

5:30 Introductions

5:35 Opening Prayer from John 14:15-20

5:40 The Holy Spirit

Another Advocate?

What is a Paraclete? (powerpoint slide, handout)

DP 8.1, Who is the Holy Spirit? (9:12)

<http://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation/view-program/session-8/>

The Holy Spirit in the Bible

6:20 Walk Through the Rite of Confirmation (powerpoint slide)

6:25 The Laying on of Hands -- Hands (powerpoint slide)

6:30 The Laying on of Hands – Gifts (powerpoint slides, handout)

6:50 Homework

Closing Prayer = Asking for a Gift of the Holy Spirit +

“Spirit of the Living God” by (youtube video (3:09))

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BagH-zTfnsQ>

7:00 Depart!

### **Introductions**

- Liz – Welcome, Housekeeping, Sign in on Attendance Sheet, Cell Phones.
- Permanent Small Group Facilitators – Dave (Cate) Selfors and Larry Trunec.
- Parent Small Group Facilitators – Kasprzak (excused), Miller (Davis sub), and Mueller.

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **The Holy Spirit**

(See NABRE notes on John 14:16)

- Another Advocate?

In the reading from the opening prayer, Jesus says that he is going to send “another Advocate.” Why “another advocate?” That means there was already an advocate! Jesus is the first advocate. Jesus is an advocate in the sense that he is an intercessor in heaven.

The New Testament was written in Greek and the Greek term for Advocate is Paraclete. The Greek word Paraclete derives from legal terminology for an advocate or defense attorney, and can mean spokesman, mediator, intercessor, comforter, and consoler. No one of these terms encompasses the meaning in the Gospel of John.

The Paraclete in John is a teacher, a witness to Jesus, and a prosecutor of the world, who represents the continued presence on earth of the Jesus who has returned to the Father.

- What is a Paraclete (powerpoint slide, handout w/Gerard Manley Hopkins quote)
- DP 8.1, Who Is The Holy Spirit? (9:12)
- The Holy Spirit in the Bible

Make sure each participant has a handout and puts his/her name on it. The handout has 5 images of the Holy Spirit from Scripture – Dove, Oil, Fire, Breath/Wind, and Water. The order of the images is roughly the order that the corresponding Scripture stories occur in the Bible.

Explain to the adult leaders that they are to facilitate this activity – make sure that a volunteer reads the Scripture passage, then have the youth draw a picture of that image with the markers, then discuss the reflection questions. Each image is given about 5 minutes or so. Then go on to the next image.

At the end, briefly discuss each Scripture passage so folks get a sense of the timeline – also have a youth share his/her drawing for that image.

### **Walk Through the Rite of Confirmation** (powerpoint slide) (See Anointed in the Spirit ST 120-123)

Last session (November!) we walked through the Rite of Confirmation using this slide. The same information is repeated below, only if needed! We will be walking through the Rite during our remaining classes. Last session we focused on the Presentation of the Candidates and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. This session focuses on the The Laying on of Hands.

- **Introductory Rites** – Candidates and sponsors will process in before the opening procession. You will be seated together. The presider is Auxiliary Bishop TBD.
- **Liturgy of the Word** – As in a regular Mass. Readings are selected from a list of those for Confirmation. You will have probably heard these readings in class!
- **Presentation of the Candidates** – A leader from the parish will present you to the Bishop and you will stand in place. Due to the small size of the group, you will be called by name. Echoes being called by name at Baptism – even if you selected a new name.
- **Homily** – As in a regular Mass. The homilist is the Bishop. The focus is Confirmation!
- **Renewal of Baptismal Promises** – Expresses the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation. You and the other candidates are asked to make your own promises -- to denounce Satan and profess belief in God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and the Church.

- **The Laying on of Hands** – The Bishop prays to God the Father to send the Holy Spirit upon you to be your Helper and Guide. He prays that the Father will give you the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit. More on those later! The Bishop and the priests lay hands on the candidates. Due to the small size of the group, you will come forward in procession for them to lay hands on you individually.
- **The Anointing with Chrism** – This is the heart of the Sacrament of Confirmation! You and your sponsor will go up to the Archbishop as a pair. Your sponsor will place his/her right hand on your shoulder. Your sponsor will present you to the Bishop with the name you have chosen for Confirmation. You will also have an index card with the name that you turn in to an assistant to hold up for the Bishop. The Bishop will talk to you for a few minutes! And he will have read your letter! And he will ask you questions about the name that you chose! Be prepared! Then the Bishop will say your name and then “be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” You respond, “Amen.” As you are doing this, the Bishop is making the sign of the cross on your forehead with the Holy Oil called Sacred Chrism. The Bishop then says, “Peace be with you.” You respond, “And with your spirit.” This exchange of peace is a sign of the bond we have with one another and with the Bishop.
- Universal Prayer (petitions) -- As in a regular Mass. Of course including you!
- Liturgy of the Eucharist -- As in a regular Mass. Highlights the close connection between Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Concluding Rites – As in regular Mass, but more solemn. We are sent forth to love and serve the Lord. But...with the new strength of Confirmation!

