

Chapter 21 **Proclaiming the Kingdom**

The mystery of the kingdom of God has been granted to you. *Mark 4:11*

To the Parents:

In chapter 21, your child learned the following:

- Jesus' healing ministry showed the kingdom of God, and his coming again in glory at the end of time will perfect it.
- By carrying on Jesus' healing ministry, Christians build up the kingdom of God.
- A person's words and deeds, if modeled on those of Jesus, are a sign that the kingdom of God is upon us.

Catholics know that the kingdom of God is where justice, peace, and loving service are found. God's kingdom, or reign, is in contrast to a world torn by violence, hatred, and selfishness. Those who follow Jesus follow his example in working toward the creation of the kingdom of God among all people.

Jesus emphasized that healing, forgiveness, mercy, fairness, and abundance of love are signs that God's kingdom is present in the lives of those who follow him. Today, Jesus' message is proclaimed by a Church that reveals through word and sacrament the presence of the Holy Spirit in the kingdom of God. The kingdom has indeed already begun and will be brought to completion in eternal life.

With Your Child:

1. Read the parables about the kingdom of God (*Matthew 13:44-46*), and talk about their meaning.
2. Find out what services for the community your parish provides and participate in those services as a family.
3. Think of the ways in which you and your family are signs of the kingdom of God—what acts of faith, love, and mercy do you do?
4. Read about Mary Virginia Merrick on the Review and Explore page.