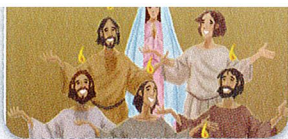


## Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit invites you to ▶



**EXPLORE** how the Holy Spirit guided St. Benedict to use the gift of counsel.



**DISCOVER** the work of the Holy Spirit within the Church.



**DECIDE** how you will take part in the work of the Church.



# The Holy Spirit

? Why is it sometimes difficult to obey rules?

The writer of Psalm 143 may have realized that he needed God's help to obey his Laws. Join with him as he prays:

*"[Lord,] teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.*

*May your kind spirit guide me  
on ground that is level." PSALM 143:10*

? How do you know that the Holy Spirit will guide you to do what is right and good?

Disciple Power

Counsel

Counsel, or right judgment, is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. This gift, or grace, helps a person sense the moral truth about how to live. The gift of counsel is the ability to judge correctly the daily activity of our lives according to God's will. The source of this gift is the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to form our consciences properly.


# Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica

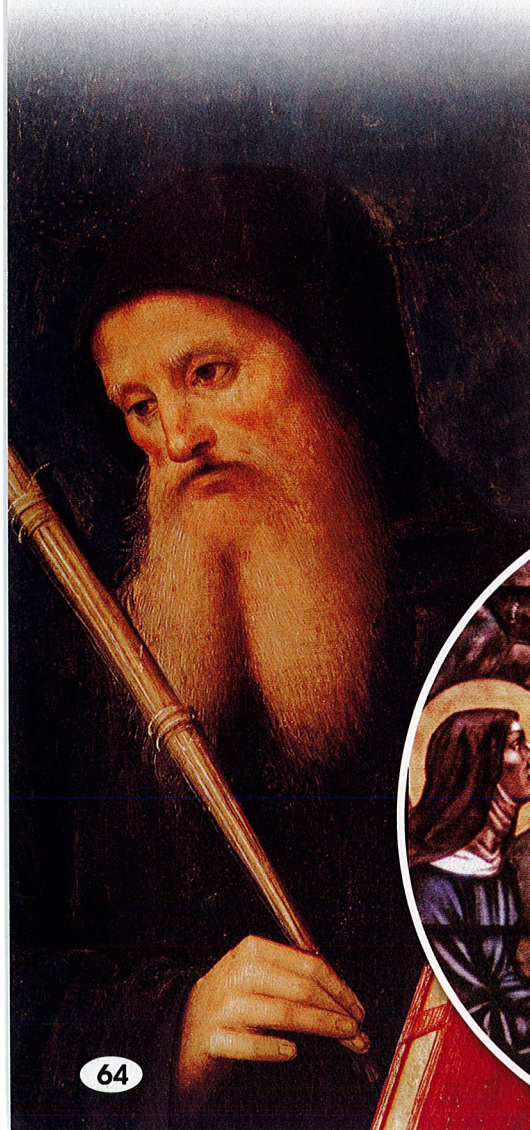
Christians need one another to live the Gospel. Saint Benedict lived in Nursia, Italy, from A.D. 480 to 547. He wrote a rule of life that spelled out a clear way to live the Gospel in a monastic setting. A monastery is a place where a group of religious people lives and works together under a common set of rules. The Rule of St. Benedict is based on a life of peace as one works and prays in imitation of Christ.

Benedict's rules were so helpful that people came from many places to live together and follow them. Saint Scholastica (A.D. 480–543), Benedict's twin sister, was the first woman to choose to follow his rule of life. Soon other women came to live together to follow the same rules.

The followers of Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica are baptized Christians who consecrate their lives to God. They are known as Benedictines. According to the rules, Benedictines are led by an abbot (for male communities) or a prioress (for female communities). The leader, guided by the Holy Spirit, is responsible for counseling the members on how to live a Christian life.

The Holy Spirit guided Benedict in his own personal life and empowered him to establish his set of rules through the gift of counsel or right judgment. With the aid of the Rule of St. Benedict, Benedictines today live as disciples of Christ.

