

## Page 131 Unit 4: We Follow Special Ways to Holiness

### Before You Begin

1. Read **A Letter Home**, found on page 140 of the Student Book. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit. You may wish to use a web-enabled smartphone or a tablet to scan the QR code and watch the video with your child.
2. Prepare or collect the following materials: a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, and writing supplies.
3. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: God calls us to holiness through different states of life. We may hear his call by listening to the Holy Spirit in prayer. We may sense his message for us through events in our lives. Your child is young, but it's never too soon to think about the plan God has for each of us. As you study this unit together, look for moments to share some of your own experiences with listening and responding to God's call.

## Page 139 Unit Opener

Have your child look at page 139. Read aloud the unit title and the Scripture at the bottom of the page. Tell your child that God has a plan for each of us. Point out the images of Mary with Gabriel and Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Say: ***Mary followed the plans that God had for her, and she became the mother of Jesus.*** Explain to your child that God calls each of us to certain ways of life. For example, he may call someone to be a teacher, a doctor, or a gardener. Say: ***In this unit, we will talk about how to listen for God's call so that we can learn the plan he has for us.***

If you choose, scan the QR code on page 139 and listen to the audio together.

## Page 141 Chapter 17: God Calls Us to Be Holy

Read aloud the title of Chapter 17. Explain to your child that we call God's plan for us our *calling*. Our calling is a way of life we feel drawn to perhaps because of talents or interests given to us by God. Say: ***God wants us to use the unique talents he gave us to serve him in different ways.***

### We Follow God's Plan for Our Lives

Have your child read aloud this section. Remind your child about the plan God had for Samuel. Explain that Samuel's mother couldn't have any children, so she went to the priest Eli and made a promise. Say: ***Because of these parts of God's plan, Samuel was trained by his master to be a servant of the Lord. He went on to be a great prophet for the people of Israel. God has a plan for each of us. If we follow his plan for us, we will be happy and holy.***

## All Are Called to Holiness

Read aloud this section. Point out the **Word to Know** feature and have your child read aloud the definition for *holiness*. Say: **God has a different plan for each of us, yet the goal is the same for each of us—holiness.** Review with your child what God has given us to help us follow a path of holiness. (He gave us special talents; he sends the Holy Spirit to help us; we have the lives of Jesus, Mary, and all the saints to emulate; we have the Eucharist.)

### Page 142 God Gives Special Calls

Have your child read aloud this section. Point out the **Words to Know** feature on page 143, and have your child read aloud the definition for *vocation*. Check for understanding and use the **Glossary** for support if needed. Think about the four ways of life: the married life, the celibate single life, the religious life, and the priesthood. Help your child name a few friends or family members and identify their vocations.

## We Discover Our Vocations

Read aloud this section to your child. Ask your child what vocation he or she may feel called to. Reassure your child that it is okay to not know. Discuss ways to discover it over time. Say: **Pray and ask God to reveal his plan to you!** Remind your child to pay attention because sometimes God is speaking to us through other people or events in our lives.

## We Prepare for Our Vocations

Have your child read aloud the section. Say: **Each day you will come closer to knowing your vocation by paying attention to God's presence in your life.** Lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature.

### Page 143 Religious Life

Read aloud the first paragraph and the God's Word feature. Say: **The religious life is a special calling. Following it takes strong faith and courage.** Take turns reading the rest of the section. Point out the **Words to Know** feature, and have your child read aloud the definitions for *religious life* and *vow*. Check for understanding and use the **Glossary** for support if needed.

## The Celibate Single Life

Have your child read aloud this section. Reiterate for your child that the celibate single life is not a formal vocation because one does not make public vows to enter into that life. Say: **God calls all people to holiness. He wants single people to use their talents to love and serve others as Jesus did.**

If you choose, scan the QR code on page 143 and watch the video together.

**Page 144 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Had Multiple Vocations**

Take turns reading aloud page 144. Recall for your child that Elizabeth Ann Seton's first vocation was marriage. Say: ***After her husband died, God guided her to her next vocation, which was to start a religious community.*** Point out for your child that Elizabeth's life was difficult, but God always provided what she needed as she faithfully followed her call to married life and then the consecrated religious life.

