

Confirmed in the

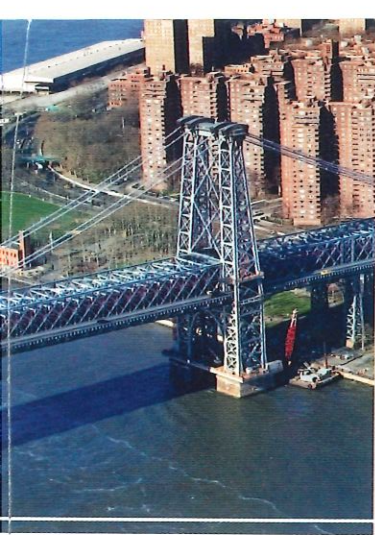
# Spirit



Have you ever felt all alone in the world? Have you ever faced a difficult situation and didn't know what to do? Whom did you ask for help?

"Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts . . ."  
—Rite of Confirmation





# The Spirit Is with Us

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans."

**John 14:15-18**

## Understanding Scripture

In the passage above, Jesus is talking to his Apostles after the Last Supper. He is giving them some final words of comfort before his accusers come to arrest him. The Apostles are nervous, and they're wondering what's coming next. Jesus doesn't deny that he is leaving.

The disciples are afraid of being left behind; they will be lost without Jesus. But Jesus tells them he is sending an **Advocate** to help them.

The term *advocate* comes from a Greek word that can mean "lawyer." It can also mean "mediator," "intercessor," "comforter," or "consoler."

Jesus calls on the "Spirit of Truth" to be his friends' advocate and remain with them. Jesus offers us the same support. He tells us, "I will not leave you orphans." (John 14:18)

## Scripture and You

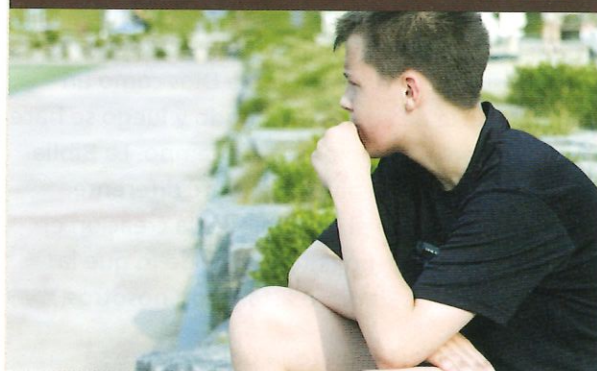
Facing the challenges of a new day can be scary. You may have to deal with a difficult situation at home or at school. You may be disturbed by the events you see unfolding in the world. With so many problems facing the world and yourself, you may wonder where God is.

You are just like the disciples listening to Jesus. They have been with him for almost three years,

and now he is leaving them. They're trying to make sense of what's happening and are wondering what will come next.

Jesus assures the disciples that he won't leave them orphans. He promises to send God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity to be with them always. Jesus makes that same promise to you today.

## REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD



What comes to mind when you hear Jesus promise not to leave you as an orphan? What problems or concerns can you ask the Holy Spirit to help you handle? Spend a few moments in prayer. Silently talk to God about anything you would like.



## The Spirit in the Old Testament

Many people think that God really isn't involved in the world; he simply lets things happen. Some see God as a watchmaker who winds up the world and then steps aside and lets it tick away. The Bible tells a completely different story. It says that from the beginning of creation, the Spirit of God formed the earth and all its surroundings, and that God will always be with us.

In the Old Testament, the word for "spirit" is the Hebrew word *ruah*, which can be translated as "wind" or "breath." God's action in creation is described in the Book of Genesis: God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was a shapeless wasteland, and the heavens were covered with darkness. A mighty wind swept across the waters. (Genesis 1:1–2) God formed the first man out of the clay of the ground and breathed into him the Spirit of Life. (Genesis 2:7)

The Spirit of God is with his people throughout the Old Testament. With the help of God's Spirit, Moses leads the Hebrew people out of Egypt to freedom. As the Hebrew community grows, God gives his Spirit to the community's leaders. (Numbers 11:17,25)

## The Spirit in the New Testament

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit comes to Mary as she answers the call to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God. (Luke 1:35) The Holy Spirit appears in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism. (Matthew 3:16–17) Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert to pray. (Luke 4:1–2) And Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah that the Spirit is upon him as he begins his ministry. (Luke 4:16–21)

After Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension, the Holy Spirit comes on Pentecost. The Spirit

### ART LINK



*Annunciation*, He Qi, 2001.

