

## Chapter 18 **One Christ**

For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. *Galatians 3:26*

### **To the Parents:**

In chapter 18, your child learned the following:

- Jesus prayed for unity—that all be one as he is one with the Father.
- The Eucharist is a central sign of unity.
- Division in the Body of Christ is a sinful wound.
- Christians are called to work for unity and interfaith understanding.

Those who call themselves followers of Jesus express their Christianity in many ways, and their histories, cultures, and ethnic heritages all affect their specific religious practices. The diversity of the Body of Christ is part of the soul of Catholicism and is to be celebrated. The Church aims to include all who come seeking the unity that results from faith in Jesus.

The prayer that Jesus offered for his friends on the night before he died contains the hope “that they all may be one” (*John 17:22*). This prayer reflects Jesus’ desire that his followers be united with him and with his Father. The perfect unity between Jesus and the Father is lived out in the lives of believers when the Holy Spirit fills them with joy, peace, and love. Unity among Christians can be difficult to achieve. Yet, that unity is always possible when the words of Jesus’ prayer are heeded.

### **With Your Child:**

1. Read the prayer that Jesus offered for his friends on the night before he died (*John 17:20–26*), and talk about how this shows Jesus’ desire for unity among his followers.
2. Talk about the special religious traditions of your family’s heritage and compare them to the customs of families from other backgrounds in your neighborhood.
3. Think of the difficulties and pain caused by religious discord around the world. Pray as a family for the unity of all people under God.
4. Read about Mollie Rogers (Mother Mary Joseph) on the Review and Explore page.