



NOVENA
TO THE
HOLY SPIRIT

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THE SPIRITANS

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FOREWORD

The Holy Spirit is the unseen moving force of God in the world—unseen but not unheard! It was the Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets of the Old Testament to lead the people to God.

Many of the outstanding characters of the early Church— Mary, Zechariah, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Peter and John—are presented to us by Sr. Luke as Spirit—filled witnesses to the Good News, which they enthusiastically pro-claimed.

As the Holy Spirit inspired the evangelists to write the Gospels and Epistles, the same Spirit guides the faithful today: “...and I will send the Holy Spirit to inspire you with all the things I have taught you.”

The tradition of the Novena was established by the apostles when, at Jesus’ direction, they gathered in prayer to await the Holy Spirit in the days leading up to Pentecost. Pope Leo XIII at the turn of the century wrote, We ought to pray and invoke the Holy Spirit, for each one of us greatly needs His protection and help. The more we are deficient in wisdom, weak in strength, borne down with trouble, prone to sin, the more we need to go to Him who is the never ceasing Fount of Life, Strength and Consolation and Holiness.”

The Second Vatican Council emphasizes the honor and also the duty, especially of lay people, to pray and invoke the Holy Spirit in every phase of their life. “The lay people dedicated to Christ and anointed by His Holy Spirit (in Baptism and Confirmation) are marvelously called and equipped to produce in themselves ever more abundant fruits of the Spirit. For all their works, prayers and apostolic endeavors, their ordinary married and family life, their daily labor, their mental and physical relaxation, if carried out in the Spirit, and even the hardships of life, if patiently borne—all of these become spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

While the Holy Ghost Fathers have developed this Novena booklet for communal public celebration, it is equally suitable to private devotion. Please follow the suggestions in the daily outline on Page Four to adapt the Novena to communal or private usage.

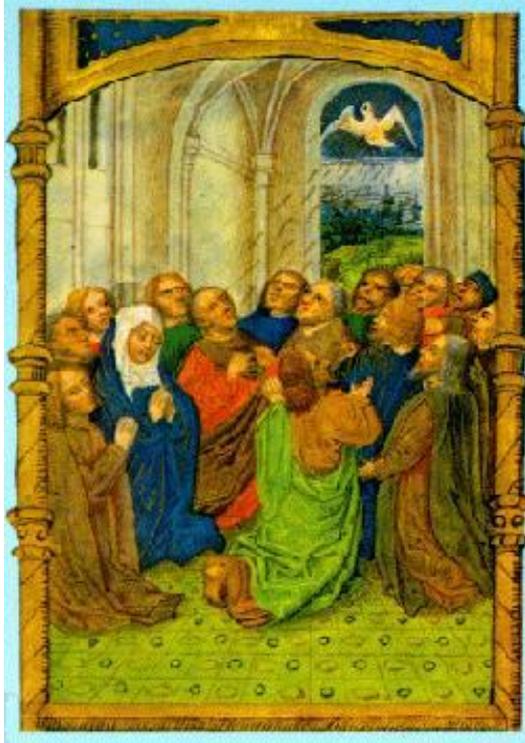
Devotion to the Holy Spirit is an inherent part of our faith and our prayer life, throughout the year and throughout our lives. Thus, this Novena is suitable, not only in the days preceding Pentecost, but at any time throughout the year.

Together, may we pray and invoke the Holy Spirit for the Seven Gifts of Piety, Fortitude, Knowledge, Understanding, Counsel, Wisdom and Fear Of The Lord.

Additional Copies Of This Novena Are Available For
\$2.00 Each.
Please consult the address on Page 26 of this booklet.

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German Medieval Art from “Evangelier Aus Koln, 1250 A.D.

“When the day of Pentecost came, it found them gathered in one place...They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”

from The Acts Of The Apostles, Chap. 2



THE MISSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH

“When the Son completed the work with which the Father had entrusted him on earth, the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost to sanctify the Church unceasingly, and thus enable believers to have access to the Father through Christ in the one Spirit. He is the Spirit of life, the foundation of water welling up to give eternal life. Through Him the Father gives life to men and women, dead because of sin, until He raises up their mortal bodies in Christ.

