

Family Page

Background Reflection

In today's Scripture passage, we read about Jesus praying for us to be one: united in faith and in our message of God's love. But if we look around the world, we might wonder how unity can ever happen. The answer is that we must start with our own lives and with what Jesus wanted from his followers. Like Jesus, we continue to pray that all Christians—all people who are baptized in Christ—may be united in faith.

Every week we pray the Nicene Creed, the statement of our beliefs as Catholics. As part of the creed, we profess our belief in the Marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. This chapter concentrates on the first two Marks (One and Holy) and recognizes that both are made up of love, patience, and kindness. Jesus not only prays that we might become one but also shows us the way to holiness.

As you begin these activities, ask yourself how you might be a role model of holiness and unity for your child.

Family Activities

- Post three pieces of paper in a visible spot. At the top of one page, write "Loving;" on the next, write "Patient;" and on the third page, write "Kind." Spend the week catching your family being loving, patient, and kind, and describe the situations on the papers. At the end of the week, gather the family to talk about the situations and how they made everyone feel.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 1696 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (John 17:20–21, 23). Talk about ways your child can be one with God and with other people. Discuss what is hard and what is easy about paying attention to God and being loving, kind, and patient with other people.
- Watch the video "Jesus Prays," by Saddleback Kids (YouTube, 2:19) together. Discuss which of Jesus' teachings your child can share with other people, and what words or actions she or he would use to do so.

People of Faith

Saint Catherine of Siena (1347–1380)

Saint Catherine devoted herself to Jesus when she was a young girl. She became a teacher of the faith and brought many people closer to God. During Catherine's life, the Pope lived in France. She convinced him to come back to Rome as a sign of unity. We celebrate Saint Catherine's feast on April 29.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Jesus, you want your Church to be One and Holy. Help us to work together to share your message through our words and our actions. Help us to be strong in our faith so we can show the world what it means to be Christian. Amen.

