

PURPOSE

A Transformative Plan
for Confirmation

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Prayer is critical in the life of a disciple because it connects us with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the “master of prayer”; it is actually the Holy Spirit who empowers us to pray at all. Without the Holy Spirit, our prayer would be impossible. The Holy Spirit is irreplaceable in the life of discipleship and we received the Holy Spirit at our baptism.

Our baptism is the beginning of our lives in Christ. It is also the starting point of our relationship with the Holy Spirit. At our baptism, we are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit to sustain and help us as we walk through life. The gifts of the Holy Spirit grow as we grow. When we receive Confirmation, these gifts are sealed in us.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit can be challenging to understand, at first. They are gifts in the truest sense; God gives them freely for our benefit. We can continue to pray for the gifts and for an openness to them, but we also trust that God will give them to us when we need them. We cannot just call down a particular gift or demand it in a moment. The gifts are always given for our good.

There are seven identified gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, understanding, piety, counsel, fortitude, and fear of the Lord. Each gift strengthens a quality that we need in order to be a disciple.

Wisdom helps us be attracted to what is good and of God. It helps us discern what will lead us to heaven and what will lead us away from it, and then allows us to act upon that discernment.

Knowledge allows us to see the world from God’s perspective. Our mind is conformed to the mind of God, whereas understanding helps us recognize divine truths present in our world, especially within our faith.

Piety is a gift of reverence where we recognize how much we rely on God, so we can direct our hearts accordingly with a love of God. Fear of the Lord, on the other hand, gives us a healthy fear of ever being separated from God’s love.

Counsel helps us judge rightly in difficult situations and fortitude gives us courage to act boldly when our faith is attacked, or when we need to be Christ in the world.

These are the gifts we need in order to act as disciples in the world, and each is strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation. To be ready to use these gifts, though, we need to know who the Holy Spirit is and continue to dive deeper into a relationship with Him.

The Holy Spirit in the



Life of Discipleship

The Holy Spirit is already present to us through our knowledge of God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit helps us know God, love Him, and live in His grace. We can also know the Holy Spirit through prayer, Scripture, the Church, and the sacraments. The foundation for knowing the Holy Spirit is prayer. In prayer, we can easily begin invoking the Holy Spirit, inviting Him into our lives.

“Come, Holy Spirit.” The Church instructs us to call upon the Holy Spirit before we do anything important. The Holy Spirit acts in all forms of prayer and is the “master and source” of prayer. If you find yourself feeling frustrated or do not know where to start in prayer, simply ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide.