 What are good rules to live by at home, at school, and in your neighborhood? Talk about them with a partner.



# The Holy Spirit at Work

In the New Testament, there are four written accounts of the Gospel. They are the **Gospels** according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, each passes on the faith of the Church in Jesus Christ and in the saving events of the Paschal Mystery. Each announces the Good News of Salvation in Jesus, who is the Lord and Savior of the world.

The four Gospels formed over three different stages. The first stage belongs to the very words and deeds of Jesus. The second stage belongs to the time of the Apostles' preaching about Jesus after the Holy Spirit descended upon them at **Pentecost**. The third stage belongs to the four Evangelists—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, each Evangelist, a name that means “announcer of good news,” wrote his account of the Gospel that the Apostles had passed on about Jesus.

Each of the four accounts of the Gospel passes on the faith of the Church in Jesus from four individual perspectives:

Matthew pays special attention to the rich Jewish heritage of the Church and to the great teachings of Jesus.

Mark emphasizes what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and to walk with him toward the Cross.

Luke shows how Salvation in Jesus embraces all people, especially those who are most in need.

John reflects on the inner meaning of Jesus' words and deeds and writes in a very poetic style.

## FAITH FOCUS

What is the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church?

## FAITH VOCABULARY

### charism

A charism is a grace of the Holy Spirit given to build up the Church and to help the Church fulfill her work in the world.

### Gospels

The Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament that pass on the faith of the Church in Jesus Christ and in the saving events of the Paschal Mystery.

### Pentecost

Pentecost is the liturgical feast and holy day when the Church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and the birth of the Church.

## Activity

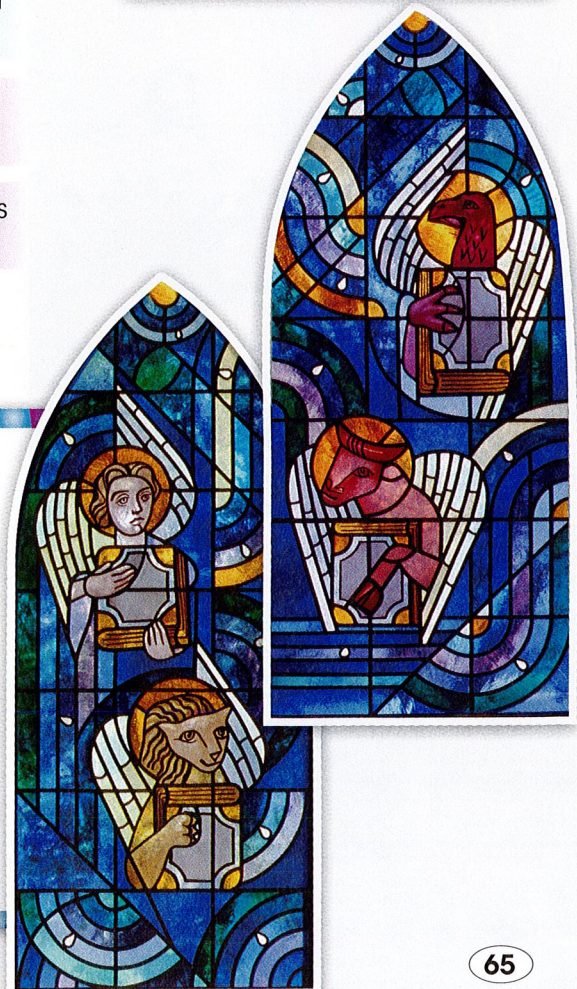
Read Matthew 26: 6-13, Mark 14: 3-9, Luke 7: 36-50 and John 12: 1-8. Compare how the same event is reported in different ways.

Matthew \_\_\_\_\_

Mark \_\_\_\_\_

Luke \_\_\_\_\_

John \_\_\_\_\_





# Faith-Filled People

## The Spiritans

The Spiritans, or the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, is a religious community of priests and lay brothers approved by the Church. Guided by the unifying presence of the Holy Spirit, Spiritans seek to transform the hearts and minds of those who suffer. Their **charism**, or special gift, is bringing hope and compassion to those in need among the culturally diverse.

