

# Together With Your Sponsor

---

## Chapter 1 - Gathering as Church

In Chapter 1, "Gathering as Church," students learned about the importance of gathering as the Church, the Body of Christ. Whenever the Church gathers to celebrate the liturgy, we manifest and make present in a specific time and place the mystery of God's love. Jesus has made his Church a priestly people. Through Baptism and Confirmation Jesus gives the faithful a share in his priesthood. The act of gathering for liturgy allows us to enter into the saving work of Jesus Christ. For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the understanding of the Church as the priestly People of God and the Body of Christ, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 781–796.

**Reflecting** - Complete the following statement: When I gather with my parish community to celebrate the Mass, I feel....

**Sharing God's Word** - Read together 1 Corinthians 1:1–2. Paul describes the Church with these words, "*you who have been sanctified in Jesus Christ, called to be holy, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Now use your own words to describe the Church.

- Read Saint Paul's observations about the ways in which the Christian community in Corinth was gathering to celebrate the Eucharist in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. List the ways in which you and your parish community gather as you prepare to celebrate Mass. Share with one another what Saint Paul might observe about your community. Write what specific advice Saint Paul might offer to the members of your parish to help you gather together as the people of God.
- List two specific things you can do to better prepare your mind and heart to gather for worship with your parish community.

**Praying** - Pick a regular time each day that you can pray the *Our Father* with your family. Remember that the Church calls the family the church of the home.

**Making a Difference** - Look in your parish bulletin or in a newspaper for examples of people working together for a good purpose. List them. Talk about how each group makes a difference. Also discuss how we can accomplish more when we work together. This week, make a point to eat dinner together without any distractions. Turn off the television and do not answer any phone calls. Just spend the time focusing on each other and enjoying one another's company.

# Together With Your Sponsor

---

## Chapter 2 - Proclaiming God's Word

In chapter 2, "Proclaiming God's Word," students learned that God revealed himself to us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. At the heart of our faith is the reality that God wishes to be in relationship with us and that he has taken the initiative by telling us about himself, inviting us to hear and accept his call to love. That is why the Liturgy of the Word is such an integral part of each and every liturgical celebration. It is there that we learn how to be both hearers and responders to God's offer of grace. For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on Divine Revelation and Sacred Scripture, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 50–184.

**Reflecting** - How can we show reverence and respect for the Word of God? First talk about how we show reverence and respect for the Word of God during Mass. Then move on to talking about how we show reverence and respect for the Word of God at home, at school, at work, and in all parts of our lives. Emphasize that God reveals himself to us through Sacred Scripture.

- Share your favorite Scripture story from the Old or New Testament. Explain why the story has special meaning for you.

**Sharing God's Word** - Read together Matthew 13:3–9, 18–23, the parable of the Sower. Talk about what we can do that can help us become "rich soil." Emphasize that listening to and responding to the Word of God is central to being a Christian.

- Discuss the importance of God's Word in your life. Share an experience of how the Scriptures have influenced the way you live.

**Praying** - In this chapter students prayed John 6:63, 68. Read and pray these verses together.

**Making a Difference** - How will listening more attentively to God's Word at Mass help you to be a better witness for Jesus? Ask family members to share a favorite story or passage from Scripture. Be sure to explain what about this passage is meaningful to you.

# Together With Your Sponsor

---

## Chapter 3 - Renewing Baptismal Promises

In chapter 3, “Renewing Baptismal Promises,” students learned the significance of the commitment they will be making when they renew their baptismal promises at Confirmation. In renewing our baptismal promises, we pledge to embrace the dying of Jesus so that we might know his Resurrection, his triumph over sin and death. For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the understanding of the graces of Baptism, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1262–1284.

**Reflecting** - The Sign of the Cross is the first prayer most of us learned. When we pray the Sign of the Cross, we profess our faith in the death of Jesus and in the Blessed Trinity. In addition, we recall our Baptism, through which we were joined to Christ and became members of his Church. What is the significance of blessing ourselves with the Sign of the Cross?

- Talk about a promise you have made at some point in your life. Discuss what it meant to keep the promise you made.
- Think about one specific decision you faced today. How did your decision show that you are a disciple of Jesus?

**Sharing God’s Word** - Read together John 3:16–17. In this passage Jesus explains to Nicodemus that choosing to be a disciple is choosing between light and darkness. What does this mean? Talk about how sometimes it is easy to make good choices to live as a disciple of Christ and at other times it can be very difficult.

- Read John 3:1-5, 17-19, the story of Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus that the candidates studied in Chapter 3. Think about your own baptism and the baptisms you have witnessed. Share with one another the questions you might ask of Jesus about what it means to be born of water and the Spirit. Imagine how Jesus might respond to your questions.

