

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 8

The Church

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Our Sunday Visitor

One in Christ

♥ Let Us Pray

Leader: God of all unity, Jesus prayed that we would all be one in him. As Catholics, we are a part of the Body of Christ. Teach us what this means.

“Blessed are those who dwell in your house!
They never cease to praise you.” **Psalm 84:5**

All: Father, unite us in your heart, we pray.

Scripture

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.... To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same

Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.”

1 Corinthians 12: 4–11

Have you ever thought...

- How do all Christians have different gifts yet one belief?
- What does it mean to be different but to share one faith?



Getting Started

In this chapter, you will explore the core truths of our faith, learn how Eastern Catholic and Roman Catholic beliefs are similar and different and learn about how we are unified with other Christian churches.

Catholic Faith Words

- Apostles' Creed
- apostolic, as a Mark of the Church
- one, as a Mark of the Church
- ecumenism

In the web below, provide four examples of things that unite the Catholic Church no matter where she is, such as beliefs, practices, or prayers that we hold in common.





IDENTIFY

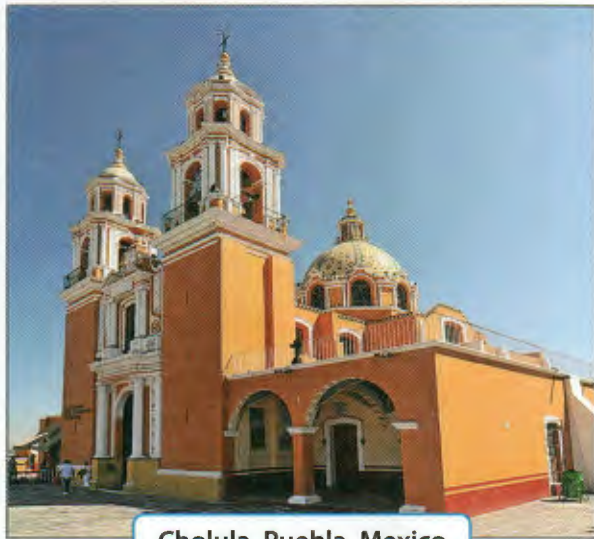
The Same, but Different How are you the same as a good friend of yours? How are you different from them? Brainstorm a list of similarities you share with a close friend, and then identify the differences between the two of you. What keeps you together as friends?

My Friend and I

How We Are Similar

How We Are Different





Cholula, Puebla, Mexico



Ninh Binh, Vietnam

Different But the Same

What unites the Catholic Church?

We all want to belong. We all like to feel comfortable with the people around us. Most of the time our friends like the same things we do. But sometimes you wind up in a group of people you don't know. What we often find is although new acquaintances may be different from us, there are things we share in common. The more we get to know new people, the better chance we have of discovering that we have more in common than we first thought.

Expressing the Same Beliefs

The first disciples were from different backgrounds, but their faith in Jesus brought them together. At his Last Supper, Christ

Go to the Source

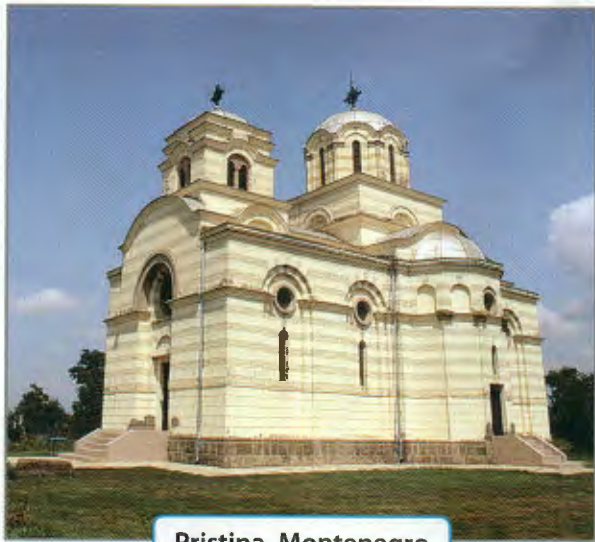
"... so that they may all be one ..." Jesus was praying these words about his Apostles, but this is a prayer for all of us. Read the rest of *John 17:20–26* to see what else Jesus said at the Last Supper, the night he was arrested.

prayed for all of his followers to be one. (See *John 17:20–26*.) He wanted them to put aside their differences, to know that they all belonged to God and were loved by God.

We proclaim one Lord, Jesus, and profess the same creed. A creed is a statement of the Church's belief and summary of the Christian faith. The word *creed* means "I believe." We all believe what's contained in the Nicene Creed and the **Apostles' Creed**, which is one of the Church's oldest creeds, taught since the time of the Apostles and used now also in the celebration of Baptism (see page 366 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of your book).

