

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 6

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit to be our Guide and Comforter and the source of our gifts and talents. (CCC, 243, 1830-1832)
- The members of the Catholic Church are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus; we are the Body of Christ in the world. (CCC, 776-780)
- Just as the Saints often prayed to God for help, we call on the Saints to pray or intercede for us. (CCC, 956, 2683)
- The Holy Spirit guides the Church in her Sacred Tradition and her prayer. The Holy Spirit helps us pray in different ways and in different circumstances. (CCC, 2625-2649, 2661)

Catechist Background

[We] boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.—Romans 5:1-5

Reflect How does God pour love into our hearts?

The Holy Spirit is a Christian's greatest asset for living a virtuous life. God the Father and the Son freely and generously share God the Spirit with us to sustain and give us strength as we make our way through the twists and turns of life. Do we take full advantage of the Holy Spirit's power? How might we be different if we give ourselves the time to be more aware of the activity of the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives? Would this awareness move us to celebrate the feast of Pentecost in a more meaningful way?

Do you remember your Confirmation? In that beautiful liturgy, you received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, right judgment (counsel), courage (fortitude), knowledge, reverence (piety), and wonder and awe (fear of the Lord). These Gifts of the Holy Spirit are life-changing virtues that give us the ability to live a life of Christian witness and joy.

Reflect Choose one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that you see reflected in your life. How has that gift helped you in your ministry?

Catechist's Prayer

Holy Spirit, be my inspiration, fill my mind. Holy Spirit, teach me compassion, fill my heart. Oh Holy Spirit, take this poor vessel and, today, make me your own. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

The Holy Spirit is perhaps the most mysterious of the three Divine Persons in One God. While seventh-graders will have some concept of what a “spirit” is, they may not be able to grasp how the Holy Spirit could dwell within each Christian and also be one with God. Because they are beginning to think in more abstract terms, making use of our traditions of symbols and signs may assist seventh-graders in understanding more about the Holy Spirit.

Teaching Tip

The Holy Spirit is mysterious and powerful beyond our comprehension, so we use images to help us understand: a dove, fire, wind, and so on. Have the youth come up with some other creative images to symbolize the Spirit. How is each symbol fitting? How is each limited? What does our inability to find a perfect symbol for the Holy Spirit say to us about our inability to fully understand God?

Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders

Adolescents are often attracted to role models who seem independent or outside of established societal norms and traditional authority figures. You may need to help the young people discover appropriate role models whom they can relate to.

- Seventh-graders often admire those with the capacity to speak out against the status quo and may feel that someone like that would understand them better than others.
- If their respect for counter-cultural role models is appropriately channeled, it can foster in young people an appreciation for Jesus as the ultimate counter-cultural witness.

Chapter Connections

Tasks of Catechesis

Helping children grow in a faith that is “known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer” (NDC, 20). This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
- Teaching to Pray

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition

Knowledge of the Faith

- Objective: To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life

Prayer

- Objective: To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one’s spiritual life

Catholic Faith Literacy

God, the Holy Spirit; prayer; Saint

Catholic Social Teaching To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Call to Family, Community, and Participation, pages 336–337; or Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person, pages 338–339.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Rafqa on page 124. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 124, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 6 for the prayer on page 125.

Music Option ► Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.

- "Spirit, Come Down," Live, Page 125

Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 6

Invite Page 115

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥Let Us Pray

Invite the youth to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Select a few volunteers to read aloud the leader lines and the Psalm verse. Prompt the response from the remainder of the group.

Have the young people move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.

Say: God the Father is with us and helps to guide us every day through his gifts to us—God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us to help us to live according to his Father's will.

† Scripture

Guide children through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- *Ask:* What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

Have you ever thought...

Say: God the Father sent his Son and the Holy Spirit, as well as his everlasting love to help us on our faith journey and in our daily lives.

Ask: What difference does it make in your life to know that God is always with you to lead you back to him for all eternity?

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 118-119

Objectives

- Explain why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as an Advocate
- Identify the Church as the Body of Christ
- Recognize that the members of the Church serve as the hands and feet of Jesus
- Examine the Holy Spirit as the source of gifts and talents

A Promise Kept

Ask: What does it mean to feel alone?

Read the text aloud. Remind the young people:

- Jesus said he would be with us always (see Matthew 28:20).
- Jesus counts on us to share his Good News.

Always with Them

Read aloud the text.

† Scripture

Proclaim the Scripture.

- Ask: What does Jesus mean by “Spirit of truth”? Why do you think Jesus said, “the world cannot accept” the Spirit of truth?
- Discuss how the artwork on this page connects to the reading.
- Discuss the two questions at the end of the section as a group.

The Soul of the Church

Tell the young people that the next two paragraphs are very important to their lives and also to the life of the Church.

* As you read aloud the text, ask them to underline ways that the Holy Spirit acts in the Church.

- Provide the youth with an opportunity to ask any questions that they have on this material.

Work with Words

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the Catholic Faith Word definition on page 118.

- Invite volunteers to share examples of how they have seen the Holy Spirit work as an Advocate. (You may need to open with some examples to facilitate discussion.)

Activity

Have the young people read the instructions and complete the activity on their own.

- Once everyone has had a chance to finish, have the young people stand, make the Sign of the Cross, and pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Quick Review

The Holy Spirit is our Guide and Advocate, the source of our gifts and talents that we bring to the Church. As members of the Church, we are the hands and feet of Jesus, the Body of Christ in the world.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 6: Develop a Plot Line** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (2) Pages 120-121

Objectives

- Identify the Holy Spirit as the Comforter
- Understand why we call on the Saints to intercede for us

Teaching Activity: We Are Never Alone

Young people will watch a clip from the movie *Ruby Bridges* to show how we can confront challenges with the help of the Holy Spirit. Participants will visualize a stadium filled with living members of the Church as well as Saints in Heaven and will create a paper pennant with encouraging words from a Saint.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✦ Go to **aliveinchrist.osv.com** and watch the *Ruby Bridges* Video Clip and download the Catholic Faith Words pages
paper, marker, tape

Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Words pages on the board for reference during the activity.
- Cue up the *Ruby Bridges* video that will be shown to the group.
Ruby Bridges YouTube Link: http://youtu.be/_3k4bLhbYx4

Activity Directions

As you begin, gather the group together to watch a video that will help illustrate how the help of the Holy Spirit can help us face trials and confront challenges.

Say: Does anyone know the story of Ruby Bridges? Ruby was a first grade child in New Orleans in 1960. It was a time in American history when many states practiced segregation. Segregation was a law in some states, a law that separated white people from black people. When the federal government said that law was illegal, Ruby's parents decided to send her to a nearby school that only white children attended.

Begin the video clip. After the group has watched the video, begin a group discussion.

Ask: What do you think made Ruby so strong?

Invite volunteers to share their responses.

Say: That's right she knew she was not alone. She could hear the voices of her "Saints"—her Mom and Dad and she believed that Jesus was with her because he had endured suffering as well. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity to be our Advocate. The Holy Spirit is with you always. And the Holy Spirit, the

soul of the Church works through the living members of the Church and those in Heaven to help you do God's will, even when it is difficult.

Have the young people close their eyes.

Say: Imagine yourself playing a football or soccer game against a very good team. Picture it: you've been asked to make a really difficult play. Your team is there to help you and the stands are filled with people who are on your side. They are cheering and making lots of noise so that you will know you are not alone. That's what it is like to be a Christian. We call on the Church here and the Saints who are in Heaven to intercede for us, to pray for us, to support us in our Christian journey.

Point out the definitions of *Saints* and *intercession* from the Catholic Faith Words pages that are on the board.

Say: Now, I want you to think of one of the things that is hard about being a disciple—resisting the urge to cheat on a test, standing up for someone who is being bullied, making the choice to think of someone else first, etc.

Hand out paper and markers and ask the participants to make a pennant that one of the "Saints" in the stadium would wave for them. (For example, "Being honest is what's right," or, "Courage is standing with someone.") Ask them to describe the challenge on one side of the pennant and on the other side write a sentence of support. Encourage the participants to be as creative as they can with their pennant.

Discover (3) Pages 122-123

Objectives

- Recognize the relationship between prayer and spiritual growth
- Explore how the Holy Spirit guides us through others, Sacred Tradition, and prayer

Read aloud the opening question and elicit responses from the group.

The Holy Spirit, Guide

Ask the young people to name examples of important things a gardener must do to help a garden grow.

- Ask: How might gardening be like prayer? **Possible response: both take nurturing and effort**

Summarize the paragraph equating gardening with prayer.

- Discuss how the image on this page relates to the text.
- Allow questions or comments.

Guidance

Invite two volunteers to read aloud the information in this section.

† Scripture

Have a volunteer proclaim Philippians 2:1, reading either directly from the page or from the Bible.

A Guide to Prayer

Say: Just as we talk to our friends in different ways, we also talk to God in different ways.

- Inform the youth that the Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray and gives us a variety of ways to pray.

Have the young people read this section, which begins on page 122.

- Discuss the question at the end of this section.

The Ways We Pray

Invite five volunteers to read aloud the descriptions of the different types of prayers in the chart.

- If you do the Optional Activity on page 122, you could have this information written on chart paper for the groups to refer to.

Activity

Read aloud the instructions.

- Tell the young people to work on their own to come up with a name.
- Allow volunteers to share their responses with the group.

In Summary

Go over the summary information as a group.

- Ask the young people to identify times when they knew that the Holy Spirit was acting as an Advocate for them.

