping others see that God will help them in their difficulties
Charity	Celebrating the Eucharist, where we become one with Christ and the Church	Helping at a parish	Shoveling snow function or running errands for an elderly person
Mathematics	Offering classes or homework to God as an act of love	Offering classes or homework as a prayer for the missionaries	Tutoring a someone who is having trouble in math in class
Singing	Joining the parish choir	Christmas caroling with friends or family	Being in a school musical
Athletics	Offering games or practice to God as an act of thanksgiving	Being an example of good sportsmanship and good conduct	Playing fair and recognizing the talents of others
Writing	Composing a prayer to God	Writing a thank-you letter to a pastor or bishop	Writing a note to tell your parents you love them
Cooking	Offering the act of cooking to God as an act of thanksgiving	Making cakes or cookies for a bake sale for charity	Cooking a meal or a dessert for your family

 To learn more about virtues read YOUCAT 299.

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

The Parable of the Talents

Have the students read and discuss the Gospel parable of Matthew 25:14–30 on textbook p. 18. We do not always use the talents and virtues God has given us. Have your students consider some of the fears that keep us from developing our God-given gifts. Overcoming these fears can be a means of “taking up the Cross” in imitation of Jesus. Discuss how these fears can suppress good actions.

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

The Parable of The Talents

Read Matthew 25:14–30. In this Scripture passage, we see three servants being given certain amounts of money (a talent, at the time of Jesus, was a measurement of money). Two of the servants use the money well, but one buries the talent. The master who gave these servants the money is pleased with the two who doubled his money but is upset with the one who buried the money.

In applying this passage to our lives, we ask ourselves if our Master, the Lord, has given us. His servants, some talents—not necessarily money, but virtues, such as faith, courage, and patience, and talents, such as a good mind, musical ability, or athletic skills. Our talents have been given to us to use well. In reflecting on this passage, ask yourself these questions:

- Have you ever been afraid to use your talents? Fear can paralyze you when you would like to do good things.
- What are some things that cause you to be afraid?
 - Ridicule? Friends making fun of you?
 - Making a mistake? Doing the wrong thing?
 - Losing time or money and not receiving back what you have given up?
 - Being embarrassed? Thinking someone won't like you?
 - Being put out of the group? Being called names?

In thinking about how we are to use the talents God has given us, we may recall times when others have made fun of us. This can be painful, but many times persons who do great things for society must bear the brunt of a few people poking fun at them. Just think of all the cartoons in the newspapers making fun of the President of the United States. The President knows that some of his decisions may be unpopular. But if he didn't act because of the possibility that others would poke fun at him, the whole country might suffer.

If we are afraid that others will make fun of us when we make a speech in public or play the piano for elderly residents in a nursing home, then the people who could benefit from our good works may never receive the fruits of our labors. If we are afraid of being ridiculed for doing what is right—going to church on Sunday or staying sober when our friends get drunk—then others will not reap the reward of our prayer or friendship.

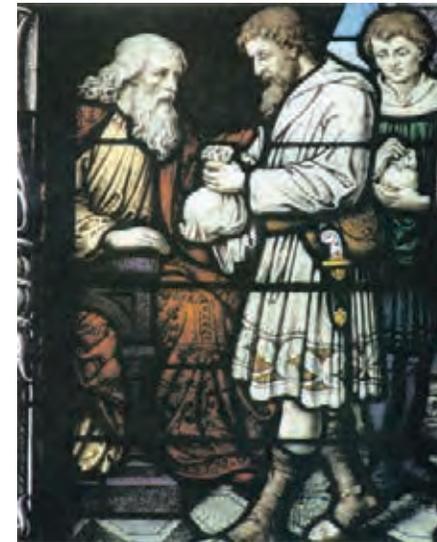
Some of us are just afraid of making mistakes, because we are perfectionists. We have to do things the very best we can or not do them at all. When there is a possibility of making a mistake, we become paralyzed and do not act. We won't sing in public, make a speech, or write a poem, because what we do may not be perfect. Others never benefit, then, from our good works.

We may think that serving others or giving of our talents and virtues demand too much time and energy on our part. We may be afraid that we will lose some of the free time we have for ourselves. What we forget, however, is that we have been made by God to be happy, and the way we attain happiness is to give ourselves entirely to what is truthful, good, and beautiful. Because God is pure Truth, Goodness, and Beauty, we will not ultimately be unhappy or lose out when we serve Him or others because we love Him.

As the bishops of Vatican Council II wrote, “Man can fully discover his true self only in a sincere giving of himself” (Vatican II, “On the Church in the Modern World” [*Gaudium et Spes*], article 24). Our talents are given to us by God so that we can use them to give ourselves in love to God and to our neighbor.

