

Chapter 22 **The Church in Action**

Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build. Unless the Lord guard the city, in vain does the guard keep watch. *Psalm 127:1*

To the Parents:

In chapter 22, your child learned the following:

- Choosing to do the will of God is the most effective way to build the kingdom of God.
- Kingdom builders are those who, motivated by love, work to help others.
- People's values and actions will determine whether the present world will be transformed into the City of God.

Jesus came to reveal what God's kingdom, or reign, was like: a world redeemed and brought to perfection. Those who follow Jesus can participate in bringing about the reign of God by working for peace, justice, mercy, equality, and fairness, and by giving loving service to those in need.

Those who work to bring about God's reign in their everyday lives know that they are following the example of Jesus to love one another in all they do. This is not an easy task. They work for peace in a violent world. They work for mercy within a justice system that is not always fair. They work for inclusion and equality in neighborhoods where exclusion and prejudice are often found. They work for integrity and fairness in workplaces where selfishness and greed are seen daily. Despite these obstacles, they are making a difference wherever they happen to be, transforming their world into one that reflects the reign of God here and now.

With Your Child:

1. Read the parable of two foundations (*Matthew 7:24–27*) and talk about which foundation you are building on.
2. Having a loving and patient attitude while doing God's will is part of building the kingdom of God. Talk about your everyday chores and responsibilities—what attitude do you have while doing them?
3. Talk about people's efforts to build God's kingdom around the world and say a prayer of hope and faith.
4. Read the story of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux on the Review and Explore page.