



Family Letter on *The Church Then and Now*

You have a vital role to play in the faith development of your son or daughter. The book *The Church Then and Now*, from the *Christ Our Life* series, can be a great help to you as your young teenager learns from it this year. We invite you to acquaint yourself with the goals and content of the book so you can respond more effectively to the challenge of forming your teen into a Catholic Christian. Doing so will increase your knowledge of the Church and allow you to speak more readily about what it means to be a Catholic. As you take the time to enter into the faith formation process, we hope that you will grow in your love for God as well as for your teen.

Goals for the Year

The goal of both this book and the year's class instruction is to develop in the students an appreciation for the Tradition, mystery, and witness of the Church. The students grow in their ability to value their union with Christ in the Church, to live according to the Spirit, and to give witness to their faith and Christian values. A supplementary book on Confirmation and commitment in the Christian life may also be used during the year. Students are encouraged to read the Bible frequently, even daily, while using these books.

As the students hear how countless Christians in every age accepted and grew in faith, they too will be challenged to grow stronger in and through the Church. Suggestions for liturgical celebrations and prayer services are provided.

The Church Then and Now: Making It a Family Program

Your witness as a Catholic parent makes a profound impact on your teen. The *Christ Our Life* series recognizes that fact and provides you with a framework for experiencing and sharing your faith within the family setting. Several features of this book can assist you in your own desire to grow in Christ and to promote the Kingdom of God on earth. These features include Family Letters, the "Reach Out" sections in the students' text, and a suggested parent-youth meeting.

Family Letters

The catechist has Family Letters in the teacher's guide to accompany each unit of study in the student book. These letters are meant to be duplicated and sent home to help you stay aware of and involved in your teen's spiritual growth. Ideally, you will receive a copy of each letter as soon as the class begins a new unit.

Reading the letters is only the first step. You are urged to reflect on them, to discuss them, to decide how to implement them, and then to act on them. In these ways, you will not only be informed about but also involved in the faith development of your teen.

"Reach Out" Activities

At the end of each chapter in the students' book is a section called "Reach Out." Listed there are activities designed to help the students carry Jesus' message from the classroom to all areas of life. These activities can be done with family members or friends, in the parish, or in the neighborhood. They involve the students in prayer, study, and service. Many of the projects require the presence of an adult. Knowing where and how to "reach out" will help you communicate with your teenager in a supportive way.

Parent-Youth Meeting

You are not alone in your journey this year. Other parents and teens using the *Christ Our Life* series are making similar journeys of faith development. You are invited to gather together to share your mutual hopes and to gain further practical directives from the catechist. We sincerely hope you will make every effort to come to the parent-youth meeting. It may well be the best thing you can do to further the spiritual growth of your teen this year. You will be notified of the time and date of the meeting. We hope to see you there!

Visit www.christourlife.org/family for more family resources.



Family Letter on Unit 1

The Mystery of the Church

Probing Life's Mysteries

We live with mysteries each day. Many of them are natural mysteries that are known only through God's help. Our faith contains many mysteries that we can probe only partially with our limited intellects. Jesus offers us a personal relationship with him that allows us to see the truths of our faith with some clarity.

As parents, we can bring our child into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Your teen is beginning Unit 1 *The Mystery of the Church*. It is designed to help young teens identify with Jesus in his Church. The focus of this unit can help young teens to understand the following:

- the unity in the Church that Jesus founded
- the sanctity offered through the Holy Spirit
- the fidelity to apostolic teaching
- the strength needed for a lifelong journey of faith as a Catholic

Seeing with Jesus

Jesus, through his person, words, and works, reveals to us the mystery of the Church. Scripture gives us the images Jesus used to describe the Church, such as the vine, the sheepfold, and one body in Christ. Jesus challenges us to become more like these images as we grow in our understanding of the Church.

