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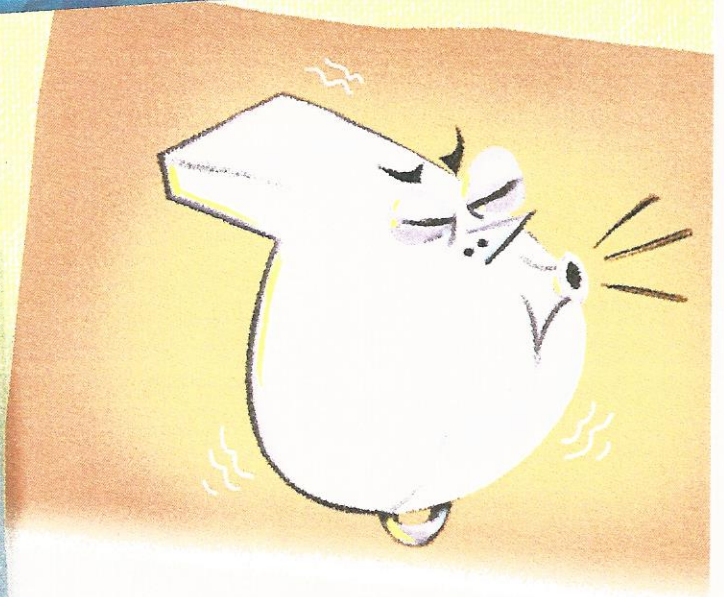
The Church Celebrates Seven Sacraments

DIFFERENT SIGNS

A sign stands for or tells us about something. A sign can be something that we see, such as a stop sign. A sign can be something that we do, such as shaking hands as a sign of friendship. An event or a person can also be a sign. For example, a police officer in a uniform can be a sign of authority, and a parade can be a sign of a holiday.

Choose one of the following words or phrases to complete the caption for each picture.

- strength
- achievement
- spring
- danger ahead
- a celebration
- guidance
- love



