



What's What

A weekly communication that provides an opportunity for our faith community to grow together in faith.

The Holy Spirit

Just before his Ascension, Jesus said these words to the Apostles: "You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, [in all] Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

These words of Christ to the Apostles are also addressed to each believer. The Holy Spirit comes to us as a teacher of the meaning and depth of Revelation. He also fills us with power, the grace to understand the Church's teachings and the wisdom to see how they apply to our lives. Finally, the Spirit puts courage into our hearts so that we can witness what we believe to believe and unbeliever alike....

When we learn how to be open to the Holy Spirit, he shares with us the gift of understanding that contains the power to know Jesus and to give witness to him. At our Baptism, the Spirit works through the waters which take away Original Sin and actual sins and give us new life with the Triune God. At Confirmation, the Holy Spirit is conferred by the anointing with the Chrism, by which the bishop seals us so that the Holy Spirit can strengthen us to pursue the mission of Christ to transform the world. At every Mass, the Holy Spirit changes the bread and wine into the Body and blood of Christ by the ministry of the priest.

The Holy Spirit is dynamic,

transforming our bodies into temples of God and our souls into dwelling places for Christ. Sometimes called the *Paraclete*, a term that describes him as advocate and consoler, the Holy Spirit wants to fill us with inspiration and encouragement.

The Holy Spirit is revealed gradually

...Scripture reveals the truth about the Trinity in three stages:

The Old Testament proclaimed the Father clearly, but the Son more obscurely. The New Testament revealed the Son and gave us a glimpse of the divinity of the Spirit. Now the Spirit dwells among us and grants us a clearer vision of himself. (CCC 684)

The fact that the Holy Spirit is God—equal in being with the Father and the Son, of the same divine nature as they are (*cosubstantial* with them), the Third Person of the Holy Trinity—took time to be recognized and proclaimed. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is hidden but is at work. "When the Church reads the Old Testament, she searches there for what the Spirit, 'who has spoken through the prophets,' wants to tell us about Christ" (CCC 702). Both the Hebrew word and the Greek word for the *Spirit* originally meant a "breath," or "air", or "wind." The Spirit was thus understood to be the source of inspiration, life, and movement within God's people....

Issue 23 —

The Holy Spirit

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Things to talk about:

- When in your life would you say you experienced God's presence? What were the occasions and the value of these experiences?
- The Holy Spirit is the Sanctifier who calls us to holiness. When you hear about being called to be holy, what thoughts arise in your mind? What would you need to do to be more holy?

Even though the Holy Spirit is the last Person of the Trinity to be revealed, we must understand that, from the beginning, he is a part of the loving plan of our salvation from sin and of the offer of divine life. He has the same mission as the Son in the cause of our salvation. When the Father sends the Son, he also sends the Holy Spirit...

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, USCCB, 2006, pg 101-105

Doctrinal Statements about the Holy Spirit

- The life of the Blessed Virgin Mary shows us the power of the Holy Spirit. She was made by the Holy Spirit into a witness of grace from the moment of her conception. It is also by the power of the Holy Spirit that Mary conceived Jesus, the Son of God.
- By the anointing of the Holy Spirit at his Incarnation, the Son of God was consecrated as Christ (*Messiah*).
- Before his Ascension, Jesus said to the apostles, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)
- At Pentecost, Peter said of Jesus that "God has made him both Lord and Messiah" (Acts 2:36). From this fullness of his glory, Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the Church.
- Whenever the Father sends his Son, he always sends his Spirit: There mission is inseparable.
- The Holy Spirit builds up, animates, and sanctifies the Church. He prepares us to go out and bring others to Christ. He opens our minds to understand Christ's death and Resurrection. He makes present for us the mystery of Christ, especially in the Eucharist, and brings us to communion with God that we may bear much fruit (CCC 737).





Saint in the Spotlight—Blessed Damien of Molokai (1840-1849)

On Saturday, May 10, the Church remembers Blessed Damien of Molokai,

When Joseph de Veuster was born in Tremelo, Belgium, in 1840, few people in Europe had any firsthand knowledge of leprosy (Hansen's disease). By the time he died at the age of 49, people all over the world knew about this disease because of him. They knew that human compassion could soften the ravages of this disease.

Forced to quit school at age 13 to work on the family farm, six years later Joseph entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, taking the name of a fourth-century physician and martyr. When his brother Pamphile, a priest in the same congregation, fell ill and was unable to go to the Hawaiian Islands as assigned, Damien quickly volunteered in his place. In May 1864, two months after arriving in his new mission, Damien was ordained a priest in

Honolulu and assigned to the island of Hawaii.

In 1873, he went to the Hawaiian government's leper colony on the island of Molokai, set up seven years earlier. Part of a team of four chaplains taking that assignment for three months each year, Damien soon volunteered to remain permanently, caring for the people's physical, medical and spiritual needs. In time, he became their most effective advocate to obtain promised government support.

Soon the settlement had new houses and a new church, school and orphanage. Morale improved considerably. A few years later he succeeded in getting the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse, led by Mother Marianne Kope, to help staff this colony in Kalaupapa.

Damien contracted Hansen's disease and died of its complications. As re-

quested, he was buried in Kalaupapa, but in 1936 the Belgian government succeeded in having his body moved to Belgium. Part of Damien's body was returned to his beloved Hawaiian brothers and sisters after his beatification in 1995.

When Hawaii became a state in 1959, it selected Damien as one of its two representatives in the Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol.

During the beatification homily, Pope John Paul II said: "Holiness is not perfection according to human criteria; it is not reserved for a small number of exceptional persons. It is for everyone; it is the Lord who brings us to holiness, when we are willing to collaborate in the salvation of the world for the glory of God, despite our sin and our sometimes rebellious temperament."

From: www.americancatholic.org/Features/SaintOfDay/

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

BREATHE INTO ME, HOLY SPIRIT,
THAT MY THOUGHTS MAY ALL BE HOLY.
MOVE IN ME, HOLY SPIRIT,
THAT MY WORK, TOO, MAY BE HOLY.
ATTRACT MY HEART, HOLY SPIRIT,
THAT I MAY LOVE ONLY WHAT IS HOLY.
STRENGTHEN ME, HOLY SPIRIT,
THAT I MAY DEFEND ALL THAT IS HOLY.
PROTECT ME, HOLY SPIRIT,
THAT I MAY ALWAYS BE HOLY.

SAINT AUGUSTINE

Want to know more?

Would you like to know more about the Holy Spirit? Check out the following books and websites for more information:

- *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, USCCB, 2006
- *The Catholicism Answer Book*, Trigilio & Brighenti; Sourcebooks, Inc; Naperville, IL; 2007
- http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=1683
- Holy Spirit Prayers: <http://www.catholic.org/clife/prayers/prayer.php?s=22>
- <http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/SFS/an0499.asp>

These are just suggestions. In providing these we assume no responsibility for, nor do we necessarily endorse these books or websites, their content, or their sponsoring organizations.

“What’s What” is a publication of the Youth Ministry Department of St Mary, Canandaigua, and St Bridget, Bloomfield.

Our Youth Ministry Mission Statement [Draft]:

Building on the mission of our parishes to follow the way of Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds, and to make Christ more fully present in all who live within our community, the Youth Ministry mission is to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today; to affirm the gifts of our youth and provide opportunities for young people to share their gifts with the larger community; and to meet the religious, spiritual and social needs of all youth with the committed leadership, guidance and support of our parish family, providing an opportunity for our entire faith community to grow together in Christian faith.