**Page 145 Chapter Review**

Help your child complete the Chapter 17 Review. If you choose, scan the QR code on page 145 and have your child take the **Interactive Chapter Review**.

Lead your child through **We Remember**. You ask the questions from the section and have your child read the responses. Encourage your child to comment or ask questions.

Have your child complete the prayer in the **We Respond** section. Invite your child to pray it aloud.

Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter by asking your child to explain what they mean. If necessary, reread the definitions in the **Glossary**.

Allow time for your child to complete the **Your Turn** activity.

**Page 146 Chapter Review**

Have your child read aloud the directions for the **God's Call** activity on page 146. Provide support as needed. [ANSWERS: Pray, sacrifice, and serve others. Grow in holiness. Celebrate the sacraments. Follow God's call wherever it leads.] Then read aloud the directions for the **We Follow God's Plan** activity and have your child complete it. Check his or her work and encourage your child to ask questions or make observations about vocations. [ANSWERS: 1. holiness, 2. vocation, 3. know, 4. religious, 5. community, 6. serve, 7. minister]

**Page 147 Families in Mission**

Complete the **Families in Mission** pages with your child.

**SCRIPTURE**

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 147. Remind your child that we should be like Samuel, alert to hear God's call and quick to answer it.

**KNOW AND PROCLAIM**

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Say: ***Let us always have the courage to follow God's call, wherever it leads us.***

**TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE**

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. [ANSWER: Sacrament of Holy Orders] Say: ***The Sacrament of Holy Orders helps people follow the demanding vocation of the priesthood.***

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 147.

**Page 148 Families in Mission, continued****A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 148. Point out for your child that we will not likely have to give our lives for our faith like Saint Andrew Kim Tae-gön did, but we may need to have courage to be God's witnesses. Say: ***When we refuse to take part in gossip or when we stand up to someone who is bullying another person, we are God's witnesses.*** Talk about other situations your child might encounter that require courage to do God's will.

**WITNESS AND SHARE**

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each one for reflection.

**SHARE YOUR FAITH**

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Invite your child to share his or her response.

Pray the Prayer for Vocations from the inside back cover of the Student Book to bring the lesson to a close.

Page 149 **Chapter 18: Christian Marriage Leads to Family Holiness**

### Before You Begin

1. Prepare or collect the following materials: a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, **A Prayer for My Family** from the back of the Student Book, and writing supplies.
2. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit. You may wish to use a web-enabled smartphone or a tablet.
3. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: Through the Sacrament of Matrimony, couples help each other be holy and establish a family. Every family has different, unique struggles and triumphs. Consider your own in order to anticipate questions your child may have about marriage and families.

### Marriage Is a Sacrament of Faithful Love

Point out the image on the top of the page. Ask your child to describe what is happening in it. (A couple has just been married.) Say: ***They look very happy to start their new life as a married couple.*** Ask your child why they think people get married. (They get married because they love each other; they want to have a family; God has called them to marriage and to one another.) Say: ***They have been called to the married life by God. It is the vocation in which they will serve God faithfully.***

Have your child read aloud the chapter title and the first section. Say: ***The love of married men and women is a sign of Jesus' love for his Church.*** Explain that marriage is a covenant. Husbands and wives make an agreement to take care of each other and be faithful for all their lives.

### Rite of Marriage

Read aloud this section to your child. Say: ***The Rite of Marriage gives the husband and wife encouragement and strength to use their union to serve God faithfully.***

Page 150 **Marriage Vows Unite a Husband and Wife for Life**

Take turns reading aloud this section. Point out the **Word to Know** feature at the bottom of the page, and have your child read aloud the definition for *Holy Matrimony*. Explain that weddings are happy celebrations, but a husband and wife need strength and encouragement to fulfill their marriage vows. Say: ***During the nuptial blessing, the priest asks God to bless them, to give them the graces they need, and to make them good parents.***

### Unselfish Love Strengthens a Marriage

Have your child read aloud this section. Explain that two people as close as a husband and wife are bound to have disagreements. Say: ***They must have help from God and from each other to solve disagreements and keep their love growing.***

**Page 151 The Grace of Holy Matrimony**

Take turns reading this section. Say: ***A couple never knows what difficulties are going to come their way.*** Explain that the grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony will help the husband and wife do what is possible to make each other happy even in times of trouble.