“The Spirit dwells in the Church and in the hearts of the faithful as in a temple. He prays in them and bears witness in them to their adoption

as children. He leads the Church into all truth and gives it unity in communion and in service. He endows it with different hierarchical and charismatic gifts, directs it by their means, and enriches it with His fruits.

‘By the power of the Gospel He enables the Church to grow young, perpetually renews it, and leads it to complete union with its Bridegroom. For the Spirit and the Bride say to the Lord Jesus: ‘Come!’

“In this way the Church reveals itself as a people whose unity has its source in the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

Vatican II, The Church, nos. 4-12.

EACH OF US HAS A VOCATION

God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission—I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

I am like a link chain, a connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, (10 His work, and he an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it—if I do but keep his commandments.

Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may hide my future from me—still He knows what He is about.

Cardinal John Henry Newman

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

I am going to reveal to you the secret of sanctity and happiness. Every day, for five minutes, control your ears imagination and close your eyes to the things of sense and your to the noises of the world, in order to enter into yourself. Then, in the sanctity of your baptized soul (a temple of the Holy Spirit) speak to that Divine Spirit, saying:

Oh, Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul ... I adore You. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what to do... Direct my every choice. I promise to submit myself to all that You desire of me and to all that You permit to happen to me. Let me only know Your will.

This submission to the Holy Spirit is the secret of sanctity.

Cardinal Mercier

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIFE AND ACTION

THE HUMAN HEART, SOUL AND MIND

“A ship has sails and rudder;
the wind blows into the sail,
getting the ship to proceed as it should,
so it advances by its sails and takes its general
direction.

Yet this direction could be too vague
and could lead the ship astray at times.

So there is the rudder,
to guide it exactly in its due course
without straying in any way.

Your soul is the ship,

your heart represents the sail,

the Holy Spirit is the wind;

He blows into your will and your soul goes forward,
proceeding towards the goal God proposes for it.

Your mind is the rudder to prevent you,
in the strength and vivacity of the movement given
to your heart,

from departing from the straight line determined by
the divine goodness.’

*Venerable Francis Mary Paul Libermann, C.S.Sp.
Second Founder of the
Congregation of the Holy Ghost*

DAILY OUTLINE FOR PRAYING THE NOVENA

**I. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and all will be reborn.

All: And you will renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Holy Spirit, open our eyes, and calm our minds. Fill our memories of the Father's love, of the Son's unceasing prayer, of the world and of your own presence within us.

All: Holy Spirit, give us faith.

Leader: Holy Spirit, reveal to us the truth of the Father's unfailing promise, purpose and plan; of the Son's victory and risen presence; the truth about our selves—sinful yet children beloved of God.

All: Holy Spirit, give us hope.

Leader: Holy Spirit, give us peace; peace with God and peace with all people. Kindle my desire for you. Strengthen our wills to live and serve. Teach us and lead us where you will.

All: Holy Spirit, give us love.

II. Scripture Reading

III. Responsorial Prayer/Psalm

IV. Homily (if novena is celebrated in community) **and/or**
Period of Silent Meditation.

V. Thought For Each Day. (Optional Second Reading)

VI. Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Page 5)

VII. Final Prayer Followed by Closing Hymn. (Page 5)

PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that that same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of your grace and love.

Grant us the **Spirit of Wisdom** that we may aspire to the things that last forever;

the **Spirit of Understanding** to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;

the **Spirit of Counsel** that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first the Kingdom;

the **Spirit of Fortitude** that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;

the **Spirit of Knowledge** that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness;

the **Spirit of Piety** that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;

the **Spirit of Fear** that we may be filled with a loving reverence toward you.

Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen.

