



Jesus the Christ

Begin

Read aloud the unit title on page 133. If possible, play a brief clip from the movie *Superman*. Ask your child to summarize the relationship between Clark Kent and Superman. Point out that even though Clark Kent becomes a superhero, he remains true to himself, his mission, and his identity. Encourage your child to describe a time when it was difficult to remain true to himself or herself. **Ask:** *When is it easy to be yourself? What situations might tempt you to try to be someone else?* Explain that in this unit your child will learn who Jesus is and how he brings us life.

Introduce the Saint

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraph on page 133. **Ask:** *How did Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross remain true to her identity? (by accepting death in her service of Jesus) What kinds of struggles do you think she endured in a concentration camp?* (Possible answers: religious persecution, separation from family and friends, harsh living conditions)

Invite your child to read aloud How the Saint Relates. Point out that like Jesus, Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross did not take an easy path, which would have allowed her to avoid suffering. She remained true to herself and her faith. Invite your child to name someone he or she knows who took a more difficult path because it was the right thing to do.

Turn to page 134. Discuss discrimination and share stories you both know about people who have been affected by it. Together read aloud the opening paragraph of Strengthened by Faith and the section The Path to Baptism. **Ask:** *What prompted Edith to become interested in the Catholic faith?* (seeing a woman taking time out of her day to talk to God in an intimate way, witnessing the faith of a war widow) **Say:** *Sometimes seeing other people live in a way that reveals their true identities inspires and challenges us to do the same.*

Read aloud the section The Nazi Terror. Begin a discussion about the courage of Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, emphasizing that she was born a Jew but converted to the Catholic faith. **Ask:** *What emotions might she have felt during the Nazi persecution?* (Possible answers: disbelief at the inhumanity of the persecution, fear for her Jewish family and friends, determination to live as a witness to her Catholic faith) **Say:** *Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross endured unimaginable suffering yet remained true to herself.*

Close by rereading aloud Pope John Paul II's quotation from Sister Teresa's beatification ceremony in 1987. Discuss the meaning of his words. Ask your child to reflect on the aspect of Saint Teresa's life that affects him or her most powerfully. With your child, add Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross's feast day, August 9, to your calendar. Celebrate her life by finding out more about her.