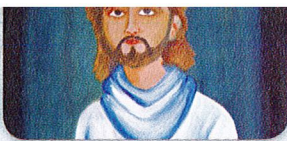


Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit invites you to ▶



EXPLORE why Paul of the Cross preached a about mercy.



DISCOVER that God's plan of salvation is found in Jesus Christ.



DECIDE how to witness faith and show mercy to others.




The Suffering Servant

? Why would someone suffer for the sake of another?

Listen to how God describes the Messiah:

*“See, my servant shall prosper,
he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.
Even as many were amazed at him—
so marred was his look beyond that of man,
and his appearance beyond that of mortals—
So shall he startle many nations,
because of him kings shall stand speechless. . . .
Because he surrendered himself to death
and was counted among the wicked;
And he shall take away the sins of many,
and win pardon for their offenses.”* ISAIAH 52:13-15; 53:12

? In what ways do you think this reading describes Jesus?



Disciple Power

Mercy

This fruit of charity is the loving kindness and compassion shown to one who offends us. Even though our sins damage our relationship with God, he still loves us. Throughout his life, Jesus taught how the love of God is one of mercy. Jesus, the Son of God, suffered and died for our sake. Truly, the Paschal Mystery reveals the depths of God's mercy for us.

THE CHURCH FOLLOWS JESUS


Saint Paul of the Cross

The Paschal Mystery (the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ) is the heart of the Gospel. For Paolo (Paul) Francesco Daneo, the Passion and Resurrection of Christ was the greatest work of divine love. He understood the depths of God's merciful love revealed in the Paschal Mystery.

Paolo lived in northern Italy during the early 1700s, where there was great neglect of the hungry and the poor. He noticed that people were ungrateful for God's love. Paolo believed neglect and ungratefulness were signs that people had forgotten the meaning of God's love for all people, revealed in the Paschal Mystery. He wrote, "The world lives unmindful of the sufferings of Jesus which are the miracle of miracles of the love of God."

Paolo decided to help people become more aware of God's love working in the world, especially the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Dressed in a black robe, he traveled tirelessly for many years throughout Italy, preaching a message of faith and mercy.

Paolo founded the "Congregation of the Passion," or the Passionists, to help him in his work. Because of his faith and work, the Church honors Paolo as Saint Paul of the Cross.

 Why does an understanding of the Paschal Mystery help us to reach out to assist those who are suffering?



The Paschal Mystery

Believe it or not, the Gospels were not the first written books of the New Testament. Because of their importance, however, the Church placed them at the beginning of that part of the Bible.

At the heart of the Gospels is the **Paschal Mystery** of Jesus. The Paschal Mystery is the center of the work that God the Father sent Jesus, his Son, to do on Earth. The word paschal comes from a Hebrew word meaning “the passing over.” The Paschal Mystery is Jesus’ passing over from life on Earth to a new and glorified life with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

The Mission of Jesus

The New Testament reveals the fulfillment of God’s plan of **Salvation** for all people in Jesus Christ. Jesus shows us how we can respond to God the Father by the way we know, love, and serve him.

While the Old Testament records the events that prepared humankind for the coming of the Messiah, all Scripture is centered on the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Chosen One, who saved humanity from sin (read Matthew 27:54, Mark 14:61–62; John 19:24). The Gospels are the heart of all Sacred Scripture, and the mission of Jesus is the centerpiece of the Gospels.

FAITH FOCUS

Why is Jesus the fulfillment of all of God’s promises?

FAITH VOCABULARY

Paschal Mystery

The Paschal Mystery is Jesus’ passing over from life on Earth through his Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension to a new and glorified life with the Father.


Passion

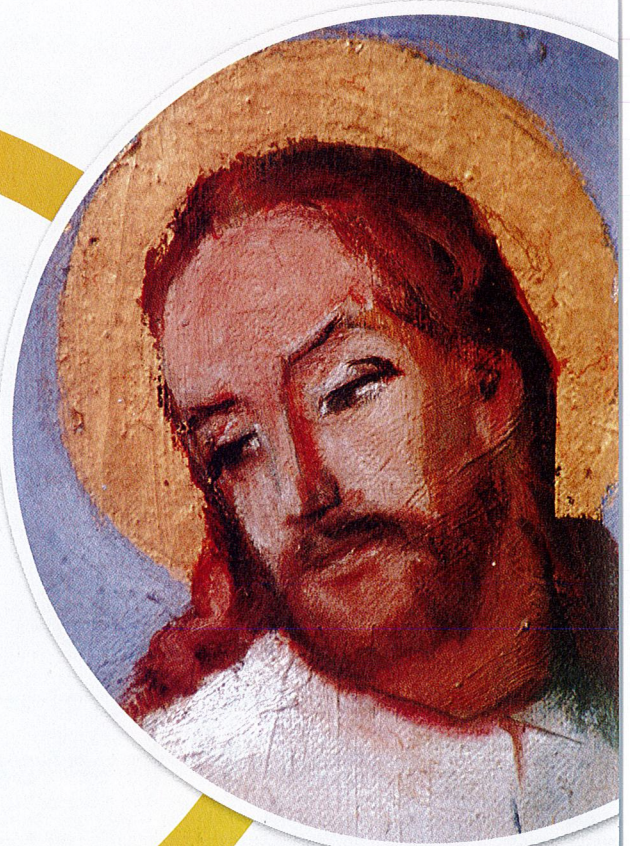
The Passion is the suffering of Jesus on his way to the Cross and his Death on the Cross.


