

Chapter 11: The Church Draws Us to God

God's plan is to call all people into communion with Him through the Church.

Chapter Summary

God created us to be in communion with Him. Since Original Sin broke this relationship, God's plan was to gather His family together to unite them to Him. God began to grow His family with His Chosen People. God's plan came to fulfillment with the coming of Jesus, who came to offer the gift of salvation to all. As the Body of Christ, the Church is called to continue Christ's mission to preach the Gospel to every person. To identify the one true Church that Jesus founded, we can look for the four marks. Only the Catholic Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

More for Parents

The word "holiness" might conjure up thoughts of halos and miracles. It can seem unobtainable. Yet we are *all* called to holiness. With joy, know that holiness does *not* look the same in every vocation. Living out the call is expressed in many ways based on our state in life. It's a matter of carrying out our daily obligations with virtue and love. So, as parents, holiness isn't going to look like the prayer life of a monk or nun. Instead, holiness can look like changing diapers and getting kids ready for school out of love. With that in mind, holiness looks possible! God would never call us to something that is unobtainable. Christ gave us the Church so we would have all the grace and virtue we need to live out this call to holiness. Only through the Church can we be with Him forever in Heaven and bring others with us.

Virtue in the Family

We need the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church in order to be in communion with God and to live lives of holiness. Our children need to understand the necessity of the Church to grow in holiness and their role in it.

The Necessity of the Church

- Family prayer activity
 - Read and reflect on the following verse: "You are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27).
 - Each member of the Body of Christ contributes something different. Have each member of the family share what abilities he has that can benefit the Church.
 - Discuss ways that such abilities can be used to show love to others and to God.
 - End by praying, "Lord, we give You all the gifts and abilities You have given us. Use them to help Your Church. Amen."
- Invite your parish priest over for dinner. Before he comes over, have your children come up with some questions to ask him about his vocation. After his visit, discuss how his vocation is necessary for the Church.
- Take a long look at the stained glass of your parish. Point out how all the different sizes and colors of glass come together to form one beautiful image that reveals God. This is like the Body of Christ and its members.
- Go to a Mass that is celebrated in a different language. Explain how everyone is called to be part of the Church no matter her culture, language, or race. This is what makes the Church catholic. God wants *all* people to be in communion in the Church.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **catholic**
- **Christian**
- **four marks of the Church**
- **vocation**

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