

# One in the Spirit

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 6*.

❖ The Apostles modeled their ministry on the way Jesus lived his life. Jesus spent time with the people he served. He walked with those who were poor, ate with those who were hungry, comforted those who were sick, and listened to those who were lonely.

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❖ The Marks of the Church—one, holy, catholic, and apostolic—make the Church what it is. Just as you can tell a brand of clothing by its characteristics, so can you identify the Church by its marks.

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❖ One is the Mark of the Church that says that all members of the Church are united. We are united in faith, worship, governance, and charity.

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❖ The Church is united in our celebration of the sacraments. We are especially united in the celebration of the Eucharist. When we gather for Mass, we are united with Jesus and with one another.

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❖ We are one in what we believe. A creed is a statement of the truths we believe. At Sunday Mass, we pray the Nicene Creed as a profession of our faith in God and in the Church.

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❖ The Church is joined together under the leadership of the pope and bishops, who are successors of the apostles. The pope and bishops teach us the truths of our faith through Church councils, papal encyclicals (letters from the pope to the whole Church), pastoral letters, and talks. We follow the teaching of the pope and the bishops who, inspired by the Spirit, govern the Church.

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❖ By practicing the virtues of faith, hope, and love, we come to live in a relationship with the Trinity. By putting our faith in God, we deepen our friendship with God and grow in love for God and one another.

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❖ The Spirit guides all members of the Church to work for unity with other Christian churches. This effort to unite all Christians is called **ecumenism**. *Ecumenical* refers to the whole world.

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❖ Paul lists the charismatic gifts in his first letter to the Corinthians. The members of the Church have a wide range of gifts. God calls us to use our gifts so that all may be one.

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