

# Breaking open the WORD

## Liturgy of the Word has 3 Movements

Proclamation of the Scriptures  
Homily  
General Intercessions

The scripture readings are at the center, for “in the readings God is speaking to [God’s] people, opening up to them the mystery of redemption and salvation, and nourishing their spirit; Christ is present to the faithful through his own work” GIRM, n.33

These readings take place at the Ambo (which was a teaching desk in ancient times). We refer to the Ambo as the “Table of the Word” and hold it in reverence just as we hold the Altar the “Table of the Eucharist” in reverence.

The readings proclaimed during the celebration of Confirmation, have been specially selected for this occasion. It is important to listen to them and to be attentive to the Spirit.

## Confirmation Readings

### First Reading

### 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

### Scripture Notes for Catechists

St. Paul wrote these letters as a way of addressing problems which people had observed and communicated to him regarding what was happening in Corinth. What they told him “revealed to Paul certain basic flaws in the Corinthians’ understanding of Christian community. In consequence, he integrated his replies to their questions into an effort to bring them to a true appreciation of authentic life in Christ.” (*New Jerome Biblical Commentary*)

In the passage above, St. Paul is making it clear that all gifts are given by the Holy Spirit, and all true gifts are meant to glorify God. “At the time, there Paul’s evident purpose (toward the end of the passage especially) was to discourage the inordinate over-valuation of some gifts above others, the humble teacher of the word of God being no less honorable than the holder of some more spectacular gift. He at once presented the marvelous metaphor of “the body” to prove that there are no unimportant members; because the Spirit of God has created, endowed and maintains them all.” (<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/1-corinthians-12.html>)

## Reflection & Questions

We all have gifts which are given to us by God, and we are meant to use them to give glory to God. When we are Confirmed, we are called to go out into the world to use those gifts to bring Jesus to others.

- Why are all of the gifts God gives to each person important?
- Why do you think St. Paul says that people who believe in Jesus form the "Body of Christ"?

During Confirmation the Celebrant prays to God to send His Spirit on the candidates as helper and guide, so that they can continue Jesus' ministry in today's world.

- Think about that term; "Jesus' ministry" What was that ministry?
- What are some of the things you personally can do to continue Jesus' ministry in your school, in your neighborhood or at home?
- By doing these things, we are answering God's call to mirror His goodness to others...beyond good works and kind acts, how can you personally change something in your life that will help to show the world God's love and grace in your own life?

## Gospel

### John 16:5-7, 12-13a

But now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

"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."

### Scripture Notes for Catechists

"The apostles, overwhelmed with the sorrowful implications of the Lord's departure for themselves, were not considering the implications of that departure for the Lord himself. Instead of rejoicing that Jesus would shortly resume his eternal glory with the Father, they thought only of their own loneliness and suffering. Understandable as their attitude was, the Saviour was sensitive to this preoccupation on their part with the implications for themselves alone." (<https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/john-16.html#14>)

## Reflection and Questions

The Apostles were "overwhelmed with sorrow" because Jesus was leaving them. In this scripture passage, He reassures them that He will send the Holy Spirit to them.

- Is it surprising to know that the Apostles felt this way? Why?
- What can we learn from this passage about keeping our faith during difficult times?

An advocate is defined as "someone who pleads on someone else's behalf". With that definition in mind, think about the idea that Jesus has said to his disciples (or followers/believers) that he will ask God the Father to send an advocate to be with us. Jesus recognized that we as humans have weakness and temptation so He asked God to send someone (Holy Spirit) to always plead on our behalf. Think of someone in your life that always has your back...even that person may be annoyed with you or even disappointed by you but the Holy Spirit is alive in us because of God's love for us, and he pleads to God on our behalf. It's like having a direct connection to God all

the time, and all for our own good because the Spirit knows us, and what is best for us because He is with us always.

- Think about all the advocates you have in your life in addition to the Holy Spirit. How do they plead on your behalf and support you?
- Who does God call you to be an advocate for? How can the strength of the Spirit help you in being a good Christian advocate?

## Confirmation Scripture Reflection

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### \*Reflection & Questions for Candidates:

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- Why are all of the gifts God gives to each person important?

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*Gospel: John 16:5-7, 12-13a*

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*Reflection and Questions for Candidates*

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### *Reflection & Questions*

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### *Thoughts and reflections as we move closer to Confirmation...*

With your formal classes ending, you will be now responsible for your own faith journey. You will decide when to pray and how faith will play a part in your daily life.

- What is your vision of how faith will play a part in your life? Daily? Weekly? In High School? College? Adulthood? How will you share your faith with others?

Jesus is clear in the teaching that the greatest commandments are rooted in love. How will you live out your vocation or calling from God to love and serve God and others? Are you open to unique ways God may be calling you? Could you serve as a missionary or in religious life? Are you called to be a pro-life congressman or public speaker? Could God be using you as a famous athlete who upholds Catholic values? Take some time to pray about this, and really focus on the little ideas and thoughts that God puts into your heart and mind while you are quiet in prayer.