Responding to the Mystery

We find the Holy Spirit wherever we gather in Jesus' name to pray and to serve. It is this spirit that gives us the strength to grow. The Spirit continues Jesus' priestly, prophetic, and servant roles. By our lives, we witness to the four Marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic. We respond by being Christ's witnesses in the world.

Growing in Christian Responsibility

When your teen sees you seeking guidance in prayer, serving others by giving your time, and expressing your faith in worship, he or she sees a role model for faith development. The teen years can be a time of rejecting rules and laws. Your witness of an adult Catholic living the faith with joy is extremely important.

Focusing on Unity

The members of a family are united with one another. As a family, discuss the following qualities. Check the qualities you wish to develop.

- listening to others
- forgiving one another
- caring for one another's needs

Witnessing to Holiness

Discuss ways your family can be of service to those who are poor and in need. Make a list of ways to do this and put each family member in charge of a different activity.

Growing into a Catholic Adult

Consider how your family might practice the following to help your teen grow into a Catholic adult.

1. Have family discussions of current events and of how the Church is responding to them.
2. Subscribe to Catholic periodicals and discuss some of the articles as a family.
3. Plan a family activity in which you help at a soup kitchen, food pantry, or shelter for people who are homeless.
4. Ask each member of the family to take part in your family's contribution to the parish.

Visit www.christourlife.org/family for more family resources.



Our Church, the Church of Jesus

Song

Leader 1: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. When Saint Francis of Assisi was young, he heard Jesus say to him one day, “Francis, you must rebuild my Church.” Francis thought he meant to reconstruct the old, broken-down church of San Damiano. So Francis began to repair the church with mud, wood, and stone. But Jesus was really speaking about his universal Church. He wanted Francis to bring new life, new vision, and new loyalty to his Church.

Leader 2: Today Jesus calls to each of us, “Come, rebuild my Church.” He wants us to commit our lives to building up the universal church. He wants us to bring new life, new vision, new loyalty to the Church. But our question is “How can we build up the Church?” Let us listen to the Word of God, which will guide us.

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Romans. (Romans 12:13–18,21)

Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute [you], bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. . . . Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.

(time for quiet reflection)

Leader 1: Let us pray.

Side 1: Lord, we will rebuild your Church by being people of prayer.

Side 2: Lord, we will rebuild your Church by seeking unity with words and actions of healing and forgiveness.

Side 1: Lord, we will rebuild your Church by committing ourselves to peace, by loving those who are poor, and by taking on a missionary spirit.

Side 2: Lord, we will rebuild your Church by acting with courage, speaking the truth with patience, and accepting our share of responsibility.

All: Lord, we commit ourselves to the Church because we love your Church and promise to be faithful to you.

Leader 1: Christ has called us to rebuild his Church. We will need to use all of our energies and talent to do it. Our love and loyalty to him must be fresh, powerful, and contagious. The Church needs us.

Leader 2: Today we will receive our religion book, *The Church Then and Now*, and a notebook for our reflections. May we learn much this year to bring us closer to Jesus.

(The students come forward to receive their books and reflection notebooks. Music may be played.)

All: O God, who were pleased to call your Church the Bride,
grant that the people that serves your name may revere you, love you and follow you, and may be led by you
to attain your promises in heaven. Amen.
(Common of the Dedication of a Church)