### **The Laying on of Hands – Hands**

(See Anointed in the Spirit CT 58-60, 68-69 and ST 57)

- Hands in General (powerpoint slide)

Hand gestures can convey a great deal of meaning. Here is just one example of what you can say with just your hands. Hands not only convey meaning but are used for just about everything we do. In addition to hands themselves, part of what conveys meaning and makes hands so important is the sense of touch. The human touch is a significant part of our everyday lives. We would feel lonely without it. A person's hands can also cause great harm. Touch can be used inappropriately by both adults and teens. However, human touch is mostly good and makes us feel connected to other people.

- Hands in the Bible

In the Old Testament the symbol of the human hand is used to show God's power (Exodus). Jesus used the sense of touch to heal people and to show God's power. We see tenderness and compassion in Jesus' touch. Finally, the laying on of hands is a sign of the Holy Spirit. When the disciples laid hands on someone, it was a sign of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

- Hands in Confirmation

During the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Bishop and other priests will lay hands on you individually. Recall how much hands can convey care, concern, love, pride, healing, and strength. Remember the power of hands in the Scriptures. When the Bishop lays his hands on you, he will ask the Father to pour out the Holy Spirit so that you will be strengthened with the Spirit's gifts. The Bishop's hand does not control the Spirit, but it is a sign of what the Spirit is doing!

### **The Laying on of Hands -- Gifts**

- Gifts in General (powerpoint slide)

Remember a time when you received a great gift, perhaps your favorite birthday gift or the best Christmas gift ever. Think about what made it special. Then share in your small group.

- Gifts in the Bible (powerpoint slide)

The prophet Isaiah wrote hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus. In this passage, he talks about the Messiah who is to come. Listen closely when Isaiah lists the gifts that the Messiah will have -- the Spirit's gifts.

In the tradition of Isaiah, the Spirit of the Lord was a divine power given by God to a person to fulfill some difficult mission that the person would be unable to do without help. The Spirit of the Lord helped the person to fulfill his or her mission. The Spirit's gifts belong to Jesus Christ, the Messiah, fully and completely. In Confirmation the Spirit will strengthen you with these same gifts. The gifts help us to live more fully and completely as followers of Jesus, sharing love with others.

- Gifts in Confirmation (handout, powerpoint slides)  
(See Anointed in the Spirit CT 69-77 and ST 70-81)

There are many Gifts of the Holy Spirit, but the Church calls out 7 specific Gifts. As we just saw, the 7 originate in the Book of the prophet Isaiah. In the Bible, the number 7 is a symbolic number. 7 and multiples of 7 (70, for example) mean perfection or completion or fullness. One example of this is that God finished the work of creating the world on the 7<sup>th</sup> day and rested (Genesis 2:2). Another is when Jesus talks about forgiving others 77 times (Matthew 18:22). So using the number 7 with the Gifts of the Spirit says that the fullness of the Spirit's gifts will be given to you.

Using the powerpoint slides, discuss a few of these questions for each of the 7 gifts:

- Where do you feel <this gift of the HS> ?
- What does a person with <this gift of the HS> look like?
- Where have you used <this gift of the HS> in your life?
- What does <this gift of the HS> mean to you ?
- Where have you learned about <this gift of the HS> ?
- Who are people that show <this gift of the HS> and why?

At Confirmation, during the Laying on of Hands, the Bishop will pray that God sends the Holy Spirit upon you with its 7 gifts. This does not mean the Holy Spirit is not with you now! The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to all the baptized and to the Church itself. Each Sacrament emphasizes different aspects of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, the Holy Spirit takes away sin and makes us a new creation. In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit strengthens us and makes us more like Jesus Christ.

Your response is to open your heart to the Holy Spirit. It is a free gift – or rather, it is 7 free gifts! The gifts are to be used for others – for the building up of the Church and the transformation of the world! With them, you will be empowered to more fully participate in the mission of Jesus and his Church: to bring people into the love of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Just a word about the Trinity – sometimes we talk about God the Father, or Jesus, or the Holy Spirit rather individually. Please know that the Trinity is really inseparable. Whenever one person of the Trinity acts, the entire Trinity acts. God sends the Son, the Son walks the earth, and the Spirit animates it all! The same is true with Confirmation – we talk a lot about the Spirit, but it is God who sends the Spirit and it is Jesus who lives in the Spirit.

