



We Are Called

Begin

Read aloud the unit title. Have your child silently identify someone he or she loves. **Say:** *Without saying it aloud, think of a kind message that you could share with this person, such as how much he or she means to you.* Point out that the person did not actually receive the message. Explain that there are multiple ways to share the message. **Say:** *The most powerful way to share your message is through your actions. Likewise, our faith is more than a mental activity. God calls us to live out our faith through our actions.*

Introduce the Saint

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraph on page 133. Explain that the Third Order of Saint Francis is a religious community for men and women who are called to devote their lives to God but who are not called to become priests or religious brothers or sisters. **Say:** *Because of her strong prayer life, Angela Merici was open to the dream that helped her discern that God was calling her to live out her faith in a new way.*

Invite your child to read aloud How the Saint Relates. **Ask:** *How did Angela receive her new call from God? (through her dream)* **Say:** *God calls each of us in unique ways. It is important for us to open our minds and hearts in prayer so that we can receive this call.*

Turn to page 134. Invite your child to read aloud Founding a New Religious Community. Explain that when people make a pilgrimage, they travel to a sacred place. **Ask:** *Why did Angela go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land? (to help her better understand the will of God)* **Say:** *Imagine you are traveling in a distant country, and you go blind. How would you react? What did the experience teach Angela? (to see with the eyes of her soul)*

Point out that like the dream she had, this experience of blindness helped Angela realize that God was calling her to serve his people in a special way. Explain that when we see with the eyes of our souls, we listen to God in prayer so that we can discover his will for us.

Say: *Like the Rule that Saint Benedict wrote for the members of his community, Angela wrote her Rule and Testament to give the members of her community advice on behaviors that would help them live together peacefully. Angela Merici was a pioneer in that her community was one of the first to live among people so that the sisters could better serve people's needs.* Identify any apostolic communities in your area in which sisters live among the people.

With your child, add Angela Merici's feast day, January 27, to your calendar. Together research the Order of Saint Ursula to discover how members of this community continue the work that Angela Merici began.

The Protestant Reformation

Engage: Page 135

- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine that your teacher gives you a big homework assignment before a school vacation. Ask: How might you respond?* Lead your child to realize that an angry or a forceful response will increase frustration and make the situation worse. **Say:** *How we choose to respond to a situation reflects the values we hold.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title and discuss the text in the blue box. **Say:** *When we choose to respond with gentleness, we reflect that we are Jesus' followers. We are going to learn how a group of people who disagreed with the Church and its practices presented their concerns.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 136–137

- ▶ Display an image of a block of marble and of a statue such as the *Pietà*. Point out that an outer force has to be exerted by someone for the sculpture to take shape. **Say:** *We'll read how external forces exerted by members of the Church helped the Church articulate its teachings more clearly.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the title Disagreement in the Church and the section Martin Luther. **Ask:** *What did Luther believe about Scripture?* (that Scripture alone is the final authority for Christians) *What did Luther believe about the sacraments?* (Baptism and the Eucharist are the only two sacraments. Luther denied the doctrine of transubstantiation.)
- ▶ Read aloud Our Catholic Character. **Say:** *Our sins have an effect that ripples outward, even after the sin itself has occurred. For example, if we hurt someone in anger, that person may then treat others poorly.*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Other Voices Call for Reform on page 137. **Say:** *Calvin believed that some people were destined for Hell from the very moment of their creation. The Catholic Church believes that God has offered the gift of Salvation to all people.* Point out that King Henry VIII's actions were motivated by politics. He established the Church of England because he wanted to divorce his wife, which the Church did not allow.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. If possible, look together online or display images of some of the artworks that are housed at the Vatican museums.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Explore: Pages 138–139

- ▶ **Say:** *Think of times when you receive presents, such as on your birthday or Christmas. Ask: What is the best gift someone could give you?* Discuss your child's responses. **Say:** *While these gifts are nice, in this article we're going to learn about the best gift ever—the gift of Salvation that we have received from God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title God's Gift of Salvation and the first section. Have your child summarize the story of Adam and Eve. **Ask:** *What did God do after Adam and Eve turned away from him?* (He promised that he would send a Savior to forgive sins and restore peoples' relationship with him.) *How does Jesus offer the gift of Salvation to all people?* (through his Paschal Mystery) *What does the Church teach is necessary to receive God's gift of Salvation?* (faith and good works) *How does God want us to use the gift of free will?* (God

wants us to use this gift to choose to have faith, to profess our belief in Christ and his Church, and to do works that bear the fruit of faith.)

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Sacred Art feature. **Say:** *The artist's use of color, light, and movement reminds us that God's grace is all around us, even if we cannot see it.*
- ▶ Read aloud Particular Judgment and Purgatory on page 139. **Ask:** *What does the Church teach will happen at the time of our death?* (We will be judged based on how willing we were to accept God's grace and how faithful we were to following Jesus.) Explain that we experience a glimpse of Heaven every time we choose to act in a way that builds up God's kingdom.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the sections Last Judgment and Our Final Goal. Point out that the Last Judgment describes our journey toward God as a community, whereas particular judgment describes our journey toward God as individuals. **Say:** *As Catholics we believe that these journeys are connected.* **Ask:** *What is the final goal of human life?* (to live in Heaven with God the Father)
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

Reflect: Pages 140–141

- ▶ Read aloud the title and the paragraphs in the left column. Point out that the psalms are especially powerful because they are prayed by Jews and all the Christian traditions.
- ▶ Have your child pray aloud the first verse of A Psalm Prayer. Pray aloud the reflection and give your child time to reflect silently. Continue praying aloud the psalm verses and the reflections, giving your child adequate time to pray silently after each reflection. Conclude the prayer by praying together the Glory Be to the Father.
- ▶ Ask your child to name a positive choice he or she made recently, such as helping instead of ignoring a friend in need. **Say:** *Every choice we make, even a simple choice, has a consequence.* Read aloud the introductory paragraph of Where Do I Fit In? on page 141. **Say:** *When we are faced with a choice, it's important to make the one that leads us to God.*
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud Choose Life. **Ask:** *What do you think Moses meant by "Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live"?* (Possible response: Moses meant that if the Hebrews made good choices and followed God's will, they would be with God in Heaven. He also meant that the Hebrew people would be good leaders for those who come after them and point the way to Salvation.)
- ▶ Allow time for your child to write a personal prayer in the section It's Your Choice.

Respond: Page 142

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions and complete the crossword puzzle. Point out that he or she can use the page references for help.
- ▶ Ask your child to list, define, and use in sentences the terms under Say What? Use the Glossary if necessary.
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Invite your child to complete the activity. **Say:** *When we perform good works, we express to God our thanks for the gift of Salvation.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to pray a 3-minute Retreat at www.loyolapress.com/retreat.