

The Holy Spirit: Power Source of the Church

Instructions

This outline is designed to help speakers at varying levels of experience and confidence. Here are a few tips for you to get the most out of this outline:

Overview

The overview gives you your talk objective, guidelines and setting. It helps you understand the purpose of this talk and when and how it connects to the other parts of the retreat. Read through the overview first to get a general sense for this talk.

How to Write This Talk

Below you'll find two main sections of this guide: **Talk Outline** and **Example Talk**. You must cover every point in the Talk Outline as it is described. Before writing your talk, read over the Example Talk. While your talk doesn't have to be exactly the same, it must capture the essence of the Example Talk.

We want to strike a balance between reading the talk as is and deviating so far from the talk that it no longer fits into the flow of the retreat. If you read the Example Talk word for word, it can become boring, impersonal and unconvincing. At the same time, if you get "too creative" and deviate too far from the Example Talk, your

talk may fail to fulfill its role in the context of the entire retreat (i.e. presenting the kerygma).

Basically, we want you to help maintain the integrity of this retreat and at the same time be open to the creative ideas the Holy Spirit has given you.

Note: Please do not present videos or songs in your talk. This retreat intends to present the kerygma in a spoken form, just as the Apostles did in the early Church.

Talk Resources

Regardless of your experience and confidence in giving talks, these additional talk resources are a helpful but optional collection of Scripture passages, quotes and other resources you may add to your talk.

Please, no drive-by quoting. In other words, don't simply throw in Scripture passages and Catechism quotes without breaking them down. Don't assume your listeners are going to connect the Scripture or Catechism quote in the same way you're intending.

Personal Formation

These resources are for your personal formation and growth in knowledge and understanding of the content of this talk. They are not intended to be used in the talk you give on the retreat itself.

Overview

Objective

The objective of this talk is for the listeners to understand that the promise of the Holy Spirit is for the Church for all ages. The permanent effects of Pentecost were anointed witnesses, powerful communities, charisms for the edification of the community and direction from the Holy Spirit. What happened within the first Christian community is the model for our Church today, and forever. The Holy Spirit is the same yesterday, today and forever for all people. The Holy Spirit is renewing the Church and the renewal movements strengthen her. God gives us spiritual gifts, charisms and fruits for the good of the community.

Guidelines

This talk should last 40-45 minutes. On the weekend retreat it is given on Sunday afternoon. Since we have just listened to “The Promise of the Father Fulfilled on Pentecost,” we begin to wonder if the Holy Spirit is present in the same powerful way today as He was yesterday. In this talk, retreatants begin to realize all of the ways the Holy Spirit is renewing the Church today.

Setting

This is the 9th talk of the retreat. It answers the question: “Was the promise of the Holy Spirit only for the first Christians?” Of course the answer is *no*! The next talk is “Surrender Our Lives to the Holy Spirit.” After realizing that the same Holy Spirit is alive and present, we need to invite the Holy Spirit to give us the power to make Jesus Lord of our lives.

Talk Outline

1. Review / Introduction.
2. The Permanent effects of the Holy Spirit were:
 - a. Missionary urgency to give testimony to people throughout the earth.
 - b. Christian community.
 - c. Charisms for edification.
 - d. Living a Spirit filled life.
3. The Holy Spirit Renews the Church.
 - a. The life of the church is strengthened by all of the renewal movements in the church, and also by Vatican II.
 - b. The renewal we speak of covers all dimensions of our Christian life:
 - i. Kerygmatic / Catechetical.
 - ii. Biblical.
 - iii. Liturgical.
 - iv. Communal / Ecclesial.
 - v. Social.
 - vi. Ecumenical.
 - vii. Charismatic.
 - viii. Liberation.
4. The Holy Spirit showers us with special gifts.
 - a. He can give us the charisms of an experience of the profound presence of God: peace, joy, prophecy, discernment, healing, and the gift of

- tongues, just to name a few, to build up the body of Christ.
- b. Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: understanding, wisdom, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude, fear of the Lord.
 - c. Examples of charisms: administration, discernment, encouragement, evangelization, faith, giving, healing.
5. We invite you to trust in the Holy Spirit to be the power source in your life!
-