**Children Are Living Reminders of Love**

Have your child read aloud this section. Say: ***It is the grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony that also helps a husband and wife care for children.*** Ask your child to name some ways a parent cares for his or her family. Talk about why the grace of the sacrament may be needed to carry out those responsibilities.

Lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature.

If you choose, scan the QR code at the bottom of the page and watch the video together.

**Page 152 Our Families Show God's Love**

Take turns reading aloud. Point out the **Word to Know** feature and have your child read aloud the definition of *domestic church*. Say: ***As a family, the most important thing we can do for one another is to show one another love and kindness.*** Talk about common struggles families face. For example, siblings may argue or fight over belongings. Parents manage difficult schedules while they work and take care of the needs of the family. Discuss strategies to avoid or end conflicts in a way that pleases God. Say: ***Remembering the grace and forgiveness that Jesus gives us can help us be humble and kind to one another. The most important message to give each member of our family is that he or she is loved.***

Have your child complete the **Share Your Love** activity and talk about his or her responses.

**Page 153 Chapter Review**

Help your child complete the Chapter 18 Review. If you choose, scan the QR code on page 153 and have your child take the **Interactive Chapter Review**.

Lead your child through **We Remember**. You ask the question from the section and have your child read the response. Encourage your child to make observations or ask questions.

Lead your child in prayer using the **We Respond** section. Say: ***Let us remember to let the Holy Family be our guide every day.***

Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter by asking your child to explain what they mean. If necessary, reread the definitions in the **Glossary**. Allow time for your child to complete the **Your Turn** activity. Invite your child to share his or her work.

**Page 154 Chapter Review, continued**

Have your child read aloud the directions for the activity **Marriage Responsibilities** on page 154. Lend support as needed as your child completes it. Then read aloud the directions for the activity **Love and Marriage**. Check your child's answers together. [ANSWERS: 1. Church, 2. vows, 3. ring, 4. nuptial, 5. grace, 6. domestic, 7. gratitude]

**Page 155 Families in Mission**

Complete the **Families in Mission** pages with your child.

**SCRIPTURE**

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 155. Say: ***Every family is a sign of Jesus' presence in the world!***

**KNOW AND PROCLAIM**

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Say: ***Our home is a domestic church. We give one another grace and pray for one another.***

**TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE**

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. [ANSWER: domestic church.] Say: ***In our home, you learn Christian values so that you can serve the Lord and share those values with others.***

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 155.

**Page 156 Families in Mission****A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 156. Say: ***Maria's example teaches us about the healing power of forgiveness.*** You may wish to share with your child a time in your life that you gave forgiveness and then felt a sense of healing.

**WITNESS AND SHARE**

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each one for reflection.

**SHARE YOUR FAITH**

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Discuss his or her response.

To bring the lesson to a close, have your child cut out **A Prayer for My Family** from the back of the Student Book. Pray aloud the prayer together. Encourage your child to keep this prayer in a special place at home and to pray it often.

## Page 157 Chapter 19: Holy Orders Is a Sacrament of Service

### Before You Begin

1. Prepare or collect the following materials: a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, and writing supplies.
2. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit. You may wish to use a web-enabled smartphone or a tablet.
3. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, bishops, priests, and deacons are called to minister in the name of Christ and the Church. You may wish to consider the conviction one must have to follow a calling to the priesthood. Think about what your child understands about this and tailor your instruction accordingly.