Sometimes perfectionists do not accomplish good actions because they are afraid of making mistakes. Discuss how developing talents and virtues takes time and energy and may require sacrifice, but the effort will bring us happiness. Point out the connection of this idea to Matthew 25:24–28. We can see in the Scripture passage how one servant was afraid and hid his talent. In not using his time and energy to develop his talent, it went to waste.

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH



“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.’”

(Mt 16:24–28).

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Have students read and discuss the feature story “Leader of New Religious Group Explains the Social Dynamic of Christians” on textbook p. 20. This is not a news story; it should be analyzed from a theological point of view. Discuss how Saint Paul compares the Church to a human body with its many parts. Show how each of us has a role to play in the Church, just as each part of the body has a specific role, but it also works in coordination with the other parts for the good of the whole body. The various parts of the Church form a unity with Christ, to whom we are united by the Holy Spirit in Baptism. Point out that Saint Paul talks about some gifts being greater than others, the greatest being charity, a gift that we receive from Baptism.

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Leader of New Religious Group Explains the Social Dynamic of Christians

Paul the Apostle is a leading figure in the new religious group calling themselves “Christians”. These followers of Jesus of Nazareth, whom they believe has risen from the grave after being put to death on a cross, have as their leaders men called “Apostles”.

In a recent interview, Paul talked about the Church, or organization of Christians. In a letter to believers in the city of Corinth Paul had referred to the Christians as the “body of Christ”.

A human body expresses a person. Christ’s body expressed His Divine Person. Thus, if it is true that the Church is the Body of Christ, Paul seems to be implying that it is in some mysterious way the Person of Christ. This teaching affects the way Christians treat one another and the manner in which they use their gifts and talents.

Paul wrote in that same letter that “the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body” (1 Cor 12:14–15).

Paul further explained that “God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be?” (1 Cor 12:18–19).

The importance of each person in the Church was pointed out in Paul’s letter when he said, “But God has so composed the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part, that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another” (1 Cor 12:24–25).

Paul explained that believers are joined together in the risen Jesus in a rite called the Sacrament of Baptism. Because of this union in the Lord, they are also united to one another.

According to Paul, God has set up a priority of functions based on the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to the members of the Church. Apostles are first, followed by prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, assistants, administrators, and those who speak in tongues.

Paul pointed out that the greatest gift, which surpasses all the gifts given to the Church, is charity, namely, love of God and neighbor. This is a gift given to all the baptized believers, and it endures beyond death, when many of the other gifts given to the Church cease.

In his letter, Paul wrote that there are three great gifts from God: faith, hope and love; “but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor 13:13).

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Have the students read and discuss “How Do You Discern Your Vocation?” on textbook p. 21. An individual may be given many gifts and talents to use, but how does one use them in the manner in which our Lord wants them to be used? The Lord calls us to do His will. This call is a vocation. To help students discern their vocations, three suggestions are given in this section—prayer (refer to the section in Chapter 7 “The Holy Spirit Moves our Hearts in Prayer” for a further explanation of meditative prayer), listening to the Church, and talking to pastors, parents, and teachers.

 *Have the students look up and discuss YOUCAT 265 to learn more about vocations.*

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

How Do You Discern Your Vocation?

“Vocation” means a “call”. To hear a call, one must listen. In order to hear what Jesus is asking you to do, you must listen. Jesus may be calling you in a variety of ways, so how should you listen to Jesus?

1. Pray.

Our prayers should include quiet time to listen to Jesus speak. We can do that by thinking about the Scriptures or other prayers we say. As we think about them and try to apply them to our lives, the Holy Spirit may inspire us through certain thoughts that strike our minds. Jesus sometimes uses these thoughts to speak to us. We should pray the words: “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening” and “Lord, show me what you want me to do, for I come to do your will.”

2. Listen to the Church.

Learn and know what the Church teaches, because Jesus speaks to us today through the Church. We know that the Pope and the bishops are the official teachers who speak in the name of Jesus, so we should always match thoughts from our prayer with what the Church teaches. Sometimes our thoughts in prayer could be our own selfish desires, rather than Jesus teaching us, but if our thoughts go contrary to the Church’s teaching, we will know they are not Jesus’ words.

3. Talk to your pastors, parents, and teachers.

Ask these people who practice their Faith how they think you can best serve the Church with your specific talents. They can give you some indication as to whether you have the ability to pursue a certain vocation. If you want to be a priest or religious, your pastor, parents, or teachers can discuss with you whether you have the faith, mental ability, and physical health necessary. You should have the advice of several persons (parents, priests, and teachers), because each one sees you in different ways.

 **To learn more about vocations read YOUCAT 265.**

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Have the students read and discuss “Special Callings within the Church” on textbook p. 22. This page introduces the call to religious life, to ordination, and to the Sacrament of Matrimony. These are formal calls to which persons respond with lifelong commitments. Some people are called to make these formal commitments, while others have other roles in the Church. We respond to a vocation because Christ calls, not because of the prestige or power connected to it. The basic call, to which all Christians are summoned, is the call to holiness. Our faithful response to the call of our vocations will enable us to grow in holiness.

