



# Archdiocesan Program

## WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



## THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

### *I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT*

#### **Biblical Reflection 1 Cor 2:6-16**

“No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 12:3). “God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Gal 4:6). This knowledge of faith is possible only in the Holy Spirit: to be in touch with Christ, we must first have been touched by the Holy Spirit. He comes to meet us and kindles faith in us. By virtue of our Baptism, the first sacrament of the faith, the Holy Spirit in the Church communicates to us, intimately and personally, the life that originates in the Father and is offered to us in the Son... (CCC 683)



In the fullness of time the Holy Spirit completes in Mary all the preparations for Christ’s coming among the People of God. By the action of the Holy Spirit in her, the Father gives the world Emmanuel, “God with-us” (Mt 1:23). (CCC 744)

On the day of Pentecost when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ’s Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, manifested, given, and communicated as a divine person: of his fullness, Christ, the Lord, pours out the Spirit in abundance. (CCC 731)

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. The Spirit *prepares* men and goes out to them with his grace, in order to draw them to Christ. The Spirit *manifests* the risen Lord to them, recalls his word to them and opens their minds to the understanding of his Death and Resurrection. He *makes present* the mystery of Christ, supremely in the Eucharist, in order to reconcile them, to *bring them into communion* with God, that they may “bear much fruit” (Jn 15:8, 16). (CCC 737)

... Baptism gives us the grace of new birth in God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit. For those who bear God’s Spirit are led to the Word, that is, to the Son, and the Son presents them to the Father, and the Father confers incorruptibility on them. And it is impossible to see God’s Son without the Spirit, and no one can approach the Father without the Son, for the knowledge of the Father is the Son, and the knowledge of God’s Son is obtained through the Holy Spirit. St. Irenaeus, *Dem ap.* 7: SCh 62, 41-42. (CCC 683)

#### **Questions for discussion:**

- Do you recall any occasion in which you felt the Holy Spirit filling you with His strength?
- In which moments in the life of Jesus, you remember that the Holy Spirit is manifest?
- In the letter to the Galatians, 5:22 says that the fruits of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Thinking on people you know, have you witness in any of them any of these fruits in them? Give some examples.
- The Holy Spirit calls us to be holy ourselves, how could you be holier... more saintly like?

**Further reading:** Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 683-747