We celebrate the Seven Sacraments. The details of how we celebrate might be different, but we all baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Through the Eucharist we are given life and are united by the same Holy Spirit. We become the one Body of Christ, the Church.

We are **apostolic**. We are led by the same Church hierarchy and teaching authority led by the Pope. Through the unbroken line of



Pristina, Montenegro



Cape Verde, Africa

Catholic Faith Words

Apostles' Creed one of the Church's oldest creeds. It is a summary of Christian beliefs taught since the time of 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.

one a Mark of the Church. The Church is one because the power of the Holy Spirit unites all the members through one faith and one Baptism.

bishops and Popes, direct successors of the Apostles, we can trace our history back to the Apostles. We are served by the ordained ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons.

We are committed to justice. Serving the poor and standing up against injustice have always been characteristics of Catholicism.

The Church has diverse people from many different cultures and with a variety of gifts. That diversity makes our customs and experiences richer and deeper. This unity is one of the four Marks of the Church. The

Church is **one** because the power of the Holy Spirit unites all the members through one faith and one Baptism. Even though different Catholic parishes have their own styles, Catholics are united by certain beliefs and practices. And all kinds of different people, with all their favorite ways of praying, are welcomed.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Look at the pictures of the various churches. On the lines below, write three things they all have in common and then three differences you see.

Similarities

Differences

United but Unique

How are Eastern and Roman Catholics alike and different?

You might have heard someone say she was Roman Catholic and wondered what that meant. Isn't it enough to say "I'm Catholic"?

There is one Catholic Church, but as she grew and spread during her early history, the people in different places expressed their Catholic belief in their unique customs, language, and favorite ways of praying. That's why there is more than one Church in the Catholic Church. The different Churches developed under the leadership of the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, and continue under his authority.

There are two overarching Churches: the Latin, or Roman, Catholic Church and the Eastern Catholic Church.

Roman Catholics and Eastern Catholics have different ways of worshipping, but their worship is a sign of the same mystery of Christ. Their Sacraments may be celebrated differently, but they share the same grace with those who receive them. What the Churches have in common (creed, Sacraments, and leadership under the Pope) and what they hold unique, show the true nature of the universal Church. The universal Church is one Catholic Church. We all worship the one Triune God. Our unity comes from the unity of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three Divine and distinct Persons, but are one God.

- **Have you ever worshipped in a Catholic Church that follows a different Rite from your own?**
- **If so, what did you see there that was new to you?**



Morning Mass celebration at Iviv Theological Seminary, Ukraine



Holy Communion during an Advent Mass at Iona Catholic High School in Ontario, Canada

The Catholic Church

The one universal Catholic Church is a communion of Churches. There are five main branches of the Eastern Catholic Church, with several particular Churches within each. Each particular Church has unique theology, laws, spirituality, and language, but they are all under the authority of the Pope and in communion with the Church in Rome.



Baptism of a newborn baby

CATHOLICS TODAY

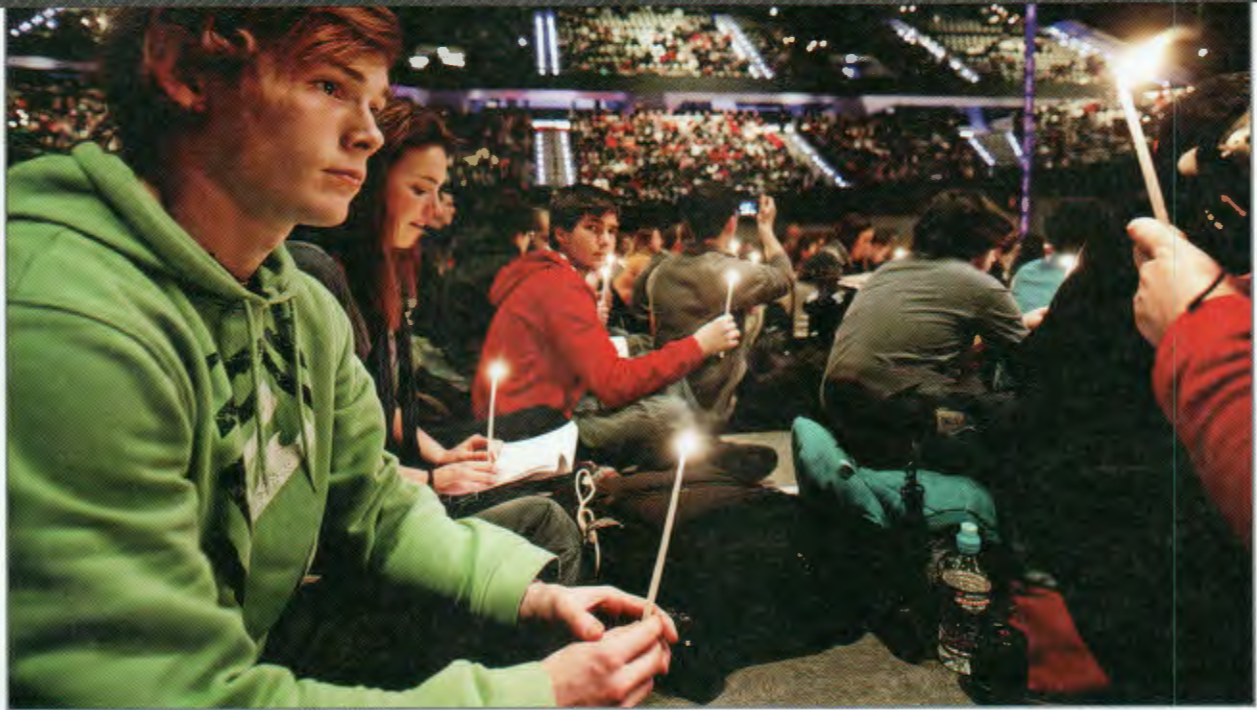
In the Eastern Catholic Church, babies are baptized, then confirmed, and then given Eucharist by the priest all during the same celebration. This emphasizes the unity of all three Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

