

Made Holy in the Spirit

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 7*.

❖ The Church is holy because it was founded and redeemed by Jesus. It is guided by the Holy Spirit, and its members are led to be holy like God. Yet the Church is always in need of purification, following the path of penance and renewal.

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❖ Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are Sacraments of Initiation. Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are Sacraments of Healing. Matrimony and Holy Orders are Sacraments at the Service of Communion. Through the seven sacraments, we are strengthened in faith and empowered to share in the mission of the Church.

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❖ Everyone is called to be holy, and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us grow in holiness. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel (right judgment), knowledge, fortitude (courage), piety (reverence), and fear of the Lord (wonder and awe). These are seven permanent, spiritual gifts named in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

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❖ Thomas More demonstrated the gift of wisdom. He was a holy and wise man, the chancellor of England under King Henry VIII. Thomas More was executed by the king for refusing to sign an oath recognizing the king as the head of the Church.

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❖ Though he had academic difficulties, Barney Casey had the gift of understanding. He had insights into the truths of faith and counseled many people. In 1995 the Church recognized his virtue and sanctity and declared him venerable, the first step in being declared a saint.

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❖ Through her gift of counsel, or right judgment, Catherine of Siena convinced the pope to return to Rome after the papacy had resided in France for 73 years. It was highly unusual for a woman to have such influence during the Middle Ages.

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❖ Counsel, or right judgment, helps us make good decisions and accept our responsibility to care for others. We use this gift when we seek advice about living our Catholic faith.

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❖ Angela Merici had the gift of knowledge. She knew God and knew who she was. She used her experiences and faith to act according to Jesus' teachings.

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❖ Father Miguel Pro showed heroic fortitude in giving up his life for Christ. Fortitude, or courage, is the strength to choose to do the right thing, even when it is difficult.

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❖ John Chrysostom is an example of the gift of piety, or reverence, a gift of the Holy Spirit. John was made bishop of Constantinople in 398 and rejected the privileges of his position. He worked to reform the clergy, who were becoming part of the wealthy class.

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❖ Fear of the Lord leads us to a sense of wonder and awe in the presence of God because we recognize God's greatness. It allows us to marvel at God's greatness and keeps us from offending God.

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