Give each student a copy of the questionnaire for students (see Copy Master 1, appendix, p. 87).

One purpose of this questionnaire is to help students reflect on the Sacrament of Confirmation and how it can influence many areas of life. This questionnaire may also be used as a tool for interviewing the students before Confirmation.

It will be helpful for you to explain the questions to the students before they answer them.

Review Questions

1. What does it mean to call the Church a “single Mystical Person”?

Just as a person is made up of many parts, so too Christ and the Church with her many members come together to form one Mystical Person. The many members with their varied talents and gifts work together with Jesus Christ as the Head of this Mystical Person.

2. Why does a believer want to share his gifts and talents with others?

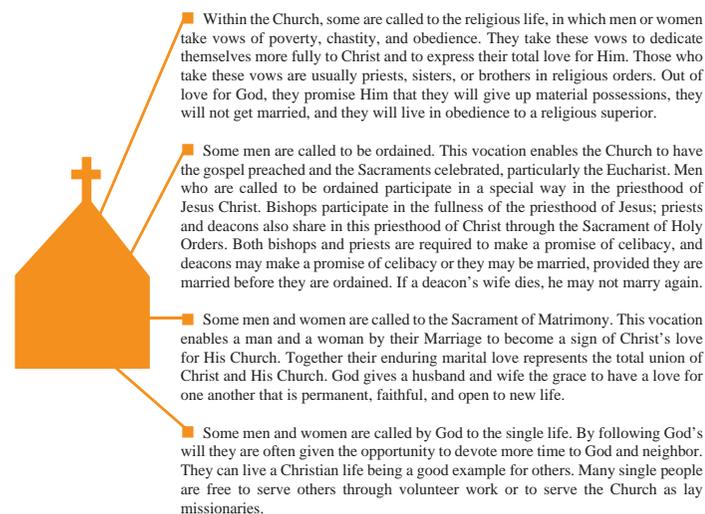
God gives us gifts and talents to be used to build up the Catholic Church which makes Christ present to the world through truth, goodness, and beauty. The Church, with her many parts, works together with Christ in order to accomplish the great work of Salvation for others in word and deed.

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Special Callings within the Church

Jesus calls us to do special tasks within the Church. Just as a human body has certain parts that can function only in a certain manner, so too within the Church all have different roles to play. Each person's responsibilities are important. The members of the Church meet their responsibilities by following the call of Christ.

You should not seek a role in the Church because of its power or prestige, but because Christ is calling you to this task or role. By following Christ's call, you are led to holiness. The Church has had Popes who are saints, and it has had young people whose roles were relatively insignificant also become saints. When you are faithful to Christ's calling, you can help others to become holy also.

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- Within the Church, some are called to the religious life, in which men or women take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They take these vows to dedicate themselves more fully to Christ and to express their total love for Him. Those who take these vows are usually priests, sisters, or brothers in religious orders. Out of love for God, they promise Him that they will give up material possessions, they will not get married, and they will live in obedience to a religious superior.
 - Some men are called to be ordained. This vocation enables the Church to have the gospel preached and the Sacraments celebrated, particularly the Eucharist. Men who are called to be ordained participate in a special way in the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Bishops participate in the fullness of the priesthood of Jesus; priests and deacons also share in this priesthood of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Both bishops and priests are required to make a promise of celibacy, and deacons may make a promise of celibacy or they may be married, provided they are married before they are ordained. If a deacon's wife dies, he may not marry again.
 - Some men and women are called to the Sacrament of Matrimony. This vocation enables a man and a woman by their Marriage to become a sign of Christ's love for His Church. Together their enduring marital love represents the total union of Christ and His Church. God gives a husband and wife the grace to have a love for one another that is permanent, faithful, and open to new life.
 - Some men and women are called by God to the single life. By following God's will they are often given the opportunity to devote more time to God and neighbor. They can live a Christian life being a good example for others. Many single people are free to serve others through volunteer work or to serve the Church as lay missionaries.

CHAPTER 3: THE MYSTICAL PERSON—CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

3. What metaphor does Saint Paul use to describe the Church working together?

The human body, which has many parts. Each part is important and provides a special function. Just as each part of the human body affects other parts, so too our gifts and virtuous living and talents have an effect on the rest of the Church.

4. What is a vocation?

It is a calling from God to act as an image of God in a certain way for the perfection of our holiness.

5. How does one hear (discern) God's calling?

Through prayer: asking God to reveal one's vocation and taking time to pray in quiet to listen for the promptings of God; through listening to the Church: Jesus uses the Catholic Church's teaching to make known His will; through talking to pastors, parents, and teachers to get their perspective on how the Lord is calling us to live.