In the Roman Catholic or Latin Church, priests baptize babies, but Confirmation always comes later. The local bishop administers the Sacrament. This shows that Confirmation makes the recipient's bond to the Church stronger.

The celebration of Confirmation is one example of how the Eastern and Roman Churches celebrate the same beliefs but in different ways. At the Sacrament of Confirmation, the minister lays hands on the person and anoints the forehead with oil. In the Byzantine Tradition, other parts of the body like the eyes, ears, and hands are anointed as well. The words spoken are similar: "The seal of the gift that is the Holy Spirit" (Byzantine Tradition of the Eastern Church) and "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Roman Church).

DESCRIBE

Write down how you might describe one of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, or Eucharist) to a person who has never seen any of the Seven Sacraments take place.



Brothers and Sisters in Christ

How do we come together?

All Catholics are Christians, but not all Christians are Catholic. Christians are people who believe in and follow Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Some Christians are Baptist, some are Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian, Pentecostal, or Disciples of Christ.

Some Christian communities call their leaders “bishops” and “priests”; others do not. Some have worship services that include Communion; others do not. Some have married male and female ministers; others do not.

- **Have you ever visited a Christian church that is not Catholic? If so, what was it like?**

Catholic Faith Words

ecumenism an organized effort to bring Christians together in cooperation as they look forward in hope to the restoration of the unity of the Christian Church

The Christian Family History

Right now, all of these are separate Christian communities. The Christian churches of the world can be spoken of as a world Christian family. But how did all of these groups come to be?

For the first millennium, Christians were, for the most part, united as one Church under the leadership of the bishop of Rome, the Pope. Then, in A.D. 1054, because of arguments among Church leaders about Church authority, practices, and teaching, many in the Eastern Church split from the Western (Roman) Church. This is known as the Great Schism. The word *schism* means “division” or “cutting.” Many Eastern Churches in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and in Asia became known as the Eastern Orthodox Church. Those Eastern Churches who remained in communion with Rome were, and are still, known as the Eastern Catholic Church.

Then, in the 1500s, the Western Church experienced another split. In A.D. 1517, a priest named Martin Luther spoke out, or

protested, against what he saw as abuses and errors in the Church. Although he began by calling for reforms, his actions led to the Protestant Reformation, in which Luther and several other Christian leaders and groups separated from the Catholic Church and the authority of the Pope. The unity, or full communion, of the Western Church was broken. Those who left the communion of the Catholic Church became known as Protestants.

Christians Today

The Catholic Church (Roman and Eastern) is the one that is governed by the successor of Peter (the Pope), and all the bishops in communion with him. The Church of Christ subsists in the Catholic Church; through her alone can the fullness of the means of salvation be found. However, in many ways, all baptized Christians are joined together, even though they do not share all the beliefs of the Catholic faith, and their churches are not in perfect communion with the Pope.

This separation of Catholic and Protestant was a tragedy from many centuries ago. No one group was totally responsible for this. In spite of the separation, much holiness and truth can be found in other communities outside of the Catholic Church. We hope some day that all Christians can be united

together, as Jesus hoped for: “I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one” (John 17:22).

But we do more than look forward in hope for the restoration of the unity of the Christian Church. We work toward building community with all Christians. The organized effort to bring Christians together in cooperation is called **ecumenism**. Ecumenism requires a lot of communication and cooperation among all Christians. We do this by praying together, discussing what we have in common, respecting one another, and learning more about what others believe.



Leaders from different religious traditions perform an ecumenical service in Oberammergau, Germany.

IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

The universal Catholic Church is united by common beliefs and practices.

