



## DIPPING INTO THE CATECHISM

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Compendium to the Catechism: 140 – 147

What does it mean that the Spirit “has spoken through the prophets”?

The term “prophets” means those who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to speak in the name of God. The Spirit brings the prophecies of the Old Testament to their complete fulfilment in Christ whose mystery he reveals in the New Testament.

What did the Holy Spirit accomplish in John the Baptist?

The Spirit filled John the Baptist, who was the last prophet of the Old Testament. Under His inspiration John was sent to “prepare for the Lord a people well disposed” (Luke 1:17). He was to proclaim the coming of Christ, the Son of God, upon whom he saw the Spirit descend and remain, the one who “baptises with the Spirit” (John 1:33).

What is the work of the Spirit in Mary ?

The Holy Spirit brought to fulfilment in Mary all the waiting and the preparation of the Old Testament for the coming of Christ. In a singular way he filled her with grace and made her virginity fruitful so that she could give birth to the Son of God made flesh. He made her the Mother of the “whole Christ”, that is, of Jesus the Head and of the Church his body. Mary was present with the twelve on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit inaugurated the “last days” with the manifestation of the Church.

What is the relationship between the Spirit and Christ Jesus in his earthly mission ?

Beginning with His Incarnation, the Son of God was consecrated in His humanity as the Messiah by means of the anointing of the Spirit. He revealed the Spirit in His teaching, fulfilled the promises made to the Fathers, and bestowed Him upon the Church at its birth when He breathed on the Apostles after the Resurrection.

What happened at Pentecost ?

Fifty days after the Resurrection at Pentecost the glorified Jesus Christ poured out the Spirit in abundance and revealed Him as a divine Person so that the Holy Trinity was fully manifest. The mission of Christ and of the Spirit became the mission of the Church which is sent to proclaim and spread the mystery of the communion of the Holy Trinity.

“We have seen the true Light, we have received the heavenly Spirit, we have found the true faith: we adore the invisible Trinity, who has saved us”

from the Byzantine Liturgy, Troparion of Vespers of Pentecost.

## What does the Spirit do in the Church ?

The Spirit *builds, animates and sanctifies* the Church. As the Spirit of Love, He restores to the baptised the Divine likeness that was lost through sin and causes them to live in Christ the very life of the Holy Trinity. He sends them forth to bear witness to the Truth of Christ and He organises them in their respective functions so that all might bear “the fruit of the Spirit” (Gal 5:22).

## How do Christ and His Spirit act in the hearts of the faithful ?

Christ communicates His Spirit and the grace of God through the *sacraments* to all the members of the Church, who thus bear the fruits of the *new life* of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also the Master of *prayer*.

## In “I Believe in the Holy Catholic Church” What does the word *Church* mean ?

The word *Church* refers to the people whom God calls and gathers together from every part of the earth. They form the assembly of those who through faith and Baptism have become children of God, members of Christ, and temples of the Holy Spirit.



*It is essential that every Catholic has access to good Catechesis to be able to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Plymouth recommends the many Catechetical Workshops from 'Franciscan at Home,' for more information on access to these and online, individual or live group sessions contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk*