

## Restored Order Session 1—Whole Community Ritual

# We Belong

### Before the Celebration

- Choose a gathering space that will be conducive to prayer and to accommodate the size of the group; the church, a chapel, or a gathering place in the parish hall would each be appropriate. You will want the group to be able to see, hear, and move easily during the ritual.
- Prepare the group for the ritual action of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and for the reflection on the Scriptures.
- Select a good reader to proclaim the reading.
- Select four people for the entrance procession to carry the Bible, the candle, the bowl of water, and the chrism. Show them where and how to place them in the sanctuary or on the prayer table.
- If not in a church or chapel, place chairs in semicircular rows around the prayer space. Leave enough space for people to move in and out of the rows. If possible, have tables and chairs set up in another space for adult discussion after the celebration.

### Materials

- A large, clear bowl with water, or if the celebration is in the church, use the baptismal font or pool
- A large candle or the Paschal candle
- A prayer table for the candle, oil of chrism, a baptismal candle, a Bible, and a stand
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Copies of the celebration for the assembly from [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com)

### Gathering Rite

**Welcome** the gathered assembly.

**Rehearse** the opening song, and go over the ritual action of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

**Invite** the assembly to stand for the procession.

### Opening Song

“Yes Lord, I Believe!,” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

### Procession

The persons carrying the bowl with water, candle, and Bible process in while the assembly sings.

**Leader:** *Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross.*

**All:** *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

**Leader:** *May the peace of the Lord be with you.*

**All:** *And with your spirit.*

### Opening Prayer

**Leader:** *Heavenly Father, at Baptism, we were joined to your Son, Jesus Christ, and welcomed into the family of the Church. Hear our prayer as we remember our Baptism. We ask this through your Son, Jesus, who lives and reigns forever.*

**All:** *Amen.*

### Celebration of the Word

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

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

*Read John 15:1–7.*

**Leader:** *The Gospel of the Lord.*

**All:** *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Sit silently.*

## Reflection

**Invite** the assembly to reflect on the Scriptures; use the following question:

- What does the image of the vine and branches suggest to you about your relationship with Jesus?

**Ask** the assembly to share their responses with one or two people. Be sure to include children in the sharing.

## Renewal of Baptismal Promises

**Leader:** *Let us stand and renew our baptismal promises.*

**Leader:** *Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?*

**All:** *I do.*

**Leader:** *Do you reject the glamour of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin?*

**All:** *I do.*

**Leader:** *Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?*

**All:** *I do.*

**Leader:** *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?*

**All:** *I do.*

**Leader:** *Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the Resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?*

**All:** *I do.*

Based on *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 581

## The Lord's Prayer

**Leader:** *At the Savior's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:  
Say the Lord's Prayer together.*

## Closing Prayer

**Leader:** *May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.*

**All:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Sing** the opening song together.

Children go to their group session and adults go to the appointed space for reflection.

- There is a liturgical catechetical session for adults on p. 54.
- There is a parent/adult catechetical session on pp. 55–56.
- There is an intergenerational catechetical session on pp. 57–58.



# We Belong

## Goals

- To reflect on the celebration
- To review and discuss the effects of Baptism

## Materials

- Poster board, chart paper, or overhead projector
- Markers
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Bible

## Reflection (20 minutes)

**Invite** the adults to gather in groups of five or six.

**Begin** by recalling the ritual moments of the celebration. Lead a guided meditation using the following prompts. Pause after each prompt.

- Play a few verses of the opening song, “Yes, Lord, I Believe,” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.
- Ask: “What was it like to renew your baptismal promises?”
- Call to mind the procession to the water and the signing of one another.
- Read a few verses of the Gospel.
- Ask participants to recall their discussion of the Gospel.
- Recall the Lord’s Prayer and Dismissal.

## Small Group Sharing

**Pause** for a few minutes of silence. Then invite the participants to share their feelings about the celebration in their small group. Encourage them to stay with their feelings. After 10 to 15 minutes, invite sharing with the large group.

## Large Group Sharing

**Gather** the responses of the small groups on poster board, chart paper, or an overhead projector. Ask for feelings and thoughts about the celebration as a whole, and also for specific parts of the celebration that were meaningful to members of the group.

## Naming (30 minutes)

**Ask** the participants to name what they learned from the celebration about God, Jesus, the Church, Baptism, or their own Christian life.

**Take** each category separately and list responses on poster board, chart paper, or an overhead projector. When the lists are completed, use them to summarize the theology and meaning of Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

**Affirm**, add, or enlarge upon the following points:

- Baptism is a sacrament of belonging.
- Baptism is a sacrament of faith and needs a community of believers.
- Baptism makes us members of the Church.
- In Baptism, all sin is forgiven.
- In Baptism, we are made a “new creature.”
- In Baptism, we become adopted children of God and temples of the Holy Spirit.

## Reflection and Small Group Sharing (20 minutes)

**Ask** “What will you do this week to nurture your bond with the Holy Spirit?”

**Direct** participants to reflect in silence for a few minutes, and then share their responses with their group.

## Closing Blessing (5 minutes)

**Gather** and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** *God, our Father, we praise and thank you for choosing us to be your children.*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *Jesus our Savior, we praise and thank you for showing us how to live and love.*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *Holy Spirit, giver of God’s gifts, we praise and thank you for guiding us on our way.*

**All:** *Amen.*

## Restored Order Session 1—Parent/Adult Catechesis

# We Belong

### Goals

- To welcome participants in a hospitable environment
- To discuss how one “belongs” to the Church
- To help participants come to a deeper understanding of the Sacraments of Initiation

### Environment

- Clearly identify the meeting place, posting clear directions if necessary
- Arrange tables and chairs arranged for small groups
- Set up a prayer space with a large candle, a Bible on a stand, a clear bowl filled with water, and a branch or other instrument for sprinkling

### Materials

- Beverages and light refreshments
- Copies of *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Family Guide*
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Copies of **Eucharist Parent/Adult Catechesis Handouts 1:1 and 1:2** ([www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com))
- Board or chart paper

### Welcome and Opening Prayer (15 minutes)

**Begin** the session with welcoming words and introduce yourself. Briefly review the goals and agenda for the gathering.

✦ **If this session was preceded by a large group ritual and reflection, go to We Belong. If not, continue with the prayer.**

**Gather** the group around the prayer setting, if possible; if not, have the group pause for a reflective moment.

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

**Sing** “Yes Lord, I Believe!” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

**Pray** these or similar words:

*God, you are the source of life. You have made all things. We live with the breath of your life in us. We give you praise and thanks for these gifts. We belong to you. We are your children and we are never alone because you are present to us in so many ways, especially in the Church. Open our hearts that we may bring your life to those around us. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

**Read** *John 15:1–17*.

**Invite** the assembly to reflect on the Gospel using the following question:

- What does the image of the vine and branches suggest to you about your relationship with Jesus?

**Ask** the participants to share their responses with one or two people.

**Invite** participants to come forward to sign themselves with the holy water as a sign of their belonging to God and the Church.

### We Belong (30 minutes)

**Write** the word “*belonging*” on the board or on chart paper. Ask the group to give you any word or image that *belonging* brings up for them. Jot down the responses and point out that real belonging involves investment in relationships and causes.

**Distribute Eucharist Parent/Adult Catechesis Handout 1:1** and ask participants to complete it. Explain that it will help them see from their own experiences how people come to belong.

**Organize** the large group into smaller groups of 5 to 6 people. Ask participants to share their stories of initiation in the small groups.

**Direct** them to listen for any common characteristics of what happens to people in the process of coming to belong to a group.

**Invite** participants to share in small groups. Develop a list of characteristics common to everyone’s sharing that tells something about how people come to belong. At the end of the sharing, ask volunteers from the small groups to share the lists.

**Use** ideas from the list and give further input on what it means to belong to the Church. Emphasize that:

- Belonging is a process.
- Usually we are invited in (evangelization) or are really attracted by what we see (Christian witness).
- We make choices about our involvement.
- There are always rituals connected to the process of belonging (sacraments).
- As we become more involved in the group, we change (conversion).
- If it is really important to us, we tell others about it; we invite them in.

**Allow** some quiet time and ask participants to think about all the things they have just discussed and listened to, and to ask themselves:

- On a scale of 1–10 (10 being the highest), where would you rank yourself as belonging to the Church? Where would you rank yourself as belonging to God?

**Break** for refreshments and conversation.

### What Are the Sacraments of Initiation? (30 minutes)

**Use** some of the comments from the previous session to move into this segment.

**Point out** that initiation, or coming to belong, is always a process, and it usually involves symbols, rites, and rituals. It is that way with the Church, too. The Church has three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

**Distribute** Eucharist Parent/Adult Catechesis Handout 1:2 and go through it in a conversational style, making comments and explaining as questions arise. You may use the questions as a small group resource for sharing.

**Allow** time for questions, comments, and insights.

**Summarize** by saying these or similar words:

*Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation. These sacraments celebrate our belonging to Jesus Christ and being incorporated into his Body, the Church. Most of us go through a process of understanding what this really means for us. It is important to keep in mind that when we celebrate sacraments without being in relationship with and participating in the community of faith, we miss out on a lot. It is also important to keep in mind that initiation is only a beginning. It is not a graduation.*

### Parent Moment (10 minutes)

**Highlight** the three Faith at Home features in the *Child's Book* and show how they will help the parents and family members to participate in the children's preparation.

**Emphasize** the importance of doing the activities on the Faith at Home page, especially the ritual action.

### Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

**Gather** the participants in a circle around the prayer space. Pray these or similar words:

*God, who calls us to yourself, who longs for us to belong to you, we ask for your blessing as we continue our faith journey. May we always be alert to your presence in the sacred signs of our lives and the celebrations of the Church. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

*We close by reminding ourselves of our Baptism and our common kinship in God's family. In all that we do, may we reflect the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Sprinkle with water.) Amen.*

**Thank** everyone for their time and participation.



**Encourage** parents and family members to go to [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com) for more ideas and suggestions.

