

FAMILY FAITH

Chapter 9: Jesus Establishes a Church

Jesus founded the Church, and the Holy Spirit makes it holy.

Chapter Summary

During Jesus' public ministry, He picked His Apostle Simon to be the first pope. He changed Simon's name to Peter. Peter is the foundation of His Church. He gave Peter the spiritual keys to the Kingdom of God. These keys showed that Jesus gave Peter a specific authority to lead the Church. The Church is the Body of Christ. Christ is the Head, and we are the members. The Holy Spirit gives life to the Church. The Holy Spirit also builds up the Church and sanctifies her. We must accept the Holy Spirit if we are to be made holy. The Holy Spirit gives us grace and strengthens us with virtues so that we can become holy.

More for Parents

Sometimes it is hard to believe everything that the Church officially teaches. In fact, many Catholics disagree with some of the most fundamental moral teachings of the Church. But it is essential that every Catholic accept the Church's official teaching on matters of faith and morals. The Church does not ask us to accept these teachings blindly. Instead, there are a variety of places we can go to learn more about our faith. Some good places to start are the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the books published by Ignatius Press. Go to your parent portal to find resources to learn more about our Catholic faith.

Virtue in the Family

It is important to cultivate in your children a deep faith in what the Church teaches. As parents, God has called you to be the primary educators of your children.

Keeping Our Promise

At your children's Baptism, you promised to raise them in the faith. Thus, you should take extra steps, such as the following, to teach them what the Church believes.

- Make sure to take your children to Mass every week.
- Buy a Catholic Bible and read some of the stories to them.
- Watch a saint movie with them.
- Review a child-friendly version of the Creed.

Pray for the virtue of faith. If you struggle with one or more of the Church's teachings, pray for the grace to learn more about it and accept it with faith.

- Physically kneel with your children and ask God for His grace and for faith.
- Don't be afraid to admit to your children that although following Jesus is wonderful, it can be hard. But set an example of continually striving to follow God.
- Encourage your children to pray in their own words. Tell them to give God their joys, needs, hopes, fears, and even sins. Explain to them that God loves it when we give Him *everything*.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **missionary**
- **pope**
- **sanctify**

Find digital flash cards to help your children review on the parent portal.



For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.