Hymns in Honor of the Holy Spirit

<p>Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest, And in our Hearts take up Thy rest, Come with Thy grace and Heavenly Aid, To fill the hearts which You have made.</p> <p>O Comforter, to You we cry, Thou gift of God sent from on High. Thou fount of life and fire of Love, The soul's anointing from above.</p>	<p>Holy Spirit, Lord of light, From Thy clear celestial height, Thy pure beaming radiance give.</p> <p>Come, Thou Father of the poor! Come, with treasures which endure!</p> <p>Come, Thou Light of all that live!</p> <p>Thou on those who evermore, Thee confess and Thee adore, In Thy sevenfold Gifts descend.</p> <p>Give them comfort when they die; Give them life with Thee on high; Give them joys which never end.</p>
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DAY ONE

“THE WHOLE OF CREATION AWAITS FULFILLMENT”

Scripture Reading: *Romans 8: 18-23, 26*

“...All that we suffer in the present time is nothing in comparison with the glory which is destined to be disclosed for us, for the whole creation is waiting with eagerness for the children of God to be revealed. It was not for its own purposes that creation had frustration imposed on it, but for the purposes of him who imposed it—with the intention that the whole creation itself might be freed from its slavery to corruption and brought into the same glorious freedom as the children of God. We are all aware that the whole creation, until this rime, has been groaning in labor pains. And not only that: we, too, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we are groaning inside ourselves, waiting with eagerness for our bodies to be set free.”

Response: *Psalm 104: 24, 2 7-35*

How manifold are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have wrought them.

All the earth is full of your creatures;

They all look to you to give them food in due time.

When you give it to them they gather it; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

If you hide your face, they are dismayed; if you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord be glad in his works!

**He who looks upon the earth, and it trembles;
who touches the mountains, and they smoke!**

I will sing to the Lord all my life;

I will sing praise to my God while I live.

Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the Lord.

May sinners cease from the earth, and may the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Glory to the Father....

Final Prayer:

Spirit of God you brought order out of the chaos of the beginning of the universe. In a yet more remarkable way you brought peace and order among the Lords disciples, shaken by his death, startled by his Resurrection and mystified by his Ascension after their commission to convert the world. Help us relive their days of prayer in openness to your sanctifying action as we prayerfully commemorate their preparation for the first Pentecost. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, God forever and ever. Amen.

Optional Second Reading:

“Christ, lifted up from the earth, has drawn all to himself (cf. Jn.12:32). Rising from the dead (cf. Rom, 6:9) he sent his life-giving Spirit upon his disciples and through him set up his Body which is the Church as the universal sacrament of Salvation. Sitting at the right hand of the Father he is continually active in the world in order to lead all to the Church and, through it, join them more closely to himself; and, by nourishing them with his own Body and Blood, make them partakers of his glorious life. The promised and hoped for restoration, therefore, has already begun in Christ. It is carried forward in the sending of the Holy Spirit and through him continues in the Church, in which, through our faith, we learn the meaning of our earthly life, while we bring to term, with hope of future good, the task allotted to us in the world by the Father, and so work out our salvation (cf.

Phil. 2:12).”

Vatican II, The Church. no. 48.

DAY TWO

“CHRISTS PROMISE TO SEND THE PARACLETE”

Scripture Reading: *John 14: 15-17, 26-27.*

“If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Paraclete to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth whom the world can never accept since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. ... The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

Response:

Come, Holy Spirit, and from heaven direct on us the rays of your light.

Come, Father of the poor; come, giver of Gods gifts;

Come, light of the hearts of all.

Kindly Paraclete, in your gracious visits to our souls you bring relief and consolation.

If we are weary with toil, you bring us ease; in the heat of temptation, your grace refreshes us; if sorrowful, your words console us.

Light most blessed, shine on the hearts of your faithful—even into their darkest corners; for without your aid they can do nothing good, and everything is sinful.

Wash clean the sinful soul, rain down your grace on the parched soul and heal the injured soul. Soften the hard heart, cherish and warm the ice-cold heart, and give direction to the wayward.

