

# 14

## We Belong to the Communion of Saints

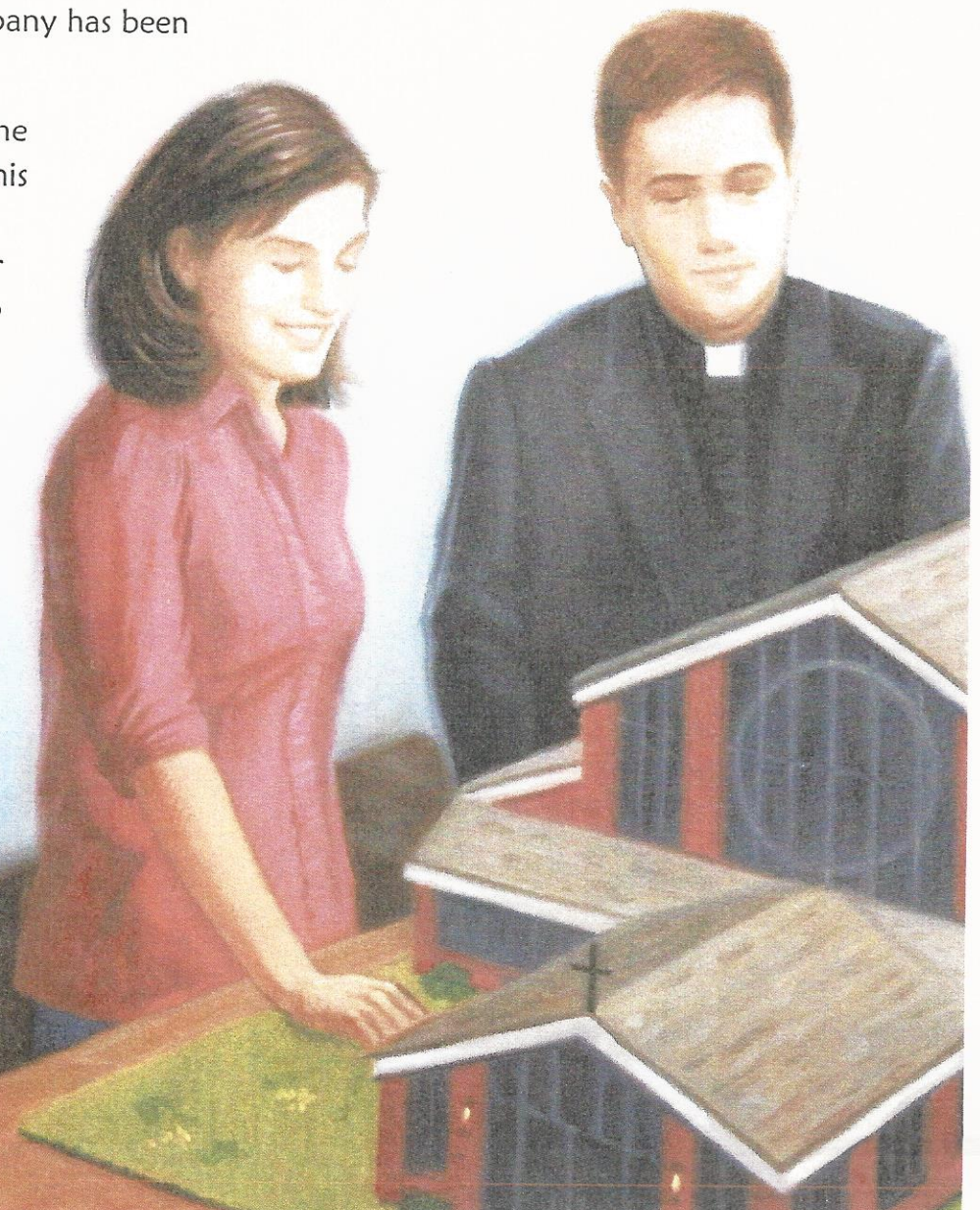
### A Patron Saint

Last Sunday when Juan's family was on the way to Aunt Iris's house, Juan noticed that they were not taking the roads they usually did. He asked, "Where are we going?"