**Making a Difference** - We first receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at Baptism. One of those gifts is the gift of courage. As Nicodemus discovered, choosing to live as a follower of Christ at times takes courage. Share with each other times in your lives when you acted with courage to live as a disciple of Jesus.

# Together With Your Sponsor

---

## Chapter 7 - Sharing in the Eucharist

In chapter 7, “Sharing in the Eucharist,” students learned how Confirmation will empower them to fully participate in the Eucharist. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we are strengthened to participate fully, consciously, and actively in the Eucharist. Such participation has both an external and internal dimension. We are helped to participate externally by joining in the community’s parts of the Eucharistic celebration. Internally, the Holy Spirit helps us offer ourselves in the same spirit of obedience and self-sacrifice that Jesus offered himself to the Father. Sharing in the Eucharist strengthens us to live in solidarity with others, especially the poor. For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the Sacrament of the Eucharist, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1322–1419.

**Reflecting** - Pope John Paul II often spoke of our obligation to live the virtue of solidarity. He inspired us to stand with the poor and powerless, and act for and with them to “lift them” out of their sufferings. The virtue of solidarity is vital to our lives as Christians. Salvation has come to us because of Jesus’ solidarity with us. In what way does your own experience of solidarity with those who suffer help you better understand the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins? The Eucharist is important in my life because...

**Sharing God’s Word** - Read Luke 22:14–20 together. What are the similarities with this account of the Last Supper and our experience of the Eucharist today?

- Read Luke 24:13-32. Discuss how meeting Jesus in the Eucharist helps you to see him in other people in your life.

**Praying** - In this chapter students reflected on the Beatitudes. Choose a time when you can pray the Beatitudes together as a family each day. You can find the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3–11. Conclude by asking the Holy Spirit to help your family live the Beatitudes.

**Making a Difference** -As a family, bring up the gifts during Mass. Secondly, look in the parish bulletin to see all the ways your parish reaches out to the poor. Then choose one ministry that you would like to know more about. Invite a person involved in this ministry to meet with your family and share stories of their experience.

# Together With Your Sponsor

---

## Chapter 4 - Laying On of Hands

In chapter 4, “Laying On of Hands,” students learned the meaning and importance of the gesture of laying on of hands in the rite of Confirmation. In the rite, the prayer of the bishop invoking the gift of the Holy Spirit on the candidates mentions the Holy Spirit’s sevenfold gift. These gifts express how rich and multifaceted the presence of the Holy Spirit is in the life of the members of the Church. The bishop’s laying on of hands while saying this prayer is a symbol of God’s warm embrace of those with whom he share his own divine life in the gift of the Holy Spirit. For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the Holy Spirit in the liturgy, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1091–1112.

**Reflecting** - What are some examples in the Bible in which someone uses touch or the laying on of hands to symbolize God’s action in another’s life? Try to think of examples of blessings from the Old Testament, healings by Jesus, or the Apostles praying for the Holy Spirit to come upon someone.

- When are you most aware of the Holy Spirit’s presence as a Helper and Guide in your life?

**Sharing God’s Word** - Read together Acts of the Apostles 8:14–17. Talk about how the disciples might have felt after Pentecost. Imagine what it might have been like to have Peter or John lay hands on you, invoking the Holy Spirit.

- Think about the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe) the bishop prays for as he lays hands on candidates during Confirmation. Share with your candidate/sponsor the gift you most desire to grow in. Explain the reason for your choice.

**Praying** - In this chapter students prayed the Glory Prayer. Choose a time each day that you can pray the Glory Prayer together. Remember to begin and end the Glory Prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

**Making a Difference** - Invite any family members who have experienced the laying on of hands in the Sacrament of Confirmation to share their memories of that experience.

# Together With Your Sponsor

---

## Chapter 5 - Anointing With Chrism

In chapter 5, “Anointing with Chrism,” your child explored the gift and mission the baptized receive when anointed with Chrism. The rite of anointing with oil has been part of our religious history from the earliest time of the Jewish people. In the Bible, anointing is an important symbol of a person or object being consecrated to become a sacred instrument of God’s plan. In the ritual of anointing in the rite of Confirmation, a candidate’s identity as a Christian is “sealed” with the gift of the Holy Spirit, who makes it possible to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus. For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on anointing with Chrism, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1293–1301.

**Reflecting** - Think of a time when you have experienced the beneficial effects of some sort of oil or ointment. What was it like to receive this everyday kind of “anointing?” How did the oil or ointment feel? What were its effects? When have you seen oils being used at church?

- What name has the candidate chosen for Confirmation? What is the sponsor’s Confirmation name? Share with one another the reason these names were chosen.