Give your seven holy gifts to your faithful, for their trust is in you. Give them reward for their virtuous acts; give them a death that ensures salvation; give them unending bliss.

Amen. Alleluia.

Final Prayer:

Lord Jesus! The promise of your coming kept our Jewish forbearers full of hope through almost 2,000 years of painful waiting fulfillment.

Your fulfillment of your promise to send the Holy Spirit to live within your followers has kept your persecuted Church alive and true to you for another 2,000 years. Open each of us to the Spirit's presence so that we will always be one with that Church in its fidelity to you and your truth, for you are our Lord forever and ever. Amen.

Optional Second Reading:

“... Christ sent the Holy Spirit from the Father to exercise inwardly his saving influence and promote the spread of the Church. Without doubt, the Holy Spirit was at work in the world before Christ was glorified. On the day of Pentecost, however, he came down on the disciples that he might remain with them forever (cf. Jn. 14:16); the Church was openly displayed to the crowds and the spread of the Gospel among the nations, through preaching, was begun. On that day was foreshadowed the union of all peoples in the catholicity of the faith by means of the Church of the New Alliance, a Church which speaks every language, understands and embraces all tongues in charity, and thus overcomes the dispersion of Babel. The ‘Acts of the Apostles’ began with Pentecost, just as Christ was conceived in the Virgin Mary with the coming of the Holy Spirit and was moved to begin his ministry by the descent of the same Holy Spirit, who came upon him while he was praying.

Vatican II, Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church. no.4

DAY THREE

“THE SPIRIT, THE SOUL OF CHRIST’S BODY, THE CHURCH”

Scripture Reading: *I Corinthians 12: 12-14, 27*

“As with the human body which is a unity although it has many parts—all the parts of the body, though many, still making up one single body—so it is with Christ. We were baptized into one body in a single spirit, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as free persons, and we were all given the same Spirit to drink. And indeed the body consists not of one member but of many. ... Now Christ’s body is yourselves, each of you with a part to play in the whole.”

Response: *Psalm: 34: 12-23*

Come, children, hear me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Which of you desires life,
and takes delight in prosperous days?

Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking guile;

Turn from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and follow after it.

The Lord has eyes for the just,
and ears for their cry.

The Lord confronts the evildoer,
to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.

When the just cry out, the Lord hears them,
and from all their distress he rescues them.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted;
and those who are crushed in the spirit he saves.

Many are the troubles of the just man,
but out of them all the Lord delivers him;

He watches over all his bones;
not one of them shall be broken.

Vice slays the wicked,
and the enemies of the just pay for their guilt.

But the Lord redeems the lives of his servants;
no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.
Glory to the Father....

Final Prayer:

Father! Through your Son you invite all men and women to become members of your family, brothers and sisters of Jesus, who, together with him, call you Abba, Father. We have accepted that invitation by our baptism. As the fruit of that sacrament may we allow the Spirit dwelling within us to draw us into that oneness of faith, trust and love with Christ to whom our destiny calls us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Optional Second Reading:

“None of you must say, ‘I have received the Holy Spirit; why am I not speaking with the tongues of all nations?’ If you want to have the Holy Spirit, consider this: our spirit, by which every person lives, is called the soul. And you can see what the soul does in the body. It sees through the eyes, hears through the ears, smells through the nostrils, speaks with the tongue, works with the hands, walks with the feet. It is present simultaneously to all the body’s parts, it gives life to all, their functions to each. The eye doesn’t hear, the ear doesn’t see, the tongue doesn’t see, nor do ear and eye speak. But they are alive, all the same.”

“That is what the Church of God is like; in some of the saints it works miracles, in other saints it proclaims the truth, in other saints it preserves virginity, in other saints it preserves married chastity; in some this, in others that. All contributing their unique gifts, but living the same life together. In fact, what the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to the body of Christ, which is the Church. The Holy Spirit does in the whole Church what the soul does in all the parts of one body.”