# We Belong

### Objectives

- To guide families to experience a celebration of the word, including Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- To explore the meaning of the ritual action in family groups
- To help family members increase their understanding of the Sacraments of Initiation
- To help family members express that they are followers of Christ

### Materials

- Copies of the celebration for the assembly ([www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com))
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Prayer table
- Bible
- Candle and matches
- Bowl filled with water
- Chart or poster paper
- Markers
- Pencils
- *Child's Book*

### Welcome and Celebration (10–15 minutes)

**Welcome** the families in the gathering space.

**Distribute** copies of the celebration.

**Select** a family to be in the procession. Have them choose a family member to carry the Bible in procession.

- When families are assembled, walk forward slowly. Follow the child carrying the Bible.
- During the procession, lead families in singing “Yes Lord, I Believe,” from the *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.
- Place the Bible on the prayer table and have family members return to their seats.
- Light the prayer candle.
- Begin prayer with the Sign of the Cross and invite the group to follow the order of the prayer.
- If the group is too large to gather around the water and candle, have families remain seated.
- For the proclamation of the Gospel, you may use a Bible or the adapted reading in the *Child's Book* on pp. 6–7.
- Conclude with the opening song from the *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

### New Life individual family unit experience (10 minutes)

**Guide** family members to reflect on the celebration by asking the following questions:

- What did you see? What did you hear? What did you do?

**Ask** volunteers to share their responses.

**Allow** time for children and family members to complete the activity on p. 4 of the *Child's Book*.

### The Body of Christ whole-group learning experience (5 minutes)

**Select** members of several families to share stories or details they know about their own Baptisms.

**Direct** attention to the bowl of water and the candle on the prayer table. Ask participants how these symbols are related to Baptism.

**Explain** the Signs of Faith: Water and Paschal Candle by summarizing the text on pp. 4–5 of the *Child's Book*.

**Ask** for a volunteer to read aloud The Body of Christ section in the *Child's Book*.

### We Belong to God family cluster sharing experience (10 minutes)

**Organize** the large group into small clusters and invite them to reflect on the following question:

- What does Jesus tell us about belonging to God?

**Ask** volunteers to share their responses.

**Ask** each family cluster to select a leader to read aloud the first paragraph on p. 6 of the *Child's Book*.

### Scripture whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Read** aloud the Scripture story on pp. 6–7 of the *Child's Book*.

**Invite** the large group to reflect on the following:

- What was Jesus telling his friends in this story?
- Ask volunteers to share their responses.

**Allow** silent time for individuals to reflect on how Jesus is their friend. At the end of the reflection, have family members share their responses with one another.

**Direct** the families to help children complete the Share activity on p. 7 of the *Child's Book*.

**Emphasize** that Jesus wants us to know we belong to him, and he wants us to love one another.

### **The Sacraments of Initiation** family cluster sharing experience (15 minutes)

**Organize** the large group into the same family cluster groups as earlier. Be sure each group has selected a leader. Provide one sheet of poster paper for each family cluster and invite them to reflect on the question: Which sacraments are signs of belonging?

**Ask** each group leader to write down his or her group's responses on the poster paper.

**Ask** each group leader to select a member of his or her group to read aloud the first paragraph on p. 8 of the *Child's Book*.

**Guide** family cluster groups to look at the sacraments that they have listed on their chart paper, and have the leaders circle the Sacraments of Initiation.

**Explain** that Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation. These sacraments make us full members of the Church. These sacraments are signs that we belong to God.

### **Baptism** individual family unit experience (5 minutes)

**Point out** the word "Baptism" in the *Child's Book*.

- Invite family members to group together and have the adults share memories of their Baptisms or that of their child or children.

- Select a child to read aloud about Baptism on p. 8 of the *Child's Book*.

### **Confirmation and Eucharist** whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Point out** the word "Confirmation" in the *Child's Book*:

- Explain to the large group that the Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens baptized persons with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Read the prayers on p. 9 of the *Child's Book*.
- Ask the families which Person of the Trinity we receive in a special way during Confirmation.
- Select a volunteer to read Signs of Faith: The Trinity.

**Point out** the word "Eucharist" in the *Child's Book*:

- Select a family member to read aloud from the book about Eucharist.

**Clarify** that Eucharist is a name used for the whole action of the Mass and that Holy Communion is the receiving of the Body and Blood of Jesus during the Eucharist.

### **Children of Light** individual family unit experience (5 minutes)

**Guide** families in sharing how they live as followers of Christ using the activity on p. 10 of the *Child's Book*. At the end of the reflection, ask volunteers to share their family's responses.

### **Closing Blessing** (5 minutes)

**Invite** each family to form a family circle.

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

**Pray** the prayer on p. 10 of the *Child's Book*.

**Conclude** by leading families in singing *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7, "Yes Lord, I Believe."

### **Faith at Home**

**Direct** families' attention to the Faith at Home page and encourage them to the activities at home.

## Restored Order (1)–Whole Community Ritual

# Gifts of the Holy Spirit

### Before the Celebration

- Choose a gathering space that will be conducive to prayer and that will accommodate the size of the group; the church, a chapel, or a gathering place in the parish hall would each be appropriate. You will want the group to be able to see, hear, and move easily during the ritual.
- Prepare the group for the ritual action of the Blessing and for the reflection on the sacred Scriptures.
- Select a good reader to proclaim the reading.
- Select four people for the entrance procession: to carry the Bible, the candle, the bowl of water, and the sacred chrism. Show them where and how to place them in the sanctuary or on the prayer table.
- If not in a church or chapel, place chairs in semicircular rows around the prayer space. Leave enough space for people to move in and out of the rows. If possible, have tables and chairs set up in another space for adult discussion after the celebration.

