

## The Gift of the Holy Spirit

*'The Christian faithful are those who, inasmuch as they have been incorporated in Christ through Baptism, have been constituted as the people of God; for this reason, since they have become sharers in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and royal office in their own manner, they are called to exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfil in the world, in accord with the condition proper to each one.'*  
[CCC 871]

Through Baptism we become people of God, members of the faith community the Church, and receive the gift of God's life, the Holy Spirit.

*'Holy Spirit' is the proper name of the one whom we adore and glorify with the Father and the Son. The Church has received this name from the Lord and professes it in the Baptism of her new children.* [CCC 691]

The Holy Spirit guides and strengthens us as we strive to follow the example of Jesus in our words, thoughts and actions. The Holy Spirit helps us become closer to God, and empowers us to make Christ present in the world.

*'...the faithful, who by Baptism are incorporated into Christ and integrated into the People of God, are made sharers in their particular way in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ, and have their own part to play in the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the World.'* [CCC 897]

We can call on the Holy Spirit to help us live as good members of the faith community the Church, through prayer, reading and reflecting on the Scriptures, and by attending Mass.

As we draw on the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us we are more able to:

- stand up for what we believe
- bear with one another in times of struggle and conflict
- resolve differences with love and patience
- share our gifts, skills and possessions
- become aware of the needs of others
- care for others
- participate more fully in the life of the Church

Through such actions, Christians model the words and actions of Jesus in everyday life. They make Christ visible in the world by actively participating in the life and mission of the Church.

As baptised members of the Church, we enter into a relationship with Christ by serving the people of God, the Church community who profess to share in his life.

*This recognition of Christ's presence in the community should lead to a stronger awareness of being sent on mission to engage in love-inspired action in the world. Incorporated into Christ's Body, Sent on Christ's Mission.*

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### MAIN TEACHING AND LEARNING POINTS

- Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us live as good members of the faith community, the Church.

### LIFE EXPERIENCE

Ask children to recall the people who help them to participate in the life of the faith community, the Church. The following questions may be useful to stimulate discussion.

- **Who are some of the people that help you to participate in the life of the faith community, the Church?**
  - mum and dad, brothers, sisters, grandparents, godparents, aunts and uncles, catechists, teachers, religious brothers and sisters, priests
- **How do these people help you to participate in the life of the faith community, the Church?**
  - by helping me to understand and learn the importance of being involved in the faith community
  - by being an example to me of how to participate in the life of the faith community, the Church
  - by taking me to Church on the weekend
  - by showing me how to love and show concern for those in the faith community

### GOD'S WORD

**Acts 2:38-39, 41-42**

**Parent:** A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Peter said to them, 'Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit.*

*For God's promise was made to you and your children, and to all who are far away — all whom the Lord our God calls to himself.'*

*Many of them believed his message and were baptised, and about 3,000 people were added to the group that day. They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers. [GNT]*

The Word of the Lord.

**Child responds: Thanks be to God.**

### FOCUS QUESTIONS

Children reflect on the ways they can call on the Holy Spirit to help them live as good members of the faith community, the Church, in their daily lives.

- **How can we call on the Holy Spirit to help us live as good members of the faith community, the Church?**
- **What can we ask of the Holy Spirit to help us live as good members of the faith community, the Church?**
- **What are some of the ways others can see the Holy Spirit at work within us?**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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|-----------------|--|
| <b>Parent</b>   | Let us pray to the Holy Spirit to help us live as good members of the faith community, the Church. Come Holy Spirit, fill us with the gift of courage to stand up for our beliefs. |
| <b>Response</b> | Come Holy Spirit.  |
| <b>Parent</b>   | Come Holy Spirit, alert us to the needs of others, to be good, kind and gentle.  |
| <b>Response</b> | Come Holy Spirit.  |
| <b>Parent</b>   | Come Holy Spirit, strengthen us to have faith and trust in you.  |
| <b>Response</b> | Come Holy Spirit.  |
| <b>Parent</b>   | Come Holy Spirit, guide us to live as Jesus taught.  |
| <b>Response</b> | Come Holy Spirit.  |
| <b>Parent</b>   | Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love.  |
| <b>All</b>      | Amen.  |