*La Anunciación*, He Qi, 2001.

fills the disciples with grace and gives them the courage to proclaim Jesus to the world. (Acts of the Apostles 2:1–4)

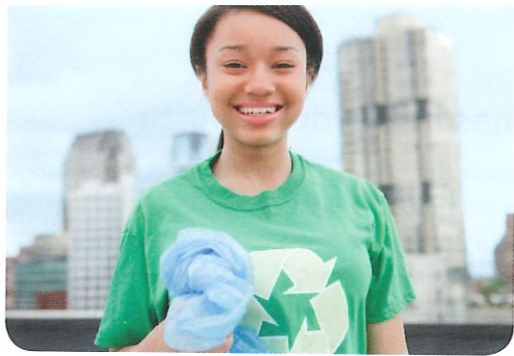
## The Spirit in the World Today

The gift of God that helps us live as he wants us to live is called **grace**. The Sacrament of Confirmation completes the grace we receive in Baptism. It seals, or confirms, this grace through the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.





The Scripture stories of the Holy Spirit in action exemplify what God has done in the past, and they are also models of how God continues to work in our lives today. The stories help us recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in our own lives. The Spirit helps us understand what God is calling us to do. The mission of the Holy Spirit and Jesus are inseparable. Whenever God sends his Son, he always sends his Spirit.



# Father, Son, and Spirit with Us

God is not distant from us. He wants us to know how close he is to us. As Jesus said, we are not being left as orphans.

God is our Father, who created the universe from nothing in order to express his love for us. Jesus, God the Son, came to us as Savior and Redeemer to reunite us with God and to restore the relationship we broke by our sin. Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. But it is the Holy Spirit who reveals Jesus to us. The Holy Spirit is God alive

in the world. God the Holy Spirit helps us know we are loved and shows us how to love others.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help, defend, and comfort us. As the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit makes the saving work of Christ present and active in the Church. The Spirit gives us the grace to act for God and others as Jesus did. Using your talents and resources to help others and the world is called **stewardship**.

The Holy Spirit also helps us become part of a community, called the **Church**, or the Body of Christ. Christ fills the members of this community with the Holy Spirit and builds them, animates them, and sends them out to share the Good News with the world.

## MY TURN    The Spirit at Work

1. How do you see the Spirit at work in the world today?

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2. What is an example of the Holy Spirit helping you in your life?

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3. When have you felt God's grace working through you or someone else?

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**Saint Frances Cabrini.**

**Santa Francisca Cabrini.**

## Spirit-Filled People

The Spirit's presence has helped Christians of every century to live like Jesus and to become saints. Read how Saint Frances Cabrini, whose feast day is November 13, felt the Holy Spirit at work in New York City in 1890.

"No!" The bishop sighed and looked at Mother Frances Cabrini. "No, you do not want the property across the river. There is no drinking water."

"But Bishop," pleaded Frances, never known to give up, "the children in the orphanage need fresh air and a place to run. They can't do it in the crowded house on Fifty-Ninth Street."

"Where will you get the money?" the bishop asked impatiently.

"God will take care. Have faith."

The bishop gave in reluctantly. Frances and her sisters prayed to the Holy Spirit. They begged from butchers, bakers, rich friends, and merchants. Eventually they got the money, food, and clothing they needed. After the orphanage

(Left) Detail of saints, *The Last Judgment*, Fra Angelico, 15th century.

(Izquierda) Detalle de los santos, *El juicio final*, Fra Angelico, siglo XV.

was moved to the newly purchased property, the land was surveyed and a well was found.

With the guidance of the Spirit, Frances Cabrini was able to help build nearly 70 institutions for those who were poor and suffering. She crossed the ocean 30 times to help people in need, proving that nothing stops a Spirit-filled Catholic. Saints are ordinary Catholics. They rely on the Holy Spirit and follow wherever he leads them.

## Your Christian Name

At your Baptism you were given your Christian name. You may have been named after a relative or a saint or some other person your parents thought would be a good role model for you. As you seal your Baptism in Confirmation, you can keep that name or choose the name of another saint or holy person to be your model of Christian life.

**The Spirit gives you the strength to help your neighbors just as he did for Saint Frances Cabrini. Write how you could help a person or group in need.**

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears slightly aged or off-white. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.



# Images of the Spirit

To help us understand the Holy Spirit, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* presents a number of images of him. Reflecting on some of these images helps us think about the Holy Spirit in different ways and consider what he means to our lives.