### Materials

- A large, clear bowl with water, or if the celebration is in the church, use the baptismal font or pool
- A branch or aspergillum for sprinkling
- A large candle or the Paschal candle
- A prayer table for the candle, sacred chrism, a baptismal candle, a Bible, and a stand
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Copies of the celebration for the assembly ([www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com))

### Gathering Rite

**Welcome** the gathered assembly.

**Rehearse** the opening song with gestures, and go over the ritual action of the Blessing.

**Invite** the assembly to stand for the procession.

### Opening Song

“We Are Called,” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 1.

### Procession

The persons carrying the bowl with water, a candle, and Bible process in while the assembly sings.

**Leader:** *Let us pray.*

*Make the Sign of the Cross together.*

### Opening Prayer

**Leader:** *God, our Father, we belong to you. We are your children. Open our hearts to the gift of the Holy Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**All:** *Amen.*

### Celebration of the Word

**Leader:** *Jesus is the Light of the World. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

**All:** *Glory to you, O Lord.*  
*Read John 14:15–26.*

**Leader:** *The Gospel of the Lord.*

**All:** *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*  
*Sit silently.*



## Reflection

**Invite** the assembly to reflect on the Gospel. Use the following question:

- When do you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit's help?

**Ask** the assembly to share their responses with one or two people. Be sure to include children in the sharing.

## Blessing

**Invite** the Confirmation candidates forward with their family members. Invite the family members to extend their hands over the children as you do.

**Leader:** *In Baptism, you were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. By water and the Holy Spirit, you received the gifts of faith and new life. Let us remember that the Holy Spirit is with us always.*

*Extend your hands over the head of each child and pray:*

**Leader:** *[Name], remember that the Holy Spirit is with you always.*

**Child:** *Amen.*

## Closing Prayer

**Leader:** *Loving Father, we thank you for the gift of your Spirit. Send us forth to bring your love to others. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**All:** *Amen.*

Children go to their group session and adults go to the appointed space for reflection.

- There is a liturgical catechetical session for adults on p. 61.
- There is a parent/adult catechetical session on pp. 62–63.
- There is an intergenerational catechetical session on pp. 64–65.



# Gifts of the Holy Spirit

## Goals

- To reflect on the celebration
- To explore the meaning of Blessing and Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- To review the ritual action of Extension of Hands in the Confirmation Rite

## Materials

- Poster board, chart paper, or overhead projector
- Markers
- *Songs of Celebration* CD

## Reflection (20 minutes)

**Invite** the adults to gather in groups of five or six.

**Begin** by recalling the ritual moments of the celebration. Lead a guided meditation using the following prompts. Pause after each prompt.

- Play a few verses of the opening song “We Are Called,” *Songs of Celebration*, track 1.
- Read some verses of the Gospel.
- Ask participants to recall their discussion of the Gospel.
- Call to mind the ritual of blessing the candidates.
- Ask: “What was it like for you to observe the candidates being blessed?”

## Small Group Sharing

**Pause** for a few minutes of silence. Then invite the participants to share their feelings about the celebration in their small group. After 10 to 15 minutes, invite sharing with the large group.

## Large Group Sharing

**Gather** the responses of the small groups on a poster board, chart paper, or an overhead projector. Ask for feelings and thoughts about the celebration as a whole, and also for comments on specific parts of the celebration that were especially meaningful to members of the group.

## Naming (30 minutes)

**Ask** the participants to name what they learned from the celebration about Blessing, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and their own Christian life.

**Take** each category separately and list responses on a poster board, chart paper, or an overhead projector. When the lists are completed, use them to summarize the theology and meaning of Blessings, Extension of Hands, and Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Affirm**, add, or enlarge upon the following points:

- Blessings call down God’s favor on those being blessed. We can bless one another.
- One of the signs the Church uses to call upon the power of the Holy Spirit is the extending of hands.
- During the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop and the priests who are with him extend their hands over the candidates and pray that the Holy Spirit will give them the gifts of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe.
- The Holy Spirit is given to us at Baptism to be our helper and advocate.
- Confirmation increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us. The gifts are given for the sake of building up the Church.

## Reflection and Small Group Sharing (20 minutes)

**Ask** “Which of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit will you pray for this week? Why?”

**Direct** participants to reflect in silence for a few minutes and then to share their responses with their group.

## Closing Blessing (5 minutes)

**Gather** and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Instruct** participants to face a partner and extend hands over them in blessing, saying:

*May the Gifts of the Holy Spirit be active and effective in your life this week.*

## Restored Order (1)–Parent/Adult Catechesis

# Gifts of the Spirit

### Goals

- To welcome participants in a hospitable environment
- To teach the meaning of the Holy Spirit
- To encourage participants to express their desire for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

### Environment

- Be sure to clearly identify the meeting place, posting clear directions if necessary.
- Tables and chairs arranged for small groups
- A prayer setting with large candle, Bible on a stand or table, and a clear bowl filled with water

### Materials

- Beverages and light refreshments
- Nametags
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Copies **Confirmation Parent/Adult Catechesis Handouts 1:1 and 1:2** ([www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com))
- Poster board or chart paper
- Large sheets of newsprint paper and markers

## Welcome and Opening Prayer (15 minutes)

**Welcome** parents and other adults and distribute nametags.

**Introduce** yourself and briefly review the goals and agenda for the gathering.

✦ **If this session was preceded by a large group ritual and reflection, go to Gifts of the Holy Spirit. If not, continue with the prayer.**

**Gather** the group around the prayer setting, if possible, or have the group pause for a reflective moment.

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

**Sing** or listen to “We Are Called,” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 1.

**Pray** these or similar words:

*Lord God, send us the Holy Spirit to help and guide us. May he fill our hearts with life, may he lead us to truth and right living, and give us the courage to preach the Gospel at all times. Open our hearts to his presence that we may bring your life to those around us, we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Read** *John 14:15–26*.

