



# Catholic Schools Week 2019

Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools

## Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools 27 January - 3 February 2019

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‘An education in the  
fullness of humanity  
should be the  
defining feature of  
Catholic schools’

Pope Francis





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## Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (Level 4)

CHRISTIAN FAITH	PRAYER AND LITURGY
<p><b>Mystery of God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'No one can believe alone' (CCC166).</li> <li>• The Church supports and nourishes faith (CCC181: Believing as an 'ecclesial act').</li> </ul> <p><b>Mystery of the Holy Spirit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Holy Spirit is at work in all the world (GS22' 38).</li> <li>• The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence and wonder and awe in God's presence (Is 11:2-3; CCC 1831, 1845).</li> </ul> <p><b>Creation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God's Holy Spirit breathes life into the world (Ps 33:6; 104:30; Gn 1:2; 2:7; CCC291, 703).</li> <li>• God created human beings to live in relationship/ communion with God, with other people and with the earth (GS 12; GDC 139).</li> </ul> <p><b>Mystery of the Church/Kingdom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Christians are called to witness to their faith in Christ on word and deed (DP 59, 89; EN5).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God communicates with us in Sacred Scripture, in the works of creation, in the person of Jesus and in the ongoing presence of the Spirit (DV 3, 4, 6, 12; CCC 51-53, 60, 79, 104, 257: revelation). Sacred Scripture - Jesus' public Life</li> <li>• Lk 10:27-37 Parable of the Good Samaritan.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>LITURGY AND PRAYER</b></p>
	<p><b>Sacraments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Confirmation we receive the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us to live a holy life, proclaim the gospel and serve others as Jesus did.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>CHRISTIAN MORALITY</b></p> <p><b>Human Dignity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every Christian is called to develop his/her own gifts and carry out his/her own responsibilities and so become holy (LG 39-41; AG 28). God's Graceful Presence and Assistance</li> <li>• Jesus not only reaffirmed the commandments of the Old Covenant but also gave a new commandment: 'love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other' (Jn 13:34; CCC1968, 1823, 1970, 1972).</li> </ul>



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## Monday: Living Tradition of Our Catholic School

28 January 2019

*Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools.  
Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.*  
Pope Francis tweet, 1 March 2014



### ► Consider

A tradition is a way of thinking, acting or behaving that has special meaning and has been passed on from one generation to the next.

Today we are going to think about traditions we have in our school and how some of these traditions are unique to us as a Catholic school.

### ► Explore

Discuss with the class traditions they have at home.

Example: Eating dinner together (Sunday lunch), going for walks or watching a particular television programme together.

Explore with the class some of the routines and rituals followed at school. Example: Class line up in a particular place every day or particular classes play in certain areas of the school yard.



Focus on traditions or rituals that are unique to our Catholic school. Example: Morning Prayer.

Discuss the purpose and importance of prayer. When do we pray? Why do we pray? How do we pray?

### ► Activity:

Introduce the Pope Francis Five Finger Prayer:

- The thumb is the closest finger to you so you start by praying for those who are closest to you.
- The next finger is known as the index finger. You pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need support and wisdom to show direction to others.
- The third finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders and those in authority. They too need God's guidance.
- The fourth finger is your ring finger. It is your weakest finger and cannot stand alone. It reminds us to pray for the weakest, sick and those who are experiencing difficulty. They need our prayers.
- Finally we come to your smallest finger. Now you pray for your own needs. Having prayed for others first you should have a better perspective on your needs and so be able to pray in a better way for them.

The children should be asked to fill in the work sheet for this activity.



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## Tuesday: Welcoming Diversity in our Catholic School

29 January 2019

*Dialogue, in fact, educates when the person relates with respect, esteem and sincere listening, and is expressed with authenticity without obscuring or softening one's own identity nourished by evangelical inspiration ... Schools and universities are called to teach a method of intellectual dialogue aimed at seeking the truth.*

Pope Francis, 9 February 2017



### ► Consider

The Golden Rule: 'Do to others as you would have them do to you.' (Luke 6:31)

As Catholics we are all called by God to make a difference. Where would this world be without good Samaritans?

### ► Explore

Discuss with the class the qualities and characteristics of a friend. Example: being kind, helpful, a good listener. Explore ways in which these qualities are shown in actions. Introduce Luke 10:27 where Jesus said to love your neighbour as yourself. Discuss who Jesus might have meant by neighbour. Explore with the class times when it might be difficult to love your neighbour. Explore ways in which we can be good neighbours to each other in our school and in our community.