Invite the candidates to review the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit and then choose 1 to focus on for their Confirmation. Have them complete the questions on the handout.

The Fruits of the Spirit (handout front)

Collect the Holy Spirit in the Bible and the Gifts of the Spirit handouts.

### **Homework**

### **Closing Prayer**

## Opening Prayer

**LEADER** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL** Amen.

**LEADER** The Gospel of John has a section called the “Last Supper Discourses.” As the name suggests, this section is a series of talks that Jesus gives at his last supper. As you might imagine, what Jesus chooses to say at his last supper is very important! And Jesus says a lot -- three whole chapters worth! So let us listen to some of the words of Jesus.

**READER** A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

**ALL** Glory to you, Lord!

**READER** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.  
And I will ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always,  
the Spirit of truth,  
which the world cannot accept,  
because it neither sees nor knows it.  
But you know it,  
because it remains with you,  
and will be in you.  
I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.  
In a little while the world will no longer see me,  
but you will see me,  
because I live  
and you will live.  
On that day you will realize that I am in my Father  
and you are in me  
and I in you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL** Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

**LEADER** Jesus promised the disciples that he would send a helper, the Holy Spirit. And Jesus told the disciples that not only would the Spirit stay *with* them, but the Spirit would be *in* them. Today we will continue to look at how the Holy Spirit is with us and in us through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Let us pray. Loving God, guide us today as we seek to better understand your Holy Spirit. Give us grateful hearts for all you do for us. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

**ALL** Amen.

## But What is a Paraclete?

“But what is a Paraclete? Often it is translated Comforter, but a Paraclete does more than comfort. The word is Greek; there is no one English word for it and no one Latin word; Comforter is not enough. A Paraclete is one who comforts, who cheers, who encourages, who persuades, who exhorts, who stirs up, who urges forward, who calls on; what the spur and word of command is to a horse, what clapping of hands is to a speaker, what a trumpet is to the soldier, that a Paraclete is to the soul: ONE WHO CALLS US ON, that is what it means, a Paraclete is one who calls us on to good.

One sight is before my mind; it is homely but it comes home: you have seen at cricket how when one of the batsmen at the wicket had made a hit and wants to score a run....how eagerly the first will cry: Come on, come on! A Paraclete is just that, something that cheers the spirit of man, with signals and with cries, all zealous that he should do something and full of assurance that if he will he can, calling him on, springing to meet him halfway, crying to his ears or to his heart: This way to do God’s Will, this way to save your soul, come on, come on!”

*By Father Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ*

*Excerpt from a sermon preached at St. Francis Xavier's, Liverpool, on Sunday, April 25th, 1880, on the text John 16:7-11. Found at <http://archive.thetablet.co.uk/article/14th-november-1936/9/gerard-manley-hopkins>*

## Gifts of the Holy Spirit

7

Isaiah 11:2-3

### Wisdom

A wise person recognizes the Holy Spirit's presence and action in our lives and in the world.

### Understanding

Understanding helps us to recognize how God wants us to live.

### Right Judgment

Aka counsel. This gift helps us to make choices that will lead us closer to God rather than away from God. The gift of right judgment helps us to figure out what God wants and make good decisions.

### Courage

Aka fortitude. The gift of courage is the special help we need to overcome our fears when faced with challenges or struggles. It helps us stand up for what is right.

### Knowledge

This gift helps us to understand the meaning of what God has revealed, particularly the Good News of Jesus Christ. Knowledge also inspires us to keep learning more about the Scriptures and Tradition.

### Reverence

Aka piety. The gift of reverence gives us a deep sense of respect for God and the Church. A reverent person honors God and approaches God with humility, trust, and love.

### Wonder and Awe

Aka fear of the Lord. The gift of wonder and awe makes us aware of God's greatness and power.



## Fruits of the Holy Spirit

9 to 12

Galatians 5:22-23

### Love

Aka charity.

### Joy

### Peace

### Patience

Aka forbearance, longanimity, long-suffering.

### Kindness

Aka benignity.

### Gentleness

Aka mildness.

### Faithfulness

Aka faith.

### Self-Control

Aka temperance, continency.

### Goodness

### Generosity

### Chastity

### Modesty

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them.” Mt 7:15-20



# Asking for a Gift

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Look over the **Gifts** of the Holy Spirit and then answer these questions:

Which one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit do you wish you had more of?

Why would you like to see this gift more active in your life?

What would this gift enable you to do differently?



