

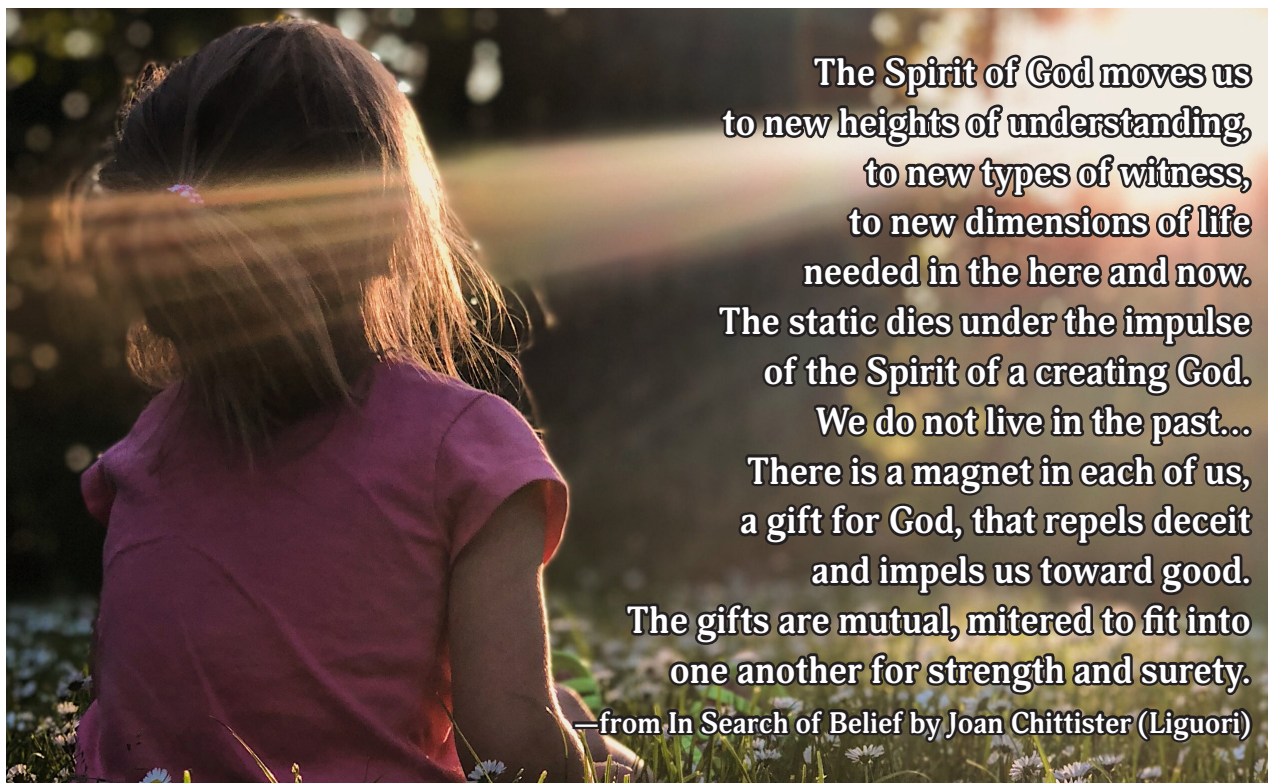
Catholic Identity is open to the new

Catholic identity is a spirit generated, spirit animated, spirit filled way of being human in a world that is crying out for a positive way forward. We assert this belief in the Creed: *We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son ...* We believe that the Holy Spirit is an agent of newness, an agent of renewal, an agent of getting into our lives, often comfortable and happy lives, and spurring us to do new things, seeing new needs.

Why were the prophets and saints remembered for their work? Because they came and focused on something that was new, something that was a way of living the gospel, that challenged unjust structures. Why were founders of religious orders so successful? Because they really did take a new path to make our world a better place. Like Francis and Clare of Assisi who in their world of rigid social hierarchies, powerplay and constant warfare, stood in solidarity with the poor, with lepers, with those seeking peace.

St Francis sought to broker peace with the Muslim leaders – unheard of things for their time. In all facets of Catholic life, in all facets of Catholic ministries, we are called to be open to the new. Because if we're not open to the new, then we're not open to the work of the Holy Spirit.

It is important to remember that the Spirit of God is not confined by Church structures but breathes where it will. Catholic organisations committed to the mission of 'contributing to the emergence of a world where the healing, liberating and life-giving mercy of God is experienced', are open to the Spirit – are Spirit led. We want our ministries to be inclusive, honouring the dignity of each person and to have a special regard for those who are poor, to be eucharistic and to nurture community and relationships. These are the tasks of a truly Catholic community within authentically Catholic ministries.



**The Spirit of God moves us
to new heights of understanding,
to new types of witness,
to new dimensions of life
needed in the here and now.**

**The static dies under the impulse
of the Spirit of a creating God.**

We do not live in the past...

**There is a magnet in each of us,
a gift for God, that repels deceit
and impels us toward good.**

**The gifts are mutual, mitered to fit into
one another for strength and surety.**

—from *In Search of Belief* by Joan Chittister (Liguori)

Reflections: How can you be Spirit-led in your ministry?

We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners of the lands on which our ministries exist and the Elders both past and present on whose land we walk, work and live. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart.