

# Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA  
The Solemnity of Pentecost • Year A • June 12, 2011

*Lord God, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
you have imprinted your divine image, upon our souls.  
May we live up to this high calling, bringing peace to the world.*

## Sunday Word

Acts 2:1–11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29–30, 31, 34

1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13

John 20:19–23

## Shalom, the Fragrance of God

### Share

Up from the waters of Baptism during the Easter Vigil Mass, you were anointed with the Sacred Chrism, fragrant oil consecrated by the bishop for use during the Sacrament of Confirmation. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, this sacramental seal strengthened you.

Baptism and Confirmation are closely connected in the unity of the Paschal Mystery. In Baptism, we die to sin and are raised to new life in Christ. In Confirmation, the gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect our new life in Christ. So then nourished by the Eucharist, the baptized-confirmed believer becomes a full member of the Body of Christ.

Moved by the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, God beckons us to boldly proclaim the Gospel. The Spirit of God helps us to pursue the mission of the Church with energizing, fruitful counsel.

### Meditate

The Risen Lord appears to the disciples. He greets them with a word of peace, *shalom*, which implies more than the mere absence of conflict. *Shalom* is total rightness of relationship with God and with one another. Living up to *shalom* means justice flourishes everywhere, and all things in this world are as God intended. This imperative of right relationships is envisioned in this simple, single word.

The Risen Lord also tells the disciples that as he has been sent by the Father, so now he sends them. They are sent into the world for *shalom*.

The Risen Lord then breathes on the gathered disciples, bidding them to receive the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, they are empowered to release others from the dominion of sin. They are to help every person live as children of the Kingdom, flourishing citizens under the Reign of God.

### Deepen

During Pentecost, the disciples gathered in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from Heaven like a strong, driving wind. This wind represents the presence of the Holy Spirit, the *shalom* of God! From that time onward, the sound of the Spirit within the Church echoes among the People of God when we pray, *Alleluia!*

When you celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation, you were imprinted with that *shalom*, that *alleluia*. The sweet smell of the Holy Spirit laved upon you as you were anointed with Sacred Chrism. Though the immediate external fragrance has faded, your body absorbed the Sacred Chrism. The fragrance of God dwells within you, absorbed by your skin. Then sacramentally, this sacred anointing left an indelible mark on your soul. This sacramental seal marks you as “Christian,” a royal citizen of God, working for peace, justice and love in the world.

### For Reflection . . .

As you felt the Sacred Chrism on your forehead, and you smelled its fragrance, how did you feel? How are you leaving your own good and holy “mark” on others as you witness for Christ?

### Act

Spend this entire day in celebration. Radiate the joy of the Holy Spirit to all you meet.

### For Reflection . . .

Now at Mass when you greet others, “Peace be with you,” how might the greeting be different from your first greeting?