Salvation

Salvation is the deliverance of humanity from the power of sin and death by God through Jesus Christ, who died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.

Activity

The  (fish) is an ancient Christian symbol for Jesus Christ. Reflect on the meaning of the Paschal Mystery. Draw a symbol that expresses your faith in this mystery.





Faith-Filled People

The Passionists

Today, thousands of Passionist priests, men and women religious, and laypeople preach the message of the Cross to a suffering world across the globe. They see Jesus in people, especially those who are suffering. They believe that when they help the suffering, they are helping Jesus, who said, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).


He Freely Suffered Death

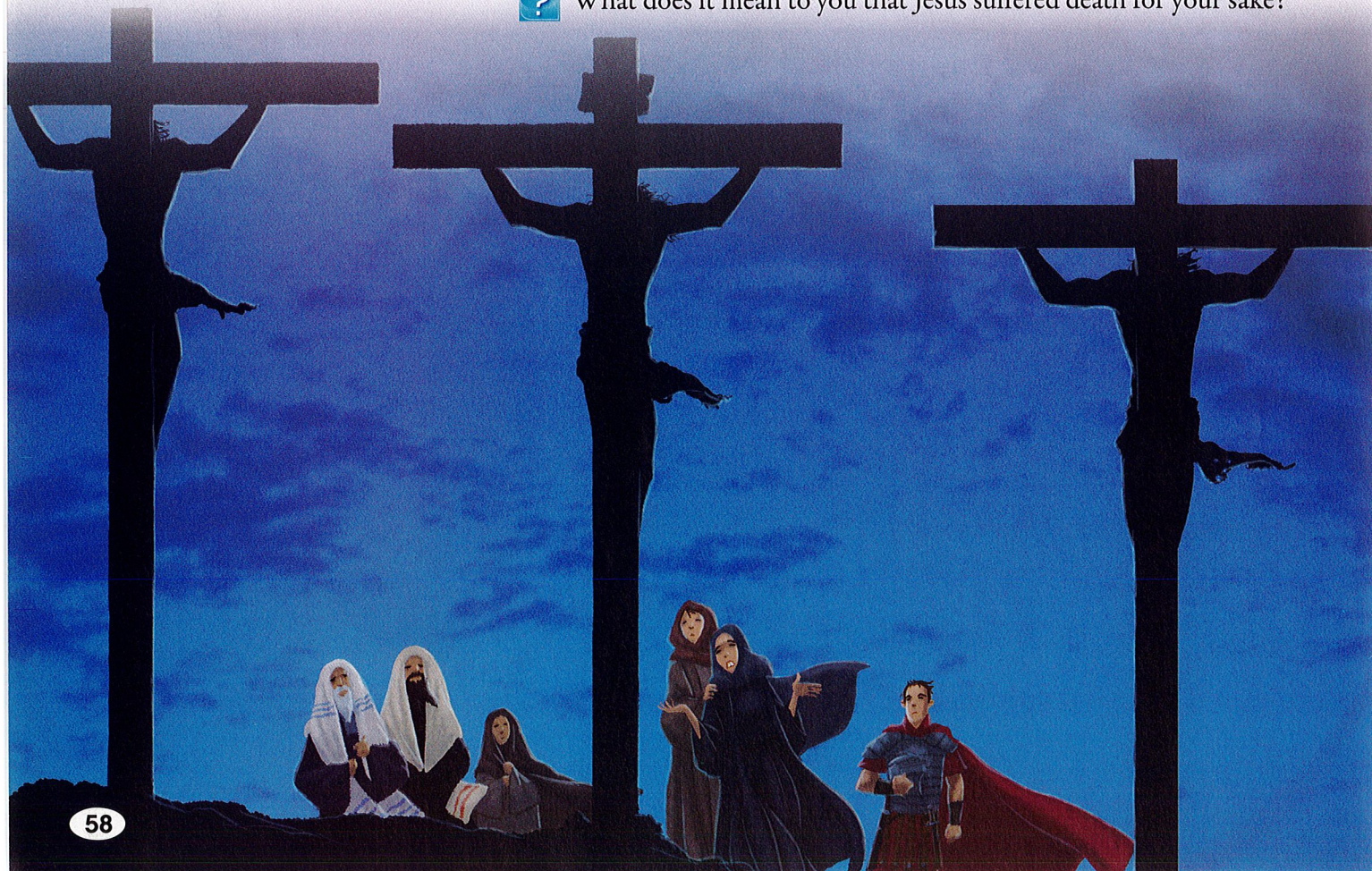
Each of the four Gospels includes a Passion narrative (see Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26–32; John 19:17–18). These narratives tell of the suffering and Death of Jesus as he made his way to the Cross and was crucified on it. During Holy Week in the season of Lent, we recall Jesus' love for us in his suffering and Death.