## Water

Water signifies regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit in Baptism, which is necessary for Salvation. In the Holy Spirit, we are baptized into new life in Christ and become children of God the Father. (Acts of the Apostles 11:16)

## Anointing

Anointing with oil has become so identified with the Holy Spirit that it is almost a synonym for the coming of the Spirit. **Messiah** is the Hebrew word for "anointed one." **Christ** is from the Greek and also means "anointed one." Jesus is the Messiah, the one uniquely "anointed" by the Spirit. It is a symbol of the Holy Spirit's uniting us with Jesus, the Messiah, the Anointed One. (Acts of the Apostles 10:38; 1 John 2:20–27) Jesus pours out this same Spirit upon us, calling us to be more than we can ever hope to be through our efforts alone.

rite



## Rite

We listen to the Scriptures, the inspired Word of God. They tell us about the Father's love for us, who sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh, to save us.

## Meaning

Every time you listen to Scripture, inspired by the Holy Spirit, God speaks to you.

## Daily Life

The Holy Spirit guides us and gives us strength throughout the day, inspiring all the good that we do.

## Life of Faith

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we are called to proclaim the Word of the Lord in word and action.

symbol



## Fire

Fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist proclaimed that Jesus was the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. We also remember the dramatic events of Pentecost in which tongues "as of fire" rested on the disciples. (Acts of the Apostles 2:3)

reminiscent of the wind that blew over the waters at the beginning of creation. (Genesis 1:2) The wind calls attention to the Holy Spirit breathing life into the Church. (Acts of the Apostles 2:2)

## Dove

Think of a dove, a gentle bird, flying to your hand and gently resting on it. In a similar way, the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus when he emerged from the waters of his baptism by John. He also gently rests on us and remains with us. (Matthew 3:16)

## Wind

The Holy Spirit is also represented by wind. We cannot see the wind, but we can feel it. Much like God, we can see how the wind affects everyone and everything it touches. The "strong driving wind" that appeared on Pentecost was



### MY TURN Your Image of the Spirit

1. Based on what you know about the Holy Spirit, which symbol of the Holy Spirit best relates to your life? Why?

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2. What is another object, element, or animal that could be a symbol of the Holy Spirit? For you, what is the symbolism?

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# A Confirmed Commitment

You are preparing to receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation, an opportunity to deepen your commitment to Jesus and his Church. The grace of the Holy Spirit unites us by faith and by our Baptism to the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ. In Confirmation the Holy Spirit brings us closer to Christ, brings us into a closer relationship with the Church, and helps us be a witness to our faith in what we say and do. You've heard the phrase "Practice what you preach." Confirmation gives us the strength to live out and act on our beliefs.

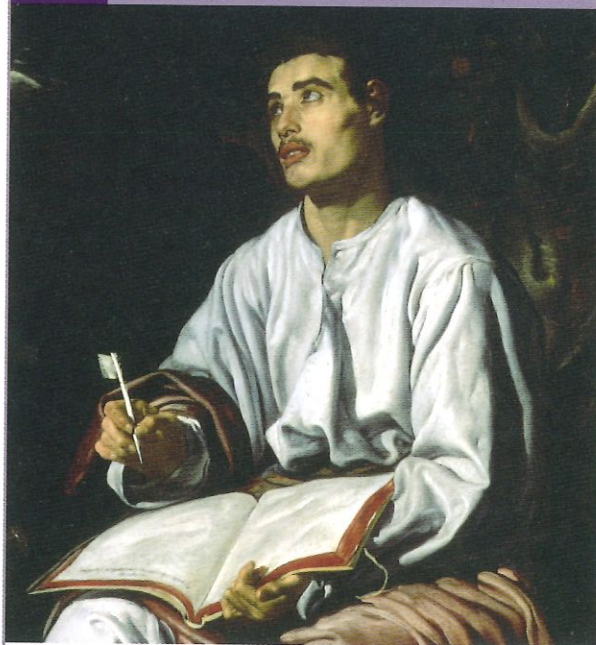
## The Spirit Helper

No matter how uncertain you may feel and however many questions you might have, the Spirit is always ready to help you. In Confirmation he comes to you in a special way. This gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation will help you explore the many questions in your life and will help you live the life to which God calls you.

Consider the following questions. Choose one and write about it in your journal. Then write a short prayer to the Holy Spirit for guidance. Your journal will not be turned in and no one else will read it.

- How can I plan to be a better person?
- How can I make good choices?
- How do I prepare for the future when I don't understand what's happening today?

## 1 WITNESS



### Gospel Writer: Saint John the Evangelist

Saint John the Evangelist had the experience of living with Jesus—walking at his side, watching him perform miracles, listening to his teaching, and receiving signs of Jesus' love. John had the special privilege of being with Jesus at crucial times, and he heard Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit. After Jesus had sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, John continued to respond to Jesus' call through his writing and preaching.

John was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write his Gospel. The symbol for John as a Gospel writer is the eagle. Tradition holds that he is also the author of the three letters of John and the Book of Revelation in the New Testament. Each time John preached, he emphasized the same message: "Little children, love one another." He said that this is the Lord's Word, and if people followed this message, they would do enough. John was exiled to the isle of Patmos, where he later died. Saint John the Evangelist's feast day is December 27.



## Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching Themes

Through the Gospels we learn that Jesus wants us to care for those in need. The social teachings of the Church call us to follow Jesus' example. These teachings are about how to build a just society and live holy lives amid the challenges of the modern world. The bishops of the United States have defined seven areas of social concern for today's Church:

***Life and Dignity of the Human Person*** All human life is sacred, and all people must be respected and valued over material goods.

***Call to Family, Community, and Participation***

Participation in family and community is central to our faith and a healthy society.

***Rights and Responsibilities*** Every person has a right to life as well as a right to those things required for human decency.

***Option for the Poor and Vulnerable*** We are called to pay special attention to the needs of those who are poor and vulnerable by defending and promoting their dignity and by meeting their immediate material needs.

***The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers*** The basic rights of workers must be respected. The economy is meant to serve people; work is not merely a way to make a living but an important way in which we participate in God's creation.

***Solidarity*** Since God is our Father, we are all brothers and sisters with the responsibility to care for one another.

***Care for God's Creation*** God is the creator of all people and all things. The responsibility to care for all that God has made is a requirement of our faith.



## 3 PRAY

### Call to Prayer

Saint Augustine observed: "You have made us, O God, for yourself, and our hearts shall find no rest until they rest in you." Does your heart rest in God? How do you see the Holy Spirit working in your life? How is the Holy Spirit calling you to use your gifts to help others?





# pray

## Prayer to the Holy Spirit

**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**Leader:** Gathered as a community of believers, let us listen to God, speaking to us in his Word, today and always.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans."

John 14:15-18

**Leader:** God sends us the Advocate to help guide us. The Holy Spirit is always present to help us in our faith. With faith-filled hearts, let us pray and reflect.

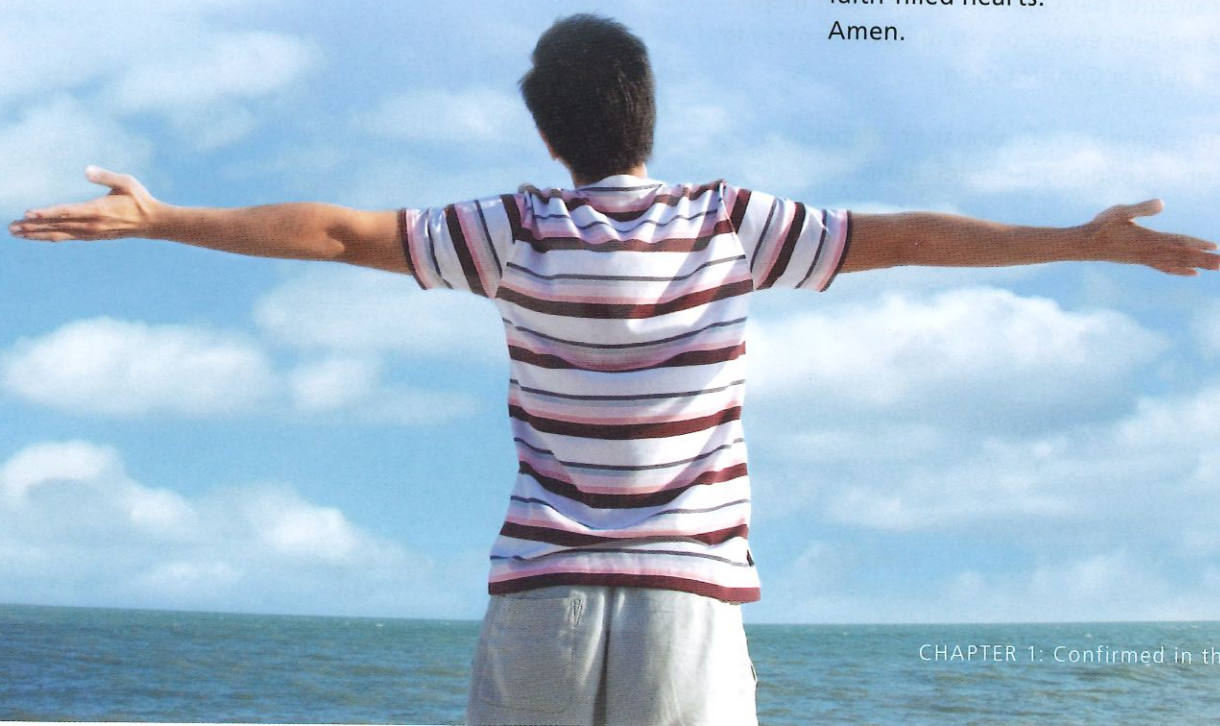
**All:** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit  
and they shall be created.  
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

