

Getting Ready for Chapter 17

Take Home



The Church Is a Sign of the Kingdom of God

God freely gives us grace, the gift of his own life, in order to bring all creation back into a relationship of love with him. We are in communion with witnesses to the faith who have gone before us. Strengthened by their example, and fortified by their prayers, we also strive to be signs of the Kingdom of God established by Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITY

Prayer Corner Create a prayer corner in your home by placing on a table, a pretty plant or flower, a candle, a crucifix or cross, a Bible and other items of your choice. Say a prayer for the missionaries who spread the Word of God.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Look at the candles on the altar this week and think about how you will reflect the light of Christ.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Saint Pauline of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus (1865–1942)

Pauline immigrated with her family to Brazil from Italy. She founded the Little Sisters of the Immaculate Conception to serve the poor, the sick and the elderly. She is the first Brazilian citizen to be made a saint.

Feast Day: July 9



A Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, Help us to be more like Saint Pauline, to be signs of your kingdom through our good actions. Help us bring about peace and justice through our love for others. Amen.

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Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

Mustard Seed The mustard plant is one of the many plants mentioned in the Bible. A fully-grown mustard plant could reach ten feet tall and was a favorite of birds. Some varieties grew wild, while others were cultivated for their flavorful seeds. Few plants grew as large as the mustard plant in such a short time. The ancient Hebrews used it in foods, and for medicinal purposes. In Mark 4:26–34 Jesus uses the parable of the mustard seed to illustrate how God’s kingdom, from small beginnings, will grow big enough to welcome and shelter all people in peace and justice.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Film

Jesuit Missionaries The *Mission* is a drama that depicts European colonialism in South America during the eighteenth century when Portuguese imperialists sought to pillage the vast natural resources of their colonies and enslave the indigenous population. In contrast, Jesuit missionaries represent the Church’s efforts to save souls.

Rodrigo Mendoza, played by Robert De Niro, is the main protagonist who, as a former slave trader, seeks redemption. He helps establish a mission in the Amazon that is free from government interference. But the utopian existence is short-lived and destruction of the mission by the government quickly ensues. In its portrayal of colonial injustice, the film brings to light the conflicts associated with humanity’s attempt to be signs of the kingdom.