

CHAPTER 8 Baptism and Confirmation

Centering

- ◆ Together brainstorm objects that symbolize a birthday celebration, such as cards, candles, and a cake. Say: **Alone, these things mean little. But when they are used as part of a birthday celebration, they have special meaning. They become symbols.** Ask: **What do birthday objects and rituals express?** (our joy and gratitude for the person who has a birthday)
- ◆ Say: **Today you will learn about powerful celebrations whose symbols make Christ present and bring about new divine life in us.** Ask: **Do you know what these celebrations are?** (sacraments)

Sharing PAGE 61

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the chapter title and The Seven Sacraments on page 61. Ask: **Why are sacraments important to our relationship with Jesus?** (They deepen our relationship with Jesus; in them we encounter him, enabling us to carry out our mission as his disciples.)
- ◆ Say: **Sacraments are saving actions. They bring us out of the power of darkness into light. Unlike birthday parties, which do not give life, sacraments cause life, divine life.**
- ◆ Say: **We celebrate sacraments as a faith community.** Ask: **Why does this make sense?** (God originally saved a people, the Chosen People. The members of Christ's Church are bound together as members of his Body. Sacraments strengthen us to love and serve others better.)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud Christian Initiation on pages 61 and 62. Ask: **What are the three steps of initiation?** (catechumenate, election, and initiation) **How were Chris and his family witnesses?** (The family spirit attracted Joe; Chris answered Joe's questions.) **What process will Joe go through to become a Catholic?** (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) **What is Joe called now?** (an inquirer) **Why?** (He is inquiring about the faith and studying it.)

Sharing PAGES 62–63

- ◆ Read aloud the first three entries under Responding to the Call on page 62. How can Chris help Joe as his sponsor? (help him know Christ and his teachings, show him how to live the Gospel and serve others)
- ◆ Say: **Catechumens leave Mass after the homily because they are not yet initiated into the mysteries of our faith. They learn more about the Scriptures at this time.** Ask: **How is Joe preparing to live the faith?** (He is studying the life of Christ, the Church's teachings, praying with the community, and trying to set a good example.)

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the last two entries of Responding to the Call. Ask: **What rite did Joe celebrate on the first Sunday of Lent?** (Rite of Election or Enrollment)
- ✦ Say: **In the early Church, the elect were brought before the bishop many times to be questioned about their character and their motives.** Ask: **What forms do these scrutinies take today?** (petitions and exorcisms) **The exorcisms free the catechumens from the effects of sin and the influence of the Devil.**
- ✦ Have your child read silently Sacraments of Initiation on pages 62–63. Ask: **What do these symbols mean?** **Water** (life and death); **white robe** (clothed with Christ); **candle** (new life in the risen Jesus); **Chrism** (anointing; christened); **bread** (the Body of Christ as spiritual food); **wine** (the Blood of Christ as spiritual drink)
- ✦ Have your child read silently Baptism: Water and Spirit and A Flood of Gifts. Say: **In the early days of the Church, Baptism was done by immersion. The person's entire body was submerged in the water. There are parishes that celebrate Baptism this way today.**
- ✦ Ask: **What are three ways you show you have become a Christian?** (giving witness to Christ, sharing his teachings, and being prepared to sacrifice for him)
- ✦ Say: **If a child dies before being baptized, we pray for the child's salvation.**
- ✦ Ask: **Which gift listed under A Flood of Gifts is important to you?**
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

Sharing PAGE 64

- ✦ Have your child complete the activity Signs of Baptism on page 64.
- ✦ Have your child read silently Confirmation: Sealed with the Spirit. Ask: **Why is the Eucharist the high point of Christian initiation?** (It strengthens God's life in a Christian. When Christians receive the Eucharist, they possess Jesus and he acts in them.)
- ✦ Say: **The three Sacraments of Initiation are interrelated. Baptism enables Christians to have faith in the Eucharist. Confirmation calls Christians to deeper faith and more active service. The Eucharist strengthens faith and enables Christians to serve through strength from Jesus.**

Acting PAGES 65–66

- ✦ Read the Chapter 8 Summary on page 65 together. Instrumental background music can help create a prayerful environment for the Respond activity. Then have your child complete the Review Activities on page 66 independently.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 67–68**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 67. Ask: **What does “called out of darkness into his wonderful light” refer to?** (God has called us from sin to eternal life in him.)

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **How can you help in the formation of new Catholics?** (by setting a good example in the way I pray and serve others)
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **How do the Sacraments of Initiation prepare us for our life as disciples?** (They make us members of the Church and empower us with the Holy Spirit to become Christ for others.)
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 68. Say: **Saint Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, acted as a witness for Christ as he wrote his epistles. He invites us to be witnesses too.**
- ◆ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ◆ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Ask **How are sacraments models for the way we should treat one another?** (Possible answers: I can be forgiving; I can help people heal; I can be thankful.)
- ◆ Pray aloud a prayer of Saint Teresa of Ávila: **“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. . . . You are his Body.”**