

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 5

The Seven Sacraments

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Our Sunday Visitor

The Church



Our Catholic Tradition

- The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. (CCC, 811)
- As members of the Church, we are called to show God to others. Together, we continue Christ's mission in the world. (CCC, 871)
- We are united by our belief in Christ, one Baptism, and the Holy Spirit. (CCC, 866)
- With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Pope and bishops continue the Apostles' mission to lead, teach, and make holy, proclaiming the Good News to all. (CCC, 857)

How does the Holy Spirit, acting through the teaching office of the Church, help you grow in holiness?



The Church's Message

Let Us Pray

Leader: Make us one in your love, O God.

“How good and how pleasant it is,
when people live together in unity!”

Based on Psalm 133:1

All: God of all, make us one for all; fill us with your Spirit;
unite us in your Son. Amen.

Scripture

...Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. **Ephesians 4:1–6**

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What Do You Wonder?

- What sort of sign would we be to others if we lived as Saint Paul asked in his letter to the Ephesians?
- How can we as a Church be a sign of unity to the world?

A Time of Renewal

Why was the Second Vatican Council important?

The years from 1962 to 1965 were years of a renewal in the Catholic Church. Pope Saint John XXIII gathered the bishops in Rome to discuss the meaning of the Church and its role in modern society. Here is how the opening of the council might have been reported in a school newspaper of that time.



Underline one of the goals of the Council and talk with a partner about why it was important.

Pope John XXIII Opens Vatican Council

Today in Rome, Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council, a meeting of bishops from Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, and the Americas. Such a gathering has not occurred since 1870.

Goals of the Council

The goals of the council are to renew the Church's liturgy; to help the Church respond to the problems of today's world, especially the need for peace and justice; to promote unity among all believers; and to find new ways to spread the Gospel. Pope John surprised everyone by asking for this meeting, which will go on for many months. The work of this council is sure to influence the Church in many ways.

Bishops and observers at the closing ceremony of the Second Vatican Council in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome in 1965. Pope John XXIII (inset) welcomed participants almost three years before.



Observers at the Council

Some people who are not bishops will come to the council as observers. Those people will share ideas and help the bishops make decisions. The observers represent Orthodox churches, Protestant denominations, and various other groups. Some women have also been invited to participate.

The Wider World

The Second Vatican Council will be reported worldwide by television, radio, and newspapers. The council's opening address, "Message to Humanity," begins with these words: "We take great pleasure in sending to all [people] and nations a message concerning the well being, love, and peace which were brought into the world by Christ Jesus ... and entrusted to the Church." The Church is confident that she has a message of Good News to share. The world is watching.



United States Cardinals Meyer, Cushing, Spellman, McIntyre, and Ritter attend the Second Vatican Council in 1962.

Share Your Faith

Reflect Imagine that you are a news reporter assigned to cover a new council. Write three questions that you think are important.

Share Work in a small group to decide which questions you would ask the Pope, bishops, and observers.



Catholic Faith Words

Marks of the Church the essential characteristics that distinguish Christ's Church and her mission: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic

Body of Christ a name for the Church of which Christ is the head. All the baptized are members of the body.

Essential Characteristics

In what ways do you help fulfill the Church's mission?

The Second Vatican Council was a sign to the world of the Church's mission to point people toward God's Kingdom. The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. These are the **Marks of the Church** by which all can see the Kingdom at work in the Church. You, too, are a sign of God's Kingdom when you help those in need, forgive those who have hurt you, and welcome new Church members. Together, we live the faith and witness to God's Reign when we put God first through prayer and participation in the Sacraments, and when we reflect Jesus' self-giving love.

The Church is an assembly, a gathering of the People of God. This Church is also called the **Body of Christ** because, through her, Christ is present in the world. The Church is like a building in which the Holy Spirit lives. People are like the stones of the walls and floor. Jesus is the cornerstone that holds the building together.

