

# CELEBRATE

## Objective

To explore the meaning of the ritual action of kneeling and the words of the Mystery of Faith

To explain the meaning of the Eucharistic Prayer

## Liturgical Catechesis

The purpose of this section is to help children reflect on their experiences of the signs, rituals, prayers, and gestures of the celebration and to lead them to express their own meaning of the experiences. Allow children to share their experiences without commenting on them.

## We Remember

- On the board or on chart paper, write the following questions: What did you see? What did you hear? What did you do?
- Guide children to reflect on the celebration by reviewing what happened in the prayer.
- Invite children to share their responses to the questions.

## Reflect

- Invite children to complete the phrases with their own thoughts and feelings.
- Remind them that they do not have to complete all three choices.

## Kneeling

- Ask children to talk about their experiences of kneeling.
- Invite a volunteer to read the first three sentences.
- Ask children whether there are other ways we use our bodies in prayer. **Possible responses: We fold our hands; we close our eyes; we stand; we process.**
- Invite children to read the rest of the text silently to find when we kneel during the Mass.

## We Remember

CELEBRATE



### Kneeling

We kneel as a sign that we are God's children. When we kneel, we show we depend on God. Kneeling is one of the many ways we use our bodies to pray. Sometimes we kneel when we want to ask God for something. Other times we kneel when we seek God's forgiveness. At Mass we kneel after the Holy, Holy, Holy through the Great Amen. We also kneel during the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) before Holy Communion.



## Reflect

**Mystery of Faith** Think and write about the celebration.

*When I heard the story of the Last Supper*

*When I knelt down*

*When I prayed "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again."*

## Additional Activity

**Create a storyboard** Prepare a large poster board or piece of paper. It should be large enough for children to gather around to draw on it. Divide the paper into five parts with the following titles:

We praise you for creation.

We praise you for the people of the Old Testament.

We praise you for Jesus.

We praise you for the Church.

We praise you for us.

Display the storyboard where children can see it.

- Tell children that during Mass we hear the story of all the wonderful gifts God has given humans, and we praise God for those gifts.
- Read each of the titles, and elicit from children what pictures or words might go in each space to describe God's gifts.
- Distribute art materials.
- Invite children to write or draw pictures in the space under the appropriate title.



## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer is the Church's great prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God. The priest begins this prayer. Together we pray, "Holy, Holy, Holy." Then we kneel as the prayer continues.

The priest prays to the Holy Spirit to make our gifts holy so they become the Body and Blood of Jesus. He retells the story of the Last Supper. We want to remember what Jesus did for us.

We proclaim the mystery of faith. A **mystery** of faith is something we believe but we do not understand. We know that Jesus is with us now. We know that all people who love God will live with him in Heaven when they die. We believe because Jesus promised us. We want to say, "Thank you."



### The Priest

In the Eucharistic Prayer, we join our voices with all Catholics around the world. Jesus acts through the ministry of the priest. Only an ordained **priest** can lead the celebration of the Eucharist. This is the most important thing a priest does. Priests do many other things, too. They teach, preach, take care of the sick, and lead the parish.



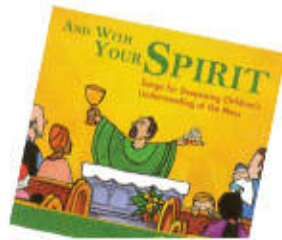
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## Additional Activity

**Hosts of Angels** Play the song "Holy Lord God of Hosts" (track 9) from the *And With Your Spirit* music CD while directing this activity for the children:

- Prefold 11x14 pieces of white paper (one for each child) so that you get four accordion folds measuring three inches wide. Cut off the extra two inches.
- Make several cardboard patterns of an angel measuring three inches wide with wings outstretched.

- Have the children trace the angel image on the first fold of the paper.
- Have children cut out the image, leaving the wingtips joined to create a paper chain of angels.
- Have children unfold their angel chains and write "The Hosts of Angels" on them.



## The Eucharistic Prayer

- Read aloud the first two paragraphs.
- Discuss the word *holy* with children.
- Ask whether anyone remembers how to sing the Holy, Holy, Holy from hearing it during the Mass. If so, sing it together.
- Summarize the last two paragraphs.
- Use the Teaching Tip on page 52 to guide your discussion.
- Emphasize that the Eucharistic Prayer tells the story of God's love for humans and that it is a prayer of thanksgiving.
- Encourage children to listen carefully to the story of the Last Supper as the priest tells it during the Mass next Sunday.



### The Priest

- Invite children to read the text silently to find out what is the most important thing a priest does. **leads the celebration of the Eucharist**
- Be sure children know the name of the parish pastor or other priest. If possible, invite one of the priests to visit your session.