

Contents

Before You Use Our Catholic Faith

Program Overview	VI	Teaching Strategies	XVII
Connecting with the Home	XI	Study Guide	XVIII
Praying with Young People	XII	Time Allotment Charts	XXI
Determining Readiness for the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist	XIII		

UNIT 1 Created and Saved

- 1 God Is the Creator** 6
- God created the universe.
 - God promised to send a Savior.
 - There are three Persons in one God.

Do You Know? *Body and soul*

- 2 God Sends His Only Son** 12
- Jesus Christ is true God and true man.
 - Jesus shares the Good News of God's love.
 - Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of God.

Do You Know? *Angels*

- 3 Jesus Christ Is Our Savior** 18
- Jesus gave us the Eucharist at the Last Supper.
 - Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin.
 - Jesus rose from the dead and brought us new life.

Do You Know? *A covenant relationship*

More for You to Know	24
Unit 1 Assessment	25

Living Our Faith

The Liturgical Year	102
Celebrating the Seven Sacraments	104
The Mass	106
Rites of Penance	108
An Examination of Conscience	109

UNIT 2 The Church, the People of God

- 4 The Holy Spirit Is Sent to Help Us** 26
- Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples.
 - The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples.
 - The Holy Spirit guides the Church.

Do You Know? *The Church, the Body of Christ*

- 5 The Catholic Church Continues Christ's Mission** 32
- The pope and bishops are the successors of the Apostles.
 - The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
 - Catholics worship and serve together.

Do You Know? *The responsibilities of the bishops*

- 6 The Church Celebrates Seven Sacraments** 38
- Jesus is the greatest sign of God's love.
 - The Church celebrates seven special signs, the sacraments.
 - The sacraments unite us as the Body of Christ.

Do You Know? *The grace of the sacraments*

More for You to Know	44
Unit 2 Assessment	45
Semester 1 Assessment	46

The Sacrament of Holy Orders	110
The Sacrament of Matrimony	112
Vocations	113
Catholic Social Teaching	114
Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit	115

UNIT 3

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation

7 The Church Offers Us New Life in Christ 48

- Baptism is the foundation of the Christian life.
- We celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism.
- We celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Do You Know? *The seal, or character of Baptism*

8 We Are Nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ 54

- Jesus gave us himself in the Eucharist.
- The Eucharist is a memorial, a meal, and a sacrifice.
- The Mass is the celebration of the Eucharist.

Do You Know? *The Holy Days of Obligation*

9 We Gather for Mass 60

- At Mass we praise God, and we listen to his Word.
- We offer gifts, and the Eucharistic Prayer begins.
- We receive Holy Communion, and we are sent to bring God's love to others.

Do You Know? *Receiving Holy Communion*

More for You to Know 66

Unit 3 Assessment 67

UNIT 4

Living as Jesus' Disciples

10 The Ten Commandments Guide Us 68

- God gave us the Ten Commandments to help us to live in his love.
- The first three commandments call us to love God.
- The Fourth through the Tenth Commandments call us to love others and ourselves.

Do You Know? *Jesus, the fulfillment of God's covenant*

11 Jesus Teaches About True Happiness 74

- Jesus teaches his disciples about loving God and others.
- Jesus teaches us the Beatitudes.
- We are called to live in faith, hope, and love.

Do You Know? *Evangelization*

12 God Gives Us Forgiveness and Peace 80

- Jesus taught us about God's love and forgiveness.
- We celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.
- In the Sacrament of Penance we receive Christ's peace.

Do You Know? *Examining our conscience*

13 We Serve in Jesus' Name 86

- Jesus is our greatest example of service to others.
- We are called to care for the physical needs of others.
- We are called to care for the spiritual needs of others.

Do You Know? *Working for justice and peace*

14 We Belong to the Communion of Saints 92

- The Church honors the saints.
- Mary is Jesus' first disciple and the greatest saint.
- The Church honors Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church.

Do You Know? *Canonized saints*

More for You to Know 98

Unit 4 Assessment 99

Semester 2 Assessment 100

Precepts of the Church 115

About Prayer 116

Catholic Prayers and Practices 118

Glossary 124

Index 126

GOALS

to understand that the Holy Spirit came to guide Jesus' disciples in continuing his mission; to appreciate that the Holy Spirit is with the Church always

GETTING READY

Opening Prayer: Have index cards available.

Materials Needed: highlighters or colored pencils, poster board, magazines and newspapers, markers, paste or glue for **Optional Activity** (page 29)

Opening Prayer

Invite the students to gather in the prayer space. Ask them to think about the people who help and guide them in living as Jesus' disciples. Offer the following prayer, having the students pray the response "Lord, we thank you" after each of the following petitions:

- *For the people who show us your love and care*
- *For the people who teach us the truths of our faith*
- *For the people who guide us in following Jesus' example.*

Then invite volunteers to add their own petitions.

Have index cards available. Give one to each student. Invite the students to write on the cards the names of those who help them. Collect the cards and place them on the table in the prayer space.

Catechist Background

How does the Holy Spirit strengthen you to follow Jesus?

Jesus knew that, after he returned to his Father in Heaven, his Apostles and disciples would need the gifts of patience, guidance, and courage to continue his mission. On the night before he died, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them and guide them. He told his followers, "The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you" (John 14:26).

4

The Holy Spirit Is Sent to Help Us

A Family Helper

After dinner Brian was doing his homework. His older brother Kevin walked into the family room. He asked, "Brian, what do you have for homework tonight?"

Brian answered, "Right now I'm completing a writing assignment. I'm writing about a person I admire, and I'm giving a few reasons for my choice."

Kevin asked, "Who are you writing about?"

"Surprise, Kevin! I'm writing about you," Brian answered.

Kevin pointed to himself and said, "Me? Why are you writing about me?"

Brian explained, "You do a lot for me, Kevin. You really came to the rescue when Dad told us we were moving to Springfield. Do you remember how upset I was? I ran outside and sat on the back steps. You were upset, too, but you came outside and talked to me. You helped calm me down, especially when you told me to think about moving as an adventure. You told me we'd have new places to explore and new friends to meet."

"That wasn't a big deal," Kevin said.

"It was a big deal to me," Brian answered. "Then after we moved you watched out for me. That first week of school was the hardest for me, but you waited for me every day after school."



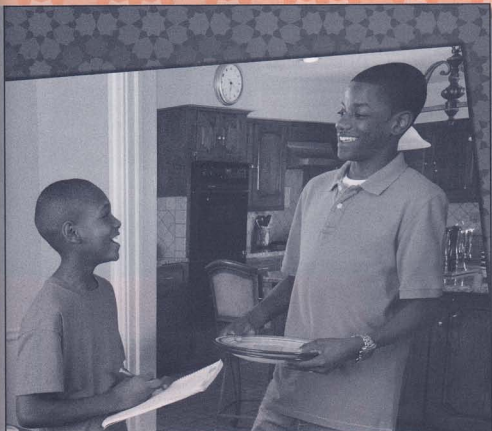
At Pentecost the disciples experienced the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. He strengthened them to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. The Church, founded by Jesus Christ, continued to grow. Many were baptized and received the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit continues to set in motion the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. This year you have accepted the challenge and responsibility to respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit by teaching young people about the truths of our faith. Be assured that the Holy Spirit is with you as your source of wisdom, patience, and guidance.

Reflection

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. . . ."

(Ephesians 3:14–17)



You stayed with me at the first Nature Scout meeting we went to, and you introduced me to some of the scouts you knew from school."

Kevin said, "I only did what I thought an older brother should do. Now let's see what you think about your older brother when I win a game of chess. Whoever loses helps with the dishes every night this week!"

How did Kevin help Brian?

Who are your family helpers?

How do they help your family?

We Will Learn...

- 1 Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples.
- 2 The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples.
- 3 The Holy Spirit guides the Church.

27

Introduction (__ min.)

Ask the students to think about the last time they needed help and who helped them. Then invite volunteers to read the story "A Family Helper."

Have the students identify the ways that Kevin helped Brian. Then discuss with the students who their family helpers are. Ask each student to think about the last time he or she helped out a family member. Also discuss why it is important for members of families to help and guide each other.

We Will Learn...

Remind the students that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Then point out that when it was time for the risen Jesus to return to his Father in Heaven, he promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide his disciples. Ask a volunteer to read the three faith statements on the scroll.