**Invite** the assembly to reflect on the Gospel using the following question:

- When do you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit's help?

**Ask** the participants to share their responses with one or two people.

**Invite** participants to stand and face a partner.

**Say:** In Baptism, you were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. By water and the Holy Spirit, you received the gifts of faith and new life. Let us remember that the Holy Spirit is with us always.

**Ask** pairs to extend their hands over the heads of their partners and say:

Remember that the Holy Spirit is with you always.

**Conclude** the prayer by praying in these or similar words:

*May the gifts of the Holy Spirit be poured out on us in abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, believing in his promise. Amen.*

## Gifts of the Holy Spirit (30 minutes)

**Distribute** Confirmation Parent/Adult Catechesis Handout 1:1.

**Invite** a volunteer to read the prayer from the rite.

**Point out** that this is a prayer prayed by the bishop during the Confirmation celebration.

**Briefly** explain each of the gifts.

**Allow** time for the participants to complete the activity on the handout.

**Organize** the large group into smaller groups of 5 to 6 people.

**Ask** participants to choose one of the gifts they feel they use frequently and one they want to practice. Have them share their choices with their small groups. At the conclusion of the sharing, ask participants to stand in their small groups, and offer this short prayer:

*Come, Holy Spirit, we thank you for your gifts (Ask participants to name aloud in their small groups the gifts they feel they have and use frequently.), and we pray that you will increase in us. (Ask participants to name aloud the gifts they want increased.) We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**Break** for refreshments and conversation.

### Who Is the Holy Spirit? (30 minutes)

**Invite** participants back and ask them to return to their small groups. Have large sheets of newsprint and markers available for each group.

**Tell** the groups to create word and picture collages that best describe their image of the Holy Spirit. When the collages are complete, display them around the meeting space and have a representative from each group explain the work. During the explanation, jot down points you want to refer back to during the input.

**Summarize** the group's input.

**Distribute Confirmation Parent/Adult Catechesis Handout 1:2.** In a conversational style, use the symbols of the Holy Spirit to describe who the Holy Spirit is.

**Conclude** with the following points:

- The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit comes to us at Baptism and his gifts are strengthened in us at Confirmation.
- The Holy Spirit enlightens us and guides us.

### Parent Moment (10 minutes)

**Highlight** the three Faith at Home features in the *Child's Book* and show how they will help the parents and family members to participate in children's preparation.

**Emphasize** the importance of doing the activities on the Faith at Home page, especially the ritual action.

### Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

**Gather** participants in a circular grouping around the prayer space and pray together:

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.*

*We close by reminding ourselves of our Baptism and our common kinship in God's family. In all that we do, may we reflect the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen.*

**Thank** everyone for their time and participation.



**Encourage** parents and family members to go to [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com) for more ideas and suggestions.

# Gifts of the Spirit

## Objectives

- To guide families to experience a celebration of the word, including a Blessing
- To explore the meaning of the ritual action in family groups
- To proclaim Jesus' words about the Holy Spirit
- To teach the meaning of the Holy Spirit
- To describe part of the Rite of Confirmation
- To encourage family members to express their desire for the gifts of the Holy Spirit

## Materials

- Copies of the celebration for the assembly ([www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com))
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Prayer table
- Bible
- Cross or crucifix
- Candle and matches
- Bowl filled with water
- Chart or poster paper
- Markers
- Pencils

## Welcome and Celebration (10–15 minutes)

**Welcome** the families in the gathering space.

**Distribute** copies of the celebration.

**Select** a family to be in the procession. Have them choose a family member to carry the Bible in procession.

- When families are assembled, walk forward slowly. Follow the child carrying the Bible.
- During the procession, lead families in singing “We Are Called,” from the *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 1.
- Place the Bible on the prayer table and have the family members return to their seats.
- Light the prayer candle.
- Begin prayer with the Sign of the Cross and invite the group to follow the order of the prayer.
- For the proclamation of the Gospel, you may use a Bible or the adapted reading in the *Catechist Edition* on p. CE28.
- Invite families to come forward one by one.
- Extend your hands over each family and say, “Remember that the Holy Spirit is with you always.”

- Pray the closing prayer.
- Conclude with the opening song from the *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 1, or another appropriate song from your parish repertoire.

## The Holy Spirit individual family unit experience (10 minutes)

**Guide** family members to reflect on the celebration by asking the following questions:

- What did you see? What did you hear? What did you do?

**Ask** volunteers to share their responses.

**Guide** families to reflect further on being called by name, using the activity on p. CE26 of the *Catechist Edition*. Allow time for family members to share their responses to the activity.

## The Gift of the Holy Spirit whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Invite** families to name some of the many gifts that God gives us.