PRE-TEST/POST-TEST

The Church Then and Now

Write the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

- _____ 1. The Church a) is the Body of Christ alive and acting in the world. b) is only the pope, bishops, and priests. c) never makes mistakes.
- _____ 2. The founder of the Church is a) Saint Peter. b) Saint Paul. c) Jesus Christ.
- _____ 3. In Scripture, the Church is called a) the Body of Christ. b) an institution. c) a river.
- _____ 4. The best image of the Church is a) the bride of Christ. b) Mary. c) the vine and the branches.
- _____ 5. The Sanctifier of the Church is a) Mary. b) the pope. c) the Holy Spirit.
- _____ 6. During the Second Vatican Council, Mary received the new title a) Mother of the Church. b) Immaculate Conception. c) Mother of God.
- _____ 7. The Communion of Saints is a) all people in heaven. b) all members of the Church on earth. c) members of the Church in heaven, on earth, and in purgatory.
- _____ 8. The Church was united by the Spirit and became known to the world as a community of faith a) on Pentecost. b) on Calvary. c) at the Council of Jerusalem.
- _____ 9. From the very beginning, the Church a) celebrated the Eucharist together. b) was centered in Rome. c) understood all the teachings of Christ perfectly.
- _____ 10. The official rules that guide all aspects of Church life are found in a) the Acts of the Apostles. b) *the Code of Canon Law*. c) the Didache.
- _____ 11. The reading of Scripture during Mass is an example of the Church as a) herald. b) servant. c) sacrament.
- _____ 12. The Church's great community prayer is a) the Hail Mary. b) the Lord's Prayer. c) the Mass.
- _____ 13. The prayer of Christians that extends the worship of the Eucharist throughout the day is a) the Liturgy of the Hours. b) communal prayer. c) centering prayer.
- _____ 14. Because the Church is open to all people, it has the characteristic of being a) one. b) catholic. c) apostolic.
- _____ 15. A characteristic that is not a Mark of the Church is a) one. b) holy. c) Roman.
- _____ 16. We receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at a) Baptism. b) Confirmation. c) birth.
- _____ 17. We profess our faith in God and in the Church when we pray the a) Hail Mary. b) Nicene Creed. c) Act of Contrition.
- _____ 18. The effort to unite all Christians is called a) collegiality. b) justification. c) ecumenism.
- _____ 19. Catholics participate in the Church's holiness through a) Baptism and the Eucharist only. b) the seven sacraments. c) judging other faiths.
- _____ 20. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit a) are sacraments of healing. b) can lead us to become holy. c) include patience, peace, and joy.
- _____ 21. The gift of wonder and awe makes us a) afraid of going to hell. b) afraid of the power and anger of God. c) marvel at God's greatness and love.
- _____ 22. People such as the Byzantines who belong to the Eastern Catholic Churches are a) heretics. b) in schism. c) Catholics united with the pope.
- _____ 23. Evangelization is a) to proclaim Good News of Jesus to others. b) to read the Gospels. c) to contribute to the Church.
- _____ 24. The first visible head of the Church after Christ ascended was a) James. b) Peter. c) Paul.
- _____ 25. The Church has the gift of infallibility, which means it a) lives a long life. b) is without error when teaching officially on faith and morals. c) knows all things.
- _____ 26. The territory headed by a bishop is called a) a diocese. b) a cathedral. c) a protectorate.