### ► Activity

#### Activity 1

Bible search and Quiz.

Find Luke 10: 27-37. Read the Parable of the Good Samaritan and find the answers to the questions set out on the activity page provided.

#### Activity 2

Helping hands: Using the template provided, each child is asked to write or draw a scene that illustrates how they can lend a helping hand to someone on the inside of one of the hands of the card. On the other hand the child can write the name of someone they would like to pray for.

They can then cut out and decorate the outside of the helping hands card. The children could bring the hand card home and discuss with their parents how they might lend a helping hand to someone and also discuss with their parents who they would like to pray for.

The cards can then be displayed or hung on a tree branch in the sacred space within the class room. This will act as a visual reminder to the class each time they pray.



## BIBLE QUIZ

Using the Bible find and read Luke 10: 27-37.

Answer the following questions:

1. Where was the traveller going in the story?

A: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What happened to the traveller on this road?

A: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who was the first person to walk past?

A: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who was the second person to walk past?

A: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who was the third person to see the traveller?

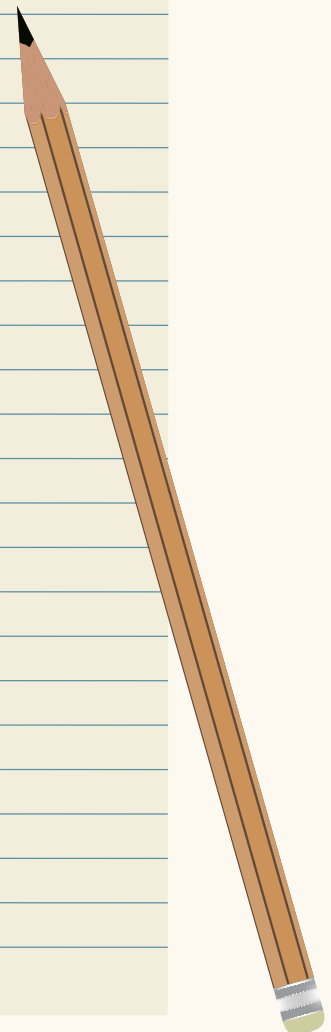
A: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did the Samaritan do to help the traveller?

A: \_\_\_\_\_

7. How much did he pay the inn keeper?

A: \_\_\_\_\_

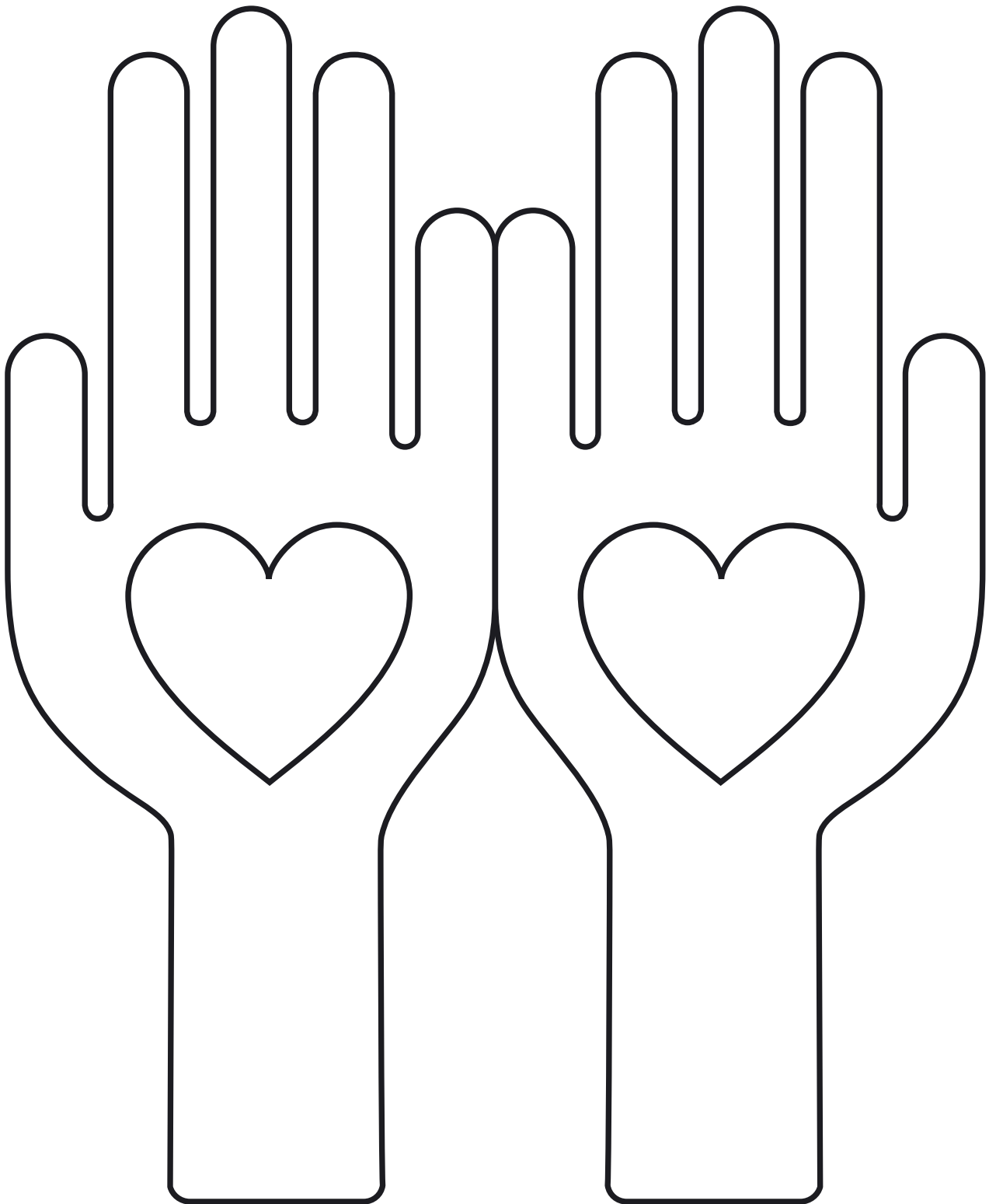




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## *HELPING HANDS*





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## Thursday: Our Catholic School in Service of our Community

### 31 January 2019

*Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others.*  
Gaudete et Exsultate (141)



#### ➤ Consider

'The earth is the Lord's and all its people belong to him.' (Psalm 24:1)

Our school, along with our church, is at the heart of our community. At school we learn about the earth and how to care for it.

We each have a responsibility to care for the earth which is a gift from God. We are called to respect and protect the earth through how we live our lives.

#### ➤ Explore

With the class read through the Ten Commandments in modern format which can be found in Alive-O 7 Lesson 10.

Explore how these commandments tell us how we as members of God's kingdom should live.

Expand the discussion to explore the importance of caring for the environment, God's creation. Discuss ways in which we care for the environment at school.  
Example: Green Flags, Pride of Place, recycling.

As a whole class brainstorm ten commandments for caring for the environment.

#### ➤ Activity

Divide the class into ten groups. Give each group a piece of card/white paper with the outline of the tablet template provided.

Each group should be given one of the agreed commandments for caring for the environment which they will write in the centre of the tablet shape and decorate.

These can, when finished, be displayed together.