**Write** responses on a sheet of chart paper in front of the large group.

**Summarize** the first paragraph on p. CE27 of the *Catechist Edition*.

**Select** family members to read the next two paragraphs aloud.

## Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Invite** the large group to reflect on the following:

- What does Jesus tell us about the Holy Spirit?

**List** all responses on the next sheet of chart paper.

**Read** aloud the first paragraph from p. CE28 of the *Catechist Edition*.

## Scripture whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Select** a family member to read aloud the Gospel story from p. CE28 of the *Catechist Edition*.

**Invite** family members to turn toward one another and discuss the following questions:

- Why did the disciples need a helper?
- How can the Holy Spirit help you?

**Have** family members discuss times and circumstances when they might pray to the Holy Spirit.

**Allow** time for families to pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit from p. CE30 of the *Catechist Edition*.

## The Gifts of the Holy Spirit whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Gather** families in small clusters and provide each group with a sheet of poster paper.

**Ask** each family cluster to select a leader.

**Direct** group leaders to read aloud from p. CE29 of the *Catechist Edition*, and to write the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit on the poster paper provided. For each gift, have group members discuss ways in which that gift can be used.

**Ask** group leaders to share responses with the large group.

## Confirmation whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Summarize** the first three paragraphs from p. CE30 of the *Catechist Edition*.

**Read aloud** the prayers of the Rite on p. CE30 and have families repeat the prayers after you.

**Invite** family members to silently reflect on which gift of the Holy Spirit they need the most.

## The Holy Spirit Is with Us individual family unit experience (5 minutes)

**Have** families work together to complete the activity on p. CE31 of the *Catechist Edition*.

**Allow** time for family members to discuss how the Holy Spirit will help them show God's love to one another.

## Closing Blessing (5 minutes)

**Invite** each family to form a family circle.

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

**Pray** the prayer on p. CE31 of the *Catechist Edition*.

**Conclude** by leading families in singing *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 1 "We Are Called," or another appropriate song from your parish music repertoire.

## Faith at Home

**Direct** families' attention to the Faith at Home page and encourage them to do the activities at home.

## Restored Order (2)–Whole Community Ritual

# We Are Holy

### Before the Celebration

- Choose a gathering space that will be conducive to prayer and that will accommodate the size of the group; the church, a chapel, or a gathering place in the parish hall would each be appropriate. You will want the group to be able to see, hear, and move easily during the ritual.
- Prepare the group for the ritual action of the Extension of Hands in Blessing and for the reflection on the sacred Scriptures.
- Select a good reader to proclaim the reading.
- Select four people for the entrance procession: to carry the Bible, the candle, the bowl of water, and the sacred chrism. Show them where and how to place them in the sanctuary or on the prayer table.
- If not in a church or chapel, place chairs in semicircular rows around the prayer space. Leave enough space for people to move in and out of the rows. If possible, have tables and chairs set up in another space for adult discussion after the celebration.

### Materials

- A large, clear bowl with water, or if the celebration is in the church, use the baptismal font or pool
- A large candle or the Paschal candle
- A prayer table for the candle, sacred chrism, a baptismal candle, a Bible, and a stand
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Copies of the celebration for the assembly ([www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com))

### Gathering Rite

**Welcome** the gathered assembly.

**Rehearse** the opening song and go over the ritual action of the Extension of Hands in Blessing.

**Invite** the assembly to stand for the procession.

### Opening Song

“We Are Marching,” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 2.

### Procession

The persons carrying the bowl with water, candle, and Bible process in while the assembly sings.

**Leader:** *Let us pray.*

*Make the Sign of the Cross together.*

### Opening Prayer

**Leader:** *God our Father, send your Holy Spirit upon us to open our hearts and fill us with the flame of your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

**All:** *Amen.*

### Celebration of the Word

**Leader:** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

**All:** *Glory to you, O Lord.*  
*Read Luke 4:16–30.*

**Leader:** *The Gospel of the Lord.*

**All:** *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*  
*Sit silently.*

### Reflection

**Invite** the assembly to reflect on the Gospel. Use the following question:

- What does the Gospel reading say about being holy?

**Ask** the assembly to share their responses with one or two people. Be sure to include children in the sharing.

## Extension of Hands in Blessing

**Invite** the Confirmation candidates forward with their families. Have them face the assembly.

**Leader:** *We are called by the Holy Spirit to do the things that Jesus did. We are called to bring the good news and the light of Christ to others. Let us remember that the Holy Spirit keeps the light of Christ alive in us always.*

**Invite** the assembly and family members to extend hands with you as you pray:

**Leader:** *May the Holy Spirit dwell in you and help you bring the light of Christ to others.*

**Child:** *Amen.*

## Closing Prayer

**Leader:** *Loving God, we thank you for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Send us forth to bring your love to others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**All:** *Amen.*

Children go to their group session and adults go to the appointed space for reflection.

- There is a liturgical catechetical session for adults on p. 68.
- There is a parent/adult catechetical session on pp. 69–70.
- There is an intergenerational catechetical session on pp. 71–72.





# We Are Holy

### Goals

- To reflect on the celebration
- To explore the meaning of holiness and its connection to anointing

### Materials

- Poster board, chart paper, or overhead projector
- Markers
- *Songs of Celebration* CD

### Reflection (20 minutes)

**Invite** the adults to gather in groups of five or six.

**Begin** by recalling the ritual moments of the celebration. Lead a guided meditation using the following prompts: Pause after each prompt.

