

THE HOLY SPIRIT

PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE ROLLO

This is the fourth rollo of the first day and the second rollo given by a spiritual director. Its central purpose is *to assure the candidates that God's enabling presence is with them always!*

In the sequence of rollos, this one is situated in a carefully planned progression. The first rollo, **IDEALS**, tells the candidates that all of us have central ideals which give shape and direction to our lives. The candidates are asked to consider which ideals have made them what they are. The second rollo, **GRACE**, points to Christ as the Christian answer given to the question raised by the **IDEALS** rollo. The third rollo, **THE CHURCH**, tells about the community of faith in which we live out the meaning of God's grace (God's undeserved, unearned, and unmerited good favor) present for us.

These three rollos prepare the way for the fourth, which explains how God **empowers** His Church and His people to fulfill His mission in the world.

Time objective: Should not exceed **30** minutes.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION**
 - A. Who is the Holy Spirit?**
 - B. What is the work (Divine Aid) of the Holy Spirit?**
 - C. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?**

- II. WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHRISTIAN?**
 - A. Binds us to Christ**
 - B. Transforms the life of the believer**
 - C. Fills and empowers the believer**

- III. WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH?**
 - A. Calls the church into existence**
 - B. Indwells the church**
 - C. Leads the church to unity**
 - D. Empowers the church in witness**
 - E. Guides the church in mission**

- IV. WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD?**

- V. CONCLUSION**

THE HOLY SPIRIT

COMMENTARY ON THE OUTLINE

(This material is intended as a study aid for the Rollista. It is not intended to be the rollo.)

I. INTRODUCTION

Point out the connection of this rollo to those already presented. Help the candidates see the flow of the talks. This need take only a couple of minutes.

How would you describe the Holy Spirit? How would you describe His work? Let's look at this together. Let's begin with a few basic questions.

A. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

First of all, note the Holy Spirit is not an "it"! He comes from and is sent by God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit is God! He is the third person of the Trinity (John 15:26.)

Christianity is not about rules and regulations; it is about relationships. There is an intimate relationship between God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit comes to bring us into such a relationship with God.

He is called the Spirit of truth [see John 14:16-17a]. Remember when Jesus said that **He is the Way, the Truth and the Life** [John 14:6]. Jesus, who is God in the flesh, identifies Himself as being "Truth" and the Holy Spirit is called "the Spirit of truth".

In Hebrews 13:5 (NIV), God declares: "*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*" And it is said of the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17a (NIV): "*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth.*"

Just as God the Father sent His Son to become one of us, so have the Father and the Son now sent the Holy Spirit to us. The Holy Spirit is God's gracious presence in and among us.

The Hebrew and Greek words in the Bible for the Holy Spirit mean "breath" and "wind". We can sense and feel the presence of breath and wind, but we cannot see them. So it is with the Holy Spirit - we can sense and feel His presence but we cannot see Him.

B. What is the work (Divine Aid) of the Holy Spirit?

Now that we see that the Holy Spirit is God, what is His work in and among us? He is the provider of Divine Aid which can be described as: The intervention of God the Holy Spirit to help us (Romans 8:26)...the work of the Holy Spirit moving us from where we are to where we need to be (John 16:13; Romans 8:28, 29.) Divine Aid is grace, a gift imparted to us through the Holy Spirit when we need it most. It can come

in many forms: as an inner strength or peace, as a miraculous manifestation, or as a tangible item.

He is called the **Counselor** (John 14:16). He is the One who comes alongside of God's people to lead and help and guide us into a place of safety.

He is our **Teacher** (John 14:26). When we read or hear or study the Word of God, it is the work of the Holy Spirit to make this word come alive in us and relevant to our lives and situations.

He reveals and **makes Jesus known** to us (John 15:26). The Holy Spirit doesn't point us to Himself, but He points us to Jesus. He makes Jesus real to us.

He is the **presence of God** in us (John 14:17b-18a).

He brings us to the **conviction of our sin** (John 16:8).

He has **inspired the writing** of the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16).

In summary there are two very important works the Holy Spirit does in us: He works **repentance** in us and **brings us to faith** in Jesus.

C. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Remember in the **GRACE** rollo we said grace is the unearned, unmerited, and undeserved favor of God; this grace comes to us in and through the work of the Holy Spirit. He comes with gifts, and He Himself is a gift (Luke 11:11-13). Emphasize here how every gift of God is precious and special.

The Holy Spirit comes bearing gifts for God's people. There are at least three groups of gifts listed in the New Testament: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 1 Peter 4:8-11.

When you have faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, you have the Holy Spirit. He is the **giver** and **worker** of faith within us (1 Corinthians 12:3b). The gifts are given as evidence that Jesus lives in us. They equip us to do the work and will of the Father, just as Jesus did (John 14:12).

II. WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHRISTIAN?

A. Binds us to Christ.

It is the Spirit who brings us to a point of submission to Jesus Christ. In this way, God is truly close to the believer, wholly real and present in heart, mind, and life. The importance of this experience of Christ within the individual life can scarcely be over-emphasized. In Baptism, in Communion, in worship and praise, in confession and repentance, in death and eternal life, Christ's life and ours are inextricably bound together. This is the mystery of which St. Paul speaks in Colossians 1:27 - Christ in you, the hope of glory.

