Our Church Family Has a Big Meeting

We Pray Together
Thank you God for giving us the Church to help us.
We are part of your family on earth.
Help us make others feel welcome too. Amen.

The Catholic Church
- The Church is God’s family.
- We live and grow together.
- We come from every part of the world.
- God wants everyone to be in his family.

- We open our hearts to all people. God loves all.

Activity
Draw a picture like this one. Be sure to include everyone in it who is part of the Church. Share the picture with your class and tell who is in it.
The Center of the Catholic Church is in Rome, Italy

Find **Rome** on this map and circle it.

The **Pope** is the visible head of the **Catholic Church**. His name is Pope Francis.

He lives in Rome in a special place called **Vatican City**.

From Vatican City, he leads the Catholic Church.

**What is Vatican City?**

It is a very small country within the City of Rome.

**St. Peter’s Basilica** is there. A basilica is a very large church. Everyone is welcome at Vatican City. It is the center of the Catholic Church for the whole world. Draw a “welcome sign” for all the people of the world.

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Pope John calls a big meeting!

Pope John XXIII loved the Church and all the People of God very much.

In 1959 he told everyone that he wanted all the bishops of the world to come to Rome in order to talk about how the Church could be more effective at doing the work Jesus asked us to do.

He told everyone he would call this big meeting by a special name: the Second Vatican Council. It is also called Vatican II, for short.

Everyone came! Everyone had ideas to help the Church!

Tell about a time when you were at a big party.
Opening Day: October 11, 1962

Everyone was very excited! The day had arrived when all the bishops of the world would finally meet.

They all came to Rome. The first thing they did was to celebrate Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica. It was a huge Mass.

The whole world watched on TV. The streets near the big basilica were crowded with people from all over the world who came to Rome because they wanted to see it.

At the end of the Mass, Pope John XXIII gave a speech. He told everyone what he wanted Vatican II to do.

1. Make the Church modern

2. Give hope to the people of the world

3. Unite all Christians

4. Help everyone live in peace
Getting to Know Vatican II

In what city were the bishops meeting?

_____________ , Italy

What was the name of their meeting?

The Second __________ Council

Who was the Pope who called the meeting?

Pope __________ XXIII

What did Pope John want Vatican II to do?

1. Make the Church __________

2. Give __________ to the people

3. __________ all Christians

4. Help everyone live in __________
# We learn these special words

Match the word on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Word</strong></th>
<th><strong>What it means</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Church</td>
<td>When all Christians are united as one in Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vatican City</td>
<td>The pope who called the Second Vatican Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>the Pope</td>
<td>The Church that Jesus started to be the family of God</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>The special place in Rome where the Pope lives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishops</td>
<td>All the baptized people of the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>the People of God</td>
<td>The city in which the Vatican is located</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Peter’s Basilica</td>
<td>The head of a local diocese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pope John XXIII</td>
<td>The big meeting of the Church where all the bishops and the pope met for 4 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>the Second Vatican Council (or Vatican II)</td>
<td>Pope John’s first goal for Vatican II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make the Church modern</td>
<td>The visible head of the Catholic Church (the real head is Jesus himself)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Unity</td>
<td>What Pope John wanted the world to have</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hope for the people of the world</td>
<td>The big church in Vatican City where Vatican II met</td>
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