27

Presentation (__ min.)

1 Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples.

Jesus, thank you for being with us always.

You may want to begin by reading one of the following Scripture accounts of the risen Christ's appearances to his disciples:

- the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35)
- the appearance to the disciples in Jerusalem (Luke 24: 36–49 and/or John 20:19–29)
- or Jesus on the beach (John 21:1–19).

After reading, point out that Jesus wanted the disciples to be confident in continuing to spread the Good News of God's love.

Have volunteers read aloud the first two paragraphs. Stress Jesus' promise to be with us always.

Explain to the students what we mean by Jesus' Ascension. Then tell the students that after the Ascension the disciples returned to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Read aloud the concluding questions. Pause briefly to allow time for students to reflect on the question. Then invite volunteers to share their responses. For the first question possible responses include: the Holy Spirit would help them to follow Jesus' example; the Holy Spirit would give them strength and courage in continuing Jesus' mission. For the second question, have the students highlight or underline the words from Scripture in the second paragraph.

1 Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples.

Jesus knew that after his work on earth was complete his disciples would need help in living as he had asked them to live. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to them and strengthen them. The Holy Spirit would help the disciples to remember all that Jesus had taught them.

After Jesus' Death and Resurrection, he appeared to his disciples several times. Then forty days after he rose from the dead, Jesus called his Apostles to a mountain in Galilee. He told them that he wanted them to continue his mission to bring the Good News of God's love to the world. Jesus said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20).

After Jesus gave this mission to the Apostles, he returned to his Father in Heaven. Jesus' return in all his glory to his Father in Heaven is called the Ascension.

After Jesus' Ascension, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem. There with the other disciples they prayed as they waited for the Holy Spirit to come to them.

Why did Jesus promise his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to them?

What was the mission Jesus gave to his Apostles?



28

Liturgy Connection

Every year the Church celebrates Jesus' Ascension forty days after Easter Sunday. In some dioceses the feast is celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost Sunday. On the feast of the Ascension we gather with our parish community for Mass. See *The Liturgical Year* on page 99. Talk with your students about other ways they and their families can observe this holy day.



2 The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples.

Early on Sunday morning, fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus' disciples were together in Jerusalem. They were praying and waiting for the Holy Spirit. As they prayed, something amazing happened. "And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim." (Acts of the Apostles 2:2-4)

On this day Peter and the disciples were no longer afraid to speak about Jesus and his teachings. They left the house and went out into the streets. Crowds of people were in Jerusalem to celebrate a great Jewish feast. Peter spoke to these people, telling them to be baptized and thus to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day." (Acts of the Apostles 2:41)

The day the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' disciples is called Pentecost. It was on this day that the Church began. The Church is the community of people who are baptized and follow Jesus Christ. On Pentecost and throughout the whole year we remember that the Holy Spirit is with the Church always.

How did the Holy Spirit help Peter and the disciples on Pentecost?

29

2 The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples.

Holy Spirit, fill us with courage and love.

Invite the students to focus on the Scripture art. Ask: *What do you think is happening in the picture?* Have volunteers share their responses.

Have the students remain focused on the art as you read aloud the first two paragraphs. Point out that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was with the disciples when the Holy Spirit came to them. Explain that when the disciples began to speak to the crowds, they spoke in different languages.

This symbolized that from her very beginning the Church's mission is worldwide. If time permits, have the students act out the actions of the disciples after they received the Holy Spirit.

Point out that about three thousand people were baptized that day. Explain that the day on which the Holy Spirit came to the disciples is called Pentecost. Emphasize that it was on this day that the Church began. Have the students highlight or underline the definition of

Church. Ask the students to point to themselves and say: *We are baptized. We are followers of Jesus Christ. We are the Church.*

Read the concluding question. Ask volunteers to share their responses. Possible responses include: the Holy Spirit helped them to be brave enough to speak to all the people gathered in the streets of Jerusalem; the Holy Spirit helped the disciples remember all that Jesus had taught them.

Optional Activity

Have the students work in small groups to make prayer to the Holy Spirit collages. Provide each group with poster board, magazines, and newspapers. Instruct each group to print the prayer on the poster and illustrate it with magazine or newspaper photos. Display the completed posters in the prayer space.