Jesus sacrificed his life by freely accepting Death on a cross; he was buried and three days later rose from the dead. Christ went down to the dead and opened the gates of Heaven for the just who had gone before him and for those who would come after him.

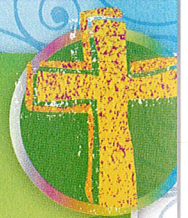
The **Passion** and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ took place during the Jewish feast of Passover. Just as a lamb was sacrificed to save the Israelites, Jesus freely sacrificed his life on the Cross to save all people from the power of sin and death (read John 1:29).

The Last Supper was a Passover meal, but Jesus gave it new meaning. At the Last Supper, Jesus blessed the bread and wine, and then distributed them as his Body and Blood. The Eucharist is a memorial of Jesus' Passover—his work of Salvation through his suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. His Body and Blood would enable his followers to be redeemed from sin and find eternal happiness in the Kingdom of God.

 What does it mean to you that Jesus suffered death for your sake?



Catholics Believe



The Paschal Mystery

The Paschal Mystery has two aspects: by his Death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life. Christ's Resurrection is the principle and source of our future resurrection. The Risen Christ lives in the hearts of his faithful while they await that fulfillment.

The Risen Lord

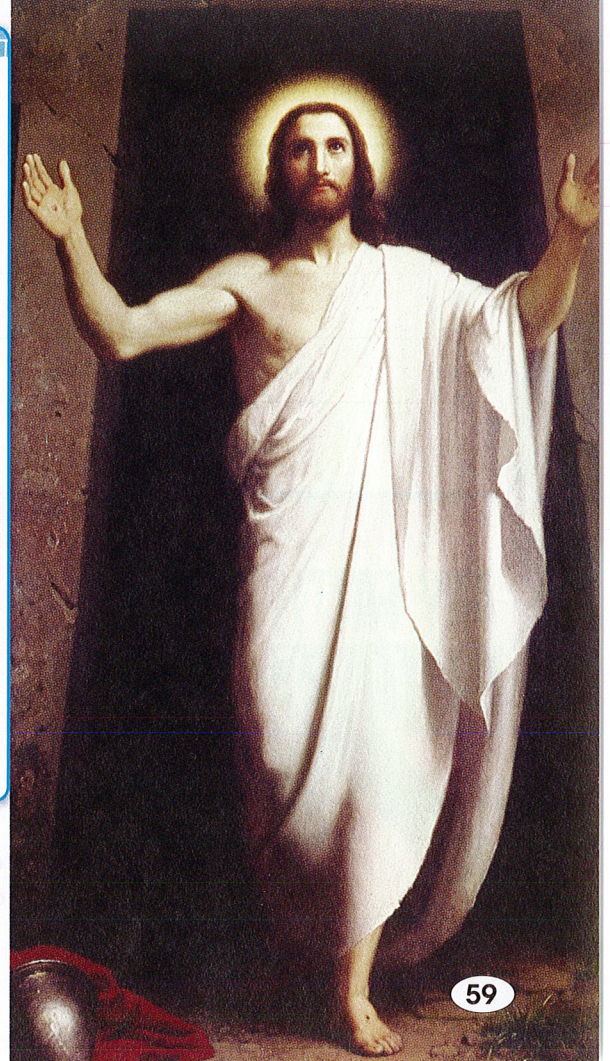
Three days after he died and was buried, Christ rose from the dead with a new and glorified body. All four accounts of the Gospel clearly teach that this event took place. The Resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of our faith in Christ (see 1 Corinthians 15:3–5).