His father explained, "We're going to look at the new church my company has been building."

When the car stopped at the construction site, Juan and his parents got out of the car. Juan's dad said, "The pastor of this new parish is going to be Father Donnelly."

When Father came to the site, he told our team that the bishop announced that the name of the new parish will be Saint John the Baptist."





Juan's mother said, "Saint John the Baptist is your patron saint, Juan. You were born on Saint John's feast day, so your dad and I decided to give you the name Juan, the Spanish name for John."

Juan was surprised. He said, "I know that Saint John was Jesus' cousin, but now I really want to learn more about him."

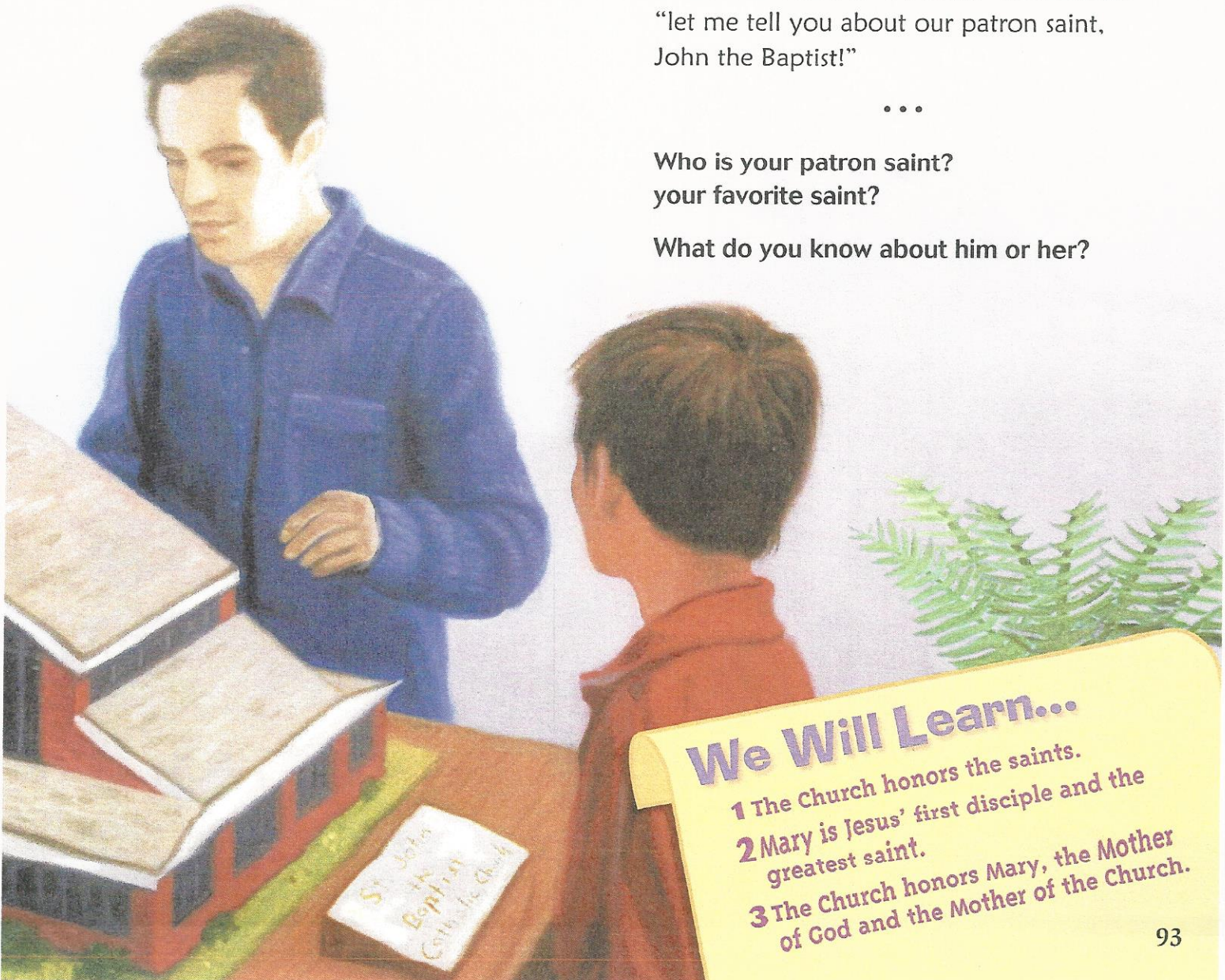
Then Juan's father said, "When I told Father Donnelly that Saint John was my son's patron saint, he told me that his first name is Sean. Sean is the Irish name for John. And Saint John the Baptist is his patron saint, too."