- The Church is made up of diverse people from different cultures that express their common faith in different ways.
- The Catholic Church is made up of Eastern Catholics and Roman Catholics who are united by a common creed, the Seven Sacraments, and the leadership of the Pope.
- A unity exists among all baptized Christians, and we pray and work toward the full unity that Christ desires for all his followers.

Our Catholic Life

Learning about the history of the Church and how Christianity spread can inspire you to learn more about ways to live out the **Catholic faith**. We respect all people and their religious customs, we understand what our own faith brings us, and appreciate the specific things that make us Catholic (including the Marks of the Church, the Seven Sacraments, our Holy Days of Obligation, sacramentals, and more). We can share what we know and love about our Church with people who may not know much about her, or who share different faith traditions but are Christian and wonder what we all have in common.

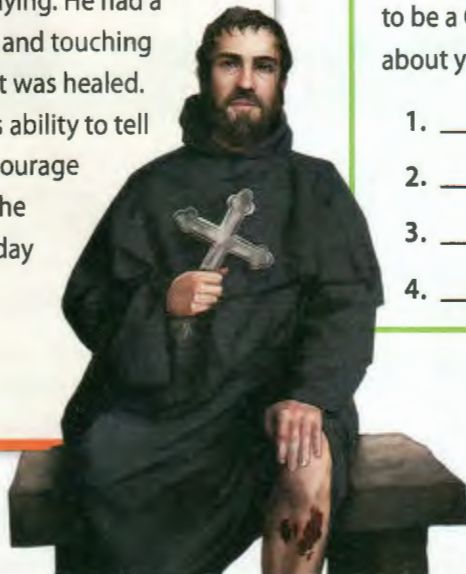
➤ **What is one thing about your Catholic faith that interests you most?**



People of Faith

Saint Peregrine Laziosi, 1260–1345

Peregrine Laziosi was so ashamed of his anti-Catholic actions as a teenager that he began to pray and eventually became a Catholic. Soon after, he decided to become a priest, and joined the Servants of Mary. Later in life, Peregrine developed cancer. Doctors told him he would need his foot amputated. Peregrine spent the night before the surgery praying. He had a vision of Jesus reaching out and touching him. In the morning, his foot was healed. Peregrine was known for his ability to tell people about Jesus and encourage them to confess their sins. The Church celebrates his feast day on **May 1**.



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LIST

On the lines below list four ways you show you are Catholic.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Then tell four ways you can share what it means to be a Catholic to someone who does not know about your faith.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



Prayer for Unity

Leader: Let us be attentive to the wisdom of Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Reader 1: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you were called,

Reader 2: With all humility,

Reader 3: With gentleness and patience,

All three: Bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace.

Reader 1: There is one Body,

Reader 2: There is one Spirit,

Reader 3: There is one Baptism,

All three: There is one God and Father of all.

Reader 1: Who is above all, through all, and in all.

Reader 2: Living the truth in love,

Reader 3: We should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ.

Reader 1: So be imitators of God,


Reader 2: As beloved children,

Reader 3: And live in love

All three: As Christ loved us. **Based on Ephesians 4:1-7, 15, 5:1-2**

Leader: Guide us, O God, in your ways, so that we will learn to love others.
We seek to live in the love
Your Son showed us.
We ask this in Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

 *Sing or play "One Bread, One Body"*



Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com for an interactive review.

A Work with Words Complete each sentence with the correct term from the Word Bank.

Pope	Eastern
ecumenism	reformation
apostolic	Martin Luther
just	Latin
Creed	Doctrine

- The Catholic Church is _____ because, through the unbroken line of bishops and popes, we can trace her history back to the Apostles.
- The Apostles' _____ is one of our oldest creeds and is professed in the celebration of Baptism.
- The _____ Catholic Churches celebrate all three Sacraments of Initiation at the same time.
- The different Churches within the one Catholic Church formed under the leadership of the _____.
- The movement toward building unity and community among all Christian people is called _____.

B Check Understanding Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the sentence.

- At the Last Supper Christ prayed for all of his followers to be _____.
 - happy
 - priests
 - one
 - perfect
- As Catholics, we are united by our creeds, the Seven Sacraments, and our _____ ministry.
 - ordained
 - traditional
 - long
 - Latin
- The two main Churches are the Latin or Roman and the _____.
 - Armenian
 - Byzantine
 - Eastern
 - Chaldean
- The split between many in the Eastern Church and the Western Church in 1054 is known as the Great _____.
 - Movement
 - Reformation
 - Divide
 - Schism
- Martin Luther called for reforms in the Church that led to the _____ Reformation.
 - Ecumenical
 - Protestant
 - Canon
 - Evangelical

C Make Connections On a separate sheet of paper, write a one-paragraph response to the question: Think about someone you know who is a Christian but not a Catholic. What parts of your faith do you have in common? What beliefs are different?