

# The Church Is Everywhere!

## Allelu!

*Growing and Celebrating with Jesus*

### Lesson 7, ages 3-4

#### Lesson 7 Goal

- Through pictures and stories your child will discover that the Church is present all over the world.

#### Key Points

- The Catholic Church exists all over the world.
- People look and dress differently in different cultures, but Catholics everywhere worship God at Mass.



#### Parent Reflection

Cultural differences were particularly important in the Early Church, because one of the earliest debates among Christian leaders regarded non-Jews who were coming to believe in Jesus (Acts, Chapter 15). Could they become Christians without first being Jews? Peter was the disciple Jesus placed in particular leadership over the Church and the only disciple with the authority to represent the whole Church. After careful prayer and discernment, he proclaimed at the Council of Jerusalem that Jewish cultural traditions were not essential to the Christian faith. In other words, one did not have to be Jewish to be Christian.

Over time, we have grown in our understanding of what Peter meant at the Council of Jerusalem. In the past, Catholic missionaries sometimes insisted that various peoples and cultures adopt Western cultural practices in order to convert to Christianity. We now understand that Catholic practice can look fairly different depending on the various expressions of our faith in different cultures, places, and times, but that at the heart, the basics are still the same. Over one billion strong, we share one faith, one Baptism, and one Lord (Ephesians 4:5).

#### Reflection Question

How do I incorporate various cultures and customs in our family?

## Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

### Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons or colored pencils
- sheet of drawing paper

- Lesson 7 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

## Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

### Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“Dear God, thank you for the Good News. Thank you for the Church. Amen.”*

## Discovering

**We All Belong!** Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus and the children.

Ask, “How should you act if you are part of the Body of Christ?”

Say, “Give thanks for being part of the Body of Christ.”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

## Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

**1. The Church Around the World.** Turn to the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child a crayon or colored pencil. Explain the activity and have your child complete it.

**2. Smile.** Give your child a sheet of drawing paper and crayons or colored pencils. Invite him or her to draw a face and include details. Remind him or her that the smile is a universal greeting.

**3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Rose Venerini.** Show your child the picture of Saint Rose on the Family Activity page and read about her. Then read more about Saint Rose to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, “What do you think you might be when you grow up?”

Have your child draw about Saint Rose Venerini using the Lesson 7 Activity Master.

## Sending

**Pray with your child.** Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

*“Dear Jesus, we belong to you. Thank you for your Church. Amen.”*

## Saint Rose Venerini

### A Woman Who Taught the Teachers

When Rose Venerini was a young woman in Italy, she decided to go to a school called a convent to learn how to be a religious sister. Religious sisters are women who love God so much that they make it their job to learn about him, and to help other people learn about his love. While Rose was at the convent, she learned that her mother was sick and needed her help. So Rose went back to live at her mother's home.

While she was there, Rose invited other women to come visit her so that they could pray the Rosary together. She soon learned that many of these women had not had a chance to learn

about God when they were children, so she began to teach them. She taught them so well that a priest convinced her to become a teacher instead of a nun. First she started teaching young children, who were about the same age as you are now. Then she started teaching grown-ups to become teachers.

Rose was so successful at her new job that she went on to open forty schools all over Italy! There is even a group of women today called the Venerini Sisters. They try to remember that Rose believed that it is good to help other people learn about God.

**DRAW**



**Saint  
Rose Venerini,  
pray for us!**