

## Celebrating Pentecost

### Engage: Page 211

- ▶ Share experiences of working with a group to complete a task. **Say:** *As members of the Church, we rely on the Holy Spirit to bond us together. As members of the Church, we support one another in fulfilling the Church's mission.*
- ▶ Read aloud the title Celebrating Pentecost and discuss the text in the box. Then read aloud the page. **Say:** *On the Feast of Pentecost, we give thanks to God for sending us the Holy Spirit. In this session we're going to learn about the Feast of Pentecost.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 212–213

- ▶ Together plant seeds in paper cups filled with soil. **Say:** *Through our words and actions, we cooperate with God in planting the seeds of his love in the hearts of the people with whom we interact. The Holy Spirit helps nurture these seeds. As disciples we help others grow in their relationship with God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the article title Proclaiming Christ Anew, the text below it, and the section Blessed Pope John Paul II. **Say:** *Pope John Paul II went all over the world to connect with Catholics from various countries and cultures. By doing so, he reminded us that the pope is both the Bishop of Rome and the shepherd of the People of God all over the world.* **Ask:** *For what else was he known? (as a peacemaker and as someone who lived a life of openness and charity)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Catholic Character. Explain that for a miracle to be “scientifically proven” means that medical and scientific experts must verify that the act is not explainable by science.
- ▶ Read aloud World Youth Day on page 213. Point out that the celebratory nature of Jubilee Year is rooted in Scripture. Read aloud Isaiah 61:1–2. **Say:** *The last Jubilee Year was 2000. Pope John Paul II had a great respect for young people. He believed that their joy and enthusiasm reflect the creative joy of God. To remind us that social justice is an important component of our lives as Catholics, the Church also participated in an initiative asking governments to forgive the debts of developing nations.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the Past Meets Present feature. **Say:** *Saint John Vianney was a remarkable priest. People came from all over the world to seek his counsel. It is said that he heard confessions for 16 hours a day but never lost patience.*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Explore: Pages 214–215

- ▶ Discuss situations where it is appropriate to use a whisper, a speaking voice, and a scream. **Say:** *Sometimes a whisper is more effective than using a loud voice.* **Ask:** *Why? (Possible answer: People have to pay more attention to hear someone whisper.)* Point out that the Church calls us to use various voices in the work of evangelization.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the section The New Evangelization. **Ask:** *Why might people be indifferent about their faith? (Possible answer: They are more interested in worldly concerns.) What does the term New Evangelization describe? (our call to serve as*

evangelists, both to those who have not yet heard the Gospel as well as to traditionally Christian countries that need to hear the Gospel anew) Invite your child to explain the principles of the New Evangelization, using his or her own words.

- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Art feature. **Ask:** *Why are doves and tongues of flame appropriate symbols for the Holy Spirit?* (Possible answer: Doves are symbols of peace, and the Holy Spirit fills us with the warmth and light of God's love.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the sections on page 215. Explain that the Roman Curia is comprised of the Church's central administrative offices. Point out that by establishing an office responsible for the New Evangelization, the pope demonstrated the importance of this ministry. **Say:** *The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are behaviors that we exhibit when we choose to follow God's path for us.* Have your child turn to page 266 in the back of the book for more information about the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Have your child complete the activity Bearing Fruit independently.
- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud Ready for Confirmation. **Say:** *We can always pray to the Holy Spirit for the strength to follow God, even before we have been confirmed.* Emphasize that we receive the grace of the Holy Spirit through Baptism.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Reflect: Pages 216–217

- ▶ Read aloud the title Come, Holy Spirit, Come! and the paragraphs in the left column. **Say:** *While Pentecost was a one-time event, God wants us to remember that the Holy Spirit is always with us.*
- ▶ Have your child take the role of Leader and pray aloud the prayer Sequence for Pentecost Prayer and Reflection together. After your child prays the last part of the prayer, give him or her time to pray silently. Conclude your prayer by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Describe memories of good times experienced by your family. **Say:** *All of these are experiences of Church even though we might not immediately think so.* Read aloud the introductory paragraph in Where Do I Fit In? on page 217.
- ▶ Together read aloud What Does It Mean to Be Church? **Ask:** *In what ways does the author experience God in his family?* (through the ministry and example of his sister's work, through his marriage, through being a parent) **Say:** *The word church can refer to any community in which we experience joy and belonging.*
- ▶ Have your child complete Church independently and share his or her image with you.

### Respond: Page 218

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions. Remind him or her to use the page references to complete each sentence independently.
- ▶ Ask your child to list, define, and use in sentences the terms under Say What? Use the Glossary if necessary.
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Allow time for your child to complete the activity. **Say:** *Remember that we are called to be evangelists in all that we do. Often we are more effective at sharing God's love with others through our actions rather than our words.* Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to pray a 3-minute Retreat at [www.loyolapress.com/retreat](http://www.loyolapress.com/retreat).