- _____ 27. The first Christian martyr was a) John. b) Stephen. c) Peter.
- _____ 28. Paul a) wrote many letters in the Old Testament. b) wrote letters that were the first writings of the New Testament. c) was converted to Christianity by Saint Peter.
- _____ 29. The emperor who granted Christians freedom of religion after the persecution was a) Charlemagne. b) Nero. c) Constantine.
- _____ 30. A false teaching that rejects a truth revealed by God is a) heresy. b) schism. c) social sin.
- _____ 31. Doctors of the Church include a) Anthony and Basil. b) Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Jesus. c) Benedict and Boniface.
- _____ 32. After the fall of Rome, culture and Christianity were preserved by a) the barbarians. b) monks. c) knights.
- _____ 33. In the Great Schism of 1054, the Eastern and Western Churches a) joined in crusades. b) separated. c) fought heresies together.
- _____ 34. The Dominican who produced the great work of theology *Summa Theologiae* was a) Francis. b) Thomas Aquinas. c) Thomas More.
- _____ 35. During the Great Western Schism, a) three men claimed to be pope. b) Protestants separated from the Church. c) the French Church separated from the Church.
- _____ 36. The Protestant Reformation began as an attempt to a) withdraw from the power of the pope. b) correct the abuses in the Church. c) gain more money.
- _____ 37. In England, King Henry VIII declared himself a) head of the Church in England. b) Defender of Faith. c) free from all sin.
- _____ 38. In his letter *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo XIII spoke out in defense of a) workers. b) small developing nations. c) Catholic schools.
- _____ 39. The council that called the Church the People of God and declared that all people are called to holiness was the a) Council of Trent. b) First Vatican Council. c) Second Vatican Council.
- _____ 40. The first American bishop of the United States was a) Isaac Jogues. b) John Carroll. c) John Neumann.
- _____ 41. The capital sins are a) mortal sins. b) sins committed in the mind. c) evil tendencies that can kill the life of God in us.
- _____ 42. A sacrilege is a) a holy action. b) violation of a person, a place, or an object dedicated to God. c) worshipping an idol.
- _____ 43. Insulting the goodness of God is the sin of a) profanity. b) perjury. c) blasphemy.
- _____ 44. We are obligated to celebrate the Lord's Day by a) fasting. b) doing penance. c) participating in the Eucharist.
- _____ 45. We must obey those in authority a) unless they have serious personal faults. b) because God speaks to us through them. c) even when they tell us to do wrong.
- _____ 46. The Fifth Commandment forbids a) anything that harms life. b) injustice. c) lying.
- _____ 47. According to God's plan, sex is a) a way to express love in marriage. b) bad but necessary to produce new life. c) a way to show anyone a strong, sincere love.
- _____ 48. The right to own property a) is protected by the Eighth Commandment. b) means that we should not steal or damage what doesn't belong to us. c) means that we can all get as much as we want for ourselves.
- _____ 49. We should not a) tell the truth when it will get someone in trouble with an authority. b) talk about the faults and misdeeds of others. c) use mental reservation.
- _____ 50. A free promise made to God to perform a good act not required for salvation is a) a sacrifice. b) blasphemy. c) a vow.



Four Witness Stories

You witness to the community of believers every day. Read these stories. Check (✓) the best answers.

1. Kevin stared at the test. He knew only a few answers. His father had warned that if he got a low grade in English, he wouldn't be allowed to go out. Kevin could see Jessica's answers. Carefully he copied them until he felt the presence of Mrs. Wills next to him. She picked up the test. "I'll see you after class," she said.

Kevin could be a witness to Jesus in the future by

- _____ praying more.
- _____ being honest.
- _____ trying not to get caught.

Kevin's father could help his son grow in Christian responsibility by

- _____ continuing to threaten Kevin.
- _____ making sure Kevin studies.
- _____ excusing Kevin by saying "Boys will be boys."

2. The cafeteria monitor reported that Lucia and Mary, student council members in charge of selling ice cream, were giving ice cream to their friends for free. Sister Margaret, their teacher, was disappointed. These were two of her most dependable students. She had trusted them.

Lucia and Mary could witness to Christ by

- _____ offering to make restitution for the missing ice cream.
- _____ asking their parents to pay for the missing ice cream.
- _____ quitting student council and never helping again.

Sister Margaret could help these girls grow in Christian responsibility by

- _____ forgiving them and trying to teach them honesty.
- _____ taking them off the student council.
- _____ not allowing them to attend school assemblies that week.

3. Anne was furious. First, she had overheard Brianna and Kaitlin talking about her. Now, Kaitlin never returns Anne's calls. Whenever Anne tries to join Brianna and Kaitlin at lunch, there's no room for her. The three used to be friends. It hurts Anne to feel she is not included.

Anne could be a witness to Jesus by

- _____ telling Brianna a lie about Kaitlin.
- _____ hating Brianna and Kaitlin.
- _____ forgiving her friends.

Anne could grow in Christian responsibility by

- _____ ignoring Brianna and Kaitlin.
- _____ making Brianna and Kaitlin jealous.
- _____ seeking new friends.

