

We Celebrate Peace and Service

Unit 5
Chapter
18

2

Background: Service

Pope Francis, quoting in part the United States bishops, wrote, "... greater attention must be given to the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable³²..."

Laudato Si' 52

The Church has always emphasized the Corporal and the Spiritual Works of Mercy as ways to serve others just as Jesus did. God calls us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, visit the imprisoned, take care of the sick, shelter the homeless, and bury the dead. In doing so we can educate others in the ways of peace.

In today's world, with the growing chasm between the rich and the poor, the "haves" and the "have-nots," we have ample opportunity to put the Corporal Works of Mercy into action.

The Church is so committed to service that it celebrates two Sacraments in which the participants vow to serve others. These Sacraments are Matrimony and Holy Orders. Those who celebrate these two Sacraments build up the Church through service and commit themselves to living out their vocations to spread the Good News of God's love.

Getting Ready

1. Before introducing Chapter 18 to your child, read the Take Home pages 203 and 204 of your child's book. To help develop this chapter's theme, gather the family at a convenient time during the week to participate in the Activity on page 203.
2. With your child, read about Saint Anthony of Padua, the Saint of the Week. Learn more about him at SaintsResource.com.
3. Read and discuss with your family Agape at the top of page 204. Read together the suggested Scripture passage, 1 Corinthians 13.
4. Read Our Catholic Tradition. Learn more about Saint Jeanne Jugan at SaintsResource.com. Learn more about the Little Sisters of the Poor at littlesistersofthepoor.org.

³²USCCB, Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good (15 June 2001)

Focus

We celebrate and renew our faith as we live our vocations by serving others and sharing the gift of peace.

The Church Teaches

There follows the Rite of Peace, by which the Church entreats peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family, and the faithful express to each other their ecclesial communion and mutual charity before communicating the Sacrament.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal 82

Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace:
where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

From the Prayer of St. Francis

Exploring the Chapter

Share

1. Light the candle. Read together the Scripture verse at the top of page 205. Take time to name people you know who need God's gift of grace and peace today. Pray for them. Then repeat the Scripture verse.
2. Read the Share section. Invite your child to complete the writing activity, giving help as needed.

Hear and Believe

3. Look at the photograph on page 206. Ask your child to name the part of the Mass shown in the photograph (*the Sign of Peace*). Then read aloud *The Sign of Peace*. Take the part of the priest, and invite your child to say the responses marked All.
4. Ask your child to read again the first paragraph of *The Sign of Peace* and to name the two things the Sign of Peace reminds us. (*Jesus wants us to get along with everyone; we are to serve one another each day.*)
5. Read aloud and together *We Are Called to Serve*. Talk with your child about ways you serve others and about parish activities in which you have taken part.
6. Read aloud *Our Church Teaches* and the *We Believe* statement. Ask your child how those who celebrate these two Sacraments serve others. (*Those who receive Holy Orders teach and serve others. Those who are married serve each other, their children, and the Church.*)
7. Review the Faith Words, **Holy Orders** and **Matrimony**. Invite your child to complete their definitions in the Write-in Glossary in the back of his or her book.

Respond

8. Look together at the photograph of Pope Francis on page 208. Read aloud *Called to Serve*. Share with your child that Saint Francis and Pope Francis have some things in common. Saint Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals and the earth. He gave up what he had to live with and among the poor. Pope Francis also loves the earth and has written a special letter about our call to preserve it. He lives his life in service to others.
9. Read the directions to Activity 1 on page 209. Invite your child to complete the activity.
10. Read the directions and work with your child to complete Activity 2, referring to page 208 for the correct order.
11. Pray together *A Prayer of Thanks*. Take the part of the Leader and Readers. Invite your child to join you in reading the responses marked All. You may wish to conclude by singing the Unit Song on page 192.
12. Have your child complete the Chapter Review. See page 48 of this guide for the answer key.
13. Work with your child to complete *Faith in Action* on page 212. It highlights the Catholic Social Teaching of **The Rights of All People (Rights and Responsibilities)**.

We really liked . . .

We want to learn more about . . .