St. Augustine, Sermon 276. no. 4. (Pl 38. 1231)

DAY FOUR

“THE DIGNITY OF THE CHRISTIAN”

Scripture Reading: *I Corinthians 3:16-17 and Romans 8:14-17*

“Do you not realize that you are a temple of God with the Spirit of God living in you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy that person, because God’s temple is holy; and you are that temple.”

“All who are guided by the spirit of God are sons and daughters of God; for what you received was not the spirit of slavery to bring you back into fear; you received the spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’ The Spirit Himself joins with our spirit to bear witness that we are children of God. And if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, provided that we share his suffering, so as to share his glory.”

Response:

Heavenly King,
Consoler,
Spirit of truth,
present in all places and filling all things,
treasury of blessings and giver of life;
**Come and dwell in us,
cleanse us of every stain
and save our souls,
O gracious Lord.**

From the Byzantine Liturgy

Final Prayer:

Oh! Divine Trinity. In this age of explosive scientific achievement, we hold ourselves in low esteem before the idols our science has created. We have used the gifts of that achievement to enable our mutual hatreds to make ours the bloodiest and most lustful century of human history. In our guilt we have learned to despise each other and ourselves. Help us to heed the words of St. Paul and see in ourselves and each other the dignity that is ours as temples of your Holy Spirit, to be loved by one another as each of us is loved by Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Optional Second Reading:

“The Spirit is the source of holiness. a spiritual light, and He offers His own light to every mind to help it in its search for truth. By nature the Spirit is beyond the reach of our mind, but we can know Him by His goodness. The power of the Spirit fills the whole universe, but He gives himself only to those who are worthy, acting in each according to the measure of His faith.”

“Simple in Himself, the Spirit is manifold in His mighty works. The whole of His being is present to each individual; the whole of His being is present everywhere. ... Like the sunshine, which permeates all the atmosphere, spreading over land and sea, and yet is enjoyed by each person as though it were for that person alone, so the Spirit pours forth His grace in full measure, sufficient for all, and yet is present as though exclusively to everyone who can receive Him. To all creatures that share in Him He gives a delight limited only by their own nature, not by His ability to give.”

St. Basil the Great, Bishop

DAY FIVE

“GIFTED TO SERVE AND BUILD OTHERS UP”

Scripture Reading: *1 Corinthians 12: 4-11, 31; 13: 13.*

“There are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at work in them all. The particular manifestation of the Spirit granted to each one is to be used for the general good. ... Set your mind on the higher gifts. And now I am going to put before you the best way of all. ... As it is, these remain: faith, hope and love, the three of them; and the greatest of them is love.”

Response:

Your Spirit, Lord, is truth

Your Spirit, Lord, is truth:

May it make us free.

Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is fire:

May it enkindle us with love.

Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is gentleness:

May it renew the depths of our hearts.

come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is prayer:

May it open our hearts to give praise.

Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, fills the whole universe:

May it live among us forever.

Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is life:

May it raise us up on the last day.

Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Final Prayer:

Father! With a wisdom and love beyond our comprehension you invite each of us through your Holy Spirit to participate in the work of bringing your creation to its final destiny. Grant us the grace to set aside some time to become aware of the Spirit's quiet voice guiding our daily choices and giving us the courage to carry out your loving will as it is revealed to us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Optional Second Reading:

“*The water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of living water welling up into eternal life.*’ This is a new kind of water, a living, leaping water, welling up for those who are worthy. But why did Christ call the grace of the Spirit water? Because all things are dependent on water; plants and animals have their origin in water. Water comes down from heaven as rain, and although it is the same in itself, it produces many different effects, one in the palm tree, another in the vine, and so on throughout creation. It does not come down, now as one thing, now as another, but while remaining essentially the same, it adapts itself to the needs of every creature that receives it. ...”

“...the Spirit makes one person a teacher of divine truth, inspires another to prophesy, gives another the power of casting out devils, enables another to interpret Holy Scripture. The Spirit strengthens one person’s self-control, shows another how to help the poor, teaches another to fast and lead a life of self-discipline... His action is different in different people, but the Spirit Himself is always the same.”

