

## Chapter 22 Living Faith

For we walk by faith, not by sight. *2 Corinthians 5:7*

### To the Parents:

In chapter 22, your child learned the following:

- Each person is given the gift of faith in Baptism.
- Mary is the Christian model of faith.
- Christians are called to live their faith through works.

Faith and belief are closely aligned in the lives of Christians. Sometimes belief is a struggle, but the gift of faith brings certainty. The challenge for Christians comes after belief and faith have taken root—in responding to the message of Jesus. The promises of Jesus bring comfort to those who follow him, but they also demand a response of faith to live out by word and example the command to love one another. Knowing, believing, and living lives of virtue form the identity of people in faith.

Faith is one of the great mysteries of the Christian life. No one can force faith upon another person, and yet it is through the influence of faithful men and women that faith grows and is nurtured. Believers have the hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This hope becomes concrete and is shared with others by personal commitment to loving service. Families, workplaces, neighborhoods, and parishes become environments in which faith, hope, and love can flourish. Christians share their faith by living it.

### With Your Child:

1. Read James' statements on faith and works (*James 2:14–26*) and talk about how the two relate to each other.
2. Recite the Nicene Creed together and consider each statement as the prayer outlines the Catholic faith.
3. Think of Mary, the Christian model of faith. Reflect on her trust and love of God. Dedicate your family to Mary and pray to her for guidance and strength in your faith life as a family.
4. Read about Flannery O'Connor on the Review and Explore page.