3 The Holy Spirit guides the Church.

Holy Spirit, help us to live in unity and love.

You may want to introduce the material on this page by reading about the early Christians as described in Acts of the Apostles 2:42–47.

Ask a volunteer to read the first two paragraphs. Have the students highlight or underline Saint Peter's description of the Church.

Explain to the students that Saint Peter and the other Apostles traveled to distant places spreading the Good News of God's love to all. If a world map or globe is available, point out some of the places where the Apostles traveled to—where the countries of Greece, Turkey, and Italy are today.

Ask a volunteer to read the third and fourth paragraphs. Stress that the Holy Spirit continues to help and guide the Church today.

For additional information about Scripture and Tradition, refer to Unit 1: *More for You to Know* on page 24.

Invite volunteers to respond to the concluding question. Possible responses include that the Holy Spirit strengthened and guided the early Christians to do all the things that are listed in the first paragraph.

3 The Holy Spirit guides the Church.

Jesus had chosen the Apostle Peter as the head of the Church. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled Peter and the other disciples of Jesus with courage and love. With the help of the Holy Spirit, they began to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone they met. They showed others how to live according to the teachings of Jesus by:

- sharing what they had with the poor
- taking care of those who were sick or disabled
- gathering together to pray
- celebrating the Eucharist in Jesus' memory
- celebrating the presence of the risen Christ among them.

More and more people asked to be baptized. They wanted to follow Jesus and to be part of his community—to be members of the Church. The Apostle Peter described the Church as "God's people" (1 Peter 2:10)—the people baptized as God's children, brothers and sisters of Jesus.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church spread throughout the world. The Holy Spirit helped the Church, the People of God, to love God and one another.

The Holy Spirit helped the members of the Church to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone in the world. And the Holy Spirit continues to help and guide the Church today in the interpretation of Sacred Scripture and in the official teachings of the Church, which we call Tradition. Through Tradition the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray.

How did the Holy Spirit help the early Christians?

Do You Know?

The early Christians needed to understand the special relationship Jesus Christ had with his community, the Church. Saint Paul, an early Christian who traveled to different countries sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, explained that the Church is the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). Christ is the Head (Colossians 1:18), but everyone in the Church is an important part of the Body of Christ.

Each member of the Church receives the Holy Spirit at Baptism. Saint Paul also taught that the Church is the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). So the Holy Spirit is at the heart of the Church's life and growth, uniting us through our love for and belief in Jesus Christ.

30



Do You Know?

Before you present *Do You Know?* you may want to tell the students the story of Saint Paul's conversion (Acts of the Apostles 9:1–19). Then read aloud the *Do You Know?* Stress that the Church is the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Review

Complete the following sentences.

1-2. The Ascension is

Jesus' return in all his glory

to his Father in Heaven.

3-4. The Church is

the community of people

who are baptized and follow

Jesus Christ.

Discuss the following. (See side column.)

5. Before he returned to Heaven, what did Jesus ask his disciples to do?

6. Describe briefly what happened on Pentecost.

7. How did the early Christians share their love for God and one another?

Faith Words

Ascension (page 28)

Pentecost (page 29)

Church (page 29)

With My Family

Sharing Our Faith

- 1 Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples.
- 2 The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples.
- 3 The Holy Spirit guides the Church.

PRAYING TOGETHER

This prayer to the Holy Spirit is a traditional prayer of the Church.

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 will renew the face
of the earth. Amen.

• • Living Our Faith • •

The Holy Spirit helped the Apostles and the early Christians to share God's love with others. The way in which Jesus' followers lived helped others to experience the power of his love. This week think about the people who help you experience the power of Jesus' love. Decide on one way to thank each person.

Name	Way of Thanks

31

Conclusion (__ min.)

Review

Provide five to ten minutes for the students to work independently to complete the first part of the Review. Check the student's answers. Discuss the questions in the second part of the Review. Possible responses follow.

5. Jesus asked his disciples to continue his mission, which was to bring the Good News of God's love to the world.

6. The disciples were praying as they waited for the Holy Spirit to come to them. Suddenly they heard a sound like the wind, and tongues of fire appeared above their heads. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit.