6. What are some of the special callings of God?

Vocations include the priesthood, the diaconate, religious or consecrated life, marriage, and the single life.

Celebration

As a way of emphasizing that the Catholic Church has a wide variety of gifts through her many saints, pray the Litany of the Saints with the students found on student text p. 79.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Chapter Focus

As the title of this textbook indicates, Confirmation is the Sacrament whereby the gift of the Holy Spirit comes to assist us in spreading and defending the Faith by word and action. This chapter will focus on spreading the Faith by word.

A baptized person is made priest, prophet, and king, and the Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens the individual in these offices. As priests we should offer sacrifices to God to show our love for God and others. As prophets, we proclaim and witness the truth about God and ourselves. As kings, we should be self-disciplined and use the things that we possess for the good of others, and in these ways exercise dominion over creation.

The truths of Salvation enable others to know the goodness of God and of His creatures made in His image and likeness. Once the truth is known, then love is possible. As followers of Christ, our goal is to love God with our whole hearts and souls and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Living in the truth: CCC 2465–70

The gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit: CCC 1830–32, 1265–66

Catechesis: CCC 422–29

Preparation

The following items are needed for class:

- some examples of quality newspaper articles and of poor journalism, so you can point out the contrast between good and bad reporting
- paper and pens for interview writing
- copies of books on lives of various saints or access to computers for this research

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Explanation

Have students read textbook p. 23. Discuss with them the value of good journalism and the importance of newspapers reporting events accurately. You may want to bring some examples of good reporting or inaccurate reporting to your class for discussion.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Good journalists seek the truth. People become frustrated and irritated when they find out that newspapers publish inaccuracies or distortions of the truth.

That people are upset with newspapers when they do not print the truth is understandable, because our minds seek the truth in order to know what is good. God made us so that we can know what is good and then love the good.

This is what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God, for we are made like God, who knows and loves. Just as He has an intellect and a will, He gave us an intellect to know and a will to love.

Once we know what is right, we can choose to pursue what is right or make the right decision. For example, once a woman knows abortion is the destruction of a human life, she can choose not to have an abortion. She will love the baby in her womb, rather than destroy her child. And, when government officials recognize that the child in the womb has a right to life, they can protect the child through good laws.

The responsibility of a Catholic who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation is to spread and defend the Faith. This means that a confirmed person has the opportunity to participate more fully in the mission of Jesus and His Church by bringing the truths of God to others, so they can know God and love Him.

God not only gives us the truth to know but allows us to be a part of His mission to bring the truth to others by what we say and do. Also, many times, because we choose to do the right thing or do some good action ourselves, we are witnesses to the goodness of God. Many people take notice of the truths of the Catholic Faith because they have witnessed the goodness of those who believe in Jesus and His Church. That goodness moves the hearts of others to listen to the truth.

As baptized and confirmed Catholics, we need to be able to speak intelligently about the Faith and to live out the Faith, so that we can give witness to Christ and His Church. This chapter will present some newspaper accounts of people in the Church who have been good teachers of the Faith. They have spoken intelligently to others, and their lives are examples to us of how to bring the good news of Salvation to the people we meet.

What
is
truth?

Talk about how a person must first know the truth before he can love what is truly good. The example of the gift of human life is given. Once we know about the goodness of human life, we protect and promote it. A person who does not appreciate this goodness might think it is not wrong to destroy human life in the womb by having an abortion.

Explain that the mission of the Catholic Church is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to all nations. This good news is the truth about the goodness of God and of all His human creatures made in His image and likeness. Once people know the truths of Salvation, they have the opportunity to love God and their neighbor with the help of God's grace. Point out to students that many times people take notice of the truths of Jesus when they see the goodness of those who believe in them. This means that we have a better chance of being effective heralds and teachers of the truth about God when we are living out His commands.

Explain to students that the Sacrament of Confirmation bestows the gift of the Holy Spirit to assist us in bringing the truths of Salvation to others by what we say and do. To explain the message of God it is important to have a good understanding of the Catholic Faith. How can one speak intelligently about the Faith without an understanding of the Faith?

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Assignment

Have students read "Writing an Interview Article" on textbook p. 24.
Assign your students to interview three teachers of the Faith, that is, persons who spread the gospel by what they say. Have the students write an article including all three interviews or short reports on each interview. The object of this assignment is to help the students see that it is possible to spread the Faith by what we say.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

ASSIGNMENT

Writing an Interview Article

Good reporters know how to interview persons who are knowledgeable about certain topics. Efficient reporters think about questions they can ask during an interview, and they frequently write them down on paper before the interview.

Good interviewers also try to think of questions during the interview itself. Some of the answers from the person being interviewed may provoke questions that were not formulated before the interview.

