

Chapter 9

Signs and Symbols

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

For the Parents:

In chapter 9 your child learned to:

- Explain the difference between sign, symbol, and sacrament
- Identify a sign or symbol Jesus used
- Describe an image of the Church that relates to children today
- Tell how he or she can be a sign of God's love in the world

Do you understand how sacraments work? It helps simply to think of sacraments as mysteries. That is how the Greeks described what we call sacraments. Sacraments are meant to lead us into the mystery of God's presence.

Think of how your salvation was accomplished by Christ. Every sin of every person—past, present, and future—was expiated by Jesus. This is the awesome central mystery which the sacraments celebrate.

From Jesus' sacrifice on the cross also flows the mysterious power of the sacraments of the Church. If Christ had not died and risen from the dead, the sacraments would have no power at all. Yet, the riches of Christ are available to every one of us through the sacraments.

With Your Children:

1. Look for signs of your Catholic faith in your home. List these signs. Talk with your family members to learn why these signs were chosen.
2. Read about Mother Teresa on the Review and Explore page.