7. See page 30 for the bulleted list of possible responses.

Faith Words

Ask the students to write a sentence for each Faith Word.

With My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Encourage the students to share with their families what they

have learned about Jesus' Ascension, the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and the beginning of the Church.

Praying Together

Read the prayer together. Discuss the meaning of the verses. Then encourage the students to share with their families this traditional prayer of the Church. Also ask them to discuss with their families what the words of the prayer mean to them.

Living Our Faith

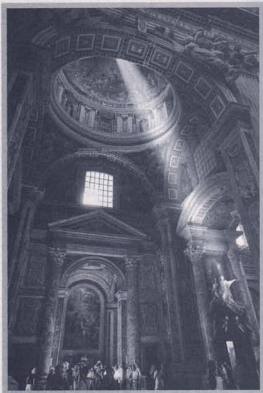
Have a volunteer read the activity directions. Encourage the students to work with their families in identifying people who help them experience the power of God's love. Also encourage the students to thank the people in the ways that have been suggested.

CATECHISM FOCUS

"The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church, which is the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. This joint mission henceforth brings Christ's faithful to share in his communion with the Father in the Holy Spirit."
(CCC, 737)

For additional reference and reflection, see CCC, 731-736.

MORE for You to Know



DEPOSIT OF FAITH The Deposit of Faith is all the truth contained in Scripture and Tradition. Jesus Christ revealed and entrusted this truth to the Apostles. They, in turn, entrusted this truth to their successors, the bishops, and the entire Church.

It is within the Church, the community of faith, that we discover the truth. The Magisterium, the living teaching office of the Church, guides us in understanding the truth. The Magisterium consists of the pope and bishops. They teach us the correct understanding of the message of Scripture and Tradition and ways to live out this message.

In each generation, the whole Church continues to share and build upon the faith of the Apostles. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church hands on all the truths she has received through God's Revelation. The Church's faith is always developing, and God's Revelation is living and active in the Church.

INFALLIBILITY Infallibility is the gift of the Holy Spirit that keeps the Church free from error—in her beliefs and teachings—in matters concerning Divine Revelation and the Deposit of Faith. The pope also has the gift of infallibility when he defines a truth pertaining to faith and morals.

THE LORD'S PRAYER During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his followers the Lord's Prayer, a prayer to God the Father. This prayer is an essential prayer of the Church—integrated into her liturgical prayer and sacraments.

In the first part of the Lord's Prayer, we give glory to God, we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom, and we pray to God for the ability to do his will.

In the second part of the Lord's Prayer, we ask God for everything we need for ourselves and for the world. We ask God to heal us of our sin. We pray that God will protect us from all that could draw us away from his love. We ask God to guide us in choosing good in our lives, and we ask him for the strength to follow his law.

UNIT 2 Assessment

Circle the correct answer.

1. The Church celebrates **(three/seven/four)** Sacraments of Christian Initiation.
2. There are **(nine/seven/four)** Marks of the Church.
3. On Pentecost, Peter spoke to the crowd and **(only a few/only twelve/about three thousand)** people were baptized.
4. The Church is catholic, open to **(all/some/many)** people.
5. **(Each person, Only the pastor, Only the deacon)** is important to the parish.

Complete the following statements.

6. The **pope** and the bishops continue the leadership of the Apostle Peter and the other Apostles.
7. The Catholic Church has four Marks: one, **holy**, catholic, and apostolic.
8. A **sacrament** is an effective sign given to us by Jesus Christ through which we share in God's life.
9. The **Church**, the whole Body of Christ, celebrates each sacrament.
10. Through the Sacraments of **Christian Initiation** we are born into the Church, strengthened, and nourished.

Write your responses on a separate sheet of paper.

11. Write one reason why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to his disciples. **See page 28 of Chapter 4.**
12. Choose one of the four Marks of the Church and explain its meaning. **See page 35 of Chapter 5.**
13. Identify ways Jesus showed his disciples that he is the greatest sign of God's love.
14. What is the Church? **The Church is the community of people who are baptized and follow Jesus Christ.**
15. Name two ways in which you can participate in your parish. **See page 36 of Chapter 5.**