St. Cyril o Jerusalem, Bishop

DAY SIX

“HUMAN WEAKNESS AND SINFULNESS”

Scripture Reading: *Romans 7:15-20; Romans 8: 26-27.*

“I do not understand my own behavior; I do not act as I mean to, but I do things that I hate. While I am acting as I do not want to, ... it is not myself acting, but the sin which lives in me—in my natural self, that is—for though the will to do what is good is in me, the power to do it is not: the good thing I want to do, I never do; the evil thing which I do not want—that is what I do. But every time I do what I do not want to, then it is not myself acting, but the sin that lives in me.”

“...the Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness, for, when we do not know how to pray properly, then the spirit personally makes our petitions for us in groans that cannot be put into words; and he who can see into all hearts knows what the spirit means because the prayers that the Spirit makes for God’s holy people are always in accordance with the mind of God.”

Response: *Psalm 131*

Yahweh, my heart has no lofty ambitions, my eyes do not look high.

**I am not concerned with great affairs
or marvels beyond my scope.**

Enough for me to keep my soul tranquil and quiet like a child in its mother’s arms, as content as a child that has been weaned.

**Israel, rely on Yahweh,
now and for always!**

Final Prayer:

Father! In that daily perfect sacrifice prophesied by your servant Malachi, we profess that “all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father.” In our pride we have fallen from your grace. We are too weak to rise from our wretchedness, too blind even to be aware of our fallen state. By the power of your Spirit, glorify yourself and lead us to our destiny by bringing about in us that gratuitous recreation offered to us through and in Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

Optional Second Reading:

“The Spirit comes gently and makes himself known by his fragrance. He is not felt as a burden, for He is light, very light. Rays of light and knowledge stream before him as he approaches. The Spirit comes with the tenderness of a true friend and protector to save, to heal, to teach, to counsel, to strengthen, to console. The Spirit comes to enlighten the mind first of the one who receives Him and then, through Him, the minds of others as well.

“As light strikes the eyes of a person who comes out of darkness into the sunshine and enables that person to see clearly things he could not discern before, so light floods the soul of the person counted worthy or receiving the Holy Spirit and enables that person to see things beyond the range of human vision, things hitherto undreamed of.”

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop

DAY SEVEN

“CHRISTIAN GROWTH IN THE FREEDOM THAT LOVE GIVES”

Scripture Reading: *Galatians 5:1, 13-26.*

“Christ set us free, so that we should remain free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be fastened again to the yoke of slavery. ... After all, ...you were called to be free; do not use your freedom as an opening for self-indulgence, but be servants to one another in love, since the whole of the Law is summarized in the one commandment: *You must love your neighbor as yourself.* If you go snapping at one another and tearing one another to pieces, take care! you will be eaten up by one another.”

“Instead, I tell you, be guided by the Spirit, and you will no longer yield to self-indulgence, the desires of self-indulgence are always in opposition to the spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are in opposition to self-indulgence: they are opposites, one against the other ... Since we are living by the Spirit, let our behavior be guided by the Spirit and let us not be conceited or provocative or envious of one another.”

Response:

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy;

Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy;

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy;

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy;

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy.

St. Augustine

Final Prayer:

Father! In your infinite wisdom you have called us to remain in you as your Son is in you, and thus live in freedom as your sons and daughters. By the guidance of your Holy Spirit dwelling in us, may we use our freedom to seek and follow your desires and cease making our pursuit of freedom an opportunity for self-indulgence. Empower us to make loving choices, to respect all life and to live up to our dignity as your sons and daughters, redeemed with the Blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Optional Second Reading:

“It can easily be shown from examples...that the Spirit changes those in whom he comes to dwell; he so transforms them that they begin to live a completely new kind of life. ...

