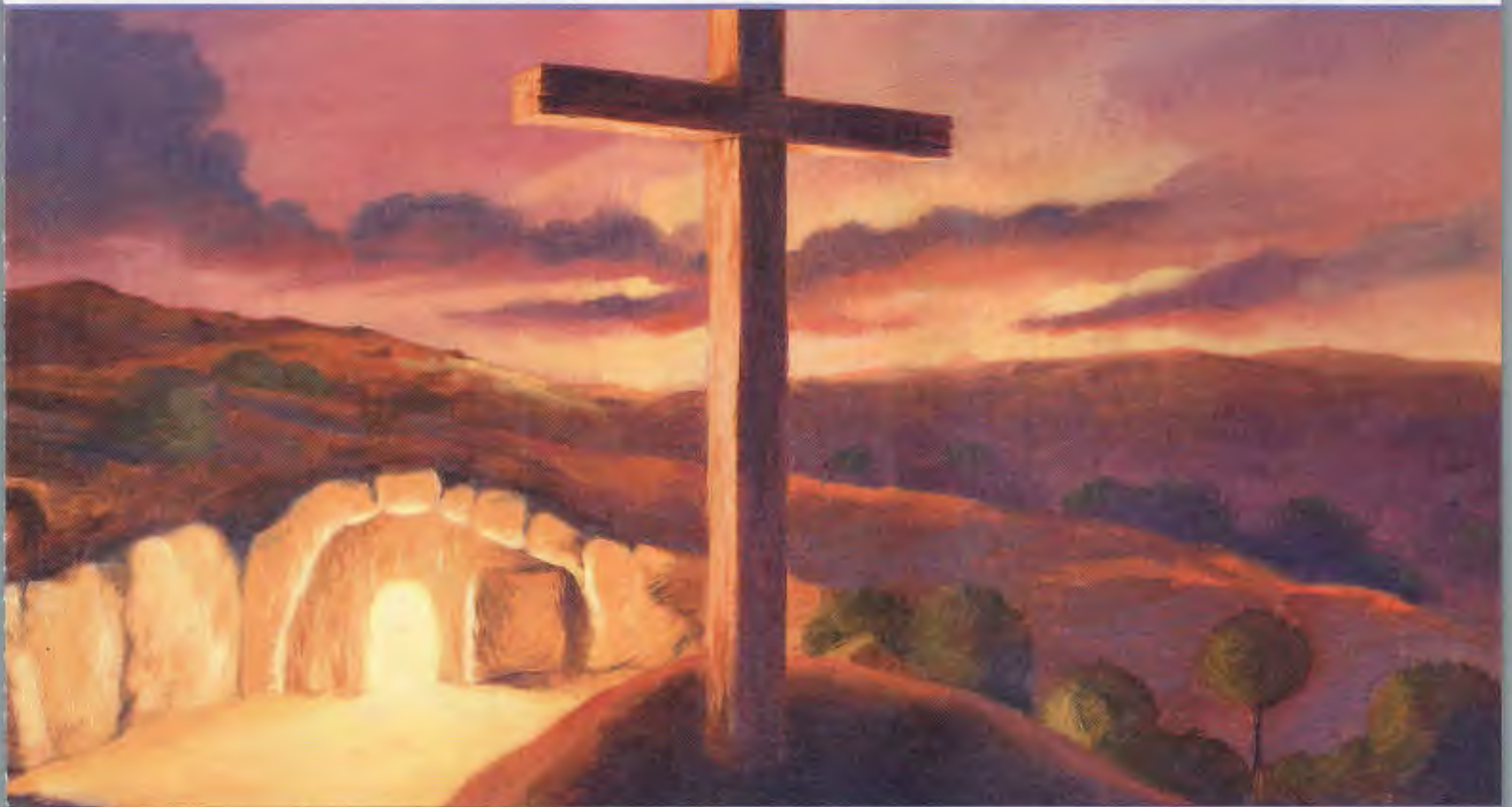


# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 7

Jesus Christ and the New Testament

[aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)