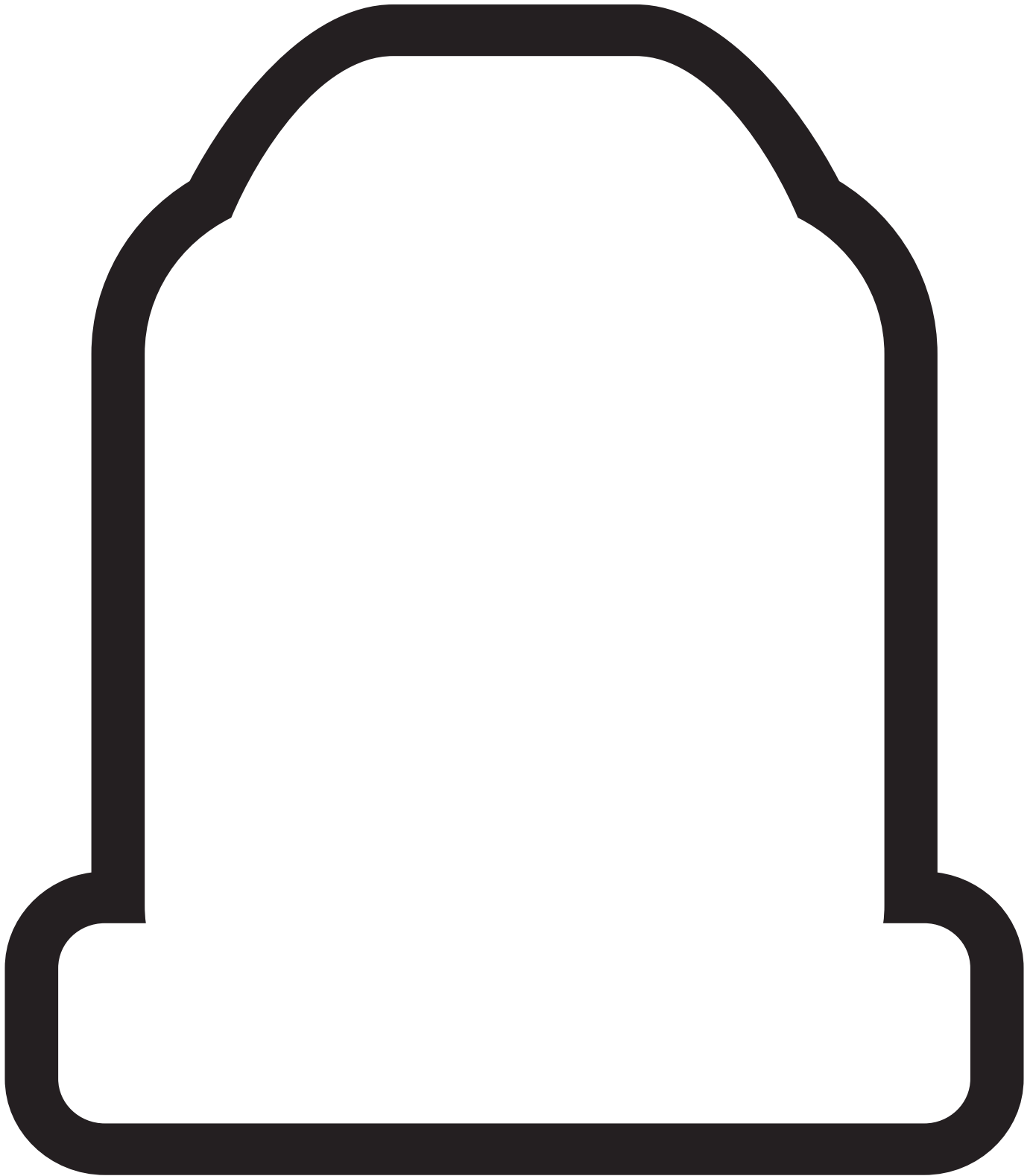




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Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools

Commandment for caring for the environment:





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## Friday: Supporting Faith in Our Catholic School

### 1 February 2019, Feast of St Brigid

*Faith makes us open to the quiet presence of God at every moment of our lives, in every person and in every situation. God is present in every one of you, in each one of us.*

Pope Francis, New York, September 2015



#### ► Consider

‘Surely God is in this place and I didn’t know it.’ (Gen 28:16)

Throughout the week we have reflected on what it means to be a Catholic school. We recognise our very important role at the heart of our Catholic community. Schools are places where faith is fostered and given an opportunity to grow and deepen.

On this the last day of Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate our faith and consider ways in which we can respond to God’s call in our lives with the help of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation the Holy Spirit comes to each one of us as our strength and guide in order that we can be witnesses to God’s great love for all.

#### ► Explore

Discuss with the class special or important times in their lives. Example: birthday.

Discuss ways in which we celebrate these special occasions. Expand the discussion to include celebrations in school. Example: Start of new school year mass. Encourage the class to revisit the discussion from Monday in order to identify the symbols and rituals unique to our Catholic school.

Discuss the symbols and rituals associated with the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

With the class list and discuss the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- **Wisdom:** Helps us to see things as God wants us to see them.
- **Understanding:** Helps us to work out why things happen.
- **Right judgement:** Helps us to make the right choices.
- **Courage:** Helps us to stand up for what we believe.
- **Knowledge:** Helps us to know ourselves and the world around us.
- **Reverence:** Helps us to see God in everyone and everything around us.
- **Wonder and awe in God’s presence:** Helps us to appreciate the greatness of God.



#### Activity

Fire is one of the symbols associated with the power of the Holy Spirit.

In groups or pairs write one of the strengthening gifts on one side of the flame template provided. On the back list ways in which we can put that particular gift to work in our daily lives. The flames can be displayed in the classroom’s sacred space.



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## Gifts of the Holy Spirit