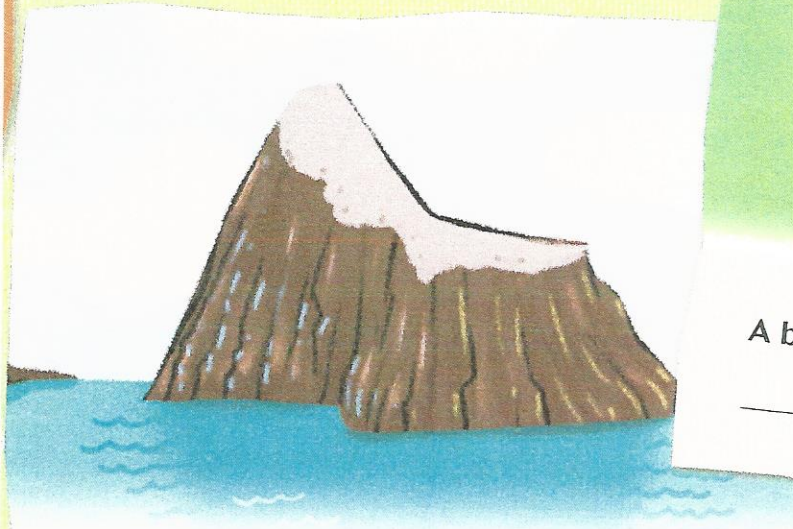
A blaring whistle can be a sign of



A light from a lighthouse can be a sign of



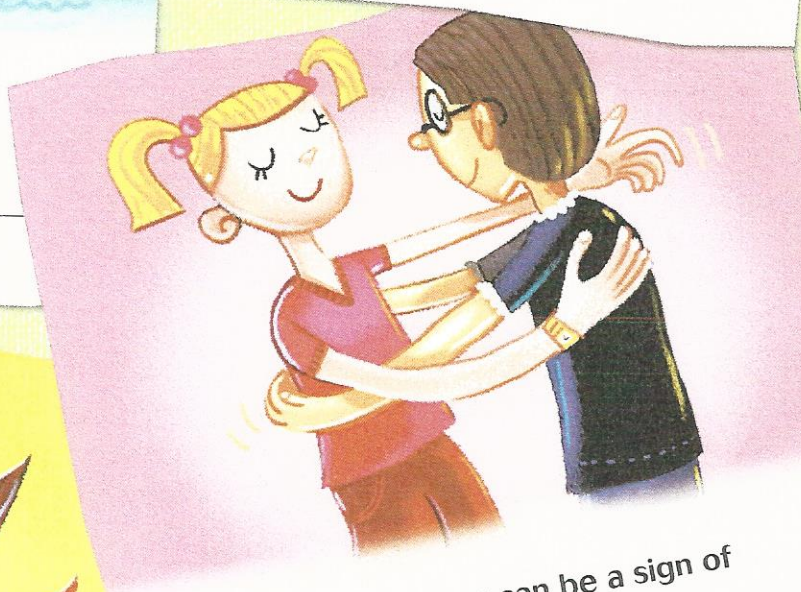
A piñata can be a sign of



A rock can be a sign of



A blue ribbon is a sign of



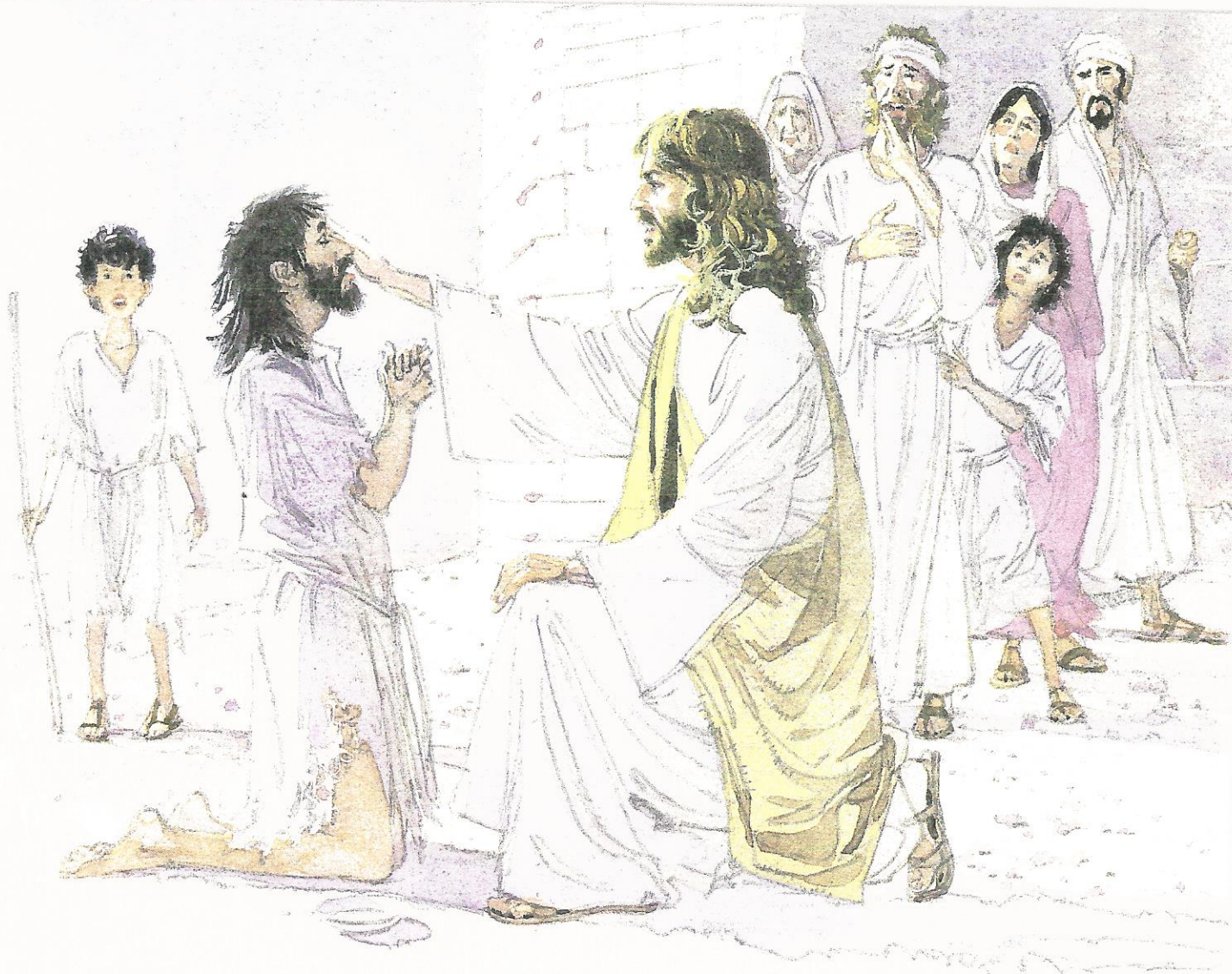
Giving someone a hug can be a sign of



Budding flowers can be a sign of

We Will Learn...

- 1 Jesus is the greatest sign of God's love.
- 2 The Church celebrates seven special signs, the sacraments.
- 3 The sacraments unite us as the Body of Christ.



1 Jesus is the greatest sign of God's love.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Everything that Jesus said or did pointed to God's love for us. So all of Jesus' words and actions are signs of God's love. In the Gospels we read about these words and actions. We read about:

- ways that Jesus opened his arms and welcomed all
- ways that Jesus spent time with people whom others disliked or neglected
- ways that Jesus fed those who were hungry
- ways that Jesus touched people and healed them both physically and spiritually

- ways that Jesus comforted sinners and forgave their sins
- the way that Jesus gave his life to save us all from sin.