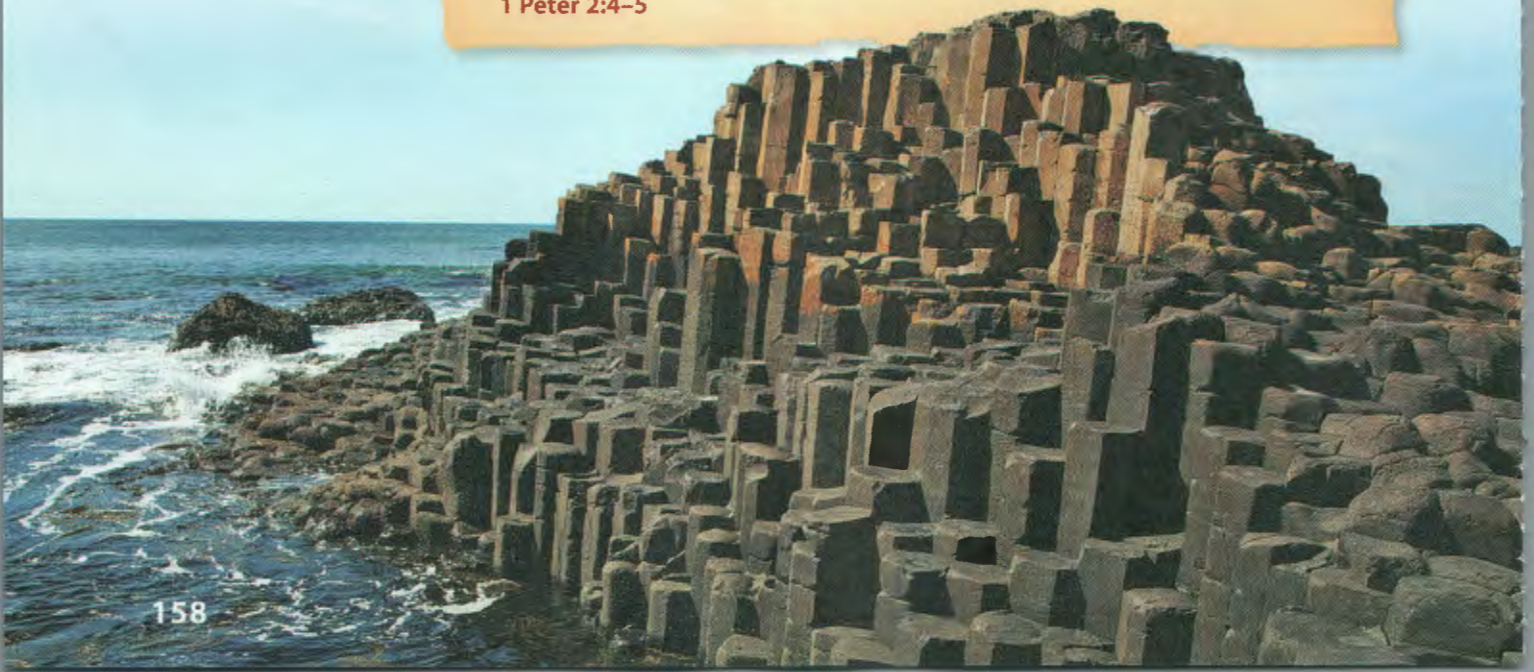


Scripture

God's House and People

Come to [Jesus], a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5



Marks of the Church

one	The Church is one because the power of the Holy Spirit unites all the members in one faith. (See this chapter.)
holy	The Church is holy because she is called by God for a specific purpose. God makes her holy to be a sign of God to the world. (See Chapter 12.)
catholic	The Church is catholic because Jesus sent the Church out to tell the Good News to the whole world. (See Chapter 19.)
apostolic	The Church is apostolic because the Apostles worked with Jesus to begin the Church. The Church today teaches what the Apostles taught, and the bishops are the direct successors of the Apostles. (See Chapter 11.)

Signs of Unity

The first of the Marks of the Church is unity—the Church is *one*. Just as many materials are needed to construct a single building, so are many people brought together to become one in faith. Important signs of the Church’s unity are:

- The oneness of her faith
- Her common celebration of worship, especially in the Sacraments
- Her close connection to the Apostles, whose authority has been handed down to the Pope and bishops through the Sacrament of Holy Orders

Throughout history and to this day, divisions in the Church have weakened her as a sign to the world. Therefore, perfect unity is a goal for which the Church must constantly pray and toward which she must work. The Holy Spirit continues to help the Church achieve this goal of oneness by bringing together all the faithful. In the

gathering of people of all backgrounds and ways of life, the Church works to create one People of God.

