

# Lesson 4

## LEARNING GOALS

- To understand that
- the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.
- the Holy Spirit participates in God's work of salvation.
- the Holy Spirit continues to build up the Church and make her holy.

## MATERIALS

### Sacred Scripture Optional Activity

- Writing paper
- Pens or pencils

### Our Catholic Tradition Optional Activity

- Fine art or other image of Pentecost

## ✝ A PENTECOST PRAYER

Arrange the young people into two sides in preparation for the prayer.

- Explain that the words of the opening prayer come from Psalm 16, and were said by Saint Peter after the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles after Jesus' Ascension.

**Say,** Let us praise God for the guidance he gives us through the Holy Spirit.

- Invite the two sides to alternate in praying aloud the prayer.

## 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:** [My 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?

## CATECHIST BACKGROUND

The Holy Spirit is an integral part of salvation history. While the Spirit is active in the Old Testament, it is with the Incarnation, the Word becoming flesh, that the Spirit's participation in our salvation becomes paramount. At Pentecost, the Spirit descends upon the Apostles and impels them forth to proclaim the Gospel. The Spirit is active in the Church today in the Sacraments, in the Scriptures, and in the hearts of believers. (CCC, 683–716, 1091–1109)

### Live It Out

Help the young people prepare for the lesson with time for quiet reflection. Invite them to silently read "Live It Out" and to quietly respond to the reflection questions.



## SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the introduction at the top of page 42. Explain to the group that in today's Scripture reading they will hear how Jesus' promise to the Apostles that he would never leave them was fulfilled.

## THE READING

Tell the young people that they will now hear a New Testament Scripture reading. Explain that this passage from the New Testament is one that they would hear at Mass.

Invite a volunteer to stand and proclaim the reading, and to conclude by saying, "The word of the Lord." To this, have the group respond, "Thanks be to God."

Lead the group in discussing the Scripture. Ask:

- What was the visible symbol of the Holy Spirit as it descended upon the Apostles? (*tongues of fire; flames*)
- What is another symbol of the Holy Spirit that we encounter in this Scripture passage? (*a strong wind*)
- What effect did the presence of the Holy Spirit have on the Apostles? (*They were able to speak the Gospel and be understood by those who did not speak their language.*)



# BIBLE BOOST

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

**The Coming of the Holy Spirit**

**A**t 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*

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## FYI – Parish Ministries

### Catechists

As young people work to grow in their faith and become fully participating members of the Catholic Church, they are guided and instructed by catechists—parish volunteers who teach them the beliefs and practices of our faith. It is through the work of catechists, under the direction of their pastor and the director of religious education, that young people prepare to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, as well as Confirmation, for the first time.

# 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

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## START LIVING

To prepare the young people to respond to this activity, direct them to recall times when they have had to speak about their faith and the challenges posed.

Instruct the young people to silently read the reflection and write their responses. When everyone has finished, invite volunteers to share their responses.

## STOP AND THINK

Have the group read the instructions for this activity. Invite volunteers to suggest possible phrases and to explain why these might inspire them to trust God.

You might consider having the group respond to this reflection in the form of a word association. Have them choose a symbol from the reading and draw it in the center of a piece of drawing paper, then surround it with inspiring words they associate with that image.

## KNOW IT!

As you reach the end of each segment of this lesson, review with the young people the meaning of the key words they have learned.

### Optional Activity: God Meets Our Spiritual Needs

- Distribute sheets of paper and pens or pencils.
- Ask the young people to draw a dividing line down the center of the paper. Then have them label one side "My spiritual needs" and list three needs, such as *Pray more* or *Be a good example to my younger brother*. Have the group label the other column "How God helps me" and list gifts from God that help them in their spiritual needs, such as *the Mass* or *Jesus' words in the Bible*.
- Invite volunteers to share what they have written.





## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION

Read aloud the Scripture quote at the top of page 44. Engage the group in a brief discussion of what this statement means. (For example: Jesus is promising his disciples that God will send the Holy Spirit to be with them and guide them always.)

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the first paragraph on page 44. Ask:

- Why is it important to know about the Holy Spirit's presence in the Old Testament? (*Responses should reflect an understanding that the Holy Spirit has been at work in the lives of God's people since the time of Creation.*)

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the remaining two paragraphs. Ask:

- Why is the Incarnation the Holy Spirit's greatest participation in God's work of salvation? (*It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that Mary became the mother of the Savior, and it is through the birth of Jesus that our salvation and redemption became possible.*)
- Why do we say that Pentecost marks the birth of the Church? (*It was then that the Apostles were able to begin proclaiming the good news of Jesus and to baptize in his name.*)



## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION

### *The Holy Spirit Shares in Jesus' Mission*

**T**hroughout 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.

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"I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always."  
—John 14:16



## *Tips for the Catechist*

Using their own words to express the contents of the lesson allows the young people the opportunity to think analytically about and better comprehend what has been taught. You may wish to have the young people create questions and answers based on this lesson, using the following guidelines: Ask questions that can be answered in just a few words. Answers for all questions must be found in the lesson.



