

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
The Holy Spirit

Catechist Preparation

Clarifying the Essentials

Joined to Christ at Baptism, we received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- ◆ The ministry of Jesus—his entire life and work—is in actuality a joint mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 727.)
- ◆ The Holy Spirit first awakens faith in us and is thus the avenue by which we come to know the Father and the Son. (See CCC 684.)
- ◆ In his mission it is Christ who is seen, the visible image of the unseen God, while it is the Holy Spirit who reveals him. (See CCC 689.)

The Church is where believers come in contact with the Holy Spirit.

- ◆ The Holy Spirit is revealed in the movement by which he reveals the eternal Word to us. (See CCC 687.)
- ◆ The Church is where we come to know the Holy Spirit in many diverse ways. (See CCC 688.)

Why Is This Important?

We rarely stand still. Throughout our life we are confronted by many challenges. Life is a puzzle where the pieces constantly shift and change.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us. Divine love, which is active, effective, and amazing, prepares us for life in this world, walks hand-in-hand with us through this life, and at life's end draws us up into total communion, or in other words, into love itself.

*God permits evil in order
to draw forth some greater good.*

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS, *SUMMA THEOLOGIAE* III

Doctrinal Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Have the space set with chairs, and provide a focal point with a candle and a Bible. Provide name tags and have some refreshments available.

Welcome

Greet the participants as they arrive, and take time for introductions as the session begins. Then invite everyone to pray silently for the Spirit to open their mind and heart to God's message.

Engage

Invite the participants to read and reflect on the story in Insight, share their response to the story, and explore the For Reflection questions together. Then ask them what they understand to be the role of a coach or mentor. Then proclaim Acts 2:1–4 and have the participants reflect on a time they have experienced being “on fire” as the first disciples were on Pentecost. Ask them to share what happened because of that experience.

Teach

Summarize or invite the group to read Church Teaching. Then discuss the following:

- ◆ The Holy Spirit will be with us and the Church until the end of time.
- ◆ The Holy Spirit showers us with many gifts to strengthen us to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ The Holy Spirit continues to guide us, form us, and sanctify us in many ways.

Apply

Encourage the participants to complete these statements and share their thoughts:

*From the prayer, discussion, and study for this topic,
I understand the Church's teaching to be . . .*

I am challenged to live the message of this teaching by . . .

Pray

Pray together: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.*