**Our Sunday Visitor**



# THE CHURCH



*How does the Holy Spirit form us into the Body of Christ sent to proclaim the Good News of salvation?*

## CHURCH HISTORY TIMELINE

- 35 Saint Paul's conversion
- 596 Saint Augustine of Canterbury evangelizes the English
- 1649 Maryland colony passes Act of Toleration for religious freedom
- 1769 Junipero Serra establishes first California missions

Go to page 348 for more



### Our Catholic Tradition

- We are disciples of Christ together in his Church, following his example by trusting in the Father, learning, praying, and reaching out to others. (CCC, 520)
- The Church is both visible and spiritual, the Mystical Body of Christ united in and to Christ to continue his mission in the world. (CCC, 779)
- The Church has a mission to bring all people to believe in God and to be baptized. She is both a sign and instrument of the communion between God and his People. (CCC, 780)

### Our Catholic Life

- Just as Jesus sent the first disciples out, he wants us to be a sign of the Kingdom of God, and to follow Church teachings. (CCC, 941, 942)
- The Church needs the diverse gifts of all members to be a sign of God's Kingdom. We need one another and Christ to bear fruit in the world. (CCC, 791)
- We must have a personal relationship with God nourished by prayer in order to answer our call to bring his love and truth to others. (CCC, 2614)



# Disciples in Community

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Lord, throughout all ages you have called people to follow you. May we recognize the work of your Spirit among us as we strive to follow your example and be your disciples.

“The LORD is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I lack. ...  
He guides me along right paths  
for the sake of his name.” **Psalm 23:1, 3**

**All:** Jesus, lead us.

## Scripture

“If you will give these instructions to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching you have followed. ... Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.”

**1 Timothy 4:6, 12**

### Have you ever thought...

- What motivated the first disciples?
- Who can you help to follow Jesus?



# Getting Started

In this chapter you will reflect on our need for Jesus to lead us and the ways the first disciples responded to him. You will also examine how the Apostles led other disciples, who help us understand what it means to be a disciple today.

## Catholic Faith Words

- disciples
- Apostles
- Church
- apostolic, as a Mark of the Church
- doctrine

The chart below lists different things that take priority in people's lives. In the right hand column, explain how important or unimportant these things are to you.




My Priorities	
Physical Appearance	<hr/> <hr/>
Family	<hr/> <hr/>
Friends	<hr/> <hr/>
Faith	<hr/> <hr/>
School	<hr/> <hr/>
Sports	<hr/> <hr/>
Technology	<hr/> <hr/>



## INVITE

**Invitation to Discipleship** Think back to yourself as a second grader having just received an invitation from Jesus. What are you invited to do? Write what Jesus asked of you then, and how you responded.



You're  
Invited

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Today you have received another invitation from Jesus. What is he inviting you to now? What questions do you have for him?

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*Jesus blessing children, Carlo De Notaris*

## A Surprise Invitation

**What prompted the first disciples to follow Jesus?**

We've probably all known someone who helped us see things differently or to make a commitment. Sometimes that person also leads us to see what matters most in life and to make decisions based on those priorities.

In the time of Jesus, just as today, teachers, politicians, and religious leaders attracted followers. Saint John the Baptist was a preacher whom people followed, but he was preparing the way for the Messiah. When Jesus arrived, John told his followers to follow Jesus. John said, "Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" ([John 1:34](#)).

John's followers knew what to expect from him. They must have had to think about leaving the leader they had trusted to follow someone new.

## Tell a Friend

Some of John's followers went to see what Jesus was like. After they saw him and heard him speak, they wanted to get to know him better. Many became his **disciples**, and told their friends about Jesus. Jesus asked some to follow him. Other people followed because a friend like Philip told them to come and see Jesus.

### Scripture

"Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth.' But Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come from Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'" [John 1:45–46](#)

### Go to the Source

Find out more about who Jesus called to follow him and who came to him through the encouragement of a friend, in these passages: [John 1:43–51](#), [Luke 8:1–3](#), [Mark 1:16–20](#).