## CATECHISM Q&A

Direct the young people to silently read the Catechism Q&A. Then reinforce what they have read with the following questions:

- What are some symbols for the Holy Spirit? (*a dove, fire, living water, and anointing with oil*)
- Why do we say that all the waiting and preparation of the Old Testament for the coming of the Messiah was fulfilled in Mary? (*because Mary conceived the Son of God, the Messiah*)

Refer to the *Compendium* and *Catechism* for more information on the Q&A.

Locate the question or paragraph numbers noted here.

Have the young people write their responses to **Know and Believe** in the space provided. Invite volunteers to share their responses.

Read aloud the **Calendar Connection**. Invite volunteers to share an interesting fact they learned about the Second Vatican Council or about the Church.

### Optional Activity: Reflecting on Pentecost

- Arrange the young people into small groups.
- Display a fine art or other image of Pentecost. Ask the group to silently reflect on what feelings those present at Pentecost might have experienced. Then direct them to imagine how they might have felt if they had been present at this event.
- After allowing time for silent reflection, direct the young people to share with the members of their group feelings they might have experienced if they had been present at Pentecost.

## SAINTLY PROFILES

### Saint Catherine of Siena

Read aloud the introduction. Then invite a volunteer to read aloud the story of Saint Catherine. To review what has been read, ask:

- What papal conflict did Saint Catherine help resolve? (*Starting in 1309, popes had lived in Avignon, France, instead of Rome, and were believed to be under French control. In 1377, in part because of Saint Catherine's influence, Pope Gregory XI returned to Rome.*)
- What did Catherine's statement that those who desire the glory of God must exercise themselves in the ordinary virtues mean? (*To show our love for God, we do not need to make grand gestures; instead, we must follow his will in every action we take, even the smallest.*)
- Why does the Church honor Saint Catherine of Siena? (*for her holiness, her contribution to resolving a papal conflict, and her great writings*)

Direct the young people to read **All About Saint Catherine of Siena**. Point out the date of her feast days, and that Saint Catherine was named a doctor of the Church. Then invite volunteers to share an interesting fact they learned about Saint Catherine from this snapshot.

## 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



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### More About...

#### THE AVIGNON PAPACY

Pope Clement V (1305–1314) was elected Pope by the influence of King Philip IV of France. In 1309, Pope Clement moved the papal court from Rome to Avignon, in southern France, where it remained until 1377. Seven popes, all French-speaking, resided in Avignon, until Pope Gregory XI (1370–1378) re-established the papal residence in Rome.



## 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.



## MAKE IT HAPPEN

Read aloud the activity instructions, then instruct the young people to write their responses in the space provided. Invite volunteers to share what they have written.

Read aloud **Know It!** Ask the young people if they are familiar with this symbol, and to name places where they have seen it used.

## ✝ LET US PRAY

### A Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Explain that the closing prayer for today asks for the Holy Spirit's blessing and guidance.

Direct the young people to stand for the prayer, and invite the group to join together in praying aloud.

## KNOW IT!



Ichthys (IK'thes)

"Ichthys" 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 "ichthys," 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.*

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## MUSIC CONNECTIONS

The following are some suggestions for Catholic music you may choose to use during prayer, or to play quietly while the young people complete the activities or lesson review.

- "Holy Spirit," Ken Canedo, *Never Too Young* #233
- "Come, Holy Ghost/En Nuestro Ser Mora, Creador," *Cross Generations* #16
- "Lay Down That Spirit," Joe Mattingly, *Voices as One* Vol. 1 #52

Go to [faithfusion.com](http://faithfusion.com) for information on ordering or downloading these selections.

## YOUR TURN

### Reviewing the Lesson

This page serves as a review of the key learning goals for this lesson.

- To assess the young people's understanding, direct them to complete the lesson review. Allow them to look back at the pages of the lesson to find answers they cannot locate on their own.
- When everyone has finished, review together the answers to part A.
- Invite volunteers to share their responses to the questions in part B.
- Review any content that was not clearly understood.

## ACRE CONNECTION

The content in this lesson correlates to the following objectives in

### “Domain 1: God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit”

- To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Trinity: A community of three persons in one indivisible God and the central mystery of faith
- God the Holy Spirit: God's sanctifying power in the life of the Church

### “Domain 6: Church History”

- Pope Pius X and age of communion; U.S. Church and immigrants; restoration of the catechumenate; Vatican II; ecumenism; Pope John Paul II; Saint Katharine Drexel; Bishop Oscar Romero; Dorothy Day

### Words from “Catholic Faith

**Literacy”:** Pentecost, evangelization, Vatican Council II

## 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 Pentecost.
- 2 The proclaiming of the Good News of Jesus and the love of God through word and witness is called evangelization.
- 3 Fire 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 the Incarnation.
- 5 Saint Catherine of Siena convinced Pope Gregory XI to move back to Rome from Avignon.
- 6 Together, Jesus and the Holy Spirit build up the Church 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?

Answers will vary.

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

Answers will vary.

## ANSWER LOCATOR

- | A     | B            |
|-------|--------------|
| 1. 42 | See page 46. |
| 2. 45 |              |
| 3. 45 |              |
| 4. 44 |              |
| 5. 46 |              |
| 6. 44 |              |