







## Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A

### Making the Connection (Grades 7, 8, and 9)

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#### Gospel Reading John 14:15-21

Jesus promises his disciples that he will send them another advocate, the Spirit of truth.

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Although young people at this age desire to be more independent, they rely on many people as advocates. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as our Advocate.

#### Materials Needed

- None

#### Preparation for Sunday Scripture Readings

1. Ask the young people to explain the role of a school counselor (someone to go to for help in difficult situations).
2. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as a counselor or helper.
3. Point out that the Gospel uses the word *Advocate* to describe the Holy Spirit. Write this word on the board and explain that an advocate is someone who defends someone or who speaks in favor or on behalf of someone in need.
4. Invite a volunteer to read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, John 14:15-21.
5. Explain that an advocate is someone who takes action for another person or who offers witness or defense for another person. Ask: ***Who is the Advocate? (the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit) Say: Jesus promises his disciples that even though he will leave them, he will not abandon them. Instead they will receive a great gift, a helper, who will reveal to them the great love that exists between the Father, the Son, and the disciples.***
6. Ask: ***How do you think the disciples felt when they heard these words? (Accept all reasonable answers.) How do you think the disciples will feel after they receive this gift of the Holy Spirit? (Accept all reasonable answers.)***
7. Say: ***Jesus has also given us the gift of the Holy Spirit, whom we received at Baptism. If we call upon the Holy Spirit, he will help us understand God's love for us and will help us follow Jesus.***
8. Conclude by praying together that we will remember the importance of Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

#### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

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 will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit  
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.  
In the same Spirit  
help us to relish what is right  
and always rejoice in your consolation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A

### Family Connection

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#### **Gospel Reading** John 14:15-21

Jesus promises his disciples that he will send them another advocate, the Spirit of truth.

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The mystery of the Trinity can be difficult for us to grasp.

Today's Gospel invites us to consider how the three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— work together so that God's salvation is made known to us.

Jesus' mission is continued through the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of his disciples. We have received this same Spirit through our Baptisms.

The Spirit, living and working within us, reveals the mystery of God's love for us.

Just as the first disciples were not left orphaned, we are not orphaned; we remain in God's embrace through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Gather your family and invite each family member to say what he or she knows about the Holy Spirit.

Read aloud today's Gospel, John 14:15-21.

What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do for the disciples?

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we come to share in the love of God made known to us in Jesus.

Pray together, thanking God for this gift of the Holy Spirit by praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

#### **Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

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 will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit  
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.  
In the same Spirit  
help us to relish what is right  
and always rejoice in your consolation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.