## Catholic Faith Words

**disciples** people who learn from and follow the example of a teacher. The disciples of Jesus are those who believe in him, follow his teachings, and put them into practice.

## Decisions to Make

Each new disciple already had a family and a job. When Jesus invited them, some people asked if they could have a little time to decide. They wanted to go home and take care of things first. (See Luke 9:61–62.) But Jesus was looking for people who had been looking for his coming and were ready and waiting to go with him. Some people were ready.

Jesus was a vibrant, wise speaker who spoke with authority like only God could

do. Some of the things Jesus said confused people. His preaching both challenged and gave hope. Some of the things he did surprised and astounded others. His healing and forgiving of sin brought life and raised questions about his authority. But one thing is certain: people were talking about Jesus in all the towns and villages in the area.

Wouldn't you want to meet a man who was changing people's lives, making things right, and giving people what they desperately needed? Jesus offered the people God's love and compassion, a purpose for living, and hope for renewed life with him and others.

- **When have you had to make a choice that meant changing the way you acted or thought about someone or something?**
- **What are some things about Jesus that surprise or challenge you?**

## NAME

Imagine you are living in the time of Jesus. Name three reasons why Jesus would choose you to follow him. What would you do if he invited you?

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## A Community of Believers

### How did the Apostles and their successors lead?

After the disciples had been with him awhile, Jesus gave the Twelve a mission, sending them out two by two. We read in Mark 6:7–13 that they were to announce the coming of the Kingdom of God and were even given the authority to cure some of the sick people they met as they traveled. We also read in Mark 6:7–13 that the Twelve disciples had some important instructions from Jesus. He told them:

- bring no money or food
- do not pack a bag or bring extra clothes
- find a home to stay where the people welcome you
- leave a town that does not welcome you, and shake the dust of that town from your shoes

Jesus wanted his disciples to have total dependence upon God the Father to take care of them. He wanted them to travel light.

> **What do you think this message means for us today?**

### We Receive Guidance

We know Jesus had many followers. But Jesus chose twelve men to be his **Apostles** and to share in his work and mission in a special way. The Twelve were Jesus' closest followers. The Apostles continued Jesus' ministry after his Ascension to Heaven.

The night before he died, Jesus said to the Apostles at the Last Supper: “The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you” (**John 14:26**).

Since then and to this day the **Church** has been built on the faith and foundation of the Apostles. This is what we mean when



#### **Go to the Source**

You can find the names of the Twelve Apostles in Matthew 10:1–4, Mark 3:13–19, and Luke 6:12–16. For more information, see page 364 in your book.



we say the Church is apostolic. One of the four Marks of the Church—the essential characteristics that distinguish Christ’s Church and her mission—is that she is **apostolic**.

The work the Apostles began has been continued down through the ages. The teachings they received from Jesus and his Holy Spirit have been handed on through them to us in the Church today.

How do we know what the Church teaches? How does she hand down the teachings of Christ to everyone? Here is a list of places where Church teaching is found, including **doctrine**, encyclicals and other documents of the Church.

### Catholic Faith Words

**Apostles** the twelve men Jesus chose to be his closest followers and to share in his work and mission in a special way

**Church** the community of all baptized people who believe in the Holy Trinity and follow Jesus. The word is often used for the Catholic Church because we trace our origins back to the Apostles.

**apostolic** a Mark of the Church. The Church is apostolic because her teaching authority comes directly from Jesus and his chosen Apostles, handed down through the bishops of the Church, who are direct successors of the Apostles.

