

The Church Celebrates God's Love

FOCUS: In this chapter, you will be helping your child to understand that the Church's mission in the world is to show Christ's love to all.

The saints were conscious of the gifts God had given them and used those gifts for God's glory. Everyone and everything spoke to the saints of the Father's love and care. While no one ever totally grasps the immensity of God's love, the happiest people in the world are those who strive to return that love by giving glory to God in everything they do. Christ Jesus has clothed us with power from on high (Luke 24:49) and has appointed us to bring his message of peace and self-giving love to all we meet. When we allow our lives to be filled with the power of his Resurrection, we live by his Spirit and experience the gift of his promise to be with us always.

Jesus formed the small group of disciples into his body, the Church, and instructed them to live as God's people. Under the leadership of Peter, the first pope, the disciples were to live the truth in love and spread it with the help of the Holy Spirit. (2 Timothy 1:14) All Christians were to use their talents to build up the Body of Christ. At Mass, we unite the sacrifice of our lives with Christ's sacrifice. We praise God for his love and care and ask that we may witness Christ by our words and works.

Scripture in This Chapter

Ephesians 4:5,11–16 Unity in the Body and Diversity of Gifts
Ephesians 4:15–16 Live in Love.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

772–776

In this chapter, help your child to

- ✦ explain what it means to be a member of the Church.
- ✦ describe the Church and its mission.
- ✦ demonstrate an understanding of the main concepts in this unit.
- ✦ review how to show Jesus' love.
- ✦ explain that we do not vacation from being Christian during the summer months.