4. Peter overheard his parents talking. "That was Peter's teacher on the phone," his mother said. "She says Peter was drinking beer on the field trip."

"Peter? Drinking beer? She's probably exaggerating," his father replied.

"She said he brought some of it."

"How does she know that Peter was involved?" asked his dad.

"She said some of the boys admitted being part of it. They all say Peter was in on it. She also sent a note home, but I never saw it. Did you?"

His father was angry. "No. Get Peter. He'd better have an explanation for this."

To be a witness to Jesus, Peter should

- _____ lie and hope he isn't caught.
- _____ admit his responsibility.
- _____ say the teacher is bringing this up because she doesn't like him.

Peter could grow in Christian responsibility by

- _____ getting even with the boys who told.
- _____ taking the punishment and having the courage not to do this again.
- _____ begging his parents to defend him.



Name _____

You Belong to the Church

You are a living witness to Christ and his Church. This means you are called to share with others the spirit of the Church. Read the following situations and write the particular spirit these people need and why. Use the Word Box for help. One spirit will be used more than once.

Word Box

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| spirit of prayer | healing spirit |
| missionary spirit | love of those who are poor |
| love for unity | love for all people |
| courage to proclaim one's faith | |

In history class, the students are discussing the economics of poor nations. John says that the people of these countries have no right to complain about being paid only 30¢ a day. They should be glad they are paid at all. They wouldn't know what to do with more money if they had it.

John needs _____
because _____

Laura got into a fight with Sarah. Now Laura is upset that they are in the same class. She wants her mother to ask the principal if she can transfer to another class. Then she will not be near Sarah.

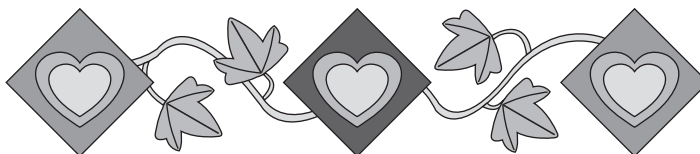
Laura needs _____
because _____

Pablo is ashamed to tell others he goes to St. Stephen's School. When the class makes anything in religion, he throws it away, saying, "It's weird." He is afraid that others will see him with religious things.

Pablo needs _____
because _____

During the homily at Mass, Chloe plans how she will spend her day. Through the prayers of the Mass, she daydreams about the boy who sits next to her in science class.

Chloe needs _____
because _____



Tom knows that no one ever associates with Andrew because he is clumsy and always says the wrong things. When Andrew comes up to Tom's lunch table, Tom moves away.

Tom needs _____
because _____

Jasmine and Luke ran for the same student government office. Luke won the election. Jasmine's friends refused to support Luke and his ideas. They make fun of him and openly criticize him.

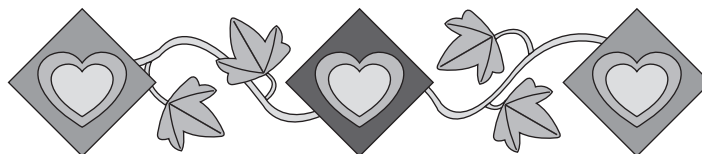
Jasmine's friends need _____
because _____

Tyler's class heard a mission talk by Father Simons about helping those who are poor and teaching them the Good News. Then his class went to lunch. After Tyler finished his lunch, he was still hungry. The money he was going to give to the missions was in his pocket. He bought ice cream with it.

Tyler needs _____
because _____

Julie overheard Alexis tell some girls that Julie was a liar. Now Julie is planning to get even with Alexis.

Julie needs _____
because _____





Name _____

With the Power of the Holy Spirit

Complete this study guide on the Holy Spirit, using Scripture where it is indicated.

