

I Believe in the Holy Spirit

A Pentecost Prayer

Side 1: I saw the Lord ever before me,
with him at my right hand I shall not be
disturbed.

Side 2: [M]y heart has been glad and
my tongue has exulted;...
because you will not abandon
my soul to the netherworld,...

All: You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.

—Acts 2:25–28



Live It Out

Have you ever been challenged or criticized for your faith? How did you respond? How can the Holy Spirit help you when you face such challenges?

And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

At the time of Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, he spoke a final time to the Apostles, reassuring them that he would not abandon them. He promised them that they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit and that it would make them his witnesses to the end of the earth. (See Acts 1:8–9.) In the following Scripture passage, we read about the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at **Pentecost**, in fulfillment of Christ's promise.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And, suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language? We are Parthians, Medes, Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

—Acts 2:1–11

START LIVING



When the Apostles received the Holy Spirit they were able to speak to the crowds gathered about God and be understood by all people. It is not always easy to speak to others about our faith with confidence.

How can the Holy Spirit help you when you need to speak about your faith?

When you are called upon to stand up for your faith, how might the Holy Spirit work in others to allow them to be more open to your words?

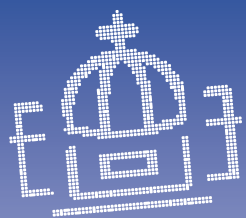
Stop and Think

Choose a phrase from the Scripture reading that creates a vivid image of the Holy Spirit for you. What feelings does this phrase and its imagery give you?

KNOW it!

Pentecost

the day on which the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples, with Mary present among them; Pentecost marks the birth of the Church



OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION

*"I will ask the Father
and he will give you
another Advocate to
be with you always."*

—John 14:16

The Holy Spirit Shares in Jesus' Mission

Throughout the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit plays an important role in God's work of creation and salvation. In the Book of Genesis, the Story of Creation speaks of a mighty wind that swept over the waters. (See Genesis 1:2.) The Holy Spirit also appears in the story of the Israelites' exodus out of Egypt, when God guided them through the desert with a column of clouds and a column of fire. (See Exodus 13:21.) Other references to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament are associated with the prophets, who deliver God's message when the "spirit of God" comes upon them. (See, for example, 2 Chronicles 15:1.)

The Holy Spirit's greatest participation in God's work of salvation can be witnessed in the New Testament, beginning with the Incarnation, when by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary conceived Jesus, the Savior. Other instances where the Holy Spirit is present in the New Testament include Jesus' baptism, when the Holy Spirit descends like a dove (see Luke 3:21–22), and when John the Baptist promises his followers that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 3:11). Later in the Gospels, Jesus himself promises his disciples that the Father will send them an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, in his name, to be with them always (see John 14:16, 26). This promise was fulfilled on the first Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles, with Mary present among them. This event is sometimes called the birth of the Church, because it was then that, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were able to begin their work of **evangelization** and to baptize in Jesus' name. The Holy Spirit continues to build up the Church and make it holy.

In the Gospels, as in the Church today, the role of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, is interconnected with that of Jesus. Whenever God the Father sends the Son, he also sends his Spirit. While each has a unique role, their mission is the same, and together they build up the Church and make it holy.



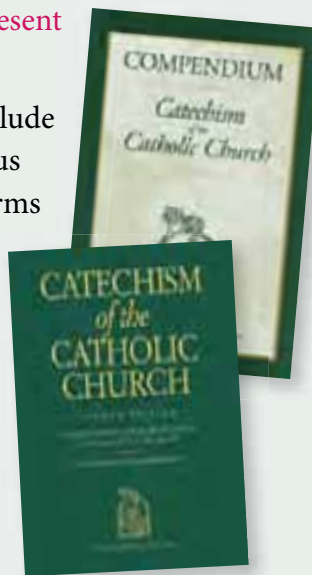
CATECHISM Q&A

Q. What symbols are used to represent the Holy Spirit?

A. Symbols for the Holy Spirit include the *dove*, which descended on Jesus at his baptism; *fire*, which transforms what it touches; *living water*, which quenches the thirst of the baptized; and *anointing* with oil, as is done in the Sacrament of Confirmation. (See *Compendium*, Question 139; CCC, 964–701.)