**doctrine** official Church teachings on matters of faith and morals. Catholics are obliged to believe these truths.

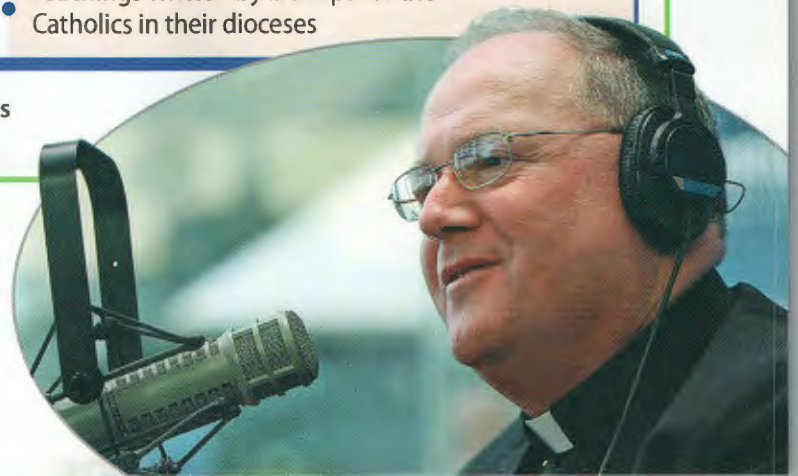
### MATCH

Match the source of Church teachings with its description.

#### Where to Find Church Teachings

Sacred Scripture	•	Records all of the meetings of the Pope and bishops to explain and make decisions about the Church
Church Council documents	•	Presentation of the laws of the Church
The <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>	•	The Old and New Testaments of the Bible
The <i>Code of Canon Law</i>	•	Teachings written by the Pope for all Catholics
Papal encyclicals	•	Contains the doctrines of the Church
Pastoral Letters	•	Teachings written by bishops for the Catholics in their dioceses

Archbishop Timothy Dolan debuts his series on SIRIUS XM Radio





## Disciples in the Church Today

### What does it mean to be a disciple in the Church right here and now?

We have the Church to guide us in all parts of our lives and in everything we do. The Church shows us how to live as Jesus lived. His life and his teachings are light showing us the way to Heaven.



### Scripture

Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." **John 8:12**

We never have to find our way through life alone. In the Church, we belong to a family of faith, a community of disciples who are following Jesus together. We turn to other Church members for support, guidance,

and encouragement. We ask God's forgiveness through the Church. We join with others to help people who are in need. Together we can feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick, and try to change laws and policies that do not protect life and promote human dignity. No one could do as much alone as we can all do together.

## A Praying Community

The Holy Spirit also teaches us to pray as disciples of Jesus. We pray alone, and we pray together with the Church in communal prayer and worship. Whether we are praying prayers of blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, or praise and adoration, it is the Holy Spirit who inspires us and calls us to pray.

The most important way we pray together is the celebration of the Eucharist. We are worshipping God together and we are receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

As we grow in our faith, we learn new ways of prayer. Different ways of praying and living as a disciple, known as spiritualities, have developed over the centuries. In our two thousand years as a Church, many great Saints have guided others in ways of prayer.

There are several "schools" of prayer and Christian spirituality. They are all part of the Church's living Tradition of prayer, and although they are very different, they all come from the Holy Spirit.

**When we come together for Mass, we are praying the Church's central and most important prayer.**





## Schools of Prayer

- Spiritual direction:** learning alone from a guide
- Prayer groups:** learning to pray with others; Church ministers leading and teaching liturgical prayer
- Catechesis:** learning about prayer through classes and ministry involvement; consecrated religious teaching contemplative (wordless) prayer

Place a check mark next to the “schools” of prayer you have already experienced. Name someone who taught you to pray in this way.



## IDENTIFY

Look at the “schools” of prayer listed. Choose one of the schools you have not yet experienced, then identify some people you think would be able to teach you how to pray in these ways, and how they could do so.

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© Our Sunday Visitor

## IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

We are disciples of Christ in his Church, following his example by trusting in the Father, learning, praying, and reaching out to others.

- Each follower of Christ receives a personal call from him and must choose whether or not to follow Christ.
- Just as Jesus sent the first disciples out, he wants us to be a sign of the Kingdom of God, and to follow Church teachings.
- The Holy Spirit uses many different spiritualities and “schools” of prayer to teach us how to pray.



