

## Chapter 19 Witness

For you will be his witness before all to what you have seen and heard.  
*Acts 22:15*

### To the Parents:

In chapter 19, your child learned the following:

- Christians are called to be living witnesses to Jesus, in both word and action.
- Christian martyrs are witnesses to Jesus.

Those who follow Jesus know that speaking out his name is not always easy. Bearing witness to the truth of the message of Jesus requires courageous commitment and strong conviction. This can mean bearing witness to mercy in a world in which justice is sometimes rare. It can mean calling for peace where violence is a way of life. It can mean living simply in a consumer society. It can mean loving instead of punishing. But the spirit of faith is alive in those who believe and by their lives witness to the truth.

The saints and all holy men and women are models of commitment to lives of witnesses. Some of them died for their faith and others faced tremendous difficulties in living out their commitment to the message of Jesus. In today's world, witnessing to faith requires both active response and quiet fidelity to the truth of the Gospel message. Commitment to a life of witness is a lifelong endeavor for the followers of Jesus.

### With Your Child:

1. Read of Stephen's martyrdom in the Bible (*Acts 7:54-60*) and talk about his courage and conviction as a follower of Jesus.
2. Talk about instances of when you, family, or friends had to take a stand for a belief, and relate how that kind of courage can be used when being witnesses to Christ.
3. Choose a martyred saint to be your family patron. Pray to him or her for the strength to be a devoted witness to the faith.
4. Together read the story of Sister Alicia Domon on the Review and Explore page.