Later that week, Father Donnelly visited Juan's father's office to see the model of the new parish. Juan and his mother went there to meet him. "Hi Juan," said Father, "let me tell you about our patron saint, John the Baptist!"

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**Who is your patron saint?  
your favorite saint?**

**What do you know about him or her?**



## **We Will Learn...**

- 1** The Church honors the saints.
- 2** Mary is Jesus' first disciple and the greatest saint.
- 3** The Church honors Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church.



# 1 The Church honors the saints.

**Saints** are followers of Christ who lived lives of holiness on earth and now share in eternal life with God in Heaven. From the example of the saints' lives, we can learn ways to love God, ourselves, and others. We can learn how to be disciples of Jesus, as they were. Each November 1 the Church honors all the saints in Heaven on the Feast of All Saints. On this day we recall the saints' lives of service and prayer. We remember that their love and prayers for the Church are constant. On this day and throughout the year, we ask the saints to pray to God for us.

As members of the Church, the Body of Christ, we are united to all who have been baptized.

The **Communion of Saints** is the union of the baptized members of the Church.

- Members on earth respond to God's grace by living a good life and becoming role models for one another.
- Members in Heaven led lives of holiness on earth and now share in the joy of eternal life with God.
- Members in Purgatory are preparing for Heaven, by growing in the holiness necessary to enjoy the happiness of Heaven. The faithful on earth can help them by prayer, especially the Mass, and by offering good works for them.

**What saints would you like to learn more about?**

## Do You Know?

**A** canonized saint is a person who has been officially named a saint by the Church. The life of this person has been examined by Church leaders. They have decided that this person's life has been an example of faith and holiness. When a person is canonized a saint, his or her name is entered into the worldwide list of saints recognized by the Catholic Church. The following are some of the many canonized saints of the Church:

- Saints Maria and Isidore were married. They worked on a farm in Spain. They cared for God's gifts of Creation and shared the earth's resources with the poor.
- Saint Frances of Rome worked among the poor people of Rome, Italy. She nursed those who suffered from a terrible disease that killed thousands of people.



## 2 Mary is Jesus' first disciple and the greatest saint.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is his first and most faithful disciple. She shares in God's holiness in a very special way because God chose her to be the Mother of his Son. Mary believed in Jesus from the moment that the angel Gabriel told her that God wanted her to be Jesus' Mother. The event at which the announcement was made that Mary would be the Mother of the Son of God is called the **Annunciation**.

Because Mary was to be the Mother of the Son of God, God blessed her in a special way. This special blessing was only given to Mary. God created her free from Original Sin and from all sin since the very first moment of her life, her conception.

