

Opening Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Virtue Link: Faith, Discipleship
Catholic Character Themes: Community

INTRODUCTION

As Catholic educators, we are called to a special share in the Church's work of spreading the Good News of Jesus. Embarking on a new year of study, it is only fitting that we invite the Holy Spirit to guide us as we seek to grow in response to this call.

Let us begin our prayer then: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

OPENING SONG:

Please join in singing our opening song, (Sugg. *Spirit, Come; Come Holy Ghost*)

OPENING PRAYER:

Holy Spirit, Source of all wisdom, we ask you to be with us now and throughout this year as we look to deepen our commitment to teaching in light of the Catholic faith. May Your fruits be ever-present as we learn, grow and teach for the sake of Christ's Gospel. We make this prayer to You through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

READING:

A reading from the Gospel of John (Jn 14, 15-17, 25-27)

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

(pause)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE:

As our response to the reading, please join in singing (Sugg. *Shine, Jesus, Shine*)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Let us pray for the Church. That all who share a common baptism might heed the presence of the Spirit, who continually calls us to full unity and understanding.
We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
2. Let us pray for the world. That in this time of uncertainty and turmoil in so many places, that the Holy Spirit will renew the world in Christ's peace.
We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
3. Let us pray for those who suffer, especially in our schools and among our colleagues and families. That we may be for them a sign of the Holy Spirit's abiding and consoling presence.
We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
4. Let us pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit might lead us to a fuller understanding of the wonders we are called to live and share as members of Christ's body teaching in the name of the faith community.
We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
5. For our own personal intentions....
We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
Let us join all our prayers in one voice using the words Jesus gave us: Our Father...

CLOSING PRAYER:

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life, your gifts, poured into our hearts at Baptism and Confirmation are a treasure beyond all imagining. We ask you to strengthen us in our walk of faith and journey through this year, so that we might in turn use these gifts wisely as servants of the Gospel through Catholic Education. We make this prayer to you through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING SONG:

Please join in singing our closing song: (Sugg. *Will you Come and Follow Me; Open My Eyes, Lord*)