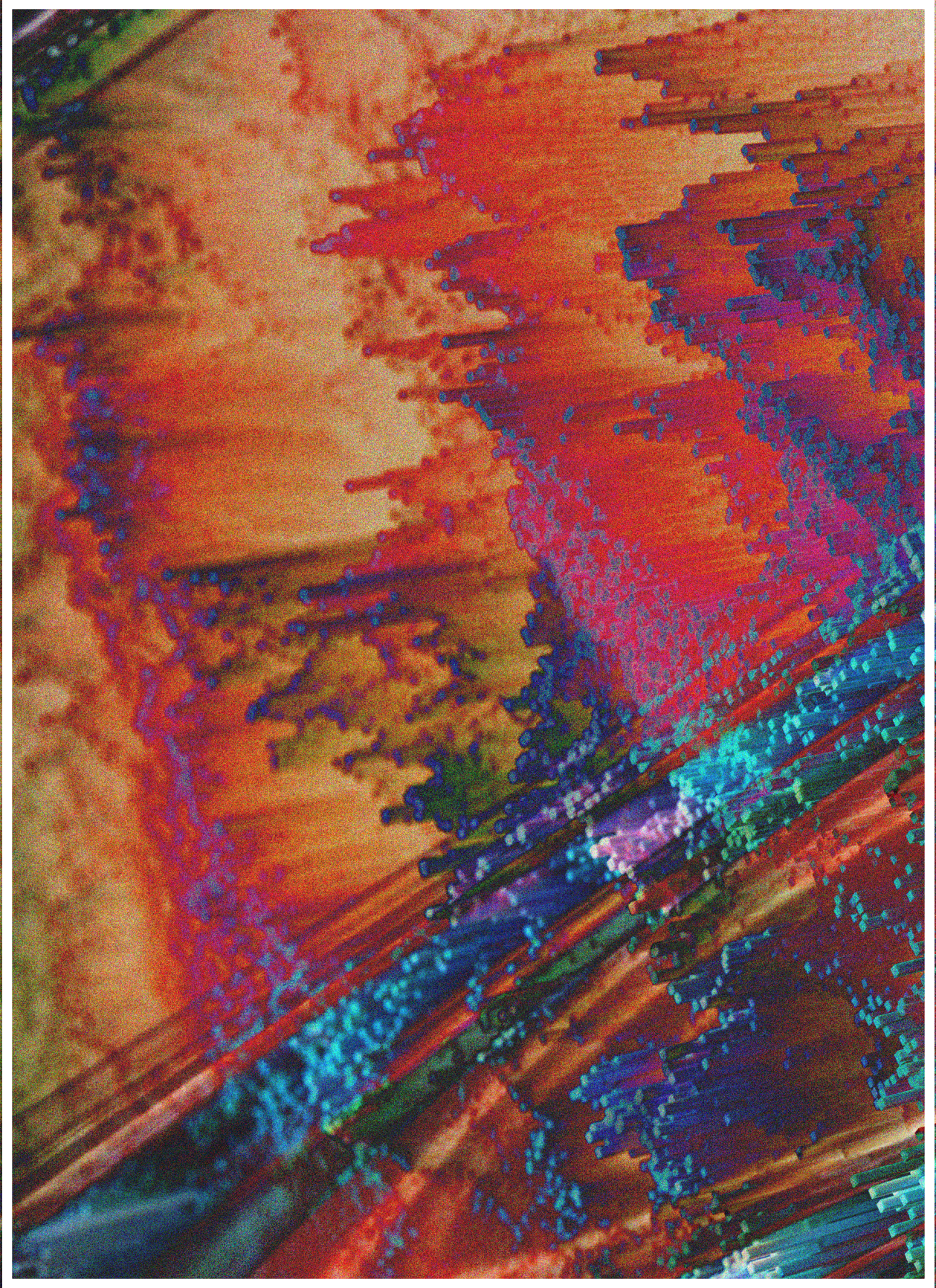
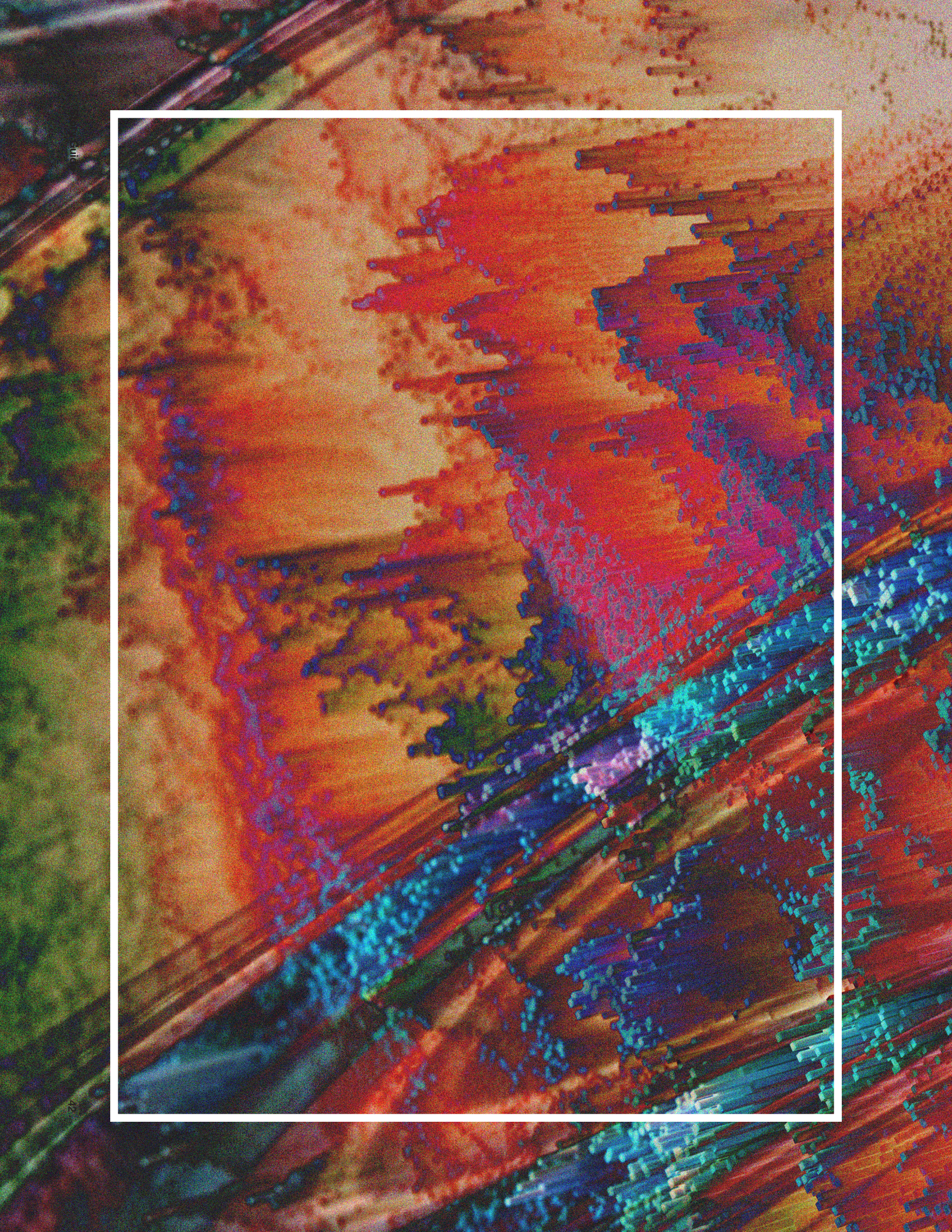
We can also come to know the Holy Spirit through Scripture. The Holy Spirit is the principal author of Scripture and enlightens us, so we can better understand the richness that God has given us in Scripture. We can ask for the help of the Spirit to read Scripture more often, more ardently, and with greater understanding.

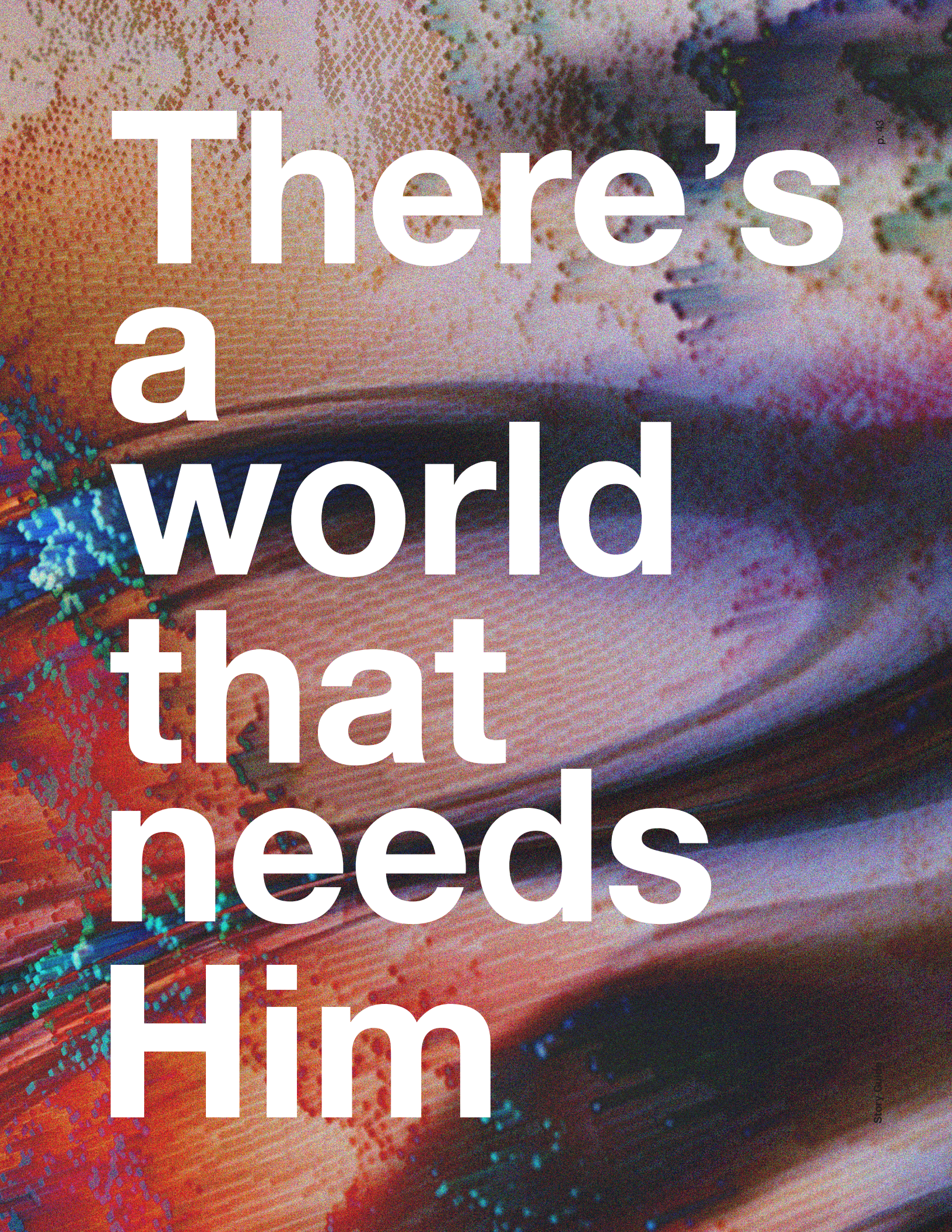
As our relationship with the Spirit grows, so does our appreciation and love for the Church. The Holy Spirit works in all aspects of the Church, even the ones we do not agree with. It is OK to wrestle with or struggle with Church teaching as long as we are open to the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding the Holy Spirit is imparting to us regarding those teachings. Ultimately, we need to be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in helping us understand, love, and affirm these teachings.

The Holy Spirit is alive in the sacraments, specifically in the Mass, during which the Holy Spirit brings us into communion with Christ. In Reconciliation, after we have been cleansed from sin, the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts and helps us become more like Christ.

For us to grow in relationship with the Holy Spirit we must be more consistent in our prayer, listen for His promptings in silence, allow Him to move, have an openness to God’s will, and regularly return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare our hearts as His dwelling place.

The call to discipleship is an important call and can seem challenging, but when we are in a relationship with the Holy Spirit and receive the gifts of that Spirit, we are empowered to do great things and live the call to discipleship boldly.





There's
a
world
that
needs
Him