### We Share Christ's Priesthood

Read aloud the chapter title. Point out the image at the top of the page. Ask your child to describe what is happening in it. (People are attending Mass; they are listening to the priest.) Remind your child that the common priesthood belongs to everyone who is baptized. Say: ***If a person is called to the ministerial priesthood, he dedicates his life to serving God's people through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.***

Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs. Point out the **Words to Know** feature and have your child read aloud the definitions of *Holy Orders* and *ordination*. Remind your child to use the **Glossary** for support as needed. Say: ***Only those who have been ordained share in the Sacrament of Holy Orders.*** Have your child read the last paragraph of the section. Point out the word *clergy* in the **Words to Know** feature and have your child read the definition. Check for understanding. Explain that *clergy* refers to those in the ordained priesthood; *laity* refers to those in the common priesthood. Say: ***We should pray for the clergy. They need strength to carry on the work of Jesus with a loving and generous spirit.***

### Page 158 Deacons Are Ordained to Serve

Take turns reading aloud this section. Say: ***Deacons share in the Sacrament of Holy Orders, but God does not call all of them to be priests.*** Point out that some deacons may be married men, so they have been called to two vocations. Have your child complete the activity **A Deacon's Calling**. Offer support as needed.

### Page 159 Priests Are Christ's Ordained Ministers

Take turns reading aloud the page. Say: ***Deacons who are called to the ministerial priesthood are ordained by a bishop.*** Recall for your child that the bishop anoints the candidates' hands with Chrism. Ask your child to explain what this symbolizes. (The priest will serve the Church by the work of his hands.) Say: ***After the anointing and a special prayer, the candidates can preside at the Eucharist, the center of Christian worship.*** Lead your children in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature.



**Page 160 Priestly Life Is a Mission of Service**

Take turns reading aloud the paragraphs in this section. Sum up the reading by explaining that priests serve God's people in many ways with the goal of leading them to holiness. Say: ***Priests need strength and courage to serve faithfully, whether it is in a parish, a religious community, or in a mission.*** Talk about how the calling to the priesthood is sacred and shows God's favor. Encourage your child to include your parish priest in his or her daily prayers.

**Bishops Have the Fullness of Priesthood**

Have your child read aloud this section. Point out the **Word to Know** feature and have your child read aloud the definition of *diocese*. Say: ***Bishops teach and lead a diocese in the place of Jesus!***

If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and watch the video together.

**Page 161 Chapter Review**

Help your child complete the Chapter 19 Review. If you choose, scan the QR code on page 161 and have your child take the **Interactive Chapter Review**.

Lead your child through **We Remember**. You ask the question from the section and have your child read the response. Encourage your child to make observations or ask questions.

Lead your child in prayer using the **We Respond** section. Say: ***Let us remember to include the clergy in our daily prayers.***

Review the **Words to Know** in this chapter by asking your child to explain what they mean. If necessary, reread the definitions in the **Glossary**.

Allow time for your child to complete the **Your Turn** activity. Invite your child to share his or her letter to your parish priest.

**Page 162 Chapter Review**

Have your child read aloud the directions for the activity **Servants of the Church** on page 162. Lend support as needed as your child completes it. [ANSWERS: 1. B; 2. P, D, B; 3. D; 4. B; 5. P, B; 6. P, D, B] Then read aloud the directions for the activity **Ordination Information**. Check your child's answers together. [ANSWERS: 1. B; 2. G; 3. E; 4. D; 5. H; 6. C; 7. A; 8. F]

**Page 163 Families in Mission**

Complete the **Families in Mission** pages with your child.

**SCRIPTURE**

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 163. Say: *Jesus sends each of us out into the world to tell the Good News.*

**KNOW AND PROCLAIM**

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Say: *Priests proclaim the Good News, celebrate the sacraments, and build up the Christian community.*

**TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE**

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. [ANSWER: crosier and a miter.] Say: *Knowing the facts of our faith and the history of the Church helps us teach others about Christ.*

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 163.

**Page 164 Families in Mission****A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 164. Say: *Father Kolbe's example is one of remarkable bravery and selflessness.* You may wish to talk about the effect his actions may have had on other prisoners and possibly the officers who imprisoned him.

**WITNESS AND SHARE**

Read aloud the **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each one for reflection.

**SHARE YOUR FAITH**

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Pray your child's prayer together.

To bring the lesson to a close, talk about ways to support your clergy other than praying. For example, you might volunteer to be a greeter before Mass, distribute bulletins, or be an altar server. Ask a clergy member what kind of help is needed. Make a plan together to follow through with your ideas.

