

FINAL SESSION

HOW FAR HAVE YOU COME?

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

There are seven special gifts that the Holy Spirit showers upon us. These gifts are freely given and fill us with grace to help us and to benefit the whole church community. These gifts help one listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to make good choices, live good lives, and be true followers of Christ.

- **Wisdom** is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. It helps one avoid the things that could lead you away from God.
- **Understanding** is the gift of comprehension, the ability to grasp the teachings of our religion. It is the gift that helps one be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps one sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.
- **Right Judgment (Counsel)** is the gift of prudence. This gift helps one make choices as a follower of Jesus.
- **Knowledge** is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. It enables us to choose the right path that will lead to God and it encourages one to avoid obstacles that keep us from the Lord.
- **Courage** is the gift that helps one stand up and overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.
- **Reverence (Piety)** is the gift of reverence for and confidence in God that inspires one to joyfully want to serve God and others.
- **Wonder and awe (Fear of the Lord)** is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages one to be in awe of God. It is not to fear God but to so love him that you do not want to offend him by your words or actions.

** (After Vatican II several of the gifts were updated into a more understandable term).

Read and discuss the following passage together: Acts 2:1-11

- 1) How do you think the believers felt when the “noise from the sky and strong winds” filled the house in which they were gathered?
- 2) How would you describe the Holy Spirit?

It is not only in Confirmation that one receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Through all the sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion and Confirmation) these gifts are received. Through these sacraments, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit grow stronger within us. Developing the Holy Spirit's gifts in ourselves requires recognizing them. For example, when there is a crisis in their lives ask them to use the gift of right judgment in order to do the right thing. When we see a family member or friend in need, we could use the gift of understanding to sympathize with that person. As with each gift, we may call upon the Holy Spirit's help when we need to use them.

Questions for discussion.

- 1) Which gift of the Holy Spirit sounds like the best gift to you?
- 2) Which gift(s) do you need the most right now? Why? Explain.
- 3) Which gift(s) does our world seem to need most? Where? Why? Explain.
- 4) In Galatians 5:22-23 the Fruits of the Spirit are listed, look them up and list the fruits you feel you have been given, or would like to have.
- 5) How will you share your gifts with the world?

Isaiah 11:2 “The spirit of the Lord will give them wisdom...”

Use these sentence starters to reflect upon the gifts of the Holy Spirit in your life.

- 1) A time in my life I showed **courage** was when....
- 2) A place in the world where I experience the **wonder and awe** of God is.....

I feel this way because....
- 3) I show **reverence** in my life when I.....
- 4) **Wisdom** can grow in my life if I
- 5) **Knowledge** is important to me because....
- 6) A big decision (**right judgment**) that I had to make recently was.....
- 7) A person I need to **understand** better is.....because.....

***Please read and discuss these questions with your candidate.
Write down their responses in brief form on this sheet.***

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CANDIDATE

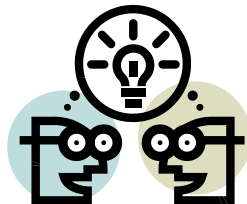
1. What are some of the ways you have grown in your faith during this year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation?
2. What were some of the activities you did in service to the Church or community?
3. What did you discover about yourself and about others by volunteering to help where you were needed.
4. Reflect on your retreat experience. How did it change you spiritually – either positively or negatively?
5. What are the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit? Which of the Gifts do you believe you need most in your life at this time? Why?
6. How does God speak to you?
7. How do you respond to God?
8. Please describe God.
9. Give an example of how God has worked in your life during the last few weeks...

Months...

Year...



10. Why do you desire to be Confirmed in the Catholic Church?
11. What are a few reasons you like being Catholic?
12. How do you plan to live as an active Catholic Christian in your future
- after you have received the Sacrament of Confirmation?
13. On the back side is a copy of the NICENE CREED. Please go through this prayer together, phrase by phrase. Discuss together what each part means.



Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
'begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven
(all bow during these two lines)

by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures;

He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



Dear Faith Partner; Thank you so much for all the help you have given to your
candidate during this year of preparation. May God Bless you abundantly!