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8 For week starting February 24, 2008

Prayer
Holy Spirit, Seven gifts are yours to give. You are the finger of the Father's right hand. You, the clear promise of the Father, give men's tongues grace in speech. Kindle a light in our minds, pour love into our hearts and uphold with your unfailing strength the frailty of our human nature. Amen. (VCS)

Trailblazers' preparation for World Youth Day 2008
"Let those prepare their hearts who fear the Lord" (Sir 2:17)

Scripture
There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. (Is 11:1-3)

Reflection
The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are habits that he gives our soul. The virtues, our good habits, are like rowing a boat compared to the gifts which are like raising the sails for the wind to fill and pull us along. The ways you can cultivate these gifts are three: recollection (silence, prayer); penance; and detachment from the things of this world.



Australia Fact
Sydney, Australia, is named after Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sydney (24 February 1732 - 30 June 1800). He was British Home Minister when the city Sydney was founded. He was created Baron Sydney and entered the House of Lords in 1783, taking the title Sydney to commemorate his descent from Robert Sidney, 2nd Earl of Leicester, who traced his descent from John de Sydenie, a name which derives from a village in Normandy called Saint-Denis.

Know the Pope
Pope Benedict was elevated to cardinal in June 1977. In November 1981 he was named prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and president of the Biblical Commission and of the Pontifical International Theological Commission.

Pope Quote
"Confirmation gives us special strength to witness to and glorify God with our whole lives (cf. Rom 12:1). It makes us intimately aware of our belonging to the Church, the 'Body of Christ,' of which we are all living members, in solidarity with one another (cf 1 Cor 12:12-25)." (M-6)

How to use this page
1. If possible, take this page to the Church, and pray before the Tabernacle, where Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.
2. Start with the "Prayer."
3. Read each of the squares, and meditate:
▪ What do these words mean?
▪ How can these words help me become more like Jesus, the Lord?
4. Finish with the "Know Yourself" section.
5. Take notes! If you have good ideas, you can share them, for example, with your youth group.
! More tips at: www.trailblazerswyd.org/via2008/tips.html

In which chapter is today's Via?
1. Spirit of Truth
▶ 2. Spirit of Fortitude
3. Spirit of Love
4. Spirit of Witness

"Know Yourself"
1. Do I practice recollection? How?
2. Do I practice penance? How?
3. Do I practice detachment from all things? How?

Group Discussion
1. Discuss each of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, and try to find examples, in real life or in the lives of the saints, of each of these seven gifts.
2. What are ways in which we can express or cultivate our solidarity with the Catholic Church?