

5. Give evidence that the Apostles acted as leaders of an organized society or institution?
6. What three requirements did Jesus give for members in the Church?
7. Why is an organized Church necessary?
8. How many times did Peter's name appear in the Gospels?
9. Name the three times Jesus declared Peter's primacy?
10. Give three examples of Peter's leadership in the Acts of the Apostles.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. Go through one of the Gospels and list the references to the goals and powers Christ gave His Apostles.
2. Choose one or more popes and report on his life.
3. How would you answer this argument: "We do not need a Church because it just gets in the way of our communication with Christ."
4. How would you answer this argument? "One church is as good as another, so just join the one where you get along best."

Day 5: Read, discuss, and study catechism Lesson 12, "The Marks and Attributes of the Church," Questions 152–159, pp. 87–90.

WEEK 11

Day 1: Continue Lesson 12, Questions 160–168, pp. 90–94. Be sure to study Questions 167-168 very carefully. The doctrine "No salvation outside the Church," which is taught in Questions 167-168, is often misunderstood and misinterpreted. As Father William Most says, "It is a defined doctrine that there is no salvation outside the Church. Yet, as the Holy Office pointed out in condemning Leonard Feeney (DS 3866) we must understand this the way the Church means it, not by private interpretation." The way the Church understands this doctrine is very clearly set forth in Questions 167-168.

Day 2: Continue Lesson 12, Question 169 and "Important Truths about the Marks and Attributes of the Church," pp. 94–96.
Do Study Help A, "Column Selection," p. 96 as the Lesson 12 Quiz.

Day 3: Do Lesson 12 "Problems And Exercises," p. 97, orally or in writing. Discuss the answers. (CCC 811-945)

Day 4: Read and discuss the following supplement to Lesson 12.
Do Lesson 12 supplemental questions.

Papal Infallibility

The Pope is *infallible* (incapable of error) when he publicly teaches the whole Church on matters of faith or morals. His teaching may be in a solemn way (as when he officially defines a doctrine or canonizes a saint) or in a more ordinary way (as when he writes an encyclical). The Holy Spirit protects the Pope from error. Christ said that the forces of Hell would not prevail against the Church founded on the rock of St. Peter. If the Pope could teach error, Christ would be permitting Hell to conquer. Christ also said that Peter's faith would not fail. Again, this prophecy could not be true if the Pope could teach error. Christ promised to be with the Church until the end of the world. Since Christ identified the Church with Himself in an organic unity—"I am the vine, you are the branches" (Jn. 15:5)—the Church must be preserved from error; otherwise Christ would be organically united with falsehood. We know from our experience of human nature that truth cannot be preserved by ordinary men without special help; Christ gave that help to His Church in order to preserve it from error.

Obviously, not every member of the Church has been free from error. Laymen, priests, bishops, even meetings of bishops called councils have fallen into error. Only the Popes have never officially taught a heretical doctrine to the people.

Besides the special gift of infallibility, the Pope also has authority over the whole Church. Catholics must therefore follow the Pope's guidance, since he represents Christ. In particular, the Pope can wield the full power of the *Magisterium*, the teaching authority of the Church. This authority can be exercised by the Pope alone, by an Ecumenical Council with the approval of the Pope, or by all of the bishops acting in union with the Pope. We must respect and obey our bishops whenever they teach in union with the Pope.

Regarding the four marks of the Church, each was specifically designated by Christ. Regarding unity, Christ said "there shall be one fold and one shepherd" (John 10:16) and prayed to His Father "that all may be one." (John 12:21). Regarding universality, Christ charged the Apostles to "go and make disciples of all nations" and told them "I am with you all days, even unto the consummation of the world" (Mt. 28:19–20). Regarding holiness, Christ said in the Sermon on the Mount, "You are to be perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt. 5:48). Regarding apostolic succession, Christ said to Simon: "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church" (Mt. 16:18).

Lesson 12 Supplement Questions:

1. What are the two ways in which the Pope teaches the Church?
2. What three promises of Christ in the Scriptures support the doctrine that the Pope is infallible?
3. In what Scripture passages does Jesus identify the Church with himself?
4. What is the name of the teaching authority of the Church?
- 5-8. Give the scripture passage that supports each of the four marks of the Church.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY: Make a poster of the four marks of the Church, showing how they are visibly manifested in the Church today.