## The Age of the Spirit

After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide them and to be their advocate, or helper (read Luke 24:48–49; Acts 1:4–5).

Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples as promised. This was during the Jewish feast of Pentecost, a time to celebrate God’s blessings (read Acts 2:1–4). Filled with enthusiasm, Peter the Apostle and the other disciples went into the streets of Jerusalem. There Peter boldly proclaimed the Gospel. People who had come to Jerusalem from many countries to celebrate the Jewish feast of Pentecost listened to Peter and heard him in their own language. Moved by the Holy Spirit, thousands were baptized (read Acts 1:14–41).

When Christians think of the Holy Spirit, we might think that the Holy Spirit waited until Pentecost to begin working among the People of God. The truth is that the Holy Spirit has always been at work in the world. We read about the Holy Spirit in the story of creation (see Genesis 2:7; Psalm 104:30), and with the prophets of the Old Testament (see Zechariah 4:5–6). We also read about the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Mary and all of the disciples.

The Holy Spirit was always with Jesus, the Son of God. When he began his public ministry, Jesus announced in the synagogue at Nazareth,

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.”*

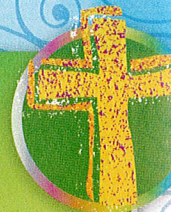
LUKE 4:18

The mission of Jesus, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit always go together. The Holy Trinity always works together. The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit cannot be separated.

Today on Pentecost, we celebrate the beginning of the work that Jesus commissioned the Church to do (read Matthew 28:16–20). The Church is a sign and instrument of God’s communion with all humanity and a sign in the world of the unity of the whole human race. God’s promise made to Abraham came true in Christ. The Holy Spirit inspires the Church to boldly proclaim the Gospel.

**?** In what ways can the Holy Spirit help you in your daily life?





## Social Teachings

The social teachings of the Catholic Church are a set of teachings that provide the basic principles to guide us in how we are to build up the Church and fulfill her work in the world. If we open our hearts and minds to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, living according to these principles will lead us to holiness and a just society. The first and most fundamental principle is the life and dignity of the human person.

## Temple of the Holy Spirit

The Gospel of John tells us that when the crucified Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing by the Cross, he said,

*“Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother.’ ”*

JOHN 19:26-27

The “beloved disciple” who is at the foot of the Cross stands for all who are Jesus’ disciples. Mary, the Mother of God, is the mother of all who follow her Son, Jesus. Mary is the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church, the Body of Christ.

Mary is the first among all followers of Jesus. She was truly a temple of the Holy Spirit. We praise her as blessed among all women because of the fruit of her womb, Jesus. The Holy Spirit is always with her (see Luke 1:35).

**?** What does it mean to say Mary is a “temple of the Holy Spirit”?

In his first Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul asks the Christian community in Corinth,

