

## Chapter 8 **Community of Believers**

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. *Acts 4:32*

### **To the Parents:**

In chapter 8, your child learned the following:

- God created people to live in community with one another.
- Both the living and the dead are joined to one another in the Communion of Saints.
- People have a responsibility to contribute to their communities.

The parish faith community is both a place for friendships to grow and a place where God’s kingdom of love, justice, and peace can flourish. When parishes reach beyond their doors to help those in need, they bring more than material assistance—they also bring the faith in Jesus that motivates them, empowers them, and gives them purpose. The Acts of the Apostles provides powerful models of community for today’s Catholics.

Christians are involved in encounters every day that give them opportunities to live their faith. They cannot live in isolation from the world, but instead, build communities to share their faith. Creating a community of faith depends on the willingness of members to share what they believe about the Church, the Gospel message, and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **With Your Child:**

1. When you shake hands and declare “Peace be with you” to your neighbors at Mass, reflect on what the gesture and words mean within a community of faith.
2. Together visit your neighborhood community center and find ways to help organize or participate in activities as a family.
3. Talk about the many communities that join you to others—your family, your parish, your school—and say a prayer of thanksgiving for those people who enrich your life with love and a sense of belonging.
4. Read about Saint Edith Stein on the Review and Explore page.