

YEARS 3 & 4 – CHURCH: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## The Gift of God's Life – the Holy Spirit

*Through Baptism we grow in the likeness of Christ. [LG 7]*

*Pope John Paul II writes, 'Because of the one dignity flowing from Baptism,' every baptised person 'shares a responsibility for the Church's mission' [CL 15]. The baptised must work as disciples of Christ by caring for the sick, the oppressed, the debilitated, and the sinners. We are called to carry out this work not only in our local communities, but also in the global community of which we are also members. In this way, we can extend to all, the love, compassion, and mercy of God that we ourselves have come to know.*

[United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Inc. 2000]

As baptised members of the Church community we receive the gift of God's life, the Holy Spirit, to guide and strengthen us.

*'Holy Spirit' is the proper name of the one whom we adore and glorify with the Father and the Son. The Church has received this name from the Lord and professes it in the Baptism of her new children. [CCC 691]*

As we draw on the gift of the Holy Spirit we enter into a deeper relationship with God. Through prayer, reading and reflecting on scripture and the celebration of the Mass, we develop Christ-like qualities such as sharing, being respectful, and showing love through our words and actions.

*The baptised are called to imitate Jesus' example and strive in thought, word, and action to live his love. [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Inc. 2000]*

As we respond to the influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we become good members of the community and through our example we can lead others to understand and appreciate the life and teachings of Jesus. This can be reflected in our relationships within our families, the wider community and the community of the Church.

*...through Baptism, the person who surrenders himself [herself] to the God he [she] loves above all else, thereby consecrates himself [herself] more intimately to God's service and to the good of the whole Church. [CCC 945]*

## The Gift of God's Life – the Holy Spirit



### MAIN TEACHING AND LEARNING POINTS

- Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us live as good members of the Church community.

### LIFE EXPERIENCE

Ask children to recall the people who help them to live as good members of the community. The following questions may be useful to stimulate discussion.

- **Who are some of the people that help you to live as good members of the community?**
- **How do they help you to live as good members of the community?**
- **Who else can you call upon to help you to live as good members of the community?**

### GOD'S WORD

**Ephesians 4:23-24 | *The New Life in Christ***

**Parent:** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

*Your hearts and minds must be made completely new, and you must put on the new self, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy. [GNT]*

The Word of the Lord.

**Child responds:** *Thanks be to God.*

### FOCUS QUESTIONS

Children reflect on the ways they can call on the Holy Spirit to help them to live as good members of the Church community.

- **How does the Holy Spirit help us to be good members of our families?**
  - calls us to speak kindly to each other
  - calls us to be loving through our actions
  - calls us to be respectful of each other
  - calls us to be forgiving to each other
- **How does the Holy Spirit help us to be good members of our school community?**
  - calls us to share with others
  - calls us to be responsible for our actions
  - calls us to be cooperative with others
  - calls us to use our gifts and talents to benefit the community
- **How does the Holy Spirit help us to be good members of our Church community?**

Answers could include:

  - calls us to gather together for Mass
  - calls us to pray for each other
  - calls us to show love and care to those in need, especially the poor (e.g. St Vincent de Paul Society, Project Compassion, LifeLink and Catholic Mission)

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Begin the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.*

- Catechist** Let us pray to the Holy Spirit to help us live as good members of the Church community.  
Holy Spirit help me to use my gifts and talents for the good of the Church community.
- Children** Come Holy Spirit.

*Invite the children, one at a time, to pray one of the prayers they have composed. Conclude the prayer with...*

- Catechist** We make our prayers through Christ our Lord.  
**All** Amen.



## Holy Spirit Acrostic Poem

Using the letters from the words HOLY SPIRIT, write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help you live as a good member of the Church community in your daily life.

H O L Y   S P I R I T

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