➔ **In what ways do you show unity as a member of the Church at home and in school?**

Connect Your Faith

Praise God for Unity Working in small groups, write a slogan that explains to others some part of the Church’s unity. As a group, be ready to explain your slogan for the other groups.

Our group slogan is

Our Catholic Life

What images make you think of the Church?

The Bible includes a variety of images that describe and help people understand the Church. Each of these reveals a part of the nature of the Church. Together, the images give a clearer picture of the mystery of the Church.



Match the term used in the Bible on the left with the descriptions on the right.

Christian pilgrims take part in a Good Friday procession at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

The Church in the Bible

Body of Christ ●

● Christ loves and remains with the Church.

People of God ●

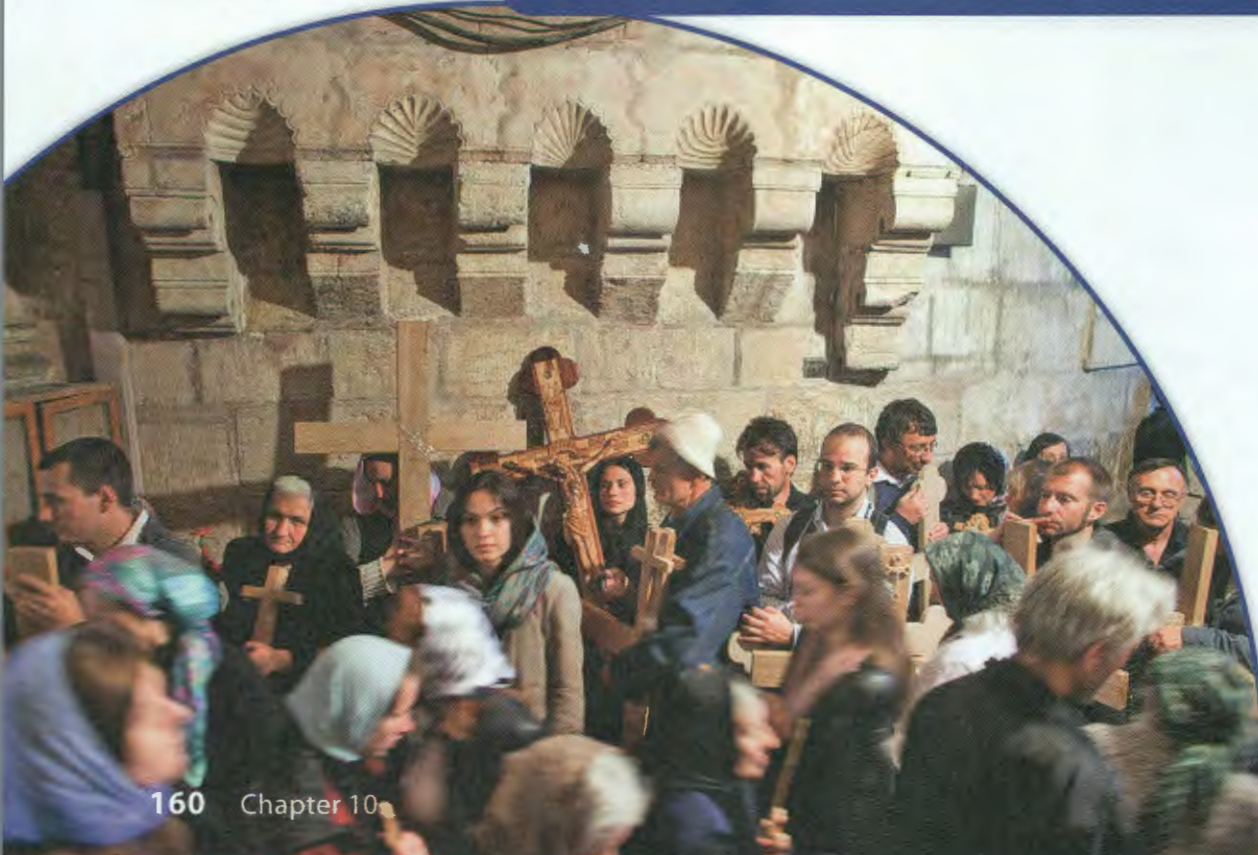
● We are called and chosen by God and we share in Christ's mission.

Pilgrim People ●

● Christ remains present in the world through his Body, the Church. Just as the parts of a human body need one another to be whole, so the Church needs each of her members.

