

We Are One in the Church

FOCUS: In this chapter, you will be helping your child to understand that we who are united in the Body of Christ, the Church, try to bring others to Jesus.

Christ, the head of the Church, is the image of the invisible God. (Colossians 1:15) All of us who are members of the Church must be formed in the likeness of Christ, our head. For this purpose, Christ continually provides for our growth in the Spirit through the Holy Eucharist, the heart and center of Christian life. The Eucharist, like a life-giving sap, nourishes us by giving us the spiritual joy and fruit of a life hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)

Through sacramental union with God, we obtain the strength we need to control our passions, purify ourselves of daily venial faults, and avoid grave sins.

The Eucharist defines our Christian way of life: giving self for others. Through the gift of himself in the Eucharist, Jesus shares with us his selfless love. He empowers us to give glory to the Father by our lives.

Scripture in This Chapter

John 10:14–16 One Flock, One Shepherd

1 Corinthians 12:12 Body of Christ

Catechism of the Catholic Church

771, 782, 789, 795, 813

In this chapter, help your child to

- ✦ explain that they belong to the Body of Christ, the Church.
- ✦ describe the Eucharist as a means to living the Christian commitment.
- ✦ review how all Church members are called to share God's love as Jesus did.
- ✦ describe how Church leaders, priests, deacons, religious, married people, and single people serve the Church.
- ✦ discuss how Holy Communion gives us strength to be like Jesus.
- ✦ describe some characteristics of a Catholic Christian.

Word Your Child Should Know

- ✦ deacon

Key Terms for Your Information

- ✦ Body of Christ—the Church
- ✦ religious brothers and sisters—men and women who live a special way of life, devote themselves to serving God and the Church, and do not marry