

CONFIRMATION SESSION: BURN

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The saying, “may the force be with you” was made famous by the Star Wars movies that have influenced our culture for the past 40 years. In the movies, a group of individuals, called “Jedis,” utilize the power of “the force.” One of the most notable Jedis, Obi-Wan Kenobi, describes the force as “an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds the galaxy together.” To the Jedi, the force is a certain strength that can be used to accomplish difficult tasks. The force can also be used to move objects without touching them, infiltrate and influence people’s thoughts without speaking, and sense the presence of another person without being in the same place. The force can be used for good, but it can also be used for evil, known as “the dark side.”

Over the years, people have done their best to understand and explain the force, even comparing it to the Holy Spirit. At times, it may seem like the force is similar to the Holy Spirit. In fact, watch any Star Wars movie and replace the words “the force” with “Holy Spirit” and you will be amazed at how much sense the sentence makes, despite the change in words. While the Holy Spirit may share some qualities with the force, the Holy Spirit cannot be compared to the force because the Holy Spirit is a “who,” while the force is a “what.” The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, which means the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is not an energy force coming from God; rather, the Holy Spirit is God.

In our faith tradition, the Holy Spirit has many roles and titles (e.g., Lord, the giver of life; paraclete; spirit of truth; counselor; sanctifier) The titles of the Holy Spirit point to the truth of what the Holy Spirit is responsible for in our lives. Not only does the Holy Spirit breathe life into us, the Holy Spirit strengthens us so we are able to live out the missionary mandate of the Church: to make disciples of all nations. The Holy Spirit is present in the sacraments — the way in which we experience Christ’s true presence on Earth — but the Holy Spirit also leads and guides us in prayer, which is our relationship with God. Jesus promised to send us the Holy Spirit, who comes to our aid, leads us, strengthens us, and guides us. May the force be with you or, better yet, may the Holy Spirit be with you.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. Who is the Holy Spirit to you? What is your relationship with the Holy Spirit like?
2. Do you view the Holy Spirit as more of a “who” or a “what”? Does this distinction change how you approach the Holy Spirit?
3. Are you open to the workings of the Holy Spirit in your life? How can we be more open to the workings of the Holy Spirit in our family?