For all of these reasons Jesus is the greatest sign of his Father's love.

Jesus knew that his disciples needed him to be present with them. Yet he would have to leave them and return to his Father in Heaven. So Jesus promised them that he would always be with them through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In what ways did Jesus show people God's love for them?

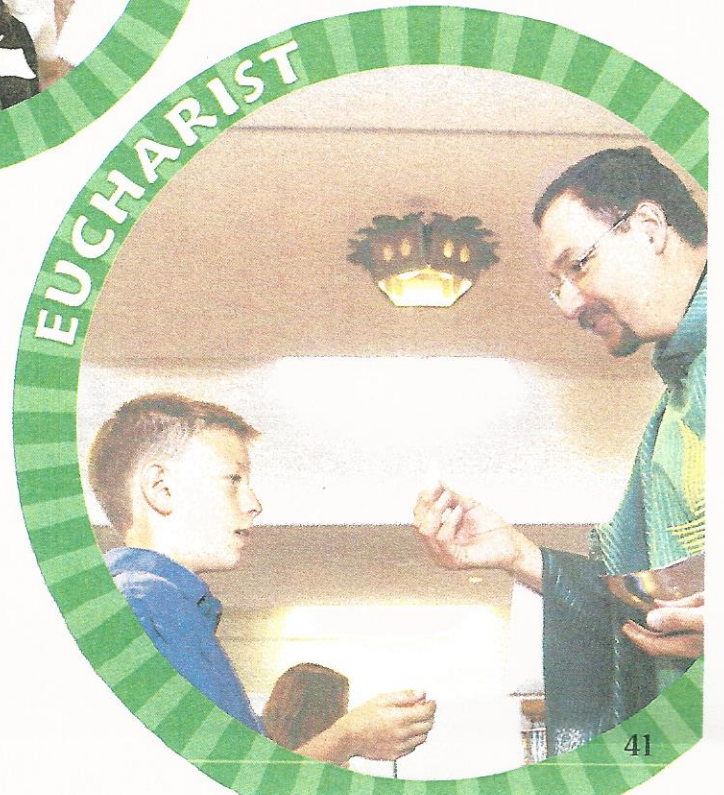
2 The Church celebrates seven special signs, the sacraments.

Over time, the Catholic Church recognized certain symbolic actions as signs of the risen Christ made present in the community through the power of the Holy Spirit. Eventually the Church named seven of these actions or signs it had received from Jesus Christ as the Seven Sacraments. These Seven Sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

All Seven Sacraments are signs of God's presence in our lives. But sacraments are different from all other signs. They are effective signs which means that they truly bring about what they represent. For example, in Baptism we not only celebrate being children of God, we actually become children of God. In Penance and Reconciliation we not only celebrate that God forgives, we actually receive God's forgiveness.