Example Talk

1. Review / Introduction.

- a. In our last talk, we discovered how the Promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled on Pentecost. We noticed a change in the apostles, and there were perceptible signs, which made clear that the Holy Spirit was present and alive within them. We also found out that the Holy Spirit was for everyone, today, tomorrow and always!
- b. When the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, the immediate signs were many, such as anointed witnesses, prophecy, tongues, and euphoria. These signs were proof that the Holy Spirit was filling the hearts and minds of many believers. These signs are important but not as important as the permanent effects the Holy Spirit left for all generations.

2. The Permanent effects of the Holy Spirit were:

- a. Missionary urgency to give testimony to people throughout the earth.**
 - i. The first gift of the Spirit as power from God was the ability to give testimony of the living presence of Jesus in our lives. This was very

noticeable with the first disciples. Remember they were not even strong enough to be there for Jesus' crucifixion. They denied Him. They slept instead of being support in the Garden of Gethsemane. After the Holy Spirit came they had an urgent mission to spread the Good News to the ends of the earth.

- ii. The tongues of fire, which appeared above the apostles' and disciples', heads turned into tongues that were on fire to announce and proclaim the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ. The Lord desired that the lives of Christians would set people's hearts "on fire." Only with the Holy Spirit could the apostles be anointed witnesses and have the passion and total dedication to the mission of spreading the Good News.

b. Christian community.

- i. The newly Spirit-filled people formed a united community filled with members who were alive in their faith and powerful witnesses. The fruit of the Holy Spirit was the realization of the Lord as the center of their lives. They developed an intimate relationship with the Lord. Praying daily in the temple, the Christians were a united community involved in each other's lives. This signifies *koinonia*, which means solidarity and companionship.
- ii. "They went as a body to the Temple every day, but met in their houses for the breaking of the bread; they shared their food gladly... Day by day the Lord added to their community those who were to be saved" ([Acts 2:46-47](#)).
- iii. The apostles and disciples were invested with the power on high, baptized in the Holy Spirit and the immediate effect was anointed witnesses with power given for the person, and for the communities. And that is why this is repeated again and again in

Acts, “Day by Day the Lord added to their numbers, those who were to be saved” ([Acts 2:47](#)).

- iv. Only the Holy Spirit brings the community together and keeps it united. Have you ever wondered how the Catholic Church has survived 2,000 years of intense historical upheavals?

c. Charisms for edification.

- i. As a direct intervention of the Holy Spirit, the community members received charisms and charismatic ministries. “Whether extraordinary or simple or humble, charisms are graces of the Holy Spirit, which directly or indirectly benefit the church” ([CCC 799](#)).
- ii. “We have many parts in one body and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God’s message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully” ([Romans 12:4-8](#)).
- iii. We have a diversity of charisms but the same Holy Spirit distributing to each one in particular according to His will. In [1 Corinthians 12:8-11](#) it explains how fully we can participate in the Lord’s work: we will explain the gifts of the Holy Spirit in more detail later in this talk.
 - 1. “To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to

another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines" ([1 Corinthians 12:8-11](#)).

d. Living a Spirit filled life.

- i. Another permanent effect was being able to walk in the Spirit -- an incredible adventure of living the Spirit-led life. You become able to see God everywhere, in nature, and most importantly, in people.
- ii. To be enlightened, taught, led and directed by the Holy Spirit in our Christian faith life is the ordinary condition of the Christian life. As we walk in the Spirit, we are in the process of being transformed into the person God had in mind when He created us, so when people see us, they see less of us and more of Jesus.
- iii. "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" ([Galatians 2:20](#)).
- iv. The Holy Spirit guided the Apostles. In Acts, we read such phrases as, "it has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves," and, "the Spirit of the Lord told me to go." Everything was moved by the Holy Spirit in a very clear way.
- v. In the New Testament, we do not find any limitation of time or space for the presence and action of the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's power, presence and action are for all times -- for all people!

