

# Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA  
Pentecost Sunday • Year B • May 19, 2024



*Father of Glory,  
shine your truth into our hearts—*

*Alleluia!*

*Christ, Risen One,  
weave your love into our  
thoughts and actions—*

*Alleluia!*

*Holy Spirit, Advocate  
and Counselor,  
make us bold, fearless*

*disciples—*

*Alleluia!*

## Sunday Word

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104:1ab, 24ac, 29bc-30, 31, 34

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25

John 20:19-23 or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

### One Proclamation

The Spirit descends upon the disciples at Pentecost. Boldly empowered, they become Apostles of Jesus Christ, ambassadors for him. They speak in many different languages, but it is one and the same Good News message they proclaim.

### One Body

Paul teaches that just as the many parts of the body are one, so it is with Christ and his Body, the Church. The one Spirit into which we were baptized recreates us into one body.

### One Lord

As Jesus has been sent by the Father, so he sends his disciples. They will engage in the Lord's mission of peace and forgiveness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Catholic Doctrine: The Holy Spirit

### Third Person of the Blessed Trinity

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Both Hebrew and Christian Scriptures bear witness to the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit by many names, such as *Spirit of God*, *Breath of God*, *Paraclete*, and *Advocate*.

In the Creed, believers acclaim the Holy Spirit as

- The Lord and Giver of Life, who comes to us from the Father and the Son
- Co-equal in divinity along with the Father and the Son; therefore he is worshipped and glorified as God
- The One who in times past conveyed through the prophets the message of Salvation

### Jesus Present Through the Spirit

In the recitation of the Creed every Sunday, individual believers profess their faith in the Triune God, who acts to save us from sin, death, and evil. By professing the Creed, believers reaffirm

their rejection of Satan and the power of evil, and they confess their commitment to God, his kingdom, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the continuing work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit mediates the continuing presence of Jesus in the Church and in the world. To be in contact with Christ means that the believer must first be moved by or under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit kindles faith in the hearts of believers such that they can profess what they believe and act upon that confession of belief.

### *The Work of the Holy Spirit*

The work of the Spirit can be characterized in two major ways. First, the Holy Spirit can be understood as the sustaining presence of God in our individual lives and in the life of the Church. The Spirit gives the gifts of healing, unity, and love. The Spirit is the architect of the Church and a guide to those who pray. The Spirit is the animating breath of the Church's liturgical and sacramental life.

Second, the Holy Spirit can be understood as the source of surprise. Scripture refers to tongues of fire and the driving wind of Pentecost, which shook the Apostles and changed them. Jesus cast out demons by means of the power of the Spirit. New and sometimes radical movements in the history of the Church have claimed a basis in the Holy Spirit. Even beyond the bounds of the Church, the Spirit is at work, calling all peoples to one and the same divine destiny.

### *Distinctiveness of Church Teaching*

The Holy Spirit is many things: sustainer and giver of manifold gifts, architect of the Church, animator of liturgy, and heart of the sacraments. And yet the Holy Spirit is also the source that pushes believers out of complacency and empowers us to move beyond where we are at the present, the loving guide who continually surprises us at every turn in life with the amazing grace of God's challenge, abundant support, and blazing truth.

## **Key Terms**

### **MOST HOLY TRINITY**

Central mystery of the faith, wherein believers profess one God in Three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 234).

### **PENTECOST**

From Greek, *pentekoste hemera* or "fiftieth day," the seminal event taking place seven weeks after the Passover by which the Church, animated with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, is manifested to the world (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1076).

### **GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Permanent dispositions that enable believers to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit; the traditional list derives from Isaiah 11:1-3: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1830 and 1831).

## **Voices of Faith**

Through the baptism that liberates us from change and decay we have become one in body; through the Spirit we have become one in soul.

— Saint Irenaeus

The Holy Spirit enlightens us, revealing Christ crucified and risen, and shows us how to become more like Him so that we can be "the image and instrument of the love which flows from Christ."

— Pope Benedict XVI

## **Optional Resources**

### ***Catechism of the Catholic Church:***

684 (Spirit awakens faith), 686 (Trinitarian work to complete humanity's Salvation), 692 and 693 (titles of the Spirit)

### ***United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:***

Chapter 9 (Receive the Holy Spirit), especially the section entitled "The Holy Spirit Is Revealed Gradually," pages 104–106

### ***Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church:***

137 (joint mission of Son and Spirit), 139 (symbols of the Holy Spirit), 140 (significance of Spirit speaking through prophets), 145 (effect of Spirit in the Church)

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