This is why we say that a **sacrament** is an effective sign given to us by Jesus Christ through which we share in God's life. This gift of God's life in us is **grace**. Through the Holy Spirit we receive grace in each sacrament. This grace, called *sanctifying grace*, heals us of sin and helps us to grow in holiness. As God's goodness and holiness grows within us, we become more like Jesus. Grace strengthens us to live as Jesus called us to live.

How does the grace we receive in the sacraments help us?



Do You Know?

God freely offers his grace to us in the sacraments. Through the grace we receive in the sacraments, we respond to the presence of God in our lives. We show that we are open to this grace by fully participating in the celebration of each sacrament and by making a commitment to live as disciples of Jesus.

3 The sacraments unite us as the Body of Christ.

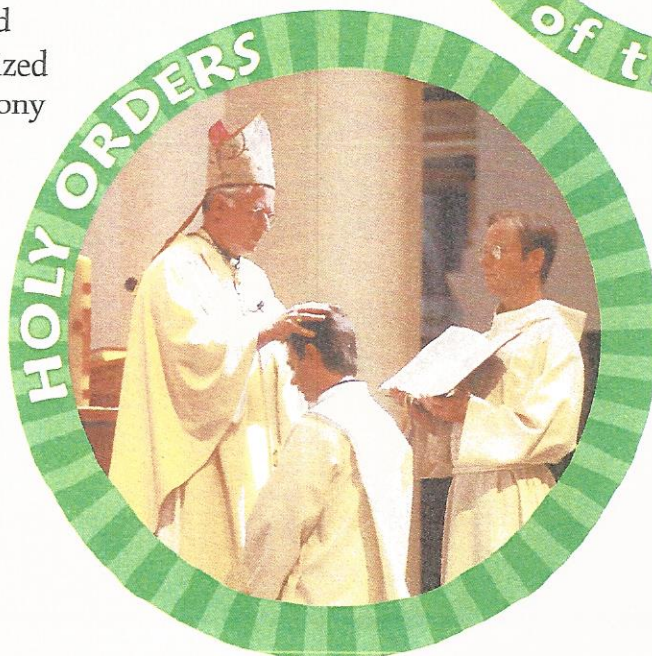
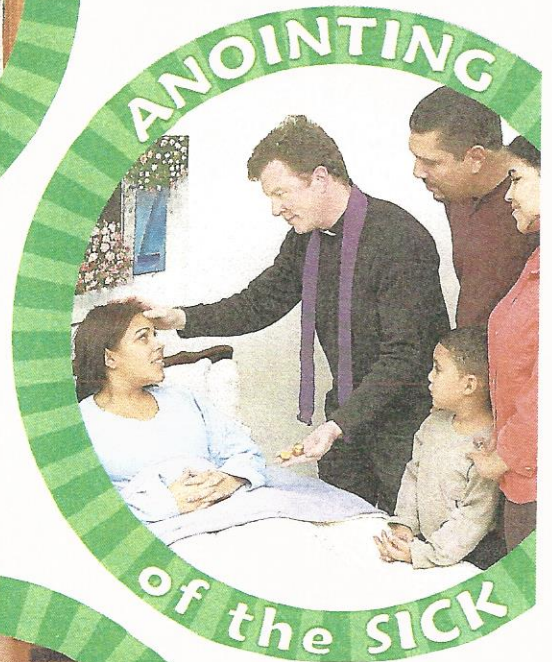
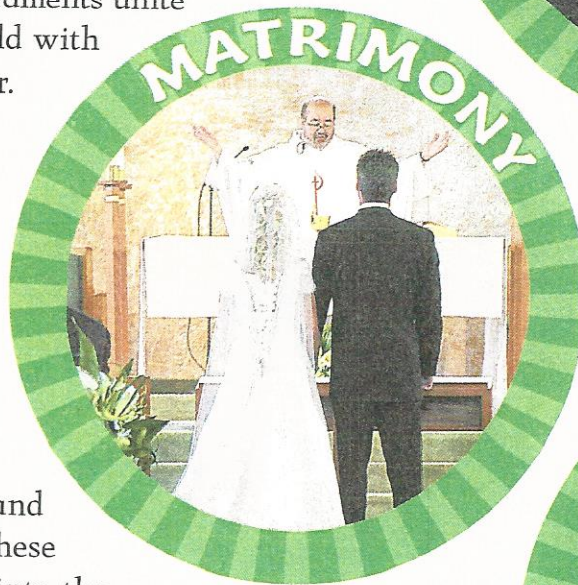
During the celebration of the sacraments, Christ is joined in a special way with the Church. The Church, the whole Body of Christ, celebrates each sacrament. The priest and other members of the Church who participate in the sacraments represent the whole Church. The sacraments unite Catholics all over the world with Jesus and with one another.

