

The Joy of the Resurrection Essay Contest

*Essay Contest for 5th, 6th, and 7th Grade Boys and Girls
sponsored by Brother Martin High School*

Submit an essay of 200 to 300 words on our topic,
Psalm 104: *“Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.”*

Reflect on the scripture passage and consider one or more of these questions in your response:

- Where do we see the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- How can we be open to seeing the Holy Spirit’s presence even more than we do already?
- How does Easter “renew the face of the earth?”

5th Grade Female Winner **Ramsey Macicek** St. Catherine of Siena

I see the Holy Spirit in many ways or places in my life. Sometimes I see the Holy Spirit when I’m doing something that I love. When I am happy and doing something that I love, I know God is also happy. Other times I see the Holy Spirit simply when I am praying. When I am in a time of reflection, it really helps me focus on listening to the Holy Spirit guide me. Most often, I see the Holy Spirit when I am spending time with the people I love. Finally, I really see the Holy Spirit when I am doing something kind and following Jesus’ example.

I think we can be more open to seeing the Holy Spirit’s presence in a lot of ways. One way we can do that is by praying and listening to the Holy Spirit more often. Also, you can go to church every Sunday if you don’t already. We can make sure that we make time for Jesus in our daily lives. One other thing we can do is spend more time with our family and friends. We can get off the internet and go hang out with our parents or siblings. This is how I think we can be more open to seeing the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

Last but not least, Easter “renews the face of the Earth” in many ways. One way is that at this time people really realize how much of a sacrifice Jesus made for us. Another way is when people get their feet washed on Holy Thursday like Jesus did to the Apostles at the Last Supper. Getting our feet washed helps us focus on how selfless Jesus was and how selfless we should be in our daily lives. On Easter, you would think that all day we just celebrate what we get in our Easter baskets, but we take time out of our day because we realize that what Jesus did was much worse than anything we have ever done. This is how we know Easter really renews the face of the Earth.

5th Grade Male Winner

Miles Bradley

St. Catherine of Siena

The Holy Spirit Helps Us in Times of Need

Jesus is with us everywhere we go. He is even with us sharing our pain. It feels great to have the Holy Spirit with us always like Jesus. I love the sense of pride when the anxiety, fear, and even nervousness go away. The Holy Spirit fills me up. I see the Holy Spirit in the times of need everywhere I go. One example of when I saw the Holy Spirit was when I missed the goal in a soccer game. The Holy Spirit comforted me, and I felt better after the whole situation. The Holy Spirit is known for making you feel pride. With joy the Holy Spirit is with us. I wish it was more often. It feels great every now and then. Easter renews the face of the earth because it is a time of sadness. Jesus Christ, our savior, dies and goes through suffering. This wipes the sin from us and opens the gates of Heaven. I think this is very important because it shows the life of our savior Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ saved our lives from sin. He renewed us by setting us free from sin and healed everyone's sin in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus is in all of us saving in God's name, and Jesus reunites us with God, the Church, and the sacraments. This is why Easter renews the face of the Earth.

6th Grade Male Winner

Sebastian Minehart Belle Chasse Middle School

In the first verse of Psalm 104, we hear about how if God took away anything from us that He Himself created, then we would return to the dust and not be a part of His creation. This means that God could take away anything from us. He could take away the trees, for example, which are a source of oxygen for humankind. He could flood the earth like he did in Noah's time. He can do anything to destroy us if we are not honoring Him, but He won't destroy us. He loves us so intently that He will not ever return us to the dust until the end of the world, when we shall return to the dust and be with Him in heaven. He even gave Noah a rainbow as a symbol of His promise to never flood the earth again. He knows we can change to follow Him in the best way possible. He has sent priests, religious brothers and sisters, and lay ministers since the beginning to spread His word.

In the midst of all of this, because of our sinful nature, we often get confused and fall away from our Lord. That's when we need God to send out His spirit, His Holy Spirit, to give us His love and inspire us toward conversion. God will send out His spirit to anyone in need, but we must ask. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says, "Ask and you shall receive." When God created the first humans and all of nature, He breathed life into Adam and Eve. The Holy Spirit is God's breath, breathing life and faith into the earth, so we must never forget to ask, "Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth."

