



We Are Sent

Begin

Read aloud the unit title. Display both secular and religious items, such as baseball cards, cereal bars, rosaries, and prayer cards. Invite your child to separate these items into logical categories and explain what categories he or she used. Write the words *secular* and *sacred*. Together define these words. (secular—not overtly or specifically religious; sacred—dedicated or set apart for the worship of God) **Say:** *The sessions in this unit will teach us that there is no distinction between sacred and secular.*

Introduce the Saint

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraph on page 177. **Ask:** *What tradition did John XXIII change after he became pope? (He hired a cook and began inviting people over for dinner.) What did the meals he shared with others help him do? (remain close to the people he served as pope) Why is it important for the pope to remain close to the people he serves? (Possible answer: so that he can better respond to their needs)*

Invite your child to read aloud How the Saint Relates. **Ask:** *What did John XXIII's spirituality enable him to do? (serve God's people) Encourage your child to develop his or her own spirituality by praying often.*

Turn to page 178. Invite your child to read aloud the title Elected Pope and the first two paragraphs. Point out that during the time John XXIII was pope, people often worked long hours for little pay. **Say:** *By standing up for social justice and the rights of workers, Pope John XXIII reminded people that we all have inherent dignity as human beings because we are made in the image and likeness of God.* Remind your child that an encyclical is a letter written by the pope that is meant for the whole Church.

Read aloud Prayer and Reflection. **Say:** *Pope John XXIII's strong prayer life helped him hear God's voice in his life.* Point out that keeping a journal is one form of prayer.

Have your child read aloud Calling a Council. **Say:** *At the Second Vatican Council, Church leaders worked together to discern how God's Spirit was calling the Church to respond to changes in society.* Explain that the council demonstrated the Church's ability to find a balance between remaining faithful to Tradition while also remaining open to God's ongoing Revelation.

With your child, add Pope John XXIII's feast day, October 11, to your calendar. To honor his memory, take time to nurture your prayer life to receive the strength and passion you need to live out your vocation.