

THE HOLY SPIRIT

WHO IS HE? THE GIFTS HE BRINGS

Goals:

- To broaden the candidate's awareness of the role of the Holy Spirit in all of salvation history.
- To review with the candidate the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Rational:

In this session, you come to the end of working one-on-one with the candidate and it is important that they have a clear understanding of the Role of the Holy Spirit and the Gifts he gives us in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Background:

The Holy Spirit is sometimes called the forgotten person of the Trinity. Most people, when they think of God, think of him either as God the Father or as Jesus. Since Confirmation is a sacrament which celebrates in a special way the presence of the Holy Spirit, we should get to know the Holy Spirit better.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are originally found in Isaiah 11:1-3. In this passage, the gifts are seen as qualities which will be conferred by the Holy Spirit on the Messiah which were gifts seen in his great ancestors.

Outline of Session:

1. Begin with prayer – Prayer of 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.”
2. Watch the YouTube video “Bishop Barron on the Holy Spirit” (12:03)
3. Review Handout on “Who is the Holy Spirit?” Read about the gifts, have candidate summarize in own words.

ACTIVITY I: Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Watch the video “Bishop Barron on the Holy Spirit” from YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1INut0Gi09Q>

ACTIVITY II: Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Look at each of the seven gifts on the next page. Read about them then, in a sentence or two, explain how you see each gift helping you in your faith:

Gift of Knowledge

Gift of Understanding

Gift of Wisdom

Gift of Piety

Gift of Fortitude

Gift of Fear (Wonder) of the Lord

Gift of Counsel

Knowledge

- Knowledge is the power to see that everything comes from God, is pointing to God, and is leading to God.
- Knowledge is seeing as the Spirit sees - looking past the “what” to the “why.”
- Knowledge is being guided by the Spirit - letting go and letting God.
- Knowledge is focusing on what really counts and keeping our priorities straight.

Wisdom

- Wisdom enables us to discern and relish God’s presence in all things - to see how incredibly awesome things fit together.
- Wisdom is being held in God’s hand - trusting Him totally.
- Wisdom is believing in God’s plan - while we only see a few of the cards, God has the whole deck.
- Wisdom is praying for guidance and being willing to listen to and accept the answer.

Fortitude

- The gift of fortitude empowers us to take risks – the freedom to dream, to love and to reach out to others.
- Fortitude is not being afraid of doing what is right. “Stand firm and steady. Nothing you do in the Lord’s service is useless.” 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Fortitude is witnessing to the faith - it doesn’t need to be flashy or loud.
- Fortitude is knowing that God is at my side and we’re going forward - not looking back.

Counsel

- The gift of counsel empowers us to discern the way to handle a “crisis” situation. A “crisis” is a dangerous opportunity - it can make you bitter or better, depending on how you decide to face it.
- Counsel is looking for deeper meaning behind events.
- Counsel is knowing when to try harder – sometimes God’s answer is, “Wait.”
- Counsel is staying in control - not letting yourself get overwhelmed.

Understanding

- The gift of understanding empowers us to penetrate into the deeper meaning and beauty of Creation, Scripture, and Jesus.
- Understanding is seeing and feeling with the heart - seeing and feeling Jesus in others.
- Understanding is serenity entering the soul. For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.
- Understanding is seeing more deeply, getting through the difficult times and situations in life. Problems are only opportunities with thorns on them.

Piety

- Piety is the moment when the Holy Spirit touches our hearts in a profound way.
- Piety awakens in us the mystery of God.
- Piety is knowing that God is near - seeing Him in simple everyday things: the sunset, clouds, the mountains.
- Piety is knowing Christ lives in me - I am His hands, His voice - radiating His Spirit.
- Piety is focusing on God in prayer - immersing ourselves in Him.

Fear of the Lord

- The closer we are to God, the more aware we are of God’s holiness and our sinfulness.
- The farther we are from God, the less aware we are of God’s holiness and our sinfulness.
- Fear of the Lord is respecting creation - not just the world itself, but everyone in it, born and pre-born.
- Fear of the Lord is being grateful, even for things that are difficult.
- Reverence for the Lord gives confidence and security -there’s comfort in knowing there’s someone bigger than we are.

SUMMARY SHEET NO. 4 – THE HOLY SPIRIT

Name of Candidate: _____

Name of Sponsor: _____ Date of Session: _____

1. In your discussion and sharing on the topic, how was the information received from you by the candidate?

2. Does the candidate have a good understanding of the Role of the Holy Spirit?

3. Is the candidate familiar with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and understands each gift?

4. Now that you have completed all our sessions, what are your overall impressions of the candidate in their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation?

5. Do you feel the candidate is ready for the Sacrament of Confirmation?

6. List any suggestions that you could offer in regards to these sponsor sessions on the back of this summary sheet.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP!!