It is hard to put God into words. We describe the Holy Spirit as fire and wind. Like fire, the Spirit purifies us, melts our hard hearts, and fills them with burning love. A hard heart is a sinful heart, an unloving heart. Like a powerful wind, the Holy Spirit sweeps over the world, bringing forth life and a new creation, renewing us. Today we need to be renewed because we are sinful; we are surrounded by temptation and/or occasions of sin; we forget what God wants us to do.

Within the community of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is the Third Person. The Church explains the Spirit this way: When God the Father and God the Son behold each other and see the goodness in each other, they respond with a love so great that it is a Person—the Holy Spirit. The Spirit, then, is love. Wherever the Spirit is, there is order, beauty, and peace.

The Spirit causes great things to happen:

- In Genesis, when nothing existed, the Holy Spirit hovered over the chaos and brought forth _____.
- When Mary agreed to be God’s Mother, the Spirit overshadowed her and she brought forth _____.
- When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit was upon him, anointing him to _____

_____. (See Luke 4:18.)
- When _____ was dead and buried, the Holy Spirit raised him from the dead.
- At Pentecost, when the Spirit poured out on the Church, Peter went out and baptized _____ people, bringing them divine life. (See Acts of the Apostles 2:41.) The Spirit, then, is the giver of _____.
- After his Resurrection, Jesus _____ on his disciples and gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. (See John 20:22.) We were filled with the Spirit when we were baptized. We can rely on the Spirit in us to do the following things for us:
 - (See John 14:26.) _____
 - (See Romans 8:26–27.) _____
 - (See Acts of the Apostles 9:31.) _____

Bonus

Here are some titles of the Holy Spirit from the Sequence prayed on the feast of Pentecost. Choose one. On the other side of this paper, write a prayer to the Holy Spirit based on it.

Father of the Poor	In our labor, rest most sweet	The soul’s most welcome guest
Sweet refreshment	Of comforters the best	Solace in the midst of woe
Source of all our store	Grateful coolness in the heat	Most Light Divine



Chapter 1 Quiz

True or False Write *T* if the statement is true or *F* if it is false.

- _____ 1. The Church is human and divine.
- _____ 2. Jesus is the founder and head of the Church.
- _____ 3. In and through the Church, Jesus is alive and acting in the world today.
- _____ 4. The Mystical Body of Christ is the Holy Spirit.
- _____ 5. The Church is a mystery of faith that we can never fully understand.
- _____ 6. The Spirit dwells in us through grace.
- _____ 7. Our relationship with Jesus determines our relationship with the Church.

Multiple Choice Write the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

- _____ 1. The Church is a) a holy building. b) the pope, bishops, and priests. c) a community of disciples.
- _____ 2. The best image of the Church is a) the vine and branches. b) Mary. c) the Mystical Body.
- _____ 3. The Church is a temple because a) it began with Jewish people. b) God dwells within us. c) we are like stones.
- _____ 4. The image that stresses God's love for us is a) the Body of Christ. b) the bride of Christ. c) leaven.
- _____ 5. The Body of Christ image teaches us a) about the death and Resurrection of Jesus. b) that we are a close-knit community. c) that we must suffer.
- _____ 6. Jesus is the Good Shepherd because he a) lays down his life for us. b) keeps us from getting lost. c) feeds us.
- _____ 7. When we are close to Jesus, we a) know all things. b) lose our leaves. c) bear fruit.
- _____ 8. We are like leaven when we a) proclaim the kingdom with our lives. b) feed people. c) receive the Eucharist.

Short Answers Write the word or words that best answer each question.

- 1. Who is the founder of the Church? _____
- 2. Who is the sanctifier of the Church? _____
- 3. Who is the head of the Church? _____
- 4. Who is the Mother of the Church? _____
- 5. Who is the perfect follower of Christ? _____

Bonus

Choose one of the following questions and write your answer on the other side of this paper. (5 points)

- 1. How has your idea of the Church changed as you studied this chapter?
- 2. Compare two images of the Church. What does each one tell us about the Church? How are they the same? How are they different? Which do you like better?