One way to learn how people bring the good news of Jesus to others by their words is to interview them. Your assignment will be to interview three teachers of the Faith, that is, persons who spread the gospel by what they say. These can be parents, pastors, sisters or brothers from religious orders, deacons, teachers, catechists, your sponsors, parishioners, neighbors, or friends who are able to explain well the Catholic Faith to other persons.

Write one long feature article about all three persons or write a short report on each interview. Remember to quote the persons accurately or to summarize their statements in as accurate a fashion as possible. The truth is extremely important.

Here are some questions you may wish to ask:

What kind of work do you do? Do you have regular opportunities to talk with others about Jesus and His Church? Is it your responsibility to teach about the Faith?

Do you have opportunities to try consciously to teach others about Jesus Christ and His Church? What are some of these opportunities? Are they a part of your vocation? Do you look for opportunities to explain the Faith to others?

Are you ever criticized or ridiculed because of what you say or teach?

Do you ever think about how the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which have been strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation, help you?

Do you rely on the Sacraments to help you to be strong in your work or teaching? Do you ever pray that the Holy Spirit will help you to teach others about Jesus and His Church? Do you have a conscious appreciation of how prayer and the Sacraments help you to teach the Faith to others?

Do you continue to read or go to classes to deepen your understanding about the Faith? Do you look to the Pope and the bishops as your guide in your teaching?

Can you remember feeling frustrated when you thought you were not teaching well? Are there times when you were satisfied that your teaching, with God's help, made a difference in others' lives?

Remember, not every question has to be asked to be a good interview. Also, a good interviewer will respect the interviewee's freedom to decide whether or not he wants to answer a question.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Have the students read the “Four Gifts of the Holy Spirit” on textbook p. 25.

This section explains four of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge. After your students have read this section, talk about these four gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are given in Baptism and strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation. As they are strengthened, they help us to attain our Salvation, as well as to spread and defend the Faith by what we say and do. Confirmation helps us on our journey to Heaven and enables us to embrace the mission of the Church, which is to make Christ present until His Second Coming.

 *Have the students look up and discuss YOUCAT 310 to learn more about the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Four Gifts of the Holy Spirit— Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, and Knowledge

When God extends His hand of friendship in the Sacrament of Baptism, He lavishly bestows many gifts. Besides the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity, He also grants the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, namely, wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge help us to know God better and to know how to love and serve Him in order to attain happiness with Him for all eternity. Because we were created in the image and likeness of God to know and love, these four gifts of the Holy Spirit assist our minds in being more like God.

Wisdom is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us to respond to the things of God and assists us in evaluating everything we do in light of these things. Wisdom helps us to decide whether something we are doing is really worthwhile in relation to our goal of being with God for all eternity. Wisdom also helps us to think about the teachings of the Faith and how these teachings help us to judge all things according to the Faith.

Understanding helps our minds to grasp the truths of our Faith in a simple yet profound manner. This gift assists us to find meaning in what we believe.

Counsel helps our minds to know what is right in specific situations. It also helps us to know how to help others by our words and actions. The Holy Spirit advises us in our actions.

Knowledge helps to judge all things in relation to God. For instance, this gift will help us to have sorrow for our sins and failures, because we see what we have done in relation to God. Knowledge will also help us to see that all created things have little meaning except in the light of eternity.

These four gifts are given in Baptism to help us to follow Christ and to grow in holiness. They are given for our Salvation.

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, these gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge are strengthened, not only for our Salvation, but primarily to help us to spread and defend the Faith in what we say and do. These gifts of the Holy Spirit enlighten the mind and help us to say the right things in explaining the Faith to others. They will also enable us to know how we should act as witnesses to the Faith.

Our Lord is the One who wants to draw all people to Himself. It is His grace and assistance that will help us bring others to Him. In the Sacrament of Confirmation the gifts of the Holy Spirit are energized in a special fashion in order to assist us in our mission of drawing others to Christ and His Church.

 **To learn more about the gifts of the Holy Spirit read YOUCAT 310.**

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Have your students read and discuss the feature article “Blessed Pope John Paul II—A Modern Teacher” on textbook pp. 26–27. Talk about how the Pope has the responsibility, as successor to Saint Peter, to teach the Catholic Faith. Discuss some of Blessed Pope John Paul II’s background and show how it had prepared him to be a good teacher of the Faith. Point out that, although the Pope is supreme teacher of the Church, he works in

union with the other bishops of the world, because they also are successors of the Apostles. The Pope and the bishops form a college of bishops, with the Pope as the head. An encyclical is an official letter from the Pope to the entire Church explaining the Faith. Emphasize that Blessed Pope John Paul II never missed an opportunity to teach the Faith, something that all followers of Christ should be seeking to do.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

“He left ‘no stone unturned’
in bringing Jesus’ teachings to the world.”