Live Pages 124-125

Objectives

- Reflect on the strength and wisdom of the Holy Spirit
- Explore the faith life of Saint Rafqa
- Offer the Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the information in this section.

- Impress upon the young people the importance of praying to the Holy Spirit, especially in times of great loneliness or when difficult choices have to be made.
- Have the youth reflect on the questions at the end of this text.

People of Faith

Explain that Saint Rafqa (Rebecca) felt called by God to the religious life at age fourteen.

- Read aloud the paragraph on Saint Rafqa and review with the group the content of the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the young people to reflect on their relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Here are some additional details about Saint Rafqa to assist you in presenting this section:

- On the Feast of the Holy Rosary in 1885, Rafqa prayed that she might share Christ's sufferings. She became blind and crippled.
- She spent much of her remaining thirty years in prayer and working in the convent, spinning wool and knitting. Despite her frail health, she lived for more than eighty years.

Activity

Discuss the activity instructions with the group.

- Brainstorm some movie ideas with them before they get started.
- Afterwards, have them answer the questions individually.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

♥ Ask five volunteers to serve as the leader and readers.

- Invite the youth to stand at their places.
- *Call them to prayer with these words:* Holy Spirit, we know you are present among us. Hear us, as we pray.
- Have the leader and readers pray their sections; prompt prayer responses by the group, if necessary.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song "Spirit Come Down," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

Chapter Review

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively provide feedback to the young people about their work.

Chapter 6 Lesson Plan


Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
Holy Spirit, Comforter and Guide Page 115	 Psalm 139:7 Pray the opening prayer.  Romans 5:1–5 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions.	
Discover, 45 minutes		
A Promise Kept Pages 118–119 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as an Advocate • Identify the Church as the Body of Christ • Recognize that the members of the Church serve as the hands and feet of Jesus • Examine the Holy Spirit as the source of gifts and talents 	 Read John 14:15–17 . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share Jesus' promise to send an Advocate to be with his disciples. ★ Point out ways that the Holy Spirit acts through the Church. • Activity Consider ways that the Holy Spirit can be our Advocate. • Activity Master Develop a Plotline 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens  Activity Master 6
The Holy Spirit, Comforter Pages 120–121 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the Holy Spirit as the Comforter • Understand why we call on the Saints to intercede for us 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Create a paper pennant with encouraging words from a Saint. 	 Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> paper, marker, tape
The Holy Spirit, Guide Pages 122–123 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the relationship between prayer and spiritual growth • Explore how the Holy Spirit guides us through others, Sacred Tradition, and prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss some of the ways the Holy Spirit guides us.  Read Philippians 2:1 . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the five forms of prayer. • Activity Identify people who exemplify the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper <input type="checkbox"/> Bibles
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 124	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the questions in the Our Catholic Life section. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Rafqa. • Activity Consider how the Holy Spirit changes us for the better. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Prayer to the Holy Spirit Page 125	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select readers and leaders. • Follow the order of prayer. 	 "Spirit, Come Down"

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Advocate, Saints, Intercession

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 126

 aliveinchrist.osv.com Customize and Download Assessments, Interactive Student Reviews, eAssessments

Name _____

Date _____

Develop a Plot Line

Read the prompts below:

Sometimes I struggle.

I feel like no one really understands me.

How can I get through those times?

Work in small groups to outline the key elements of a story that would address the above thoughts and questions.

Characters:

Plot Development:

- What happens?

- Where does it happen?

- When does it happen?

- Why do you think it happens?

- Who is affected?

- How do the characters change or grow?

Name _____

Date _____

Complete each sentence with the correct term.

1. The Church is the Body of Christ alive in the world; the _____ is the soul.
2. The Holy Spirit is our _____, guiding and comforting us, strengthening us to know and live by the truth.
3. _____ is when we raise our minds and hearts to God.
4. The liturgical feast celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles is known as _____.

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

5. In a prayer of ____ you pray to God on behalf of another person.

a. petition	c. thanksgiving
b. blessing	d. intercession
6. The Holy Spirit acts through the ____ of the Church to teach and form us as disciples.

a. Sacred Scripture	c. Precepts
b. Sacred Tradition	d. Marks
7. When we pray a prayer of ____ we give respect to God by honoring his greatness.

a. blessing	c. thanksgiving
b. intercession	d. praise
8. A(n) ____ is a person whom the Church declares led a holy life and is enjoying eternal life with God in Heaven.

a. Advocate	c. disciple
b. Saint	d. member of the Church

Write a response on the lines below.

9. Why do you think we need the Holy Spirit? _____
- _____
- _____

10. Explain this statement: "Neglecting the time and effort for prayer will produce a withered spiritual garden." _____
- _____
- _____

Catholic Faith Words

intercession a form of prayer that involves praying to God on behalf of another; also called intercessory prayer.

Catholic Faith Words

Saints those whom the Church declares led holy lives and are enjoying eternal life with God in Heaven.