## Closing Prayer

**LEADER** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL** Amen.

**LEADER** I now invite you to ask God for that one gift that you wrote about in your handout; the gift that you felt you most needed. We'll pray this prayer in a litany form, with each person saying aloud the Gift he or she most needs or desires. After each request, we will respond, "Come, Holy Spirit." I will start, and then we'll move to my left. You are free to pass.

**YOUTH** *Asks for desired Gift.*

**ALL** Come, Holy Spirit.

**LEADER** Let us pray. Loving God, thank you for all of your gifts, especially the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit that we received at Baptism. Help us to open these gifts in a new way in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Make us more aware of how we can use these gifts for the building up of your Church and the transformation of the world. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL** Amen.

**LEADER** Please pass in your handouts – we will save them for the next Candidate / Sponsor night.

In conclusion, let's join in singing: "Spirit of the Living God."

*"Spirit of the Living God" by (youtube video (3:09))*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BagH-zTfnsQ>

# Homework

- *The Confirmation Retreat is February 17 to 18 for most.* Gather in the Church parking lot on Friday at 6:15 pm. Please eat dinner before you arrive. Note that the retreat does NOT have Mass or the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We return to the Church parking lot on Saturday by 3:15 pm. Please take the Permission Slip / Packing List home – you must bring the signed Permission Slip with you on February 17. We do need a few drivers – you must be 21 and Safeguarded!
- *Candidates and Sponsors are to meet on their own once a month from January through May (and beyond!).* The activity for January is to see a movie, perform a service, OR go to Mass together and discuss afterwards. If necessary, the activity can be done separately and then the discussion can be done together. The same choices are for February as well.
- *The Saint Report was due today.* Instructions are on the QOA website under Faith Formation → Christian Formation → Confirmation. If you need help, just give a call or an email. There are also Saint books that you can borrow from me. Please finish ASAP. (Just so there is no confusion, your Confirmation name and the Saint Report should be about the same person!)
- *The 5 Photos of Pewaukee were due today.* Please take 5 *black and white* photos of your favorite places in Pewaukee and send them to me via email (lizk@queenofapostles.net) or text (Remind). This is an easy way to make a photo collage for our class auction item for the Queen's Ball.
- *Outstanding Paperwork.* If you did not hand in the items below today, please get them to me ASAP! All the forms / instructions are on the QOA website under Faith Formation → Christian Formation → Confirmation. Note that Inspirio is closing as of March 31 – please get your retreat in by then! As for the Yr Long Svc, you must select a liturgical role for the year from Greeter, Usher, Altar Server, Reader, Choir, and Instrumentalist.

**Lauren** – Confirm Name

**Cece** – Retreat Release

**Caroline** – Retreat Registration & Release

**Anahi** – Retreat Registration & Release, Record

**Caden** – Yr Long Svc, Retreat Registration & Release, Confirm Name, Sponsor

**Emma** – Confirm Name

**Allison** – Pledge, Retreat Release -- may be changing retreat?

**Annie** – Confirm Name, Sponsor Packet from Dec 10

**Greg** – Yr Long Svc

**Maggie** – Pledge, Confirm Name

**Alex** – Record, Baptism, Rel of Info

**Amanda** – Retreat Release

**Zach** – Sponsor Packet from Dec 10

## Materials

- Liz's Folder with Handouts
- Pencil
- Cell Phone, Charged
- CF Poster w/Confirmation Tonight Bubble
- Easel
- Blue Tape
- Entry Table
- Attendance Sheet
- Small Bin with Pens and Permanent Marker
- Box for Paperwork
- Sponsor Night 1 Packets for Annie and Zach
- Sponsor Video Packet for Annie
- Info for Greg on the date of Christmas
- Table for Prayer & Supplies
- Green Cloth
- Crucifix
- Green Candle
- Candle Holder
- Lighter / Matches
- Bible marked to John 14:15-20
- Bible Stand
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Podium
- Symbols of Dove (Ornament), Oil (Baptism Chrism), Fire (Candle), Breath/Wind (Windsock), and Water (Holy Water Bottle)
- Groups (3)
- Chairs (9-9-7)
- Plexiglas Group Signs
- Small Bins with Pens on Tables

- Handout on Paraclete / Hmk + Retreat Perm Slip / Packing List (za crossed out), stapled (25)
- Handout on Holy Spirit in the Bible (25)
- Activity Bins
- Art Supplies
- Handout on Gifts + Fruits / Asking for a Gift (25)
- Lesson Plan for Small Group Facilitators (5)
- Activities
- Opening Prayer (2)
- Closing Prayer
- AV Cart
- Powerpoint on Laptop and Videos Bookmarked
- Screen
- Technology Check