Forty days after the Resurrection, the Risen Christ ascended to the Father in Heaven. God's domain, Heaven, is where Jesus, the Son of God, reigns gloriously at the right hand of God the Father (see Luke 24:50–53). From there, Christ, who is hidden from our eyes, will come again in glory at the end of time to judge the living and the dead (see Matthew 25:31–46). Through Christ's Ascension and exaltation in glory, all humanity has been given an unbreakable promise of everlasting life of happiness with the Trinity, with the angels, and with Mary and all the Saints (see Revelation 22:4–5).

? When you think of Heaven, what do you picture in your mind?

This great mystery of God's love for us is the center of the Gospel, or Good News. Through the Paschal Mystery, all things have been justified, or made right, in Christ with God. Through him, we are saved and will rise to life everlasting.

Activity Create a montage of images and symbols that represent the Resurrection of Christ. Sketch your ideas here.



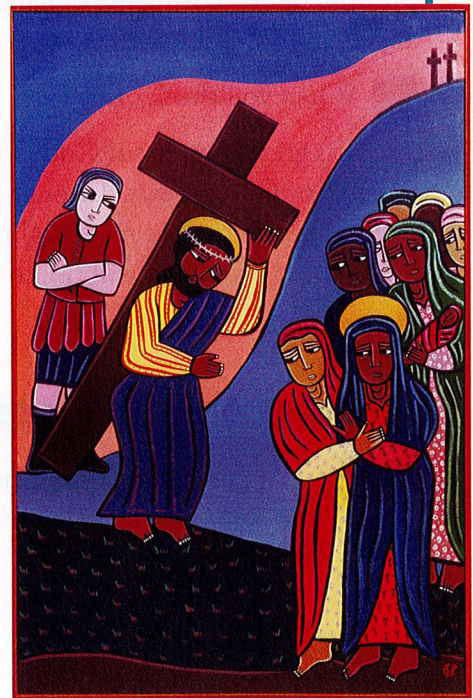
The Resurrection
by Anton Laurids Johannes Dorph

I FOLLOW JESUS

The Paschal Mystery is at the center of the Gospel. Jesus asks us to share our faith in what he has done for all people. Through his actions, we are saved and will rise to eternal life. We, in turn, are to show mercy.

LIVING OUR FAITH IN JESUS

You are to be interviewed by a reporter for a Catholic magazine about your faith in Jesus. What example from your life would you like to share? Write your notes for the interview here.



MY FAITH CHOICE

Mercy is one of the virtues of a disciple. I will show mercy to others this week. I will



Pray, "Lord help me to show mercy to others in my words and actions. Amen."

Chapter Review

Write a sentence using all of these words.

Salvation Passion Crucifixion Resurrection Ascension

▶ TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. The Paschal Mystery is the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ.
2. Jesus Christ suffered Death for the Redemption and Salvation of humanity.
3. The Resurrection is the principle and source of our future resurrection.

Stations of the Cross

This Scripture-based version of the Stations has been given to us by Pope John Paul II. It differs slightly from the traditional Stations found on page 263. Prayerfully journey in silence the Way of the Cross with Jesus.

Leader: Lord Jesus, be with us as we remember your Passion and Death.

1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.
2. Jesus, betrayed by Judas, is arrested.
3. Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin.
4. Jesus is denied by Peter.
5. Jesus is judged by Pilate.
6. Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns.
7. Jesus takes up his cross.
8. Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross.
9. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.
10. Jesus is crucified.
11. Jesus promises redemption to the good thief.
12. Jesus is on the cross, with his mother and Saint John at the foot of the cross.
13. Jesus dies on the cross.
14. Jesus is placed in the tomb.

Leader: (after each station)
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: By your holy Cross, you have saved us and set us free.



With My Family

This Week ...

In **Chapter 6**, "The Suffering Servant," your child learned:

- ▶ God's plan of salvation is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- ▶ Through the Paschal Mystery, Christ has saved and redeemed all of humanity, revealing the depths of God's mercy for us.
- ▶ Three days after he died and was buried, Christ rose from the dead with a new and glorified body.
- ▶ We have received the promise of eternal life made possible by Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- ▶ The virtue of mercy is the loving kindness and compassion shown to one who offends. The Paschal Mystery reveals the depths of God's mercy for us.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 571–682, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 90–110.

Sharing God's Word

Read together Hebrews 9:15–28. Emphasize that Jesus, the Savior of the world, alone reconciles the human family with God.