Blessed John Paul II— A Modern Teacher

Blessed Pope John Paul II was head of the Catholic Church for over twenty-six years (1978–2005), and he was a teacher of the Faith. To get his message to as many people as possible he used many means—television, radio, newspapers, various writings, public and private audiences, meetings and rallies.

To communicate Christ’s message of Salvation, the Pope traveled thousands of miles each year to visit young and old; healthy, infirm, and disabled people; the rich and the poor. When he visited a foreign country to teach, he tried to learn and use their language so that he could communicate effectively with his audiences.

Blessed Pope John Paul II knew how important his message was, so he left “no stone unturned” in bringing Jesus’ teachings to the world. He had seen the Catholic Faith lived in his homeland, Poland, where Catholics suffered persecution from both the Nazis and the Communists.

In fact, as a youth, Pope John Paul II (then named Karol Wojtyla) entered a secret seminary, because the Church was repressed by the government. When he was a priest and a bishop in Poland, a hostile government was still in power, which meant he had to use every creative way possible to communicate his message wherever he could.

As a young priest, Father Wojtyla was sent to Rome to study for a doctoral degree in theology, so he could better explain the Faith to the Polish people. When he returned to Poland, he studied for another doctorate in philosophy, in order to explain even better the Catholic Faith.

As successor to Saint Peter and as chief pastor of the universal Catholic Church, Blessed Pope John Paul II was the official teacher of all the Catholics of the world. He brought his rich educational background to his office as teacher, but he was also guided by the Holy Spirit as he taught in the name of Christ.

Even though he was the supreme teacher of the Catholic Faith, Blessed Pope John Paul II met regularly with the other bishops of the world to encourage them as teachers of the

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Faith. The Pope knew that he was the successor of Saint Peter, the leader of the Apostles, but he understood that the bishops are the successors of the Apostles, who were also sent to proclaim and teach the good news of Jesus’ message.

As with all Popes and bishops, Blessed Pope John Paul II and the bishops of his time formed a college of bishops, of which he was the head. They worked together, and he encouraged bishops to be the best teachers of the Faith that they could be in their local dioceses.

One way a Pope can teach the faithful is by issuing an encyclical, an official letter to teach and explain the Faith. These letters are held in high regard by Catholics, because they help Catholics better understand the importance of specific teachings of the Faith. Pope John Paul II issued encyclicals on a number of points of the Faith, such as those regarding Jesus Christ, God’s mercy, the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the dignity of human life, social justice issues, and the Christian understanding of work.

In order to ensure that the tradition of the Faith was handed on, the Pope also explained and continued teaching truths of the Catholic Faith that have been taught by other Popes and Church councils. He did this in his many travels and in audiences at the Vatican.

Blessed Pope John Paul II knew what it meant to be a good teacher. He knew that a good teacher loves his message and his listeners. Because of his love for the Faith and for all people, Blessed Pope John Paul II never missed an opportunity to spread and explain the Faith.

Blessed Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, after a prolonged period of poor health and sickness. Pope Benedict XVI beatified him on May 1, 2011, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Saints Who Taught the Faith

Have the students read and discuss the interview “Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton: Founder of the First American Parish School” on textbook p. 28. Point out to them that this type of interview—in question-and-answer form—may show them a good way to write their interviews. Point out some of the reasons why Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton embraced the Catholic Faith. Also point out how Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton pursued the Lord’s will even though she met with difficulties.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton: Founder of the First American Parish School



The following is an “interview” with Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, who has started the first American parish school.

Reporter: Did you always have the desire to start a Catholic parish school?

Mother Seton: Certainly not. In God’s providence, a number of events paved the way. I was not even born a Catholic; I was brought up Episcopalian. So I certainly did not set out as a young person to start a Catholic school.

Reporter: What led to your becoming Catholic?

Mother Seton: I was brought up in the late 1700s in New York by a very religious mother and, after she died, by a stepmother; both were Episcopalian. My father, Dr. Richard Bayley, was not very religious, but he taught me some good human values.

I later married a wealthy Episcopalian named William Magee Seton, and we had five children. He died of tuberculosis when I was thirty, and I was left in poverty because his business had floundered.

Before he died, I had gone with him to Italy, where I was exposed to the Catholic Faith. I was impressed by the Catholic belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, by the Catholic devotion to Mary, and by the Catholic belief that their Church is the Church of Christ and the Apostles.

Shortly after my husband’s death, I became a Catholic.

Reporter: Did your friends and family accept your decision to become Catholic?

Mother Seton: Many of them did not. It was a difficult period of my life. I was a widow with five children, and I had to open a school to support myself and family.

Reporter: Was that the first Catholic parish school?

