

**CHURCH
ELEMENTARY COURSE OF STUDY
GRADE 8**

GENERAL

The students will:

- know that, by living the Gospel in the context of the Church, they fulfill their vocation to become truly holy.
- show how the Church reveals itself as one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
- reflect on the meaning of the word “Church” and come to better understand the mystery of the Church as People of God, Body of Christ, and Institution.
- be able to show the relationship between Christianity and Judaism.

STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH

The students will:

- know the role of the following: Pope, cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, laity; and identify present Catholic Church leadership: Pope, Bishop, Pastor/Pastoral leader.
- know that Vatican City is an independent state in Italy and that the Pope lives there.
- know that the Pope is the Bishop of Rome and the head of the College of Bishops.
- know the process for the election of a pope.
- know that magisterium is the teaching authority and teaching office of the Catholic Church.
- become familiar with and know the Laws/Precepts of the Church.

THE CHURCH IN APOSTOLIC TIMES

The students will:

- know that the Acts of the Apostles relates the story of the early Church.
- recognize the early beginning of the Church through the Pentecost event in the Acts of the Apostles.
- recognize the various ministries of women and men operative in the early Church; e.g., St. Paul, St. Peter, St. James, St. Stephen, St. Cornelius, St. Lydia, St. Priscilla.

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- trace the missionary journeys of St. Paul and understand their implications.
- know that the letters (epistles) were a means of communication to the early Christian communities.
- identify the Jewish-Gentile controversy as a major conflict in the development of the early Church.
- know that the Council of Jerusalem was a response to this conflict.
- know that in Antioch the followers of Jesus were first called Christians.
- know the causes of the persecutions and their effects on the early Church.

EARLY CHURCH/CHURCH LEADERS

The students will:

- recognize that following Constantine's conversion he issued the Edict of Milan (313 A.D.) granting toleration to Christianity.
- understand the role of Church councils in resolving conflicts and in the preservation of authentic teaching.
- define heresy and recognize early heresies and how they brought about the development of orthodox doctrines.
- know the purpose and results of the Council of Nicea (315 A.D.).
- describe the role of some of these early Church leaders and apologists in spreading the Good News: St. Augustine, St. Jerome, St. John Chrysostom, St. Basil, St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Justin Martyr, St. Ignatius of Antioch, St. Irenaeus.

EARLY MIDDLE AGES

The students will:

- know the influence of the Germanic migrations on the Church in the West.
- appreciate the contribution of monasticism to the Church.
- know that the Catholic Church is made up of twenty-one Eastern Churches and one Roman (Latin) Church.

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- explain how church buildings (e.g. basilicas and cathedrals), relics, and pilgrimages were expressions of faith during this period.

LATER MIDDLE AGES

The students will:

- understand the reasons for and the impact of the Eastern Schism (1054 A.D.).
- describe the military, religious, social, and moral dimensions of the Crusades.
- explore the influences (positive and negative) of the Renaissance on the developing Church.
- identify some of these key figures of this period: St. Dominic, St. Francis, St. Clare, St. Joan of Arc, St. Catherine of Siena.

REFORMATION/CATHOLIC REFORMATION

The students will:

- be able to identify Martin Luther (Germany) and explain his beliefs.
- understand the various causes of the Reformation and identify some other key figures: Calvin, Zwingli, Henry VIII.
- understand that the Council of Trent was the response of the Catholic Church to the Reformation.

EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES

The students will:

- know how the Enlightenment challenged the Church's world view: the relationship between the Age of Reason and Faith.
- trace the historical, social, political and religious background of Vatican I and show how its pronouncement of infallibility was a response to a crisis of authority.
- know that during this period new religious communities were founded to meet the needs of the poor and uncatechized; e.g., St. Julie Billiart (1751-1816); St. Catherine McAuley (1778-1841); St. Katherine Drexel (1858-1955); St. John Bosco (1815-1888).

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TWENTIETH CENTURY

The students will:

- know that Pope John XXIII called the Second Vatican Council in order to better announce the Gospel to the modern world.
- know that the major results of Vatican II include sixteen documents which exist to achieve the goal of bringing the Church up to today, leading to various results in the life of the Church.
- know that the sixteen Vatican II documents discuss such topics as liturgical reform, the Church's understanding of herself, the Church's understanding of other Christians, dialogue with the modern world, etc.
- describe how the Church changed as a result of Vatican II.

CHURCH IN AMERICA

The students will:

- be able to discuss the role of women and men religious in the growth of the Church in America.
- identify the first permanent Catholic settlement in the New World for the Spanish (St. Augustine, Florida); the French (Quebec); and the English (Baltimore).
- know that John Carroll was the first Bishop of the first United States diocese (Baltimore, Maryland) and understand his importance in the development of the United States hierarchy.
- identify St. Elizabeth Seton's role in the beginning of Catholic Parochial education in the United States.
- describe the work of the Church among the immigrant communities who settled in the United States; e.g., through such persons as St. John Neumann and St. Frances Cabrini.
- know the importance of the 1884 Plenary Council of Baltimore in the establishment of parish schools and the publication of the Baltimore Catechism.
- know that the following groups displayed anti-Catholic sentiments: Puritans, Know-Nothings, KKK.
- know that the Church in America was regarded as a mission church until the early twentieth century (1908).

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ECUMENISM

The student will:

- know some aspects of the major non-Christian world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism.
- understand the Church's attitude toward Christian and non-Christian religions.

MISSIONARY CHURCH

The students will:

- understand that the mission of the Church is to evangelize.
- be familiar with the evangelization efforts of the Catholic Church in the world today.
- be aware that, even today, Catholic missionaries around the world are being martyred, especially for their work among the poor.
- be able to name some modern-day martyrs and tell their stories; e.g., Oscar Romero, Jean Donovan.