



— THE POPE FRANCIS — **FAITH AWARD**



*"How beautiful it would be if each of you, every evening, could say: 'Today at school, at home, at work, guided by God, I showed **a sign of love** towards one of my friends, my parents, an older person!'"*

(Pope Francis, addressing young people, April 2013)

The **Pope Francis FAITH AWARD** is designed to help children to show "signs of love" in their daily lives and to be active members of their local Church.

The FAITH AWARD invites young people at the Primary 6 and 7 stages to use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and to see how they can bear fruit in their homes, schools and parishes. It is directly connected to what young people are learning about the Sacrament of Confirmation.

What will young people do to gain the award?

There are 3 main activities for the young people enrolled for the award.

- 1 At various points, mainly across P6 & P7, they will gather together to reflect on a short Scripture passages which will help them to LEARN and REFLECT about their Faith.
- 2 After they reflect on each Gift of the Holy Spirit they will be asked to ACT by choosing a Faith Action which they will do at HOME, in SCHOOL and, if they are Catholic, in their PARISH.
- 3 They will note their learning, their actions and their reflections on these in their personal FAITH Journal which will act as a scrapbook for collecting evidence - notes, photographs etc.

How will their achievements be judged?

Evidence must be gathered to show that each young person:

- has used all the gifts of the Holy Spirit when showing love of God and love of others.
- has reflected on how their actions have made an impact on their journey of faith.

For a Catholic child to gain the **FAITH AWARD with a Parish Commendation**, the Parish Priest must confirm that these young parishioners

- are playing their part in the life of the parish.

How will the FAITH AWARD be presented?

Following an assessment of the evidence gathered, the Faith Award will be awarded on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Scotland. The Scottish Catholic Education Service, which administers the award, will provide a certificate and a badge for each successful entrant. In each local area arrangements will be made by schools and parishes to present these awards.

What is expected of Parents?

Parents are asked to support their child's participation in the award by:

- attending a short service at which their child will be enrolled for the award
- encouraging their child to complete their chosen Faith actions at home
- reporting on the completion of the Faith actions at home
- accompanying their child (if Catholic) to Mass in their local parish.

What is expected of Parishes?

Parish priests are asked to:

- lead a short enrolment service in the parish
- encourage young parishioners by endorsing the faith actions which they will choose
- appoint a parish co-ordinator for the Faith Award
- encourage parishioners to support the young people involved
- ensure the monitoring of faith actions undertaken in the parish
- follow guidance from SCES on awarding Parish Commendations.

What kinds of Faith actions are involved?

The Faith Journal provides many suggestions for Faith actions which are connected to each Gift of the Holy Spirit. These are a few examples.

Gift of the Holy Spirit	Faith Action
 KNOWLEDGE is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us to know ourselves, God and the world around us. It more than just facts. Knowledge is our map to know where our faith is leading us and what our Church is about.	• Share some knowledge about a special interest or hobby. • Join the discussions at Children's Liturgy to share your knowledge with younger children. • Speak to a member of a Parish group - eg., Legion of Mary, Readers to learn about their work.
 REVERENCE is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us to have a deep sense of respect for God and the Church. Without Reverence we can't have knowledge. It teaches us to treat our fragile world gently, including our friends & family. Reverence helps us to pray with trust and respect and to see God in everything around us.	• At Mass, take part in the prayers /responses with respect and join in the singing of hymns. • Receive Communion respectfully and answer "Amen" clearly. • Each night, give thanks to God for your life and for opportunities to grow.
 WISDOM is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us to love God and spiritual things more than material things. It shines a light on God's plan in our lives and in the world. Wisdom helps us to say, "I understand how to love."	• Set a good example of behaviour to younger children (and those who are older). • Speak to your family after a service to let them know what you have learned about God today. • Examine your conscience carefully before Confession.

Gift of the Holy Spirit	Faith Action
 COURAGE is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us to be confident and say that we are disciples of Jesus. A person with Courage has the strength to stand up for what is right, even if it means being unpopular. Courage gives us the strength and stamina to walk out into the world and feel prepared.	• Listen to your conscience and act on your convictions by raising money for a charity or writing a letter to support a good cause. • Don't be distracted by the bad behaviour of others. • Go to Confession often and be honest in admitting your mistakes.
 WONDER AND AWE is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us become aware of the glory and majesty of God. Wonder and Awe is the beginning of Wisdom because it helps us see that God is the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.	• Share with someone all the good and wonderful things about a friend or a member of your family. • Make a poster to illustrate these words: "See, he makes all things new". • Learn more about the signs & symbols used in liturgy in your parish - eg., water, light, oils.
 RIGHT JUDGEMENT With this gift, we know the difference between right and wrong, and we choose to do what is right. A person with Right Judgement avoids sin and lives their life in the way taught by Jesus.	• Agree your contribution to certain chores and take responsibility for doing these without the need to be reminded. • Make a card or write a note for an elderly or sick person - relative, neighbour, parishioner and send it or take it to them. • Speak to the priest about how best to help out in the parish.
 UNDERSTANDING helps us to have an insight into what God is asking us to do and how we should live our lives. With Understanding, being a disciple of Jesus is always refreshing and life-giving to ourselves and others. Understanding is letting the Word of God have room in our lives.	• Use your pocket money to contribute to collections for those in need. • Notice when your brothers and sisters/ friends behave well in Church and compliment them. • Look through your toys and books and fill a bag for the charity shop.

