

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, Thank you for our church, where we join together to sing and pray and hear your word. Show us how to help each other to make our church strong in love. Amen.

HOMEWORK:



Your child learned about a community in Peru where the people are building their own church by sharing their talents and resources. With your child, look at the pictures on pages 50-54 and ask your child to tell you the story of building this new church. Then as a family, answer these questions:

What is the name of your church? _____

What is the name of the pastor? _____

What are some activities/organizations in your church? _____

What is one way your family will help "build" your Church this year? _____

DEAR TEACHER, The following study guide has been designed to help you present in an age-appropriate way material in the story "Home for the faithful of Ichu" on pages 50-54 in the March/April 2017 MARYKNOLL magazine. Though the youngest students cannot read the magazine, encourage them to look at the pictures and bring home the magazine to do the homework assignment with their parents.

NOTE: For additional mission education resources, visit MaryknollSociety.org/Teachers
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AIM OF THIS LESSON: To help students understand the Church is not only a building for worship but especially a community of faith.



Father Bob shows the new church his people are building in Ichu.

STORY (TEACHER READS ALOUD):

Maria was happy to be sitting in her new church. It is in the town of Ichu, high in the mountains of Peru. Her church is called Saints Peter and Paul, in honor of the town’s special saints.

The church is only half finished, but people can sit inside. Maria was thinking about the old chapel that used to be here. It was too small to fit all the people at Mass each Sunday. Sometimes Maria and her family had to stand outside after they walked many miles from home for Mass. But still they came. Mama said it was very important for their family to join with other families in praising God each Sunday at Mass. Maria liked to sing and pray with her neighbors.

And every year in June for the feast of Saints Peter and Paul even more people would come to celebrate. Maria could picture them all singing and dancing and having a huge procession around the whole town and then having a special Mass with the bishop. Mama said the people of Ichu love to show how much they believe in Jesus, and when they gather together, they help each other grow stronger in following Jesus. But they needed a bigger church to do this.

They decided to ask the pastor, Father Bob, if they could

build a church where more people could fit. Father Bob said yes because he knew how generous the people were.

They had a meeting and Father Bob’s secretary wrote down how people said they would help build a new church. Some people said they would give money. Others offered supplies, like cement or steel rods. Others said they would share their time to do the building. Everyone kept their promise to help, like Maria’s grandma and other women, who cut big rocks and moved them to make room for the new church. Even people who had moved away helped in some way. And the family that lived next door gave up some of their land for the new church.

Father Bob was so proud of the people. He told them that the church is more than a building. It is people all working together to share God’s love.

As Maria looked around her new church, she felt proud too. The walls still needed to be painted and cement put on the roof, but the most important part of the church was there. It was the altar, where Father Bob would say the words of Jesus at Mass. Statues of Saints Peter and Paul were there too and a banner of Jesus. Maria felt at home. Soon her new church would be finished because everyone worked together.

DISCUSS:

What does Father Bob mean that the Church is more than a building?

What do people do in church?

Why did Maria's mom say people come to church?

ACTIVITY:

Draw a picture of your church and what people do there.