## Our Catholic Life

Prayer connects us with God's love and his plan for us. You may already know about finding a place to pray so you can better speak to and listen to God, but have you thought about finding a quiet prayer space inside yourself? In this chapter, you read about **schools of prayer** and considered ones you have and have not experienced. Contemplative prayer is a special form that establishes a deep connection with God. It is intense and silent, and grows through love and adoration of God's goodness. Choose a time to explore this form of prayer and listen for what God has to tell you.

➤ **How is the experience of contemplative prayer different from other types of prayer?**



## People of Faith

### Saint Théodore (Anne-Thérèse Guérin), 1798–1856

After Anne-Thérèse Guérin took her final vows to become a nun, she and other sisters established the Academy of St. Mary-of-the-Woods at Terre Haute, Indiana, the first Catholic women's liberal arts college in the United States. During her nearly sixteen years of ministry in Indiana, Mother Théodore encountered countless hardships, but her faith did not waver. She told the sisters, "With Jesus, what shall we have to fear?" Mother Théodore was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006. The Church celebrates her feast day on **October 3**.

For more, go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)



## LIST

Write down the name of someone you personally know who is a true follower of Jesus. Why did you think of this person? List the qualities of a disciple that you see in this person.

Name

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Qualities

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## Litany of the Saints

**Leader:** Let us take time to pray to the Saints for their guidance.

Begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, you relied on God, not possessions, and knew the comforting embrace of God.

**All:** Saint Thérèse, pray for us.

**Leader:** Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, you suffered many losses and felt the comforting embrace of God.

**All:** Saint Elizabeth Ann, pray for us.

**Leader:** Saint Francis de Sales, you treated yourself and others with patience and gentleness.

**All:** Saint Francis, pray for us.

**Leader:** Saint Thomas of Villanova, you showed freedom to many slaves and care for many orphans.

**All:** Saint Thomas, pray for us.

**Leader:** Saint Genevieve, you showed mercy to prisoners and others in need.

**All:** Saint Genevieve, pray for us.

**Leader:** Saint Clare of Assisi, you lived a simple and humble life.

**All:** Saint Clare, pray for us.

**Leader:** Saint Francis of Assisi, you sought peace during the Crusades.

**All:** Saint Francis, pray for us.

**Leader:** Saint Paul Miki, you preached the Word of God and died on a cross.

**All:** Saint Paul, pray for us.

**Leader:** In this great community of the Saints, we find strength and inspiration to seek and to do God's will.

**All:** Amen.

 *Sing or play "Litany"*



Go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com) for an interactive review.

**A Work with Words** Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the sentence.

- The \_\_\_ continued Jesus' ministry after his Ascension to Heaven.
  - Apostles
  - Samaritans
  - Jews
  - Pharisees
- \_\_\_ is the official teaching of the Church that all Catholics are obliged to believe.
  - Papal Encyclicals
  - Catechism
  - Scriptures
  - Doctrine
- Ways of praying and living as a disciple are called \_\_\_\_.
  - spiritualities
  - church teachings
  - doctrines
  - Papal law
- The \_\_\_ are the essential characteristics that distinguish Christ's Church and her mission.
  - Prayers of the Church
  - Precepts of the Church
  - Marks of the Church
  - Laws of the Church

**B Check Understanding** Complete each sentence with the correct terms from the Word Bank.

Apostles	Pentecost
Old Testament	Last Supper
Church	disciples
Saint John the Baptist	sacramental seal
	apostolic

- \_\_\_\_\_ prepared for the coming of the Messiah.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is the community of the baptized who believe in the Holy Trinity and follow Jesus.
- Jesus called twelve men to be his \_\_\_\_\_ and to share in his mission and work in a special way.
- The Church is \_\_\_\_\_ because her teaching authority comes directly from Jesus and his chosen Apostles and is handed down through the bishops of the Church, who are direct successors of the Apostles.
- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to the Apostles at the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus are those who believe in him, follow his teachings, and put them into practice.

**C Make Connections** On a separate sheet of paper, write a one-paragraph response to the question. How is celebrating the Eucharist the most important way we pray?