Mother Seton: No. Shortly after that I was asked by the Bishop of Baltimore to come to Maryland to start a Catholic school. I honored his request, and eventually I started a religious community of women. I still had children whom I was raising, but the bishop gave me permission to start the community, which we called “Sisters of Charity”.

Reporter: What is the most important thing you have done?

Mother Seton: The will of God. Sometimes, I may prefer to do other things, but doing the will of God is most important. Once I told my religious sisters, “The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner He wills it; and thirdly, to do it because it is His will.”

Source: Paul Rand, *Butler’s Saint for the Day* (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2007), 5–7.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Have the students read and discuss “John Baptist de la Salle: Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools” on textbook p. 29. This story tells how Saint John put together his community of brothers to serve the Church, as teachers of the Faith. Although he began his work in France in a small way and experienced difficulties, the community eventually spread throughout the world to help others to learn about Christ and His teachings.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

John Baptist de la Salle: Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

ROUEN, FRANCE, 1717—A new religious order is now growing beyond the confines of France, begun by a great leader in education, Father John Baptist de la Salle. Father de la Salle has influenced Catholic education in France for many years, bringing men together to form a religious community of brothers to teach in schools across the country.

As a young priest in Rheims in 1679, John Baptist de la Salle started as a canon, a priest assigned to the cathedral. Canon de la Salle met a man by the name of Adrian Nyel, who came to Rheims to start a school for poor boys.

The young canon became interested in Nyel's work and helped the teachers with his own money. He eventually invited seven teachers to live with him, but five soon left, because they could not live with the discipline he expected of them. Then other men joined Canon de la Salle, and his movement grew.

Because Canon de la Salle became very involved in this work and because he wanted to live a more simple life, he resigned his position as canon. He possessed a private fortune, but he gave all his money to the poor.

Soon after that, Father de la Salle organized the teachers into a community of brothers, who were called the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Eventually, young boys between the ages of fifteen and twenty began to apply to this community, so Father de la Salle set up a junior novitiate to prepare them to become brothers.

Other men came to Father de la Salle, sent by parish priests to be trained as teachers and to return to their own villages.



In 1687, Father de la Salle founded a college in Rheims for educating teachers.

In 1698, James II, the exiled former king of England, requested that the Brothers establish a college for Irish boys from wealthy families. This was a change in the community's policy of teaching only poor children. By 1700, brothers in the community were being sent to Rome and to towns throughout France. The rule of Father de la Salle's order stated that its members would be brothers and not ordained priests.

As a teacher of the Faith, Father de la Salle has experienced many disappointments and also resistance from lay schoolmasters. In spite of these difficulties, the order founded by Father John Baptist de la Salle has continued serving the Church in the education of young people.

Source: Burns, *Butler's Saint for the Day*, 79–80.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Have the students read the articles about Saint Angela Merici and Saint John Bosco on textbook p. 30. These saints helped to spread the Faith by their teaching.

Assignment

Have your students complete the assignment “Interviewing a Saint” on textbook p. 30. The point of this exercise is to have students focus on the spreading of the Faith by word rather than by deed. The saint chosen should be known for preaching or teaching rather than for charitable works. Students can find saints known for their preaching or teaching by either going to the Vatican Library website or EWTN library website or by researching saints in various books.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Angela Merici: Organizer of Women Teachers

BRESCIA, ITALY, 1539—Angela Merici is a woman determined to help teach the Faith to young girls, particularly poor girls, and she has organized twenty-seven other women into an association to help accomplish her goals.

This group of women, founded under the protection of Saint Ursula, is not a religious order. The women live in their homes and do not wear any special religious habit. They do not take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, but they are asked to live a life that embraces these practices.

After Angela’s parents died when she was ten years old, she was raised by an uncle. At about the age of twenty-two, Angela returned to Desenzano, the town of her birth. When she saw that many of the poorer children in Desenzano knew little about their Catholic Faith, she set out to teach them, with the assistance of other women.

Angela was later asked to come here to Brescia to open a school, which she did. In 1525, when she visited Rome, Pope Clement VII suggested that she take charge of a group of nursing sisters there, but she declined the offer and returned to Brescia.

Shortly afterward, war forced her to move to Cremona. After the war, she returned to Brescia to the delight of its citizens, who have a high regard for her charity and holiness.

The community originally founded by Angela Merici was an “association”, but eventually it developed into a religious order.

John Bosco: Teacher of Youth

TURIN, ITALY, 1859—Father John Bosco has banded together a group of twenty-two men to devote their lives to working with young people. They have organized under the title of Salesians, in honor of Saint Francis de Sales, and Pope Pius IX has recently approved their rules.

Working with youth is not something new for Father Bosco. As a young boy, he had a dream in which he was trying to calm a group of unruly children. In the dream a mysterious lady said to him, “Softly, softly . . . if you wish to win them! Take your shepherd’s staff and lead them to pasture.” The children in the dream turned first into beasts and then into young sheep.