Day 5: Read, discuss, and study catechism Lesson 13, “The Communion of Saints and Forgiveness of Sins,” Questions 170–175, pp. 98–100.

WEEK 12

Day 1: Continue Lesson 13, “Important Truths about the Communion of Saints and Forgiveness of Sins,” pp. 100–101.
Do Study Help A, “True or False,” p. 101, as the Lesson 13 Quiz.

Day 2: Do Lesson 13 “Problems and Exercises,” p. 102, orally or in writing. Discuss the answers. [Communion of Saints: CCC 946-948; 953; 960] [Forgiveness of Sins: CCC 976-987]

Day 3: Read and discuss the following supplement to Lesson 13.
Do Lesson 13 supplemental questions.

The Communion of Saints

Read Matthew 25:34–40 and discuss the significance of Christ’s teaching in this passage. Christ’s words here show the intimate relationship among all the members of Christ’s Mystical Body, and between the members and Christ, their Head. This intimate union extends throughout the world, even to those people whom we will never see. If the Church is suffering in a Communist land, we all share in those sufferings. If missionaries are laboring heroically to bring others to Christ, we all share in their triumph. We cannot be indifferent to the fate of the Church, no matter how remote the events. We also must be concerned about the spread of the Church to people who do not know Christ.

Go through an atlas and discuss the situation of the Church in the major countries of the world. Where is the Church persecuted? Where do few people know Christ? Where is Christianity nominally professed but not really lived? Where is the Church strong?

Look ahead to Questions 191 and 192. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy are practical ways that we can serve Christ in our fellow man. We will memorize these when we get to Lesson 15, but for now discuss which of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy you could put into practice immediately. Notice that many of the works—such as feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty—apply to the simple acts of kindness we can perform for our family and friends.

Besides our intimate union with other living Catholics, membership in the Church also unites us with everyone in Heaven and in Purgatory. Sometimes the Church is spoken of as having three interrelated parts: the Church Triumphant (everyone in Heaven), the Church Suffering (the souls in Purgatory), and the Church Militant (all the members of the Church on earth). Explain the significance of each of those titles. The saints in heaven

(and everyone in heaven is a saint) can help the Church Suffering and the Church Militant; the members of the Church Militant can help the Church Suffering and honor the Church Triumphant. Theologians believe that although the souls in Purgatory cannot help themselves, they can pray for their benefactors on earth.

A word about praying to saints: Although only God can grant divine graces and favors, He has chosen to work through human beings. Just as on earth He bestows graces ordinarily through the sacraments, which require a human minister, so He bestows graces through the intercession of the saints, other human beings. One of the purposes of this is to show the close relationship among men and the importance of our communion with one another, which can be a reflection of the perfect communion of the Three Persons in the Trinity. Furthermore, if it is reasonable to ask our friends on earth to pray for us, it is certainly reasonable to ask our friends in Heaven. Finally, it is also reasonable to believe that persons in Heaven would want to do whatever they could for their friends still on earth, and being in the presence of God, they would now know how best to help them.

Lesson 13 Supplement Questions:

1. Why can we not be indifferent to the fate of the Church in other countries?
2. Explain the names of three interrelated parts of the Communion of Saints.
3. Give three reasons why we pray to saints.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY: Choose a country where the Church is persecuted or where few people know Christ and perform a special novena of prayers and sacrifices for this country. Make a poster with a map of the country and important facts about it, including the number of Catholics (obtain figures from a World Almanac or Catholic Almanac). Add clippings of news stories which have appeared about this country. Write a report about the history of the country, especially anything you can find out about the history of the Church in that country.

Day 4: Read, discuss, and study catechism Lesson 14, “The Resurrection and Life Everlasting,” Questions 176–184, pp. 103–106.

Day 5: Continue Lesson 14, Questions 185–187 and “Important Truths about the Resurrection and Life Everlasting,” pp. 106–108.
Do Study Help A, “Word Selection,” pp. 108–109, as the Lesson 14 Quiz.

WEEK 13

Day 1: Do Lesson 14, “Problems and Exercises,” pp. 109–110. (CCC 988-1065)

Day 2: Read and discuss the following supplement to Lesson 14.
Do Lesson 14 supplemental questions.