

Belonging To Christ

Leader: Let us begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Leader: God, You ask us to be united with You. We relish the opportunity to be Your friend as we build Your kingdom.

All: Amen!

Leader: Saint Paul uses the image of the Body of Christ to describe the community of believers who share in the life of the risen Christ. Let us think about ourselves as members of the Body of Christ while we read the words from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

[The students may be divided into groups.]

Group 1: "As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body."

Group 2: "Now the body is not a single part, but many. God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as He intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body."

Group 1: "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I do not need you.' Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary."

Group 2: "If one part of the body suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy."

[All come forward to write the name of two members of the Body of Christ in the circle on the banner. If possible, write the name of one "suffering" member and one "honored" member. During this time, play or sing, "Each Time that You Love" from the Come, Follow Me 7 music program, or any other familiar hymn.]

Leader: As the Body of Christ, let us express our beliefs by praying the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: We believe!

Reader 1: In God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

All: We believe!

Reader 2: In Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

All: We believe!

Reader 3: In the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

All: Amen!