



# The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

## Begin

**Ask:** Who are some of the saints we have learned about? (Saint Teresa of Ávila, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint John Baptiste Vianney) What made these people saints? (They followed God's plan for them. They helped other people follow God.) Read aloud the unit title on page 61. **Say:** We are going to learn about a king who was named a saint. Our new unit will help us learn about the Church, the community of Jesus' followers.

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture of Saint Louis IX. **Ask:** What can you tell about Saint Louis IX based on this picture? (He was a Catholic. He was a king.)

Have your child read aloud the text. **Say:** As king, Louis IX was concerned about the French people, and as a Catholic, he worked to strengthen the Church.

Turn to page 62. Have your child read aloud the page. **Ask:** What did Saint Louis IX do to serve God? (He supported the building of hospitals, schools, and religious institutions. He supported efforts to spread the Good News.) **Say:** Saint Louis IX supported two religious orders: the Dominicans and the Franciscans. Members of these orders took a vow of poverty. They supported themselves by begging.

With your child add Louis's feast day, August 25, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the efforts of Saint Louis IX.



## The People of God

### Engage: Page 63

- ▶ **Ask:** *What communities do you belong to? (family, school, parish, town) Discuss how you are welcomed into these communities and how you show that you are an active member of these communities.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Say:** *Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are welcomed into the Church community. In this session we will learn more about the Church, the community of people who believe in and follow Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how he or she can be an active member of the Church. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 64–65

- ▶ Display a globe or a picture of one. **Ask:** *What is this? What does it represent? (the planet Earth) How are people who live on earth the same and different?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 64. **Ask:** *What did Jesus tell his followers to do? (go forth and make new disciples, continue his mission by teaching others how to follow God's commandments) Point out the vocabulary term *universal Church*. **Say:** *The Church is universal because it is open to everyone.**
- ▶ Read aloud Welcomed into the Church on page 65. **Ask:** *What are the three Sacraments of Initiation? (Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist)*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *Who is speaking in this passage? (Jesus) What is he saying? (that his followers will receive the strength of the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses in the world)*

### Art Exploration: Page 239

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Dominic.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what Saint Dominic is wearing and how he wears his hair.
- ▶ **Say:** *Saint Dominic founded a religious community called the Order of Preachers. Members of this community are often called Dominicans.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 239. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.



- ▶ Have your child read aloud Saint Dominic. **Ask:** *What did Dominic believe was one of the best ways to help others grow in faith? (by sharing the Good News in both word and action) What did many of the early members of the Dominicans do? (They traveled from city to city to preach the Good News.)*
- ▶ Read aloud A Good Example. Give your child time to complete the activity and invite him or her to share the response with you.
- ▶ Invite your child to imagine that he or she is with Saint Dominic and his companions as they travel from city to city, preaching the Good News. **Ask:** *What do you hear in your travels? What do you see? What do you do to teach others about Jesus? Ask your child to say a silent prayer thanking God for the opportunity to share the Good News with others.*

### Reflect: Pages 66–67

- ▶ Together look at page 66. **Say:** *The girl in the picture is finding a quiet time in her day to be with God.* Invite your child to find a comfortable position for prayer.
- ▶ **Say:** *During our prayer you are going to use your imagination to imagine that you are with the apostles when Jesus sent them out into the world.* Read aloud the reflection slowly and reverently. Pause after each paragraph to give your child time to reflect. Conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud A Celebrating Community on page 67. **Ask:** *In what four ways is Jesus present in the celebration of the Mass? (in the Scripture readings, in the priest, in the community, in the Eucharist)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Pray with Jesus. Work together on ideas for how you can participate more fully in the Mass.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *Holy water cleanses us of Original Sin. A white garment reminds us of the purity and joy of being clothed in Christ. A candle reminds us that we are called to share Christ's light with others.*

### Respond: Page 68

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can share a word of welcome with a new parish member.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.