Bride of Christ ●

● The Church is on a prayerful journey to a holy place, journeying to her true home—eternal life with God.



People of Faith

September 17

Saint Robert Bellarmine, 1542–1621

Saint Robert Bellarmine, an Italian priest, lived at a time when Catholics and Protestants were fighting each other. He spent his life explaining and defending Catholic teaching. He wrote a catechism explaining what Catholics believe. But he also knew that God loves all people. He prayed daily for unity in the People of God. Saint Robert understood that even when we disagree with someone, we must still remember them in prayer. He knew that God wants all people to be happy with him in Heaven.



Discuss: In what ways can you respectfully help people understand the Church and her teachings?



Learn more about Saint Robert at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Explain to a partner what is happening in the picture. How is the young person an example of Christ's love?

Illustrate one way you can show that you are a sign of Christ's love in the world.



 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Petition

This is a prayer of petition asking the Holy Spirit for guidance. It is a prayer that was prayed during the Second Vatican Council. Today, we join with the voices before us as we add our hopes to theirs.

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Today, we too will ask the Holy Spirit to help us be faithful witnesses to Christ and his Church.

Reader 1: Knowing you are always with us, in our failings and our goodness, we are united in your holy name.

All: Come, and remain with us. Enter our hearts.

Reader 2: Guide our actions. Point us to the path we should take. Show us what we must do, so that with your help, all we do may be pleasing to you.

All: Amen.

Reader 3: O Holy Spirit, you are never-ending justice. Do not let us disturb or interrupt justice. Unite our hearts to yours. Do it powerfully, so we may be one in you; so we are always united with you in truth.

Adapted from "Prayer of the Council Fathers"

All: Amen.

Leader: We are a sign of God's Kingdom when we love God above all things and share his love with our neighbor. The Holy Spirit lives and works within each baptized person to continue Jesus' mission in the Church. Our prayer-song helps us to remember our commitment to our mission.



Sing "Loving God"

FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter identifies the Marks of the Church, describes the characteristics of unity, and examines the Holy Spirit's movement and presence in the Church and her mission.

Scripture



Read **Ephesians 4:1–6** to find out what Saint Paul wrote about the importance of unity.

Catholics Believe

- As members of the Church, we are all united in living out the mission of Christ.
- The Church's unity is expressed in the images of the Body of Christ and the People of God.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #738, 775, 776, 813–816, 820 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Robert Bellarmine, who was known as much for his rigorous defense of the Catholic faith as he was for praying for his enemies.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Christian Unity The number of different churches is often puzzling to children who are in fifth grade. Their black-and-white style of reasoning might lead them to focus on who is “right” and who is “wrong.” As Catholics, we recognize that we can experience unity in diversity, both in the Catholic Church and as we work with other Christians to live the teachings of Jesus in our world. Discussing similarities in beliefs as well as differences can be important when helping fifth-graders attain this sense of unity with others.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Recall a time when you experienced a deep sense of oneness with someone.

These experiences of oneness, of union in our lives, find their source in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. From the same Holy Spirit the Church experiences union and communion. As Catholics, we know that “the Holy Spirit, the bond of love between the Father and the Son, unites all the members of the Church as the one People of God. The Church professes one Lord, one faith, and one Baptism and forms one body” (*USCCA, p. 127*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name the four Marks of the Church.
- Talk about why the Church is called the Body of Christ.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Robert Bellarmine, help us to remember to pray for the unity of all Christians. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 10 Review

A Work with Words Circle True if a statement is true, and circle False if a statement is false. Correct any false statements.

1. The People of God is another name for the Church, called by Christ to share in his mission. **True/False**

2. Jesus' followers are the head of the Body of Christ. **True/False**

3. One, holy, catholic, and apostolic are the Theological Virtues. **True/False**

4. The followers of Jesus are called to be "living stones," just as Jesus himself is. **True/False**

5. The Second Vatican Council was primarily concerned with the role of the Church in the United States. **True/False**

B Check Understanding Write a brief response to each statement or question.

6. What did Pope Saint John XXIII do to renew the Church?

7. What are the bonds of unity in the Church?

8. How is it possible for people of all backgrounds and ways of life to form one Church?

Name and explain two of the four images of the Church.

9. _____

10. _____