vi. Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit as a gift, as the power source to be anointed witnesses to tell others about Him, until His work of redemption has carried on to every corner of the earth. Our lives are enlightened by God, transformed in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit. And it is the same yesterday, as it is today, as it will be forever for all people.

vii. The Legend of Christ's Return to Heaven

Do you remember the story of Christ's return to Heaven? When Jesus had finished His work of Salvation in this world He returned to Heaven. The angels ran to greet Him and He showed them the marks that He bore from the cross. The angels eagerly questioned Him about His work on earth for mankind. "Did You complete your work of Redemption?" they asked. "Yes, it is finished," Jesus, said. "Who will make it known?" the angels wondered. "Well, I have told Peter, James, John, Matthew, Phillip and all My disciples. They are only fishermen, tax collectors; a rough and rowdy bunch. But I have shared with them the message of love, My sacrifice, and My plan for Eternal Life. Through the power of the Holy Spirit they will tell others, then those will tell others, on and on, from generation to generation, until My work of Redemption has been carried to every corner of the Earth," Jesus explained. The angels look worried. "But Lord, they are so human; sometimes they are afraid to speak up for fear of persecution or ridicule. What if they don't pass it on? What if they fail? What is Your other plan? Jesus said, "They will not fail. I have no other plan."

And with the Holy Spirit's guidance, *we will not fail!*

viii. Testimony

In what circumstance did you feel directed, enlightened and/or led by the Holy Spirit? Explain the experience.

3. The Holy Spirit Renews the Church.

What happened to that first Christian community is our *model* for the Church of today!

We are witnesses of the fact that God is renewing the Church at this time. Pentecost should be celebrated every day! God is renewing the face of the earth, and making a new Pentecost with the same signs and fruits as the first one.

Pope John 23rd asked for a new Pentecost when he prayed at the opening of the Second Vatican Council. He said, "Renew your wonder in our time, as though for a new Pentecost, and grant that the Holy Church, persevering, unanimous, and continuous in prayer, together with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and also under the guidance of St. Peter, may increase the reign of the Divine Savior, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace, Amen" (*Humanae Salutis*, 24, *Vatican II*).

This wish was to revitalize the Church by opening the window to let the wind and breath of the Holy Spirit enter. This was to renew and transform the Church in the same way that the Church experienced it after the First Pentecost.

a. The life of the church is strengthened by all of the renewal movements in the church, and also by Vatican II.

- i. The Second Vatican Council is a clear sign of the New Pentecost. The Holy Spirit's extraordinary drive has aroused diverse renewals within the Church. Not only in the Catholic Church, but also on five continents, there is a great renewal of the Spirit. It is a reality in the whole world.

b. The renewal we speak of covers all dimensions of our Christian life:

i. Kerygmatic / Catechetical.

1. Like this retreat! There is a clear and bold proclamation of the Gospel (kerygma) and an increase in the availability and clarity of catechesis as evidenced by the Catechism and the wealth of good Catholic books in print.

ii. Biblical.

1. A desire on the part of many Catholics to read and study the Bible on their own and in groups.

iii. Liturgical.

1. A renewal in the liturgy to make it more meaningful and applicable to the life in each culture.

iv. Communal / Ecclesial.

1. A new vision of the Church as the people of God; gathering many small groups or cell groups for growth and support.

v. Social.

1. Fulfills the demands of charity in a community of faith.

vi. Ecumenical.

1. Breaking down the barriers in the larger Body of Christ. Fulfills what the Lord said, "that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me" ([John 17:21](#)).

vii. Charismatic.

1. A renewal in the Holy Spirit, with a strong desire to understand and receive the charisms, fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

viii. Liberation.

1. Social and justice movements that keep us aware of the injustices and misery of the oppressed.

“In the Church we are living an exceptionally favorable season of the Spirit’, as my Predecessor Paul VI remarked in his *Evangelii Nuntiandi*... For ‘renewal in the Spirit’ will be authentic and will have real fruitfulness in the Church, not so much according to how it gives rise to extraordinary charisms but according to how it leads to a persevering effort to know that mystery of Christ better and better and to bear witness to it” ([Catechesi Tradendae](#), 72).

A New Pentecost is transforming the faithful! If you examine the many ministries in the Church today: social service, evangelization, family life, liturgical, education and many more, you will confirm that the Church is going through a New Pentecost.

4. The Holy Spirit showers us with special gifts.

a. He can give us the charisms of an experience of the profound presence of God: peace, joy, prophecy, discernment, healing, and the gift of tongues, just to name a few, to build up the body of Christ.

- i. Just like the first Apostles, we can receive the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. And it is these gifts that St. Paul spoke to the Corinthians about (see [1 Corinthians 1:7](#)) in a matter-of-fact way.
 1. “Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed” ([1 Corinthians](#)

[1:7](#)).

- ii. St. Paul didn't have to convince them of the existence of the gifts, they were very aware of them. He simply explained the way these gifts were meant to function. Paul's words were evidence that the gifts were meant for all of us, not just a few.
- iii. [CCC 799](#) defines charisms as special graces or promptings of grace. Fruits of the Holy Spirit (i.e. love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity) and charisms are different. Fruits are internal virtues, which serve us and are meant to be a part of every Christian life. They are intended to be a common possession of all baptized people who are filled with the Holy Spirit. But Charisms or spiritual gifts are outward focused, as we become the "hands, heart and feet" of the Body of Christ, for the benefit of others. Each of us has their unique Charisms; they are not a common possession shared by all.
- iv. God wants to give us these Charisms so that we can help people in our neighborhoods, at home, and in our churches. More than anything, the Holy Spirit wants to empower God's people to build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

b. Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: understanding, wisdom, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude, fear of the Lord.

- i. *Understanding* -- The gift of understanding gives us a deeper knowledge of the mysteries of the faith.
- ii. *Wisdom* -- Wisdom enables us to comprehend the wonder of God, and it urges us to seek Him in preference to all other things in our lives.
- iii. *Knowledge* -- The gift of knowledge enables us to judge created

things in their proper manner and to keep our hearts fixed on God and the things that lead us to Him.

- iv. *Counsel* -- Counsel points out the path of holiness to us; God's will in our ordinary daily life, and encourages us to choose the option, which most closely coincides with the Glory of God and the good of our fellow man.
- v. *Piety* -- Piety inclines us to love God with the intimacy with which a child loves his father.
- vi. *Fortitude* -- Fortitude uplifts us continually, helping us to overcome the difficulties that inevitably occur on our journey to God.
- vii. *Fear of the Lord* -- Fear of the Lord helps us flee the occasions of sin, resist temptation and to fear above all the loss of God whom we love.

These are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and each of them is unique and different.

"The kind of work God usually calls you to do is the kind of work that you most need to do and the rest of the world needs to be done" (Lloyd Edwards).

c. Examples of charisms: administration, discernment, encouragement, evangelization, faith, giving, healing.

- i. *Administration* -- The special grace to coordinate and organize a large project or several small projects all at the same time. The role may be a parish council member or other team leader.
- ii. *Discernment* -- A special grace to recognize what is of God, or of human origin, or not of God, which turns out to be accurate. The role may be as a spiritual director.

- iii. *Encouragement* -- The special grace to listen and verbally comfort others in a way that is personally helpful and promotes growth.
- iv. *Evangelization* -- A special grace to share the Good News, and one's faith or spiritual experience in a way that brings people closer to Jesus.
- v. *Faith* -- A special grace that a person has so much trust in God and belief in His will, in a given situation, that one acts in faith, without worrying about the outcome. This role may be in raising children, or starting new ministries.
- vi. *Giving* -- A special grace to give of oneself and one's resources in a very sacrificial way. Roles may be found in special giving projects or in the mission field.
- vii. *Healing* -- Special grace to become God's instruments, through prayer for physical or relational healing. Roles may be found in Eucharistic minister or healing prayer team.