*“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?”*

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19

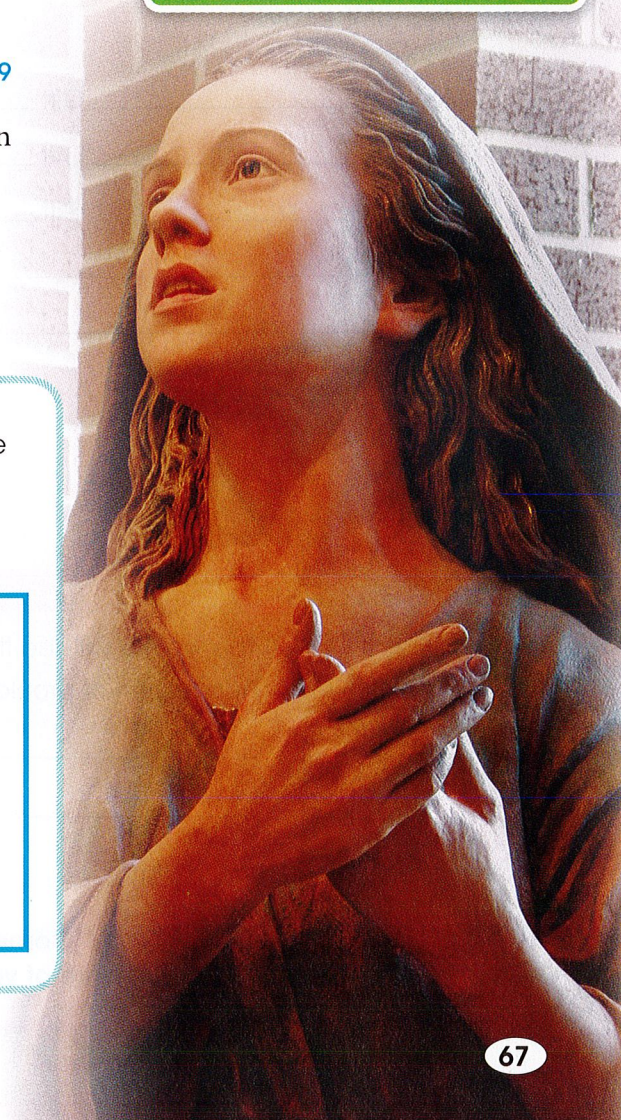
The Holy Spirit dwells within each of the baptized and within the whole Church. The Church is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the source of the Church’s life and of her unity as the one People of God. The Holy Spirit is also the one source of the richness of the Church’s many gifts and charisms.

### Activity

Imagine that you could live in a city or town where the Holy Spirit guides everyone. Describe the look of this city or town. Create a story board showing three things that would happen there.

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# I FOLLOW JESUS

As a member of the Church, the Holy Spirit dwells within you, giving you the grace to live the Gospel. Among the graces we receive at Baptism are the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts, which are strengthened at Confirmation, help you to take part in the life and work of the Church.

## GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Review the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit found below. Choose three of them and think of people in your family, school, or neighborhood who have these gifts. Name the three people and what gifts they exhibit. Then write a profile (short description) of one of these people.

wisdom      understanding      knowledge  
counsel      piety      fortitude  
fear of the Lord

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gift \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gift \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gift \_\_\_\_\_

Profile of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## MY FAITH CHOICE

This week, I will use the gift of counsel, or right judgment, to help the Church fulfill her mission of proclaiming the Gospel. I will

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Pray, "Come Holy Spirit, fill my heart and enkindle in me the fire of your love. Amen."

# Chapter Review

Use the code to discover this important message about the Gospel.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Z</b>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

$4 \times 5$     $12 - 4$     $10 \div 2$     $12 - 5$     $3 \times 5$     $24 - 5$     $4 \times 4$     $10 \div 2$     $6 + 6$

$6 - 5$     $2 \times 7$     $12 + 2$     $3 \times 5$     $22 - 1$     $9 + 5$     $3 + 0$     $10 \div 2$     $24 - 5$

$4 \times 5$     $12 - 4$     $10 \div 2$

$21 - 10$     $3 \times 3$     $28 \div 2$     $19 - 12$     $2 \times 2$     $5 \times 3$     $26 \div 2$

$3 + 12$     $18 - 12$     $13 - 6$     $8 + 7$     $19 - 15$

## TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. The Holy Spirit is at work bringing about God's plan of Salvation within the Church.
2. The Holy Spirit strengthens the Church to be a sign of Christ's love for humanity and enables us to proclaim the Gospel.
3. With the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we can help continue the mission of the Church.

# Prayer of Intercession

In a prayer of intercession, we pray for others. Jesus constantly prayed for his followers. Let us listen to the prayer of Jesus in the Gospel of John and pray for others to the Father as Jesus did.