There are three groups of sacraments: Sacraments of Christian Initiation, Sacraments of Healing, and Sacraments at the Service of Communion.

- The Sacraments of Christian Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. Through these sacraments we are born into the Church, strengthened, and nourished.
- The Sacraments of Healing are Penance and Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick. Through them we experience God's forgiveness, peace, and healing.
- The Sacraments at the Service of Communion are Holy Orders and Matrimony. In Holy Orders a baptized man is consecrated and in Matrimony a man and woman are blessed to serve God and the Church through a particular vocation.

It is through the grace that we receive in the sacraments that we are able to respond to the presence of God in our lives.

Which sacraments have you received?



Review

Choose a phrase to complete each sentence.

Christian Initiation effective signs
God's life the Holy Spirit

1. The sacraments are

given to us by Jesus Christ through which we share in God's life.

2. Through the Sacraments of

we are born into the Church, strengthened, and nourished.

3. Grace is our share in

4. Jesus' presence continued in the disciples' lives through the power of

Discuss the following.

5. Why is Jesus the greatest sign of God's love?
6. How are the Seven Sacraments different from all other signs?
7. What are the three groups of sacraments?

**Faith
Words**

sacrament (page 41)

grace (page 41)

With My Family

Sharing Our Faith

1 Jesus is the greatest sign of God's love.

2 The Church celebrates seven special signs, the sacraments.

3 The sacraments unite us as the Body of Christ.

PRAYING TOGETHER



Pray the following prayer for the people in your parish who are preparing to receive the sacraments.

God our Father, you gave us your only Son who is the greatest sign of your love. Be with the people in our parish who are preparing to receive the sacraments.

Jesus, help them to remember that you are present with them as they celebrate these sacraments.

Holy Spirit, help each person be open to the grace

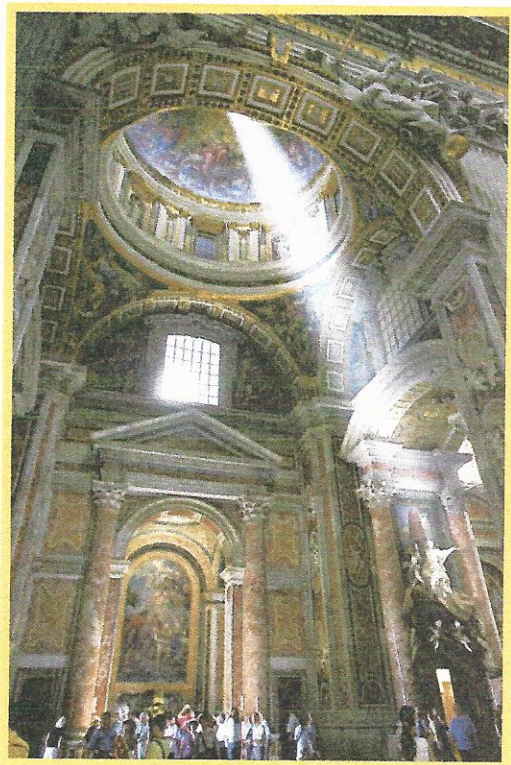
he or she will receive in the sacrament.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Living Our Faith

In this chapter you have learned about the Seven Sacraments. This week talk with your family about the sacraments each of you has received. As you discuss, list the celebrations here.

MORE for You to Know



DEPOSIT OF FAITH The Deposit of Faith is all the truth contained in Scripture and Tradition. Jesus Christ revealed and entrusted this truth to the Apostles. They, in turn, entrusted this truth to their successors, the bishops, and the entire Church.