**Sharing God’s Word** - Read together Luke 3:21–23. These verses contain a reference to a verse in one of the Servant poems, Isaiah 42:1. The Servant poems are a series of poems in the Book of Isaiah that describe a servant of God who comes to save the people by doing God’s will, but who suffers persecution and is rejected and misunderstood by those he came to serve. The Church has come to recognize this Servant in Isaiah prefigured Jesus Christ. Share with one another how this passage is lived out in your parish community.

**Praying** - In this chapter students prayed a spontaneous prayer to the Holy Spirit. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit. You can find this prayer on page 113 of the *Candidate Book*. Choose a time of day when you can pray this prayer each day with the whole family.

**Making a Difference** - The Church uses three oils in the sacraments—Sacred Chrism, Oil of the Sick (Infirm), and Oil of the Catechumens. These oils are usually in an ambry, which is a place where the oils are kept. Find out where the ambry is in your parish church. Secondly, read John 14:15–31. Talk about how the Holy Spirit helps your family live as a Christian family. Finally, discuss what does it mean to be a Christian—someone who shares in Christ’s mission and how your family continues the mission of Jesus as “anointed ones.”

# Together With Your Sponsor

---

## Chapter 6 - Exchanging the Gift of Peace

In chapter 6, “Exchanging the Gift of Peace,” students explored the biblical meaning of God’s peace and how it is expressed in the Church’s liturgy. The disciples of Jesus are sent into the world to be peacemakers, to spread the effects of Salvation to the ends of the earth throughout all history until Jesus comes again in glory at the end of time. In order to equip us for such a daunting mission, we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Peace, who empowers us to be instruments of the reconciliation accomplished by Jesus’ death and Resurrection. For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on peace and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1832 and 2302–2317.

**Reflecting** - What is the importance of letting go of hurts in the process of building peace? Share personal stories about times when you have been wronged and how you felt when you finally let go of the hurt. What does being a peacemaker mean to you? Do you find it easier to forgive or to ask for forgiveness? Explain your response.

**Sharing God’s Word** - Jesus taught the disciples that when they enter a house, the first thing they are to do is share *shalom*, the gift of God’s peace, with those they greet. Read together Luke 10:5–6, 8–9. Read Luke 1:67-79, the prophesy of Zechariah about the coming of Jesus. Share with one another how Jesus guides your “feet into the path of peace” in your daily lives.

**Praying** - In this chapter students prayed the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi. Choose a time of day when you can pray this prayer together as a family each day.

**Making a Difference** - Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). Talk together about who the global leaders of peace are today. Once you have determined who these people are, offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their efforts.

- Brainstorm ways your family can be peacemakers with one another. Choose one thing that everyone will agree to do.
- This week choose to give up all forms of violent entertainment. Do not watch violent television or movies. Do not listen to music with violent lyrics, and put away all the violent video games.

# Together With Your Sponsor

---

## Chapter 8 - Sending Forth on Mission

In chapter 8, “Sending Forth on Mission,” your child learned how we are sent forth at the end of Mass to boldly carry on the mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. Soon after the Ascension of Jesus his followers began to call themselves “anointed ones” (Christians). They recognized that they had the calling, or vocation, to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus. They had been given the Holy Spirit to make it possible to fulfill their calling. We too are called to share the Good News of Jesus. Confirmation “seals” us with the gift of the Holy Spirit, who makes it possible for the Church to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the mission of the Church, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 849–856.

**Reflecting** - From your experience, what is the most effective way that a person can publicly witness to their faith in Jesus? Are you influenced solely by what some - body says, or do you need to see that a person “practices what they preach?”

- Name someone who is a witness of faith for you and explain why that person is an example for you in living the Catholic faith.
- How can you publicly witness to your faith in Jesus Christ in your daily life?

**Sharing God’s Word** - Read Acts of the Apostles 4:32–35 together. This passage describes how the first followers of Jesus lived together. What do these first Christians have in common with Christians today?

- Consider the first goal of Catholic evangelization discussed in the document *Go and Make Disciples*: “To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others” (46). Share with one another what makes you enthusiastic about your faith and why you want to share that with others.

**Praying** - In this chapter your child prayed Acts of the Apostles 1:8. Choose a time when you can pray this verse together as a family each day.

**Making a Difference** - Choose **one** of the following activities to do together as a family or design a similar activity of your own.

- Discuss the following questions: In what ways does your family share the Good News of Jesus with others? With whom do you share this Good News?

- This week, instead of saying “good-bye” or “have a good day” to each other when leaving, remind each other of our mission as disciples of Jesus. Try saying, “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”
- On page 95 in the *Candidate Book* you can find the prayer the bishop and the assembly pray during the rite of Confirmation as he extends his hands over the candidates. Together as a family pray this prayer for the candidates each day during these final days of their preparation for Confirmation.