**Leader:** Together we pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and grace.

**All:** O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always to rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.  
Amen.

**Leader:** In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Spirit is with us in a special way. The Spirit renews the face of the earth and renews us in Confirmation.

**All:** Loving God, you continue to nourish our souls. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith-filled hearts.  
Amen.





# summary

## FAITH SUMMARY

Sent by Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to us at Baptism and Confirmation. The Spirit gives us the ability to live a Christian life.

## REMEMBER

### Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the Advocate whom Jesus sent to be with us always.

### What does the Holy Spirit do?

The Holy Spirit helps us learn what Jesus means to us and gives us the grace to act as Jesus did.

### How does the Holy Spirit give meaning to our lives?

The Holy Spirit helps us know we are loved and shows us how to love others.

## MY CONFIRMATION JOURNAL

Use your journal to enter more deeply into your preparation for Confirmation. Your journal will not be turned in and no one else will read it. Be sure to complete pages ii–viii at the beginning of your journal. Review your journal periodically



*Loving God,  
help me in my  
faith and guide  
me in all that I do.  
Nourish my soul and  
strengthen my  
faith-filled heart.  
Amen.*

## Words to Know

Advocate	grace
Christ	Messiah
Church	stewardship

to better appreciate and understand God's grace at work in your life as you prepare for Confirmation.

Quietly spend time reflecting and recording on journal pages 1–10.

## REACH OUT

1. Consider your personal mission. Write what you feel called to do as a witness to Christ and his Church. What is your special service? Whom are you called to help? You might also draw a picture of yourself carrying out your mission.
2. The Old Testament word *ruah* can be translated as "wind" or "breath." Just like our breath, the Spirit flows through us and through all parts of life. Reflect on times when you have felt this presence of the Spirit and name three times you have passed his love on to others.

## WITH MY SPONSOR

Arrange with your sponsor to share your insights, questions, and ideas from this chapter and how they relate to your conversations from the *Faith to Faith* magazine.





# review

## CONFIRMING THE FACTS

Complete the sentences. If you answer them correctly, the boxed letters will spell confirmed.

- The disciples of Jesus were filled with the Spirit on \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Holy Spirit gave the disciples \_\_\_\_\_ to proclaim Jesus.
- The Old Testament word for *spirit* can be translated as "\_\_\_\_\_" or "breath."
- Fire symbolizes the \_\_\_\_\_ energy of the Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit rested on Jesus like a dove when Jesus emerged from the waters of his \_\_\_\_\_.
- You receive an \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- For Confirmation you can choose the name of a saint to be your \_\_\_\_\_ of Christian life.
- The Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ our bond with the Church in Confirmation.
- The Holy Spirit is our \_\_\_\_\_ or defender.

## THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Write a **T** for true or **F** for false for the following statements about this chapter. Edit each false answer to make it true.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Holy Spirit is referred to as the Spirit of Truth in the Gospel of John.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. John the Baptist was the advocate whom Jesus promised to send to help the Apostles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Advocate can mean "mediator," "intercessor," "comforter," or "consoler."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Jesus promised not to leave the disciples as martyrs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. *Messiah* is the Hebrew word meaning "Son of God."

## CONFIRMATION PUZZLER

Cross out the first letter and every other letter after. The remaining letters spell four words that tell what the Spirit is for you. List them.

J	H	E	E	S	L	U	P	S	E
C	R	H	C	R	O	I	N	Y	S
K	O	B	L	N	E	W	R	A	C
Q	O	A	M	P	F	J	O	U	R
B	T	X	E	E	R	K	I	I	N
C	T	V	E	Y	R	D	C	F	E
W	S	U	S	P	O	Z	R		

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