- Play a few verses of the opening song, “We Are Marching,” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 2.
- Read some verses of the Gospel.
- Ask participants to recall their discussion of the Gospel.
- Call to mind the ritual of blessing the candidates.
- Ask: “What was it like for you to extend your hands in blessing over the candidates?”

### Small Group Sharing

**Pause** for a few minutes of silence. Then invite the participants to share their feelings about the celebration in their small group. After 10 to 15 minutes, invite sharing with the large group.

### Large Group Sharing

**Gather** the responses of the small groups on poster board, chart paper, or an overhead projector. Ask for feelings and thoughts about the celebration as a whole, and also for specific parts of the celebration that were meaningful to members of the group.

### Naming (30 minutes)

**Ask** the participants to name what they learned from the celebration about God, Jesus, the Church, Scripture, or their own Christian life.

**Take** each category separately and list responses on poster board, chart paper, or an overhead projector. When the lists are completed, use them to summarize the theology and meaning of the call to holiness in the Rite of Confirmation.

**Affirm**, add, or enlarge upon the following points:

- Blessings call down God’s favor on those being blessed. We can bless one another.
- The Holy Spirit is given to us at Baptism to be our helper and advocate.
- In Baptism, we are called to walk as children of the light to bring the light of Christ to others.
- The anointing or sealing with the Holy Spirit is the symbol of our being set apart or holy.
- Our holiness is manifested when we proclaim the values of God’s kingdom in our words and deeds, judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe.

### Reflection and Small Group Sharing (20 minutes)

**Ask** “What will you do this week to nurture your bond with the Holy Spirit?”

**Direct** participants to reflect in silence for a few minutes and then share their responses with their group.

### Closing Blessing (5 minutes)

**Gather** and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Instruct** participants to face a partner and extend hands over them in blessing, saying:

**Leader:** *Come Holy Spirit, form us into a holy people.*

**All:** *Come Holy Spirit, come.*

**Leader:** *Come Holy Spirit, fill us with the fire of your love.*

**All:** *Come Holy Spirit, come.*

**Leader:** *Come Holy Spirit, guide us to be witnesses of the Gospel.*

**All:** *Come Holy Spirit, come.*

**Sing** the opening song from the celebration.

## Restored Order (2)–Parent/Adult Catechesis

# We Are Holy

### Goals

- To welcome participants in a hospitable environment
- To discuss the characteristics of holy people
- To help participants come to a deeper understanding of the nature of holiness

### Environment

- Be sure to clearly identify the meeting place, posting clear directions if necessary.
- Tables and chairs arranged for small groups
- A prayer setting with large candle, Bible on a stand or table, clear bowl filled with water, a branch or other instrument for sprinkling, and small candles for participants

### Materials

- Beverages and light refreshments
- Nametags
- Copy of the *Rite of Confirmation*
- *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 2
- Copies **Confirmation Parent/Adult Catechesis Handouts 2:1** and **2:2** ([www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com))
- Poster board or chart paper
- Large sheets of newsprint paper and markers

### Welcome and Opening Prayer (15 minutes)

**Welcome** parents and other adults and distribute nametags.

**Introduce** yourself and briefly review the goals and agenda for the gathering.

✦ **If this session was preceded by a large group ritual and reflection, go to We Are Holy. If not, continue with the prayer.**

**Gather** the group around the prayer setting, if possible, or have the group pause for a reflective moment.

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

**Sing** “We Are Marching,” *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 2.

**Pray** these or similar words:

*God of all faithfulness, you alone are holy. You are the source of our holiness. Send the Holy Spirit to make us holy that we may be a sign of your goodness to all those we meet. May he fill our hearts with love and justice and lead us to live as your children. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.*

**Read** *Luke 4:16–30*.

**Invite** the assembly to reflect on the Gospel using the following questions:

- What does Jesus teach about holiness?

**Ask** participants to share their responses with one or two people.

### We Are Holy (30 minutes)

**Ask** the large group:

- How would you respond if someone met you in a social situation and said, “You are really a holy person?”

**Invite** volunteers to respond.

**Distribute Confirmation Parent/Adult Catechesis Handout 2:1.** Light the candles and follow the order of prayer.

**Read** slowly and comment on the Homily or Instruction, *Rite of Confirmation*, 39.

**Organize** the large group into smaller groups of 5 to 6 people. Introduce the activity by saying that sometimes it is easier to understand holiness by observing it in others.

**Ask** participants to identify one or two people whom they know that they consider “holy” and think about what characteristics of those people make them seem holy.

**Have** them share their reflections in the group and create a list of the characteristics of holy people. Each group should collate its list on a large piece of newsprint paper and display it in the meeting place. Have a member of each group present the lists.

**Summarize** the characteristics in the large group, and compare them to the characteristics of Jesus as we know him from the Gospel.

**Remind** the group that through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are all called to this holiness.

**Ask** participants to reflect silently on their own lives, and answer this question for themselves:

- On a holiness scale of 1–10 (10 being the highest), where am I?

**Break** for refreshments and conversation.

### What Is Holiness? (30 minutes)

**Invite** participants back into the large group.

**Distribute Confirmation Parent/Adult Catechesis Handout 2:2.** Allow time for the participants to read the quotes on the handout.