**Leader:** Lord, we gather to listen to your Word. May we always live as the one People of God.

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

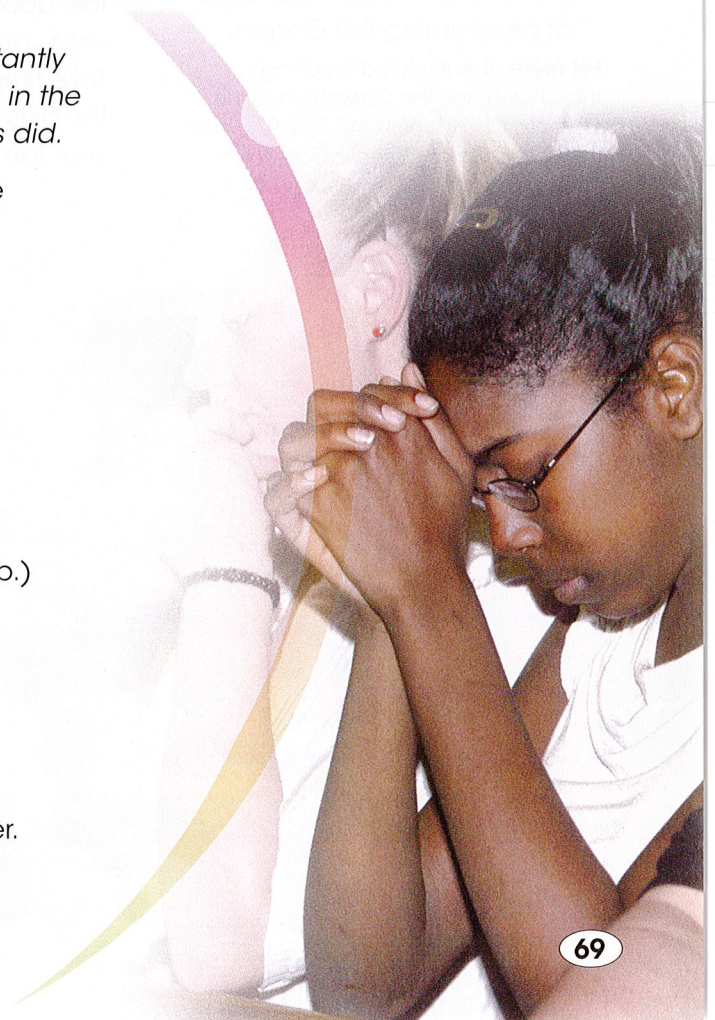
**All:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Reader:** Proclaim John 17:20-21.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**  
(Pause to pray for those who need God's help.)

**Leader:** Lord God, Father of all, fill all who call upon you with the love of the Holy Spirit. Make us one in the fullness of faith and fellowship of love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**



# With My Family

## This Week . . .

In **Chapter 7**, "The Holy Spirit," your child learned:

- ▶ The Gospel is the announcement of the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ. The four Evangelists—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—wrote their accounts under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, is at work within the Church. The Holy Spirit dwells within each of us as members of the one Body of Christ.
- ▶ As one Church, God calls all the baptized to use the gift of counsel and the other Gifts of the Holy Spirit to take part in the Church's mission, or work, of proclaiming the Gospel.

**For more** about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 683–747, 963–975, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 102–110, 141–149.

## Sharing God's Word

**Read together** I Corinthians 6:19. Emphasize that the Holy Spirit is the source of the Church's life and her unity as the holy People of God.

## We Live as Disciples

**The Christian home** and family is a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:

- ▶ Look at the many things you do as a family. Discuss how each of these helps you take part in the life and work of the Church.
- ▶ At a family meal, name and talk about the people who help you live the Gospel. Take time to thank God for the gifts they share with your family.

- ▶ Choose the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, or Luke. As a family, take a short passage and share together your reflection on it.

## Our Spiritual Journey

**Discernment** is a spiritual discipline of the Church that relates to counsel, or right judgment, which is one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Review the steps you take to arrive at a serious decision. Be sure that you are including prayer to the Holy Spirit in your process. Your family decision making is a way of unifying your family's efforts to live the Gospel. In this chapter, your child prayed a prayer of intercession, or praying for others. Read and pray together the prayer on page 69.

For more ideas on ways that your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit

[www.BeMyDisciples.com](http://www.BeMyDisciples.com)