Page 165 **Chapter 20: Unit 4 Review****Before You Begin**

1. Prepare or collect the following materials: a Bible, the *Christ Our Life* Student Book, two songs about Mary, a device to play the music, and writing supplies.
2. Decide how or whether you will experience the media for this unit. You may wish to use a web-enabled smartphone or a tablet.
3. Reflect on the lesson's Faith Focus: God calls us to holiness through living out our vocations. Through prayer, we become open to God's invitation to holiness and his call to a special way of life. You may wish to think about different ways to open your child's awareness to this. One is never too young to ask God to reveal his plan for him or her.

**Looking Back at Unit 4**

Remind your child that God has a plan for each of us. Say: ***We are all meant to serve God and become holy, but God calls us to different vocations to carry out his plan.*** Encourage your child to ask God to reveal his plan for him or her. Recall with your child ways to discern God's presence in our lives and the messages he sends us. We can pray, develop our talents, pay attention to the needs of others, and celebrate the sacraments.

Have your child read aloud **Looking Back at Unit 4** on page 165. Say: ***We have talked about the different vocations and about the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.*** Ask your child to briefly share what he or she has learned. Clarify any misconceptions.

Have your child complete the **Living the Message** activity. Discuss the answers and what your child can begin doing.

Lead your child in prayer using the **A Moment with Jesus** feature. Allow some time for you and your child to reflect on the prayer together aloud or silently.

**Pages 166–167 Unit 4 Review**

Help your child complete the **Listening to God's Call** activity on page 166. If you choose, scan the QR code on the page and have your child take the **Interactive Chapter Review**.

Read aloud the directions for **The Seven Sacraments** at the top of page 167. Lend support as needed as your child completes the activity.

If you choose, have your child undertake the **Stump the Shepherd** unit-review game by scanning the QR code on page 167.

**Pages 168–169 Mary, a Model for Our Lives**

Introduce the celebration. Tell your child you are going to pray together in celebration today, and the theme of the prayer is **Mary, a Model for Our Lives**. If you wish, choose two songs about Mary. Decide which one to play at the beginning of the celebration and which one to play at the end.

Take the role of the leader and tell your child that he or she will read the other parts. Then spend a few minutes reviewing the celebration. If you choose, prepare the space where you will conduct the prayer celebration by placing the Bible on a table next to a crucifix and a flameless candle.

When you are ready to begin, say: ***As we pray, think about ways you can be like Mary and follow God's call wholeheartedly.*** Carry out the celebration. Ask your child to share his or her reaction to the celebration.

**Page 170 Unit 4 Review**

Have your child complete the **Planning to Grow** activity on page 170. Invite your child to share his or her work.

**Page 171 Families in Mission**

Complete the **Families in Mission** pages with your child.

**SCRIPTURE**

Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 137. Say: ***We cannot earn salvation. God offers it because of his love for us.***

**KNOW AND PROCLAIM**

Read aloud the **Know and Proclaim** text and the chart. Say: ***Christians who follow where God calls them can change the world for the better!***

**TEST YOUR CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE**

Read aloud the question and possible answers in **Test Your Catholic Knowledge**. Have your child answer the question. [ANSWER: vocation.] Express to your child an interest in knowing what his or her vocation will be. Say: ***Keep your heart and mind open to God so you may discover his plan for you.***

Access additional Family Resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of page 171.

**Page 172 Families in Mission, continued****A CATHOLIC TO KNOW**

Read aloud **A Catholic to Know** on page 172. Explain that Ignatius thought his life was fulfilling until he experienced an unexpected injury. Say: *God led Ignatius to dedicate himself to serving others.*

**WITNESS AND SHARE**

Read aloud **Witness and Share** introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in **My Way to Faith**, pausing after each one for reflection.

**SHARE YOUR FAITH**

Read aloud the directions in **Share Your Faith** and have your child complete the activity. Help your child make a plan for how to use his or her talents.

To close the lesson, pray again the Prayer for Vocations from the inside back cover of the Student Book. Encourage your child to copy the prayer and pray it often so that he or she takes the prayer to heart.