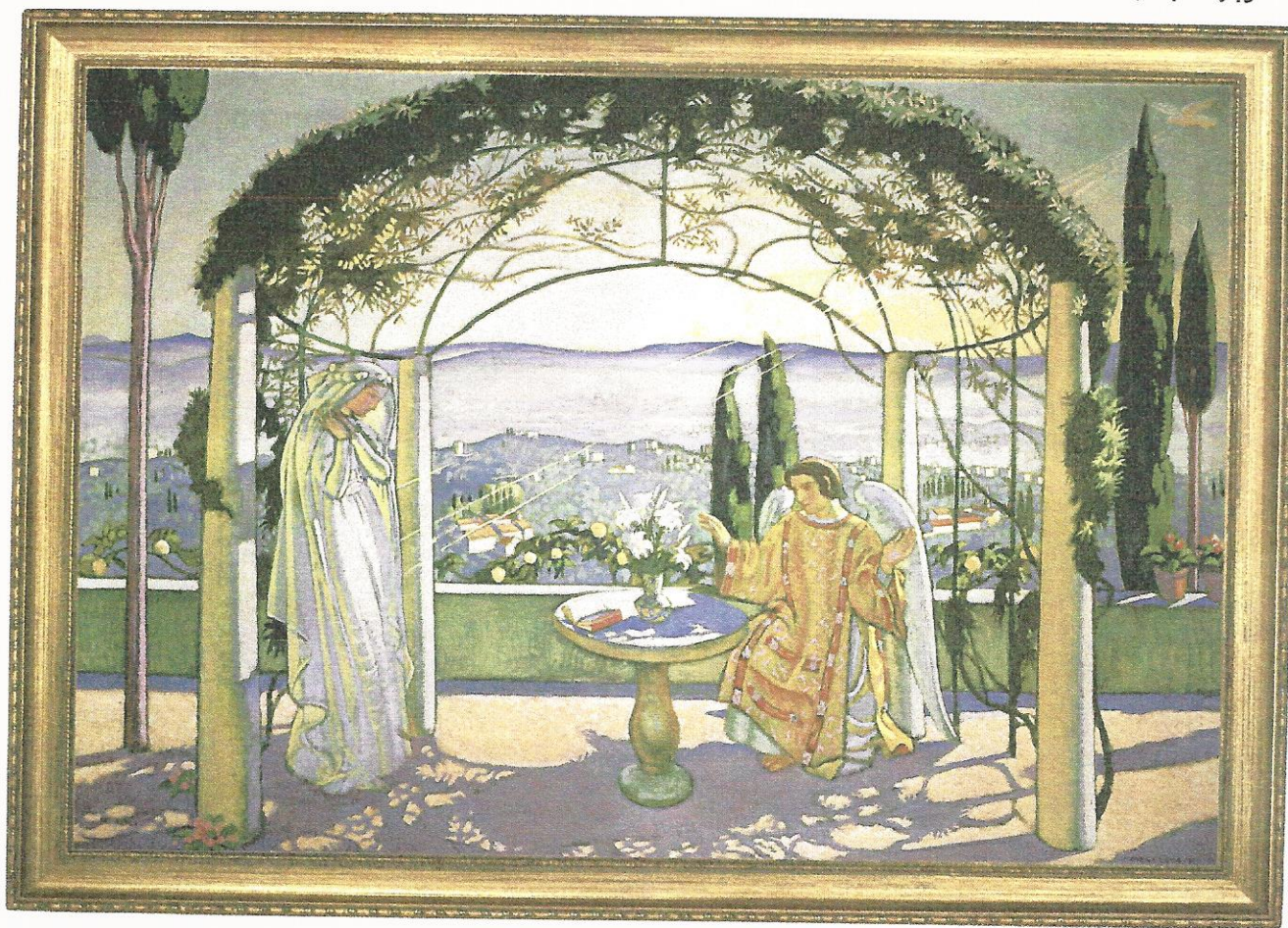
This truth about Mary's sinlessness is called the **Immaculate Conception**.

Mary loved Jesus all through his life. She cared for him as he grew. She supported him throughout his ministry. She remained by his side as he died on the cross. She stayed with the Apostles after Jesus' Ascension as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout her life Mary trusted in God's will. She had a pure heart and lived a life of holiness. When Mary's work on earth was done, God brought her body and soul to live forever with the risen Christ. This event is known as Mary's **Assumption**.

**Why do we consider Mary to be Jesus' first disciple?**

*Annunciation, Maurice Denis, 1870–1943*







Our Lady of Angels, Los Angeles, CA

### **3** The Church honors Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church.

Mary is special example for all of us. The Church has many titles for Mary. These titles help us to understand Mary's role in our lives and in the life of the Church.