**Organize** the large group into smaller groups of 5 to 6 people. Assign each group a quote. Have them discuss it in the group and develop a response to the question that they can share with the large group. When the groups are ready, have them share their statements with the large group.

**Allow** time for questions, comments, and insights.

**Summarize** the comments.

**Conclude** with the following points:

- *Holiness* means “living a life modeled after the example of Jesus.”
- Following the call to holiness requires sacrifice and dying to some of our life patterns and choices.
- The Holy Spirit inspires and strengthens us to be holy.

### Parent Moment (10 minutes)

**Highlight** the three Faith at Home features in the *Child’s Book* and show how they will help the parents and family members to participate in the children’s preparation.

**Emphasize** the importance of doing the activities on the Faith at Home page, especially the ritual action.

### Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

**Gather** participants in a circle around the prayer space and pray these or similar words.

*Spirit of the Living God, come to make us holy. Fill our hearts with love and give us the wisdom and courage we need to show the face of God to others that they will come to know the goodness of God.*

*We close by reminding ourselves of our Baptism and our common kinship in God’s family. In all that we do, may we reflect the holiness of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Sprinkle with water.) Amen.*

**Thank** everyone for their time and participation.



**Encourage** parents and family members to go to [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com) for more ideas and suggestions.

# We Are Holy

### Objectives

- To guide families to experience a celebration of the word, including the Extension of Hands in Blessing
- To explore the meaning of the ritual action in family groups
- To explain that we are called to bring the light of Christ to others
- To proclaim Jesus' words about the Holy Spirit being upon him
- To describe parts of the Rite of Confirmation
- To help families understand the connection between holiness and being living witnesses

### Materials

- Copies of the celebration for the assembly ([www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com))
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Prayer table
- Bible
- Cross or crucifix
- Candle and matches
- Bowl filled with water
- Chart or poster paper
- Markers
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Blank sheets of white paper

### Welcome and Celebration (10–15 minutes)

**Welcome** the families in the gathering space.

**Distribute** copies of the celebration.

**Select** a family to be in the procession. Have them choose a family member to carry the Bible in procession.

- When families are assembled, walk forward slowly. Follow the child carrying the Bible.
- During the procession, lead families in singing the suggested song, “We Are Marching,” from the *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 2.
- Place the Bible on the prayer table and have family members return to their seats.
- Light the prayer candle.
- Begin prayer with the Sign of the Cross and invite the group to follow the order of the prayer.
- For the proclamation of the Gospel, you may use a Bible or the adapted reading in the *Catechist Edition* on p. CE39.

- Invite families to come forward one by one.
- Extend your hands over each family and say, “May the Holy Spirit dwell in your family and help you bring the light of Christ to others.”
- Pray the closing prayer.
- Conclude with the opening song from the *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 2.

### The Holy Spirit individual family unit experience (10 minutes)

**Guide** family members to reflect on the celebration by asking the following questions:

- What did you see? What did you hear? What did you do?

**Ask** volunteers to share their responses.

**Guide** families to reflect further on being called by name, using the activity on p. CE37 of the *Catechist Edition*.

**Allow** time for family members to share their responses to the activity.

### The Light of Christ whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Invite** families to reflect on ways they do God's work at home.

**Ask** volunteers to share responses.

**Select** family members to read the last paragraph aloud.

**Summarize** the first two paragraphs on p. CE38 of the *Catechist Edition*.

## Jesus Teaches About Holiness whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Invite** the large group to reflect on the following:

- What was Jesus telling the people about the Holy Spirit?
- What are some ways that people today can be witnesses of Christ?

**Ask** volunteers to share responses to the questions.

**Direct** the families to help children complete the Share activity on p. CE39 of the *Catechist Edition*.

**Emphasize** that Jesus wants us to know we belong to him, and he wants us to love one another.

## Holiness whole-group learning experience (15 minutes)

**Gather** families in small clusters and provide each group with a sheet of paper.

**Assign** family clusters to agree upon one person living in the world today that they think is a living witness of Jesus. Have leaders write the person's name on the paper provided.

**Invite** family cluster leaders to share with the large group the name selected by their group, and to explain how the person is a living witness of Jesus in the world today.

**Divide** a sheet of poster paper in two columns in front of the large group, and write the word *holy* on one side and *sanctify* on the other.

**Discuss** the meaning of the words *holy* and *sanctified* from p. CE40 of the *Catechist Edition*.

**Select** a group leader to read the last paragraph aloud to the large group.

## Sealed with the Spirit whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Summarize** the first two paragraphs from p. CE41 of the *Catechist Edition*.

**Discuss** the meaning of the bishop's blessing at Confirmation. Select a family member to read aloud the bulleted items.

**Invite** family members to reflect on how they can be a sign of God's presence in the family.

**Ask** volunteers to share responses.

## Being Holy individual family unit experience (5 minutes)

**Have** families work together to complete the activity on p. CE42 of the *Catechist Edition*.

**Allow** time for family members to discuss responses.

## Closing Blessing (5 minutes)

**Invite** each family to form a family circle.

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

**Pray** the prayer on p. CE42 of the *Catechist Edition*.

**Conclude** by leading families in singing *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 2, "We Are Marching."

## Faith at Home

**Direct** families' attention to the Faith at Home page and encourage them to do the activities at home.