We Live as Disciples

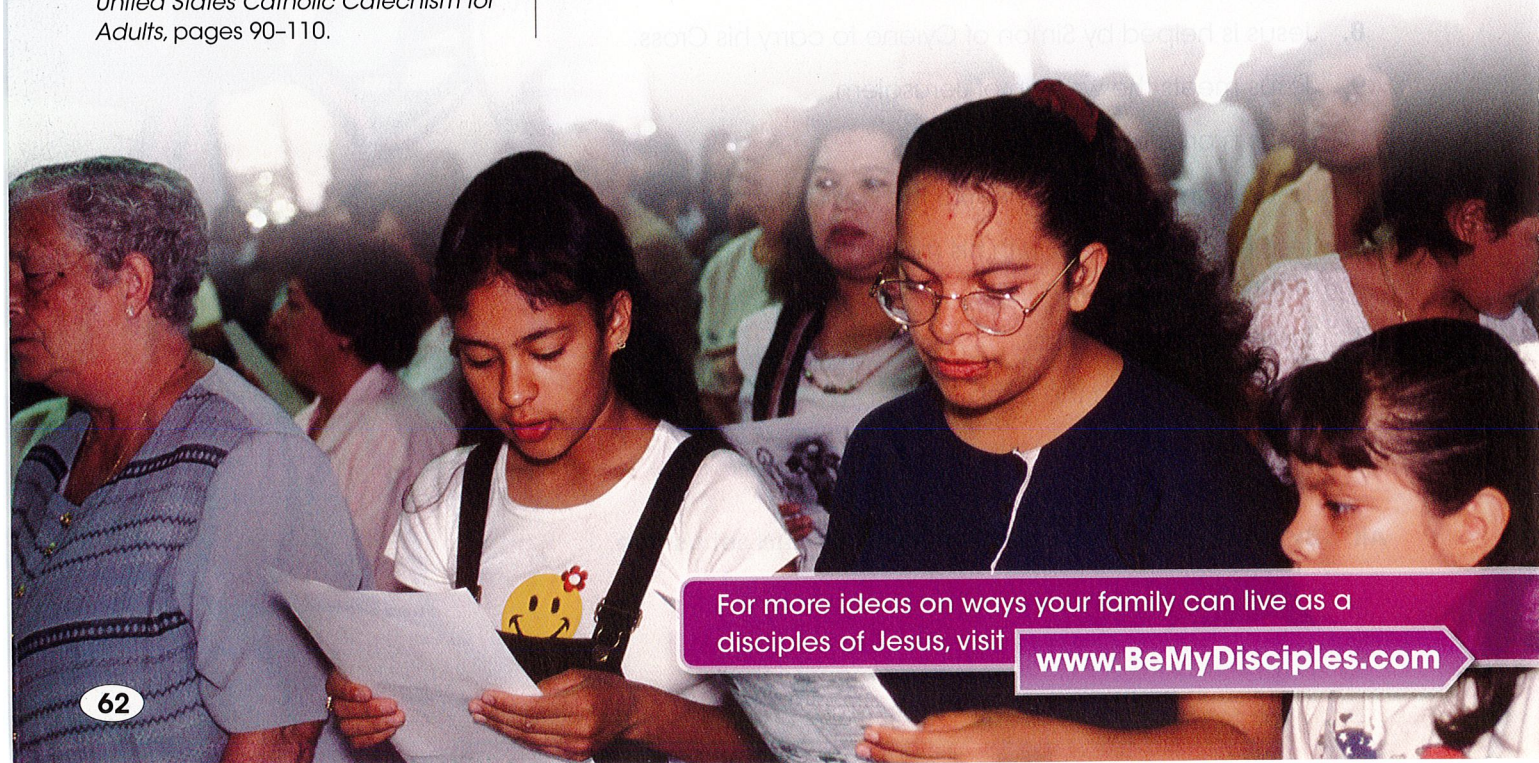
The Christian home and family is a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:

- ▶ Talk about some of the choices that your family has made recently. How are these decisions signs of your faith in Jesus Christ?

- ▶ Discuss why standing up for one's faith is sometimes difficult. When would you be willing to stand up for your faith?
- ▶ When we pray the Sign of the Cross, we profess our faith in Jesus, who freely died on the Cross to save us from sin and death. This week, pray the Sign of the Cross every time you begin to pray.

Our Spiritual Journey

Praying the Stations of the Cross helps us meditate on Jesus' loving sacrifice, both individually and as a community. In this chapter, your child prayed the scriptural Stations of the Cross. Read and pray together the prayer on page 61. Consider taking your children to church to walk the Way of the Cross.



For more ideas on ways your family can live as a disciples of Jesus, visit

www.BeMyDisciples.com