- Blessed Virgin Mary—Mary was not married when the angel told her that she was to be Jesus' Mother. The angel told her that Jesus was to be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. And Mary remained a virgin throughout her married life with Joseph. Thus, Mary is known as the Blessed Virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Blessed Mother.

- Mother of God—Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Mary's son, is truly human and truly divine. He is the second Person of the Blessed Trinity who became man. Thus, Mary is known as the Mother of God.
- Mother of the Church—As Jesus was dying on the cross, he saw Mary and the Apostle John at his feet. Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, behold, your son." He said to John, "Behold, your mother" (John 19:26, 27). In this way Jesus showed that Mary is the mother of all those who believe and follow him. Thus, Mary is known as the Mother of the Church.

**Here are some of the feast days on which the Church honors Mary.**

Mary, Mother of God—*January 1*

The Annunciation of Our Lord  
—*March 25*

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary—*May 31*

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—*August 15*

The Birth of Mary—*September 8*

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—*December 8*

Our Lady of Guadalupe—*December 12*

The Church shows love for Mary through devotions and prayer. You will find some of these devotions and prayers in the prayer section of your book (pages 118–123).

**Why is Mary so important to the Church?**



## Review

Write *True* or *False* for the following sentences. On a separate piece of paper, change the false sentences to make them true.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The truth that Mary was free from Original Sin from the moment she was conceived is the Immaculate Conception.
- \_\_\_\_\_ When Mary's work on earth was done, God brought her body and soul to live with the risen Christ. This is the Annunciation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph announced to Mary that she was to be the Mother of God's Son.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Saints are followers of Christ who now share in eternal life with God in Heaven.

Discuss the following.

5. What do you most admire about Mary?
6. Why do we honor the saints?
7. What can you do to learn more about Mary and about the other saints?

## Faith Words

**saints** (page 94)

**Communion of Saints** (page 94)

**Annunciation** (page 95)

**Immaculate Conception** (page 95)

**Assumption** (page 95)

# With My Family

## Sharing Our Faith

- 1** The Church honors the saints.
- 2** Mary is Jesus' first disciple and the greatest saint.
- 3** The Church honors Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church.

## PRAYING TOGETHER



The Hail Mary is one of the Church's best known prayers in honor of Mary.

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you!  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit  
of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## Living Our Faith

In this chapter you have learned that Mary and the saints are models of holiness and discipleship. List below your family's favorite saints and/or patron saints. Discuss how these saints show us ways to love God, ourselves, and others and ways we can follow their example.



# MORE for You to Know



**FORMATION OF CONSCIENCE** Failure to form our consciences can result in wrong choices that may be sinful. Certain acts are always wrong and we may never choose to do wrong even if we think good will come from it. We must continue forming our consciences throughout our lives. We can do this by learning all that we can about our faith, and the teachings of the Church; by praying, asking the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us; by reading and reflecting on Scripture; by seeking advice from wise, responsible, and faith-filled people; and by examining our consciences often. We must always follow our well-formed consciences.

**VIRTUES** The theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity are the foundation of the human virtues—habits that come about by our own efforts, with the help of God’s grace. Two of the human virtues are chastity and modesty. When we practice the virtue of chastity, we use our

human sexuality in a responsible and faithful way. Jesus Christ is the model of chastity for all of us. Every baptized person is called to lead a chaste life. The virtue of modesty helps us to think, speak, act, and dress in ways that show respect for ourselves and others.

All the human virtues are grouped around the four cardinal virtues.

**Prudence** helps us to make good judgments and direct our actions toward what is good. **Justice** helps us to respect the rights of others and give them what is rightfully theirs. **Fortitude** helps us to act bravely in the face of troubles or fears. **Temperance** helps us to keep our desires under control and to balance our use of material goods.

**SOCIAL SIN** Personal sin can lead to unjust situations and conditions in society that are contrary to God’s goodness. This is social sin. Some results of social sin in society are: prejudice, poverty, homelessness, crime, violence, and the destruction of our environment. The Church speaks strongly against social sin.