Q. What is the work of the Holy Spirit in Mary?

A. All the waiting and preparation of the Old Testament for the coming of the Messiah was fulfilled in Mary. Mary conceived the Son of God by the power of the Holy Spirit; as the mother of the Son of God she became the mother of the whole Church. (See *Compendium*, Question 142; CCC, 744.)



Calendar Connection Vatican II

WHO Pope John XXIII and 2,500 bishops from around the world

WHAT The Second Vatican Council

WHEN October 11, 1962 (opening day) until 1965

WHERE St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

WHY To reaffirm the unchanging truths of the Catholic Church and to examine ways to communicate them to people in the modern world

KNOW and BELIEVE

When the Apostles received the Holy Spirit they found the wisdom and the courage to express their beliefs. Describe a situation you might encounter with your friends or peers when you would benefit from the help of the Holy Spirit.

KNOW it!

evangelization

the proclaiming of the Good News of Jesus and the love of God through word and witness

SAINTLY profiles

The Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and enabled them to share the Good News of Jesus with all people and to be understood by them. In the same way, the Holy Spirit has helped many saints as well as ordinary people to work for the Church and strengthen it. Saint Catherine of Siena is one of these people.

Saint Catherine of Siena 1347–1380

Catherine of Siena was born in 1347 in Siena, Italy. At age sixteen, Catherine joined the Dominican Third Order, and devoted as much of her time as possible to prayer. At age twenty she felt called by God to abandon her life of solitude and to become active in the world.

Catherine's most important response to this call was in helping resolve conflicts about the papacy. Although from the time of the early Church the Pope had resided in Rome, since 1309, popes had lived in Avignon, in France, and were believed to be completely under French control. Through her extensive correspondence with Pope Gregory XI, Catherine was able to persuade him to return to Rome from Avignon in 1377.

Although Catherine never had any formal education, she had a brilliant mind and was known for her wisdom and wrote with great insight on matters of theology.



ALL ABOUT SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

- ✿ The youngest of twenty-five children of a wool dyer from Siena, Italy
- ✿ As a Dominican tertiary, or lay member of the Dominican Order, cared for cancer patients, lepers, and condemned prisoners
- ✿ Known for advising popes and for her great writings
- ✿ Her *Dialogues of Saint Catherine* among the most brilliant writings in the Church
- ✿ Suffered a stroke and died at age 33
- ✿ Relics enshrined in Siena and Venice
- ✿ Canonized in 1461

FEAST DAY: April 29 **PATRONAGE:** Rome, Europe, headache sufferers

MAKE IT HAPPEN

When the Church was threatened by the conflict over the papacy, Catherine of Siena worked to help resolve the conflict. As Catholics, we are all called to work for the good of the Church, yet our role doesn't have to be as impressive as Saint Catherine's. We can make simpler contributions, starting at our own parishes.

Describe one way you can get involved at your parish to help it in its work of evangelization.



KNOW IT!



Ichthus (IK'thes)

"Ichthus" is a Greek word meaning "fish." Early Christians used the term to represent the phrase "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior." In Greek, the first letter of each word in that phrase spells "ichthus," or *fish*.

LET US PRAY

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts
of your faithful.*

*And kindle in them the
fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and
they shall be created.*

*And you shall renew the
face of the earth.*

YOUR TURN



Complete the following sentences, using words from the box.
Not all words will be used.

- 1 The day on which the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples is _____.
- 2 The proclaiming of the Good News of Jesus and the love of God through word and witness is called _____.
- 3 _____ is one of the symbols used to represent the Holy Spirit.
- 4 The Holy Spirit's greatest participation in God's work of salvation can be witnessed in the New Testament, beginning with _____.
- 5 Saint Catherine of Siena convinced Pope Gregory XI to move back to Rome from _____.
- 6 Together, Jesus and the Holy Spirit build up _____ and make it holy.

fire
the Church
Pentecost
evangelization
the Incarnation
Avignon
Bologna
water

Respond to the following.

In what ways did Saint Catherine of Siena contribute to the work of building up the Church?

How can you use your mind and intellect to work for the good of the Church?
