

Chapter 9 A New Way

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. *1 Corinthians 13:7*

To the Parents:

In chapter 9, your child learned the following:

- Changes in life can cause a person to grow emotionally.
- Early Christians often gave witness to their faith by suffering martyrdom.
- Christian leaders faced heresies—false teachings that led many believers away from the truths of the faith.

Christianity has grown and evolved in many ways, and yet one thing remains constant: the faith of those who follow Jesus. In the early Church, many people had seen Jesus face-to-face. Today, Jesus is experienced in the faith of those who live out his message of justice and loving service. The Church spreads the Good News of Jesus through various means: evangelization, liturgy, catechesis, pastoral instruction, and, most importantly, the living faith of holy people.

The Catholic Church has evolved from a small group of disciples of Jesus to a worldwide institution that touches and affects the lives of people everywhere. Since the Second Vatican Council (1962–65), there have been changes in liturgical celebrations, methods of catechesis, understandings of ecumenism, and Church structure and organization. But the basic truths remain: faith in the Triune God—Father, Son, and Spirit—permeates every aspect of the Church. The nature of God remains the primary focus of faith in the lives of believers.

With Your Child:

1. Choose a saint or martyr mentioned in the student text and together read about his or her acts of faith.
2. Think of the changes you or your family have gone through and talk about how those changes have strengthened or enlightened you.
3. Read the story of Saint Hilary of Poitiers on the Review and Explore page.