God wants all of his children to respond to his grace. He calls those who have turned away from him to return to his love and receive his forgiveness, especially in the Sacrament of Penance. When we are sorry for our sins because we believe in God and love him, our sorrow is known as *perfect contrition*. When we are sorry for our sins for other reasons, it is *imperfect contrition*.

**ETERNAL LIFE** At the moment of death, we are judged by Christ as to how well we loved and served God and others. This is called our *particular judgment*. Those who have lived lives of holiness on earth will immediately share in the joy of Heaven and eternal life. Others whose hearts need to be made perfectly pure will prepare for Heaven in Purgatory. There they will grow in the holiness necessary to enjoy the happiness of Heaven.

Unfortunately, some people have chosen to completely break their friendship with God. They have continually turned away from God’s mercy, and have refused his forgiveness. They remain separated from God and do not share in eternal life. This eternal separation from God is called *Hell*. There are those who through no fault of their own do not know Christ or the Church. The Church teaches that such people, who through grace try to seek God and do his will, also have the hope of eternal life.



## UNIT 4 Assessment

Write the letter that best defines each term.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ covenant
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ contrition
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ conscience
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ charity
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ Communion of Saints
- a. the union of all baptized members of the Church
  - b. the theological virtue that allows us to love God and others
  - c. heartfelt sorrow for our sins
  - d. a special agreement between God and his people
  - e. our ability to know the difference between right and wrong

Circle the correct answer.

6. The theological virtue that enables us to trust in God's promise to share his life with us forever is (faith/hope/charity).
7. God bringing Mary body and soul to live forever with the risen Christ is known as Mary's (Annunciation/Immaculate Conception/Assumption).
8. The (First/Fourth/Fifth) Commandment is "Honor your father and your mother."
9. Jesus wants us to (always/sometimes/never) forgive others.
10. When we do an action or say a prayer that shows we are sorry for sins, we are doing (a confession/a penance/an absolution).

Write your responses on a separate piece of paper.

11. Write one title of Mary that you have learned about in this unit. Explain its meaning.
12. Explain ways in which we keep the Third Commandment.
13. Name two of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Identify ways you can practice these works during the coming weeks.
14. Write the definition of the Beatitudes.
15. Why is it important for the members of the Church to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation?



# Semester 2 Assessment

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. The sacrament that is the foundation of the Christian life is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Matrimony
  - b. Holy Orders
  - c. Penance
  - d. Baptism
  
2. After we hear the readings at Mass, the priest or deacon then \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. tells us to leave
  - b. asks us questions
  - c. prays the Our Father
  - d. explains their meaning for our lives
  
3. The first three commandments tell us \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. how good we are
  - b. how to make friends
  - c. how to love God
  - d. when to sing during Mass
  
4. The Fourth through the Tenth Commandments tell us \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. to read the Bible daily
  - b. how to love others
  - c. how to pray the rosary
  - d. how to live a long life
  
5. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. what the priest says at the end of Mass
  - b. things our parents make us do at home
  - c. actions such as visiting the sick
  - d. ways we can care for the needs of people's hearts, minds, and souls

Complete the following.

6. The Beatitudes are Jesus' teachings that describe \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
7. As members of the Church, we respond to the needs of others because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.



8. From the example of Mary and the saints we can learn \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. We forgive others because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. In Holy Communion we receive \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Write the letter to complete each sentence.**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 11. _____ The Eucharist               | a. is strengthened within us at Confirmation.  |
| 12. _____ The Gift of the Holy Spirit | b. is turning back to God.   |
| 13. _____ The Assumption              | c. is the union of all baptized members of the Church.                                     |
| 14. _____ Conversion                  | d. is the event when God brought Mary body and soul to live forever with the risen Christ. |
| 15. _____ The Communion of Saints     | e. is a memorial, a meal, and a sacrifice.   |

**Write your responses on a separate piece of paper.**

16. Name two ways we can follow the Third Commandment.
17. What is the Great Commandment?
18. Why did God give us the Ten Commandments?
19. Name the four main parts of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.
20. Jesus said, "Come, follow me." As a member of the Church, how can you do this?