With the Spirit within them it is quite natural for people who had been absorbed by the things of this world to become entirely other-worldly in outlook, and for cowards to become people of great courage. This is what happened to the disciples. The strength they received from the Spirit enabled them to hold firmly to the love of Christ, facing the violence of their persecutors unafraid. Very true, then, was our Savior’s saying that it was to their advantage for him to return to heaven; his return was the time appointed for the descent of the Holy Spirit.”

St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop

DAY EIGHT

“THE SPIRIT’S LOVE GIFTS US WITH KNOWLEDGE. UNDERSTANDING AND WISDOM”

Scripture Reading: *1 Corinthians 2: 9-16.*

“God has given revelation through the Spirit, for the Spirit explores the depths of everything, even the depths of God. After all, is there anyone who knows the qualities of anyone except his own spirit, within him; and in the same way, nobody knows the qualities of God except the spirit of God. Now, the Spirit we have received is not the spirit of the world but God’s own Spirit, so that we may understand the lavish gifts God has given us. And these are what we speak of, not in the terms taught by human philosophy, but in terms taught by the Spirit, fitting spiritual language to spiritual things. The natural person has no room for the gifts of God’s Spirit; to him they are folly; he cannot recognize them, because their value can be assessed only in the Spirit. The spiritual person, on the other hand, can assess the value of everything, and his own value cannot be assessed by anybody else.”

Response:

Spirit of wisdom,
Spirit of understanding,
Spirit of adoration,
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Spirit of strength,
Spirit of knowledge,
Spirit of joy,
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Spirit of love,
Spirit of peace,
Spirit of jubilation,
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Spirit of willing service,
Spirit of goodness,
Spirit of gentleness,
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Final Prayer:

Father! Each day many voices speak to our ears and to our hearts: the voices of our natural desires, the voices of our peers and our culture, the voice of the media, the voice of evil and the voice of your Holy Spirit. Strengthen us, each day, in the silence of our hearts, to increase our capacity to listen and discern the voice of your Spirit, to do what He asks of us and to understand the gifts He freely gives us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Optional Second Reading:

“ ‘The obedience of faith’ (Rom. 16:26; cf. Rom. 1:5; 2 Cor. 10:5-6) must be given to God as he reveals himself. By faith a person freely commits his/her self to God, making ‘the full submission of his/her intellect and will to God who reveals,’ and willingly assenting to the Revelation given by them. Before this faith can be exercised, a person must have the grace of God to move and assist him; he must have the interior helps of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and converts it to God, who opens the eyes of the mind and ‘makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth.’ The same Holy Spirit constantly perfects faith by his gifts, so that Revelation may be more and more profoundly understood.”

Vatican II, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, no. 5

DAY NINE

“SENT WITH THE POWER TO RECONCILE”

Scripture Reading: *John 20: 19-23.*

“In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, ‘Peace be with you,’ and, after saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord, and he said to them again, ‘Peace be with you.

‘As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.’

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

‘Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven;
if you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.’

OR: *2 Corinthians 5: 20-2 1; 6:4-6*

“So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were urging you through us, and in the name of Christ we appeal to you to be reconciled to God. ...In everything we prove ourselves authentic servants of God; by resolute perseverance in times of hardships, difficulties and distress; when we are flogged or sent to prison or mobbed; laboring, sleepless, starving in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness; in the Holy Spirit, in a love free of affectation.”

Response: *Isaiah 12:1-6*

That day, you will say:

I give thanks to you, Yahweh, you were angry with me but your anger is appeased

and you have given me consolation.

See now, he is the God of my salvation.

I have trust now and no fear, for Yahweh is my strength, my song, he is my salvation.

And you will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

That day, you will say: Give thanks to Yahweh,
call his name aloud. Proclaim his deeds to the people,
declare his name sublime.

