

Asking the Holy Spirit to direct our daily lives

Objective: Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples, the Apostles of Christ. We too have received the Holy Spirit, through the Sacrament of Confirmation as members of His Church. Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety and Fear of God are the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Do we question whether these gifts are real and present? Guide a discussion exploring our awareness of real-life presence of the Holy Spirit. Do we see and really believe in the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives? How can we increase our awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence and how could we increase our openness to God's gift?

Song Suggestion: Come Holy Ghost (Blue 104 vs 1, 2, 3; Red 472 vs 1, 2, 4)

Bible and Catechism Readings:

Corinthians 3: 16

Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Acts 1:6-8

When they had gathered together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel? He answered them, It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Nicene Creed:

I believe...in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

Catechism 1831

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations.

Saint: Saint Patrick, March 17th. One of his biggest gifts was courage, because he helped and cured others in need of his help. And also he had a lot of courage to change others point of view about who they believe in.

Vignette: – Last year I volunteered to assist with Confirmation Preparatory Classes in my Parish since my kids were approaching Confirmation age within a couple years. I figured it would be a good opportunity to brush up on Confirmation too and be better prepared to help them be excited about what is coming. At the first adult leader training meeting we reviewed the gifts. **Wisdom** is seeing things as God sees them, His truth; to take His truth and use it to glorify God by choosing Godly solutions to problems. **Understanding** gives us the ability to translate wisdom into everyday actions in our lives as we act to advance our goal, to be with God. **Knowledge** is clarity discerned from wisdom and understanding to know God's purpose for us and to live our lives to that end. **Counsel** enables us to make concrete choices in union with God, intuitively. Counsel is supernatural whereas prudence comes from self-discipline. **Fortitude** is the profound courage of the Holy Spirit overcoming all fears restraining our actions. **Piety** transforms our sense of duty to practice our Catholic faith into *desire* to belong to God and His church. **Fear of God** is simply humble, respectful self-abandonment into God's hand. After attending I had renewed awareness of these gifts. I began to think about how important these gifts were to me as I live my life. I think many problems I face would be less insurmountable if I was in tune with these gifts and used them more. Where do I go from here?

Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

Do I actively ask for, pray for, the Holy Spirit to direct my life?

Are the gifts of the Holy Spirit Real? What evidence do you have?

Which gift of the Holy Spirit is most persistent in your life?

Can you think of a time when your access to these gifts was blocked, how so?

We are all called to Evangelization, what is holding you back if you truly believe you have these gifts?

What advice would you give to our vignette dad to help himself or to guide and prepare his children for the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Action Plan:

What is your reaction to today's discussion about the Holy Spirit?

What are your plans to personally explore the Holy Spirit's gifts?

List your personal action plan notes here:

Resources:

[The gifts of the Holy Spirit open us to divine inspirations | Articles | Archdiocese of St Louis \(archstl.org\)](#)
[7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit - STJMOD](#)

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