6th Grade Female Winner **Charlotte Burke** St. Catherine of Siena

We can see the Holy Spirit in our lives through the people we spend time with and enjoy spending time with. We can see the Holy Spirit through our families, and even friends. Our families bring out the best in us, and this allows us to be able to see the Holy Spirit. We can also see the Holy Spirit through our friends. Our friends can help us be able to grow in our faith and enable us to see the Holy Spirit. We can see the Holy Spirit as long as we open our hearts and allow Him in.

One way I think that we can be more open to the Holy Spirit's presence even more is by being more open with the Lord and praying more often. I can always feel the presence of the Holy Spirit when I am with my loved ones. By going to Mass and spending time in adoration, we can open the eyes of our hearts to be able to see and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. These are only some ways we can feel the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Easter renews the face of the Earth by giving us a new sense of life. Before Jesus rose from the dead, death was the end of our life. Through Jesus' resurrection, we can see that death is no longer the end of our life, and we can have eternal life in heaven. Jesus was able to conquer death and rise, which gives us hope that we will be able to do the same. Jesus became human in the incarnation, and he rose from the dead. Therefore, because we are also human, we can do the same and rise from the dead to our eternal reward. Jesus opened the gates of heaven, which had previously been closed, so we can enter and live eternally with God. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus renews the face of the Earth.

7th Grade Female Winner **Anna Holloway** Christian Brothers School (Canal St.)

The Holy Spirit first enters our lives when we are baptized. At Baptism, we are anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit to carry out Jesus' mission. Sometimes, it can be hard to carry out His mission on our own, but the Holy Spirit guides us to "bring good news to the afflicted, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, release the prisoner... to comfort all who mourn." (Isaiah 61:1-2). If you let the Holy Spirit into your life, you will see that many of your decisions are guided by the Holy Spirit. When people put others down, I let the Holy Spirit guide me to bring them back to their feet. When people hurt me, and I forgive them, that is the power of the Holy Spirit bringing me to mercy. I see the Holy Spirit in my life when choosing between right and wrong. In Confirmation, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and we fully complete the sacrament of Baptism. However, the power of the Holy Spirit isn't just something that comes to us in an event, but is something that is present every moment of our lives. Jesus died and rose for us, but He didn't leave us alone. He gave us the Holy Spirit. When we call on the Holy Spirit, we can carry out Jesus' mission, and we are able to rid of the world of evil and renew the face of the earth.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come

Come, Holy Spirit, Come. The Holy Spirit has the power of God and is present in our everyday life. In some cases, the Holy Spirit shows itself clearly. For example, the Holy Spirit appeared to Joseph in a dream. The Holy Spirit also appeared to Saul (who later became the apostle Paul) in a vision, leading to his mission of faith. The Holy Spirit was also a dove at Jesus' Baptism. The Holy Spirit appeared to Moses in a burning bush. The Holy Spirit has been communicating to people for years, but in most cases it appears subtly, and we are not seeing or listening to it. The Holy Spirit guides us and leads us to God's grace and forgiveness. We as a church can seek the Holy Spirit by listening to God. However, many of us will miss the Holy Spirit because we are distracted in our lives.

The Holy Spirit especially comes into our lives during Easter. Since Easter is a time of renewal, the Holy Spirit comes to help us renew our faith. Easter renews us by making our faith stronger. When our faith is renewed, we remember what Jesus Christ did for all of us and how we can be disciples of Christ. Easter renewal also means that the Holy Spirit can communicate to us during the Easter season. The Holy Spirit appears to us during Easter, and we just have to stop, look, and listen to find it. We have to put aside our distractions. Just as the Holy Spirit appeared to the disciples on Pentecost, if we stop and listen and remove our distractions, we can find be filled by the Holy Spirit and be rewarded with God's grace. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.