

## Lesson 3: The Holy Spirit

Curriculum Goals:

- Understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the individual and of the Church.
- Being open to receive the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord) which are divine sources of strength and sustenance in the Christian life. The candidate needs to learn ways of remaining open to the power of the Holy Spirit, growing in relationship with God through prayer.

Lesson Plan Overview:

1. Intro and Prayer (3 mins)
2. Reflection Activity I: Power from On High (10 mins)
3. Confirmation Series Episode 3: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit (12 mins)
4. Discussion Questions and/or Worksheet Activity: Gifts of the Holy Spirit Word Search (10-20 mins)
5. Teacher Presentation II: The Graces and Gifts of the Holy Spirit (15 mins)
6. Closing Activity: Which Gift do you need? (10 mins)
7. Closing Prayer: (2 mins)

### 1) Introduction and Prayer

*\*It is recommended that you use Acts 2: 1-13, the Pentecost Story, as part of the opening prayer*

### 2) Reflection Activity I: Power from on High!

*Develop an activity in which the students are asked to imagine themselves in the upper room at the time of Pentecost. Using an Ignatian style of reflection, ask them what they would think and feel about what they would hear, see, and feel between the wind, the noise, and the tongues of fire. Try to make this reflection as prayerful as possible. The point of this activity is to try to deepen the students' awareness and appreciation of the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church.*

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**3) Confirmation Series Episode 3: The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit** *(These are the Key Points from the Catechism of the Catholic Church that are covered in the video. They are provided here in their entirety as a reference to aid your interaction with students should they have any questions after viewing the video.)*

- CCC 1303...Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:
  - it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";
  - it unites us more firmly to Christ;
  - it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
  - it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
  - it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross: Recall then that you have received
  - the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.
- CCC 1830 The moral life of Christians is sustained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are permanent dispositions which make man docile in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- ***CCC 1831 The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations: Let your good spirit lead me on a level path. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God . . . If children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.***
- CCC 1832 The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. the tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: "charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity."
- CCC 2670 Every time we begin to pray to Jesus it is the Holy Spirit who draws us on the way of prayer by his prevenient grace. Since he teaches us to pray by recalling Christ, how could we not pray to the Spirit too? That is why the Church invites us to call upon the Holy Spirit every day, especially at the beginning and the end of every important action.  
If the Spirit should not be worshiped, how can he divinize me through Baptism? If he should be worshiped, should he not be the object of adoration?
- CCC 2671 The traditional form of petition to the Holy Spirit is to invoke the Father through Christ our Lord to give us the Consoler Spirit. Jesus insists on this petition to be made in his name at the very moment when he promises the gift of the Spirit of Truth.

But the simplest and most direct prayer is also traditional, "Come, Holy Spirit," and every liturgical tradition has developed it in antiphons and hymns. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth, present everywhere and filling all things, treasure of all good and source of all life, come dwell in us, cleanse & save us, you who are All Good.

- CCC 2672 The Holy Spirit, whose anointing permeates our whole being, is the interior Master of Christian prayer. He is the artisan of the living tradition of prayer. To be sure, there are as many paths of prayer as there are persons who pray, but it is the same Spirit acting in all and with all. It is in the communion of the Holy Spirit that Christian prayer is prayer in the Church.

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#### **4) Discussion Questions and/or Worksheet Activity: The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit Word Search**

*Lead the group in the discussion questions from the video and/or distribute the worksheets for Confirmation Series Episode 3 and have the students complete them. Feel free to help those students that are struggling.*

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**5) Teacher Presentation: The Holy Spirit, the “Paraclete,” Key Points** *(Use these annotated paragraphs from the Catechism of the Catholic Church to prepare a brief presentation on the topic. Also, feel free to draw on appropriate personal experiences of how the Holy Spirit has moved in your heart during critical moments of prayer or decision making.)*

- CCC 683 "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit." "God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" This knowledge of faith is possible only in the Holy Spirit: to be in touch with Christ, we must first have been touched by the Holy Spirit. He comes to meet us and kindles faith in us. By virtue of our Baptism, the first sacrament of the faith, the Holy Spirit in the Church communicates to us, intimately and personally, the life that originates in the Father and is offered to us in the Son. Baptism gives us the grace of new birth in God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit. For those who bear God's Spirit are led to the Word, that is, to the Son, and the Son presents them to the Father, and the Father confers incorruptibility on them. and it is impossible to see God's Son without the Spirit, and no one can approach the Father without the Son, for the knowledge of the Father is the Son, and the knowledge of God's Son is obtained through the Holy Spirit.
- CCC 684 Through his grace, the Holy Spirit is the first to awaken faith in us and to communicate to us the new life, which is to "know the Father and the one whom he has sent, Jesus Christ." But the Spirit is the last of the persons of the Holy Trinity to be revealed. St. Gregory of Nazianzus, the Theologian, explains this progression in terms of the pedagogy of divine "condescension": The Old Testament proclaimed the Father clearly, but the Son more obscurely. the New Testament revealed the Son and gave us a glimpse of the divinity of the Spirit. Now the Spirit dwells among us and grants us a clearer vision of himself. It was not prudent, when the divinity of the Father had not yet been confessed, to proclaim the Son openly and, when the divinity of the Son was not yet admitted, to add the Holy Spirit as an extra burden, to speak somewhat daringly.... By advancing and progressing "from glory to glory," the light of the Trinity will shine in ever more brilliant rays.
- CCC 685 To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial with the Father and the Son: "with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified." For this reason, the divine mystery of the Holy Spirit was already treated in the context of Trinitarian "theology." Here, however, we have to do with the Holy Spirit only in the divine "economy."
- CCC 686 The Holy Spirit is at work with the Father and the Son from the beginning to the completion of the plan for our salvation. But in these "end times," ushered in by the Son's redeeming Incarnation, the Spirit is revealed and given, recognized and welcomed as a person. Now can this divine plan, accomplished in Christ, the firstborn and head of the new creation, be embodied in mankind by the outpouring of the Spirit: as the Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

- CCC 1302 It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

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## 6) Closing Activity: What Gifts do you Need?

*Conclude with a brief reflection activity in which students consider what spiritual gifts they would like most in their lives. It should be emphasized that these gifts need not be miraculous gifts like walking on water or the power to heal people. These should be spiritual gifts like peace, joy, kindness, etc. They should create a list of 3-5 of these and, if time permits, be given the opportunity to share with the class. The point of this activity is to encourage students to reflect on the need we all have for spiritual gifts and to set up the next presentation about the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*

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## 7) Closing Prayer

Additional Lesson Suggestions:

-The Holy Spirit is often the most neglected of the three persons in the Trinity. This class provides a good opportunity for students to “get to know” the Holy Spirit, both in understanding some basics about Him, but also in understanding how to pray with and to the Holy Spirit.