It is within the Church, the community of faith, that we discover the truth. The Magisterium, the living teaching office of the Church, guides us in understanding the truth. The Magisterium consists of the pope and bishops. They teach us the correct understanding of the message of Scripture and Tradition and ways to live out this message.

In each generation, the whole Church continues to share and build upon the faith of the Apostles. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church hands on all the truths she has received through God's Revelation. The Church's faith is always developing, and God's Revelation is living and active in the Church.

INFALLIBILITY Infallibility is the gift of the Holy Spirit that keeps the Church free from error—in her beliefs and teachings—in matters concerning Divine Revelation and the Deposit of Faith. The pope also has the gift of infallibility when he defines a truth pertaining to faith and morals.

THE LORD'S PRAYER During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his followers the Lord's Prayer, a prayer to God the Father. This prayer is an essential prayer of the Church—integrated into her liturgical prayer and sacraments.

In the first part of the Lord's Prayer, we give glory to God, we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom, and we pray to God for the ability to do his will.

In the second part of the Lord's Prayer, we ask God for everything we need for ourselves and for the world. We ask God to heal us of our sin. We pray that God will protect us from all that could draw us away from his love. We ask God to guide us in choosing good in our lives, and we ask him for the strength to follow his law.

UNIT 2 Assessment

Circle the correct answer.

1. The Church celebrates (**three/seven/four**) Sacraments of Christian Initiation.
2. There are (**nine/seven/four**) Marks of the Church.
3. On Pentecost, Peter spoke to the crowd and (**only a few/only twelve/about three thousand**) people were baptized.
4. The Church is catholic, open to (**all/some/many**) people.
5. (**Each person, Only the pastor, Only the deacon**) is important to the parish.

Complete the following statements.

6. The _____ and the bishops continue the leadership of the Apostle Peter and the other Apostles.
7. The Catholic Church has four Marks: one, _____, catholic, and apostolic.
8. A _____ is an effective sign given to us by Jesus Christ through which we share in God's life.
9. The _____, the whole Body of Christ, celebrates each sacrament.
10. Through the Sacraments of _____ we are born into the Church, strengthened, and nourished.

Write your responses on a separate sheet of paper.

11. Write one reason why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to his disciples.
12. Choose one of the four Marks of the Church and explain its meaning.
13. Identify ways Jesus showed his disciples that he is the greatest sign of God's love.
14. What is the Church?
15. Name two ways in which you can participate in your parish.

Semester 1 Assessment

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. The truth that God the Son became man is _____.
 - a. the Resurrection
 - b. the Ascension
 - c. Pentecost
 - d. the Incarnation

2. One of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation is _____.
 - a. Matrimony
 - b. Confirmation
 - c. Anointing of the Sick
 - d. Holy Orders

3. The people who serve in a parish are _____.
 - a. deacons
 - b. lay people
 - c. priests
 - d. all of the above

4. Jesus' return in all his glory to his Father in Heaven is called _____.
 - a. the Resurrection
 - b. the Ascension
 - c. Pentecost
 - d. the Incarnation

5. The Church is _____. This means that the Church is universal, open to all people.
 - a. one
 - b. holy
 - c. catholic
 - d. apostolic

Complete the following.

6. The greatest sign of God's love is _____
_____.

7. God's plan for human beings was that _____
_____.

8. The Apostles are the _____

9. Jesus told his followers that the Kingdom of God is like a _____

10. Through the grace we receive in each sacrament, _____

Circle the correct answer.

11. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is a Sacrament of (**Healing, Christian Initiation**).

12. Each local area of the Church is called a (**deacon, diocese**).

13. A (**diocese, sacrament**) is an effective sign because it truly brings about what it represents.

14. The day the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' disciples is called (**Easter Sunday, Pentecost**). It was on this day that the Church began.

15. Jesus Christ is (**only divine, divine and human**).

Write your responses.

16. What did Jesus do for his disciples at the Last Supper?

17. What is the role of the pope and bishops?

18. Name the Marks of the Church. Choose one and describe what it means.

19. What is the Kingdom of God?

20. Write two ways you can participate in your parish community.
