

Getting Ready for Chapter 16

Take Home



We Pray for Faith

Throughout the letters of the New Testament, we are made aware of how the early Church managed to foster community through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Over a period of time, creeds were formulated to state explicitly what the Church community believed. The Apostles' Creed is a formal statement of belief professing that "We believe in one God: the Father... his only Son... and the Holy Spirit."

ACTIVITY

Family Coat of Arms The Apostles' Creed formally states the basic tenets of our Christian faith. Make a family coat of arms that defines your family. Use construction paper or cloth. In each section, place an image that represents something your family stands for.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Recite the Creed as though it were an oath you were taking to belong to a special society.

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 Bernadette

(1844–1879)

Bernadette grew up in Lourdes, France. Near a cave, she was granted many visions of the Blessed Mother. People came to watch but they couldn't see or hear Mary. People made fun of Bernadette, but her faith only grew stronger.

Feast Day: April 16



A Prayer for the Week

Dear God, help our faith to grow stronger just as Saint Bernadette's faith grew stronger every day. Help us to be brave enough to share our faith with others just as she did. Amen.

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Scripture Background

In the Time of the Early Church

Stoning Blasphemy was considered a serious offense against God, punishable by death. In ancient times and continuing into the first century, those convicted of this crime were stoned. A person who committed adultery might also be put to death in this manner. Jesus once saved an accused adulteress from stoning. Regardless of the crime, those who had witnessed it were the first to cast stones followed by the rest of the crowd. This usually took place outside the city.

Read about the stoning of Stephen the first Christian martyr in Acts 6:2–15.

Our Catholic Tradition in Literature

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Saints Teresa of Avila and Catherine of Siena present a heroic example of women who overcame the conventions of their times in order to fulfill a vocation that was not only religious but scholarly as well. Following in their footsteps is the seventeenth-century Mexican nun Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. In “Reply to Sor Filotea de la Cruz,” Sister Juana asserts her intellectual rights and defends her commitment to a religious vocation. A profound poet and writer, she affirms her God-given talents:

“I strove mightily to elevate [my] studies, to dedicate them to His service...and being a nun, it was seemly that I profess my vows to learning through the Church.”