

Chapter 16

Life Forever

If we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:14

For the Parents:

In chapter 16 your child learned to:

- Define the communion of saints
- Connect Jesus' resurrection to the promise of eternal life
- Link loving service to others with service to Jesus himself

Nature is a wonderful teacher. Jesus often used images and events of nature to help his hearers glimpse the meaning of the mystery. What mystery is greater than the mystery of death and the belief of Christians that we will live forever? Every year we watch seeds be buried and rise to new life. We watch trees lose their leaves and become barren, only to grow and blossom months later. We watch the ebb and the flow of oceans. We hear how the monumental destruction of forests by fire will in the end result in a balance of nature. We take care of leftovers and create compost so that our gardens will be rich with new life. Through these natural phenomena, we glimpse the transforming power of death.

With Your Child:

1. Display photos of family members who have died. Talk about the gifts of kindness and care they have passed on to you and your family. As a family decide how you can honor those traits by continuing to live as saints today.
2. Read about Saint Teresa of Avila on the Review and Explore page.