

Receive the Holy Spirit

Chapter 9 USCCA

The Revelation of the Spirit, Joint Mission of Son and Spirit (CCC 683-747)

Summary

The Holy Spirit is God, the third divine Person of the Trinity, sometimes called the Paraclete, an Advocate and Comforter, the Lord and Giver of Life. At the Last Supper, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit: "I will send him to you" (Jn. 16:7). After his death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit upon the Church to inspire, strengthen, and vivify God's people. The Holy Spirit is poured out at Pentecost (meaning fiftieth day) to sanctify the Church and to continue the abiding presence of Christ among us. In the Acts of the Apostles and the New Testament epistles, we trace the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. The Spirit sanctifies and strengthens believers to live a new life in Christ and to proclaim the Good News to the world. We come to know the Holy Spirit within the community of the Church, in the Scriptures inspired by the Spirit, in the Tradition of the Church's teachings and doctrines, in the sacraments - particularly the Eucharist - and in prayer, apostolates, and ministries that build up the Body of Christ. At our Baptism, the Holy Spirit removes Original Sin and incorporates us into the Body of Christ. At Confirmation, the Holy Spirit strengthens us to proclaim, in word and deed, the Good News of the Gospel. At every Eucharist, the Holy Spirit transforms the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ through the ministry of the priest. When we are open, the Holy Spirit continually converts and transforms us into dwelling places for Christ to live as children of God.

Questions

1. (102-6 & 7) For what purpose did Jesus give the power of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles (and to us)?
2. (103-4) How is the Holy Spirit active in the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation?
3. (103-4) Who changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ?
4. (103-4) What do we need to learn to activate this same power in ourselves?
5. (103-6) "We may not have to do great things," but what are we called to do, and why?
6. (104-2) Based on the description of Mary, whom do we honor when we venerate Mary?
7. (104-3) Throughout history, who are always the first to accept Christ?
8. (105-2) What promise about the Spirit of the Lord does the Church honor?
9. (105-6) When did the Holy Spirit become a part of God's plan for our salvation?
10. (106) Read aloud the 8 ways in which the Holy Spirit provides us with an experience of God's presence.
11. (106-10) What is meant by the statement "The Spirit is the immediacy of God"?
12. Question: *What would you need to do to be more holy?* Or a bit easier to answer-*What would you need to do to become more devoted to God or to the work of God?*