B. Transforms the life of the believer.

This is the most challenging truth to convey. Satan is the “father of lies” and the Holy Spirit is the “Spirit of truth”. This is the truth: **In Jesus you are the righteousness of God.** 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV): *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, and the new has come! Only the Holy Spirit is able to take the old away and give us the new in Jesus.*

The truth is, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:11 (NIV): *“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”* You are no longer a sinner saved by grace; you are a saint by the righteous sacrifice of Jesus.

C. Fills and empowers the believer

The Lord wants all believers to be filled and keep being filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4; 9:17; Eph. 5:18). For the believer, this infilling is as simple as asking the Father to fill us with His Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). Through the infilling of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered (Acts 1:7).

III. WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH?

(The following points can be gone through fairly quickly.)

A. Calls the church into existence.

There are two great marks by which the Holy Spirit creates Christian fellowship:

- The resurrection of Jesus from the dead, whereby He is declared to be the Christ, the promised gift of God for the redemption of the world.
- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the believers on the day of Pentecost.

The “charter” of the Christian Church in Acts 2:42-47, provides a pattern for the church today.

B. Indwells the Church.

It is His presence that brings forth the confession: “Jesus is Lord!”, for He is truly the head and Lord over me and all other believers. (see 1 Corinthians 12:3b (NIV): *“...and no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.”*)

The Church is the temple of the Holy Spirit through the believers. (see 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV): *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...”*)

C. Leads the Church into unity.

The Holy Spirit is at work to bring about the answer to the prayer of Jesus in John 17. (see John 17:23 (NIV): *“...May they be brought to complete unity [for what purpose?] to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved me.”*)

The Holy Spirit inspires and helps us make *every effort* to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)

D. Empowers the Church in witness.

He gives us the grace and power to witness about Jesus - locally and to the world. Acts 1:8 (NIV): "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*"

The Holy Spirit always points us to and lifts up Jesus. John 15:26 (NIV): "*When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about Me.*"

E. Guides the Church in mission.

The entire Book of Acts can be cited as this witness. The Book of Acts could also be called the Acts of the Holy Spirit. There are 65 references to the Holy Spirit and His acts in the book of Acts. If we are willing, the Holy Spirit is more than willing to guide the Church today.

IV. WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD?

Here the spiritual director might want to call their denominational headquarters, or a mission organization to get an up-date on what is happening in the mission field. There are always exciting reports to be shared in the activity of the Holy Spirit.

V. CONCLUSION

The Holy Spirit is God and He is at work today.

The spiritual director needs to emphasize how the Holy Spirit has provided Divine Aid in his/her life. Share briefly what the Holy Spirit has made real to you, how He has moved you (lever) from one place to another in your walk with Christ.

*The concept of **palanca** {Spanish word for 'lever'} may be introduced and explained with the emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit moving us from where we are to where we need to be. Historically, the concept of **palanca** focused upon prayer and sacrificial acts of kindness and love. The Spiritual Director should consult with the Rector about the process of introducing **palanca** in their particular community.*

Note to the rollista: *There is far more subject matter in this "Commentary . . ." than is required to meet the time objective of the rollo. While it is necessary to speak very briefly on each item listed in the outline, be careful to select for expansion, only those items for which you have something significant to contribute - - usually through personal experience. Remember, the more important part of the Weekend will occur during table discussions than what participants*

will learn or remember from hearing the rollo. The rollo is meant more to spark ideas for the table discussions than it is meant to be instructive.

Time objective: Should not exceed **30** minutes.

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BIBLE REFERENCES

(These Bible references are included here to help the rollista understand some of the biblical background of the rollo. The list is neither complete nor is it intended to become part of the rollo. Read the references and listen for the Word of God.)

Luke	11:11-13	Holy Spirit is a gift
John	14:12	Equipper
	14:16-17a	The Spirit of Truth
	14:16	Holy Spirit is Counselor
	14:26	Holy Spirit is Teacher
	14:17b-18	Holy Spirit is presence of God in us
	15:26	Holy Spirit makes Jesus known; Uplifts Jesus
	16:8	Holy Spirit convicts world of sin
	16:13	Holy Spirit moves us to where we need to be
	17:23	Holy Spirit and answer to Jesus prayer
Acts	1:8	Power to witness
	2:4	Filled with Holy Spirit
	2:42-47	Charter of New Testament Church
	9:17	Filled with Holy Spirit
Romans	6:11	Dead to sin, alive in Christ
	8:28-29	Holy Spirit moves us to where we need to be
	12:6-8	Gifts of Holy Spirit
1 Cor.	6:19	Holy Spirit resides in believers
	12:3b	Holy Spirit in all believers; Giver and Worker of faith
	12:7-11	Gifts of Holy Spirit
2 Cor.	5:17	Holy Spirit brings righteousness
Ephesians	4:3	Unity of the Spirit
	5:18	Filled with Holy Spirit
Colossians	1:27	Holy Spirit hope of glory
2 Timothy	3:16	Holy Spirit inspired Holy Scriptures
Hebrews	13:5	God's promise to never leave or forsake
1 Peter	4:8-11	Gifts of Holy Spirit