**Sing of Yahweh, for he has done marvelous things,
let them be made known to the world.**

**Cry out for joy and gladness, you dwellers in Zion,
for great in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

Final Prayer:

Father! Ours is a century in which more men, women and children have perished at the hands of their brothers and sisters than in all the other centuries of human history combined. Our greed, our fears, our anger and our hatred have made us enemies of one another and of you, our loving God. Open our hearts to accept your forgiveness for our sins of hatred and violence. Strengthen us to offer that same forgiveness to those who, we feel, have offended us, for merciful forgiveness is the essence of your love revealed in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Optional Second Reading:

“When love has entirely cast out fear, and fear has been transformed into love, then the unity brought us by our Savior will be fully realized, for all will be united through their union with the one supreme God. They will possess the perfection ascribed to the dove, according to our interpretation of the text: *One alone is my dove, my perfect one, she is the only child of her mother, her chosen one.*”

“Now the bond that creates this unity is glory. That the Holy Spirit is called glory no one can deny if he thinks carefully about the Lord’s words: *The glory you gave to me. I have given them.* In fact, he gave this glory to his disciples when he said to them: *Receive the Holy Spirit.*”

St. Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop

ABOUT THE SPIRITANS...

Today's Spiritans—Holy Ghost Fathers, Brothers and Lay Associates—owe their origin to a young French nobleman, Claude des Places, who gave up the practice of law to study for the priesthood. His apostolate began among the chimney sweeps of Paris, and his small seminary, which he dedicated to the Holy Ghost, marked the beginning of the Society of the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1703.

Before long, the “Spiritans” were actively engaged in apostolic work throughout Europe, China, India, Africa, Canada and South America.

Diminished by the French Revolution, the Congregation was renewed in 1848 when Father Francis Libermann, the son of a Jewish rabbi, joined his new Congregation of the Holy Heart of Mary to the Holy Ghost Fathers, bringing with him a number of priests and seminarians dedicated to the poor and underprivileged. It is the writings and the example of Francis Libermann that set the tone for today's Spiritans as they follow an apostolate dedicated to, and guided by, the Holy Spirit.

The work of the Congregation was established in the United States in 1872. The Spiritan Foundation, located in Houston, Texas, supports the efforts of the U.S.A. Province

Today's worldwide Spiritan apostolate finds 3500 Holy Ghost Fathers, Brothers and Lay Associates proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed in sixty countries.

The charism of the Spiritans is reflected in their history of evangelization to the poor and the oppressed, and their commitment to ministries for which the Church has difficulty finding workers. When they came to North America, the Holy Ghost Fathers devoted themselves exclusively to evangelization of the Indians with whom they lived. They were the first modern apostles to Africa, they were on hand to minister to the newly-freed slaves in the 19th century, and their efforts continue today among refugees, immigrants and the oppressed. Pioneers in education, the Spiritans are the administrators of Duquesne University, which is ranked among the nation's best Catholic universities.

Among the Spiritan names familiar in today's Church are Lucien Deiss, for his contributions to Church music; psychologist and author Adrian Van Kaam; author and missionary to Africa Eugene Hillman; missiologist Vincent Donovan; and Gerard Pantin, who recently was awarded an Alternative Nobel Prize for his work among the poor and disadvantaged.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Each and every day, the message of Christ's love reaches someone in need through the efforts of the Holy Ghost Fathers, Brothers and Associates—and people like you, who make their efforts possible.

If you're interested in personally providing spiritual and physical nourishment for God's family on earth, you might feel right at home working among the Holy Ghost Fathers, Brothers and lay Associates. Just forward your inquiry to the Vocations Director in care of the address below.

Your prayers and your financial support are also ways of joining our Spiritan family as we continue our efforts to share the Gospel in word and deed.

Your donation—your one, individual act of Christian caring—can mean life-giving medicine for someone in one of our clinics. You can bring food and shelter to a child who knows the world only by its poverty. You can teach a trade to parents who desperately want to provide for their families. You can support religious education and parish ministry the world over.

Your gift can bring a loving smile to the face of someone hearing the Good News of the Gospel for the first time. If you would like further information on the Spiritans, or if you would like to send a tax-deductible gift, write to:

THE SPIRITANS
Spiritan Fathers, Brothers and Associates

Houston, Texas 77098

