

The Spirit of Jesus Helps Us

FOCUS: In this chapter, you will be helping your child to understand that the Holy Spirit helps us examine our consciences and become better people.

The Holy Spirit is with us always, but we are not always sensitive to his presence. Just as photographic film captures elusive and fleeting impressions when it is carefully exposed to light, the human heart detects delicate and seemingly imperceptible movements of grace when it is closely attuned to the Holy Spirit.

In George Bernard Shaw's play *St. Joan*, King Charles asks Joan why she is granted heavenly revelations and he is not. Joan answers, "They do come to you, but you do not hear them. You have not sat in the field in the evening, listening for them." The inspirations of the Holy Spirit illuminate the various ways we hinder God's action in our lives. Only if we come into the healing presence of our God will we see ourselves reflected as we truly are. The more receptive we are to the Holy Spirit in our lives, the more we will experience the fruits of his presence.

Scripture in This Chapter

John 14:16,26 The Holy Spirit, Our Advocate
1 John 4:12–13 God's Spirit in Us
Ephesians 3:16 God Will Strengthen Your Heart.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1431–1433, 1454, 1695

In this chapter, help your child to

- ✦ explain that the presence of the Holy Spirit is manifested by love, peace, and joy.
- ✦ discuss ways to share love, peace, and joy with others.
- ✦ explain the necessity of prayer to the Holy Spirit.
- ✦ relate the fact that he or she can rely on the Holy Spirit's help.
- ✦ explain how to examine his or her conscience.

Key Terms for Your Information

- ✦ examination of conscience—looking into our hearts to see how we have loved or failed to love God and others.
- ✦ Holy Spirit—the third Person of the Trinity sent to teach us and help us to love
- ✦ leper—a person with leprosy, a serious disease that covers the body with sores.