There are many, many more gifts that God has, too numerous to mention. These are the gifts that allow us to lead a full Christian life, that allow us to come to fully appreciate the unconditional love of God and Jesus' gift of salvation.

5. We invite you to trust in the Holy Spirit to be the power source in your life!

- a. The first condition for receiving the Holy Spirit is not merits and virtues, but desire, need and thirst. So, I must ask you, "*Are you thirsty for the Holy Spirit?*"
- b. We invite you to trust in the Holy Spirit to be the Power Source in your life!

c. Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, Gracious Jesus, Holy Spirit,

Open my heart to the power of the Holy Spirit.

You are the Comforter, Counselor, Power from on High.

You know what gifts that You want me to receive.

Give me the courage to surrender my life to You.

Amen.

Talk Resources

Scripture

- "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?" ([Psalm 27:1](#))
- "The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you" ([John 14:26](#)).
- "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming" ([John 16:12-13](#)).
- "So that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me" ([John 17:21](#)).
- "They went as a body to the Temple every day, but met in their houses for the breaking of the bread; they shared their food gladly... Day by day the Lord added to their community those who were to be saved" ([Acts 2:46-47](#)).
- "We have many parts in one body and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ,

and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully" ([Romans 12:4-8](#)).

- "Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed" ([1 Corinthians 1:7](#)).
- "To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines" ([1 Corinthians 12:8-11](#)).
- "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" ([Galatians 2:20](#)).

Quotes

- "Happy the man whose words issue from the Holy Spirit and not from himself!" (*St. Anthony of Padua*)
- "Let us strive for purity of heart, for the Holy Spirit dwells in candid and simple minds" (*St. Phillip Neri*).

- “Joy is the infallible sign of God's presence” (*Father Mike Schmitz*).
- “I am not afraid. This is what I was born to do” (*St. Joan of Arc*).
- “Joy doesn't mean giddiness or chirpiness. It is the peace and satisfaction that comes from possessing God” (*Dan Lord*).
- “‘In the Church we are living an exceptionally favorable season of the Spirit’, as my Predecessor Paul VI remarked in his *Evangelii Nuntiandi*... For ‘renewal in the Spirit’ will be authentic and will have real fruitfulness in the Church, not so much according to how it gives rise to extraordinary charisms but according to how it leads to a persevering effort to know that mystery of Christ better and better and to bear witness to it” ([Catechesi Tradendae](#), 72).
- “Whether extraordinary or simple or humble, charisms are graces of the Holy Spirit, which directly or indirectly benefit the church” ([CCC 799](#)).
- “Renew your wonder in our time, as though for a new Pentecost, and grant that the Holy Church, persevering, unanimous, and continuous in prayer, together with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and also under the guidance of St. Peter, may increase the reign of the Divine Savior, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace, Amen” (*Humanae Salutis*, 24, *Vatican II*).
- “The kind of work God usually calls you to do is the kind of work that you most need to do and the rest of the world needs to be done” (*Lloyd Edwards*).

Other

- The Legend of Christ's Return to Heaven

Do you remember the story of Christ's return to Heaven? When Jesus had finished His work of Salvation in this world He returned to Heaven. The angels ran to greet Him and He showed them the marks that He bore from the cross. The angels eagerly questioned Him about His work on earth for mankind. “Did You complete your work of Redemption?” they asked. “Yes, it is finished,”

Jesus, said. “Who will make it known?” the angels wondered. “Well, I have told Peter, James, John, Matthew, Phillip and all My disciples. They are only fishermen, tax collectors; a rough and rowdy bunch. But I have shared with them the message of love, My sacrifice, and My plan for Eternal Life. Through the power of the Holy Spirit they will tell others, then those will tell others, on and on, from generation to generation, until My work of Redemption has been carried to every corner of the Earth,” Jesus explained. The angels look worried. “But Lord, they are so human; sometimes they are afraid to speak up for fear of persecution or ridicule. What if they don’t pass it on? What if they fail? What is Your other plan? Jesus said, “They will not fail. I have no other plan.”

Personal Formation

- [Guide to Giving a Testimony](#)