After that dream, young John Bosco worked with poor boys, catechizing them, taking them to church, and sometimes entertaining them with acrobatics and tricks.

Even during his seminary years, John Bosco worked with young children of the city. His first appointment as a priest was to be chaplain of a girls’ school, and in his free time he worked with young boys.

Father Bosco recently founded a trade school in which destitute boys learn to become apprentices. Father Bosco considers this school his greatest accomplishment to date.

ASSIGNMENT

Interviewing a Saint

Look through a book of the lives of the saints and choose a saint who is noted for spreading the Faith by teaching. Write a newspaper interview based on the information you have read in this book. You may want to consult several such books or a biography of the saint.

As you put together the interview, you may want to ask some of the same questions used in the interviewing exercise earlier in this chapter. See if you can find the answers to these questions as you do your reading and put together your interview. If you find quotations from your saint, you may want to use them in your interview, making sure to identify your source.

Remember that the purpose of these interviews is to find out how the saints spread the Faith by their words. In this chapter we are focusing on the gift of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon us to help us to spread the Faith by our words.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Committing Prayers and Facts of the Faith to Memory

Tell the students that on textbook p. 31 is a list of the prayers and teachings that should be memorized before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. These prayers may be found in the Prayers to Know section of their textbooks. To help the students learn these prayers, use them to begin and end class.

Emphasize to the students that competency is expected in these prayers and teachings, because they will find it is difficult to spread and defend the Faith without knowing the fundamental prayers and teachings of the Church. As Blessed Pope John Paul II wrote, "The blossoms, if we may call them that, of faith and piety do not grow in the desert places of a memory-less catechesis" (*Catechesi Tradendae*, n. 55).

You may wish to set up a calendar for learning the various prayers and teachings (see Copy Master 2, appendix, p. 88). Make sure all the students know when the deadline is for learning these prayers and teachings. You may wish to ask volunteers to assist in testing the students.

Encourage the students to solicit the help of their families to memorize these prayers and teachings.

Review Questions

1. What is the truth?

It is knowledge that corresponds to reality. If someone thinks something is true, but it does not match with what is real, then it is not the truth.

2. What is one way that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God?

God has an intellect and a will. Because human beings are made in the image of God, we have intellects and wills.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Prayers and Teachings Every Catholic Should Know

On this page is a list of prayers and teachings that every Catholic should know about the Faith. The Holy Spirit is given in the Sacrament of Confirmation to help you spread and defend the Catholic Faith. To explain the Catholic Faith to someone, you must know some of the basic teachings and prayers of the Catholic religion. A person who does not know some of the important teachings and prayers of the Faith will find it difficult to spread and defend that Faith.

You should memorize these prayers and teachings before Confirmation. Confirmation is not meant to be a reward for knowing certain aspects of the Faith, but you should have a certain level of competency in the Faith before being sent by the Church to explain and defend it.

It is important that you first have a level of competency appropriate to your age, so that once the gift of the Holy Spirit is given, you may use the gifts the Holy Spirit bestows, in an appropriate and intelligent manner.

meal prayers	holy days of obligation	Act of Hope
order of Mass	Corporal Works of Mercy	precepts of the Church
Morning Offering	Hail Mary	Rite of Reconciliation
seven gifts of the Holy Spirit	seven Sacraments	Act of Love (Charity)
twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit	Spiritual Works of Mercy	Memorare
Sign of the Cross	Glory Be	Ten Commandments
Apostles' Creed	Act of Faith	Angelus
mysteries of the Rosary	Psalm 23	eight beatitudes
Our Father	Act of Contrition	

CHAPTER 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TRUTH

3. What are the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and when do we receive them?

They are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They are given in the Sacrament of Baptism, but they are strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation. These gifts help us to be responsive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

4. What influences in Blessed Pope John Paul II's life helped him to be a strong and courageous teacher?

When Blessed Pope John Paul II was younger, he lived under the repressive governments of the Nazis and the Communists. As a young priest, he studied and earned two doctorates—one in theology and one in philosophy. As a priest, a bishop, and finally as Pope, he cooperated with the graces of the Holy Spirit.

5. Can a Catholic expect that he will at times have difficulties communicating the truths of the Faith?

Yes, many saints who taught the Faith have experienced hardship and difficulties in the teaching the Catholic Faith.

6. Why is it import to memorize certain truths of the Catholic Faith?

We need to have certain facts and prayers of the Faith learned by heart, because we do not always have the luxury of being able to look up these items as we explain them or use them in our daily lives. They need to be a part of our daily living, and then they can be used with ease as we explain the truths connected with what we have committed to memory.

Celebration

As a way of highlighting the key points of the Faith which the Catholic Church hands on through the centuries, pray the Apostles' Creed at the end of class (Prayers to Know, student text p. 71).