

Novena to the Holy Spirit



May 31 – June 7, 2014

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Introduction

The Novena to the Holy Spirit is the prototype of all novenas (nine days of prayer) because, in a sense, it was instituted by Christ himself when he sent his apostles back to Jerusalem to await in prayer the coming of the Holy Spirit. The nine days span the time between Ascension Thursday (celebrated on Sunday in the United States) and Pentecost Sunday.

As the Lord had instructed, after his Ascension into heaven the apostles returned to Jerusalem, entered the upper room, and “all these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers...And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim” (Acts 1: 14; 2: 2-4).

These events mark the first Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit whom Jesus promised came down with power, revealing his divine personhood, and gave the disciples the gifts necessary to carry out their mission from Jesus to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt. 28: 19f). Pentecost is spoken of as the “birthday” of the Church.

Like the first disciples, all of us are called by Baptism and Confirmation to “speak in different tongues,” to bring the good news of the Gospel to everyone. The Church in our day is called to be renewed in this mission.

However, as Bishop Blair reminds us, “If we live in hope of a new Pentecost in our time, in our diocese, then we must pray to the ‘principle agent of evangelization, the Holy Spirit’” (Letter to Priests, October 7, 2007).

The following novena is based on traditional prayers, and is centered on the gifts associated with the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord). These form a supernatural framework through which the Holy Spirit moves us from within, by conforming us to the very mode of his own action. Also reflected in the novena are the so-called “fruits” or perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as a pledge of eternal glory. These are charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity. Both the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit are ordered to the mission we have as baptized Christians to live and proclaim our new life in Christ.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: “The traditional form of petition to the Holy Spirit is to invoke the Father through Christ our Lord to give us the Consoler Spirit. Jesus insists on this petition to be made in his name at the very moment when he promises the gift of the Spirit of Truth. But the simplest and most direct prayer is also traditional, ‘Come, Holy Spirit,’ and every liturgical tradition has developed it in antiphons and hymns (no. 2671).

Designed to center the *una voce* (one voice) of the entire diocese for nine consecutive days, the ***Novena to the Holy Spirit*** is to be offered within communal settings, i.e. before or after the celebration of daily Mass, at smaller gatherings, such as parish meetings or gatherings in private homes. The Novena may also be prayed privately. A collection of additional prayers from the spiritual tradition of the Church follows for further reflection and meditation. Thus, we follow the spiritual advice of St. Paul over the ages: “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5: 16-18).

First Day: The Gift of Fear of the Lord

(Friday, May 30, 2014: Friday of the Sixth Week of Easter)

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: “Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways.”
Whenever Scripture speaks of the fear of the Lord, we notice that it never mentions it on its own, as if fear could by itself bring our faith to perfection. But of the true fear of the Lord we read: “Come, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of the Lord”
The fear of God, then, is something to be learned, because it is taught. Its origins are found by a way of teaching, and not in fright. We find it in obeying the commandments, in doing the good deeds of a blameless life, and in coming to know the truth, and not in moments of human terror. All our fear of God is inspired and perfected by love. By the gift of the Holy Spirit, may we be overwhelmed by the greatness and goodness of God, and avoid all sin and attachment to created things, so that each of us may be a living sign of the gospel for all people to see.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Heavenly Father, from the beginning of time you have prepared the way of salvation for the human race wounded by sin and death. Through your inspired word, you have taught that “fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” By the gift of the Holy Spirit may we in the Diocese of Toledo walk always along the path you have revealed, following your counsels, conforming ourselves to your commands, and trusting your promises as heralds of a new Pentecost. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Mary, Temple of the Holy Spirit,

Response: Pray for us.



Second Day: The Gift of Piety

(Saturday, May 31, 2014: Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)



Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Piety is the honor and reverence given to someone who is in any way responsible for our existence and well-being. The gift of piety moves our hearts, first of all, to filial honor and reverence for God, because he is our creator and redeemer. The devotional life of the Church is an expression of our honor and reverence for God and for all that belongs to heaven. Piety also extends to our earthly parents and all others whom God has placed over us in some way, for our spiritual and material good. May the Holy Spirit renew the gift of piety within our hearts and homes, our parishes and communities, so that by our example of honor and reverence, we in the Diocese of Toledo may be a model to others of a life lived in and for God.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious Lord, you have fashioned everything out of nothing, giving life and breath to all that exists. You order everything according to your loving providence, and establish the relationships by which our lives are nurtured and ordered. Confirm in us the gift of piety, so that by our honor and reverence for you and for those you have given to us, we may bear witness to the working of the Holy Spirit, and become instruments of a new Pentecost in our time. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Mary, Model of Piety,

Response: Pray for us.

Third Day: The Gift of Fortitude

(Sunday, June 1, 2014: Liturgical observance of the Ascension of the Lord)

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.



Leader: Fortitude is steadfastness in doing what is right and good, in the face of obstacles and trials. The gift of fortitude overcomes unreasonable fears, on the one hand, and keeps us from being reckless, on the other. It is the special virtue of those who are pioneers in any endeavor. Fortitude makes it possible for us to undertake difficult tasks, to face risks and dangers, and to endure whatever comes without undue anxiety, discouragement or complaint. Without fortitude we cannot hope to persevere in our Christian calling. Nor can we fulfill the mission that is ours by Baptism and Confirmation, to bear witness to the gospel for the salvation of the world. May the Holy Spirit renew our fortitude amid all the challenges of today's society and culture.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Almighty Father, be gracious and bless us with the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that we may persevere with fortitude in doing what we know to be right and good. Strengthen us in our weakness, so that when we are weary, discouraged or put to the test, we may overcome every obstacle, and be refreshed on the path to holiness and virtue. May no trial or difficulty keep us from bearing witness to the splendor of truth which radiates from the face of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, now and forever. Amen.

Leader: Mary, Tower of Fortitude,

Response: Pray for us.

Fourth Day: The Gift of Knowledge

(Monday, June 2, 2014: Monday of the Seventh Week of Easter;
Optional Memorial of Saints Marcellinus and Peter, martyrs)



Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

Response: **Enkindle in them the fire of your love.**

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

Response: **And you shall renew the face of the earth.**

Leader: For the Bible, true knowledge can only be acquired by recognizing the loving call of God and by responding with love to his divine plan. St. John's gospel tells us: "This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ." Knowledge is centered entirely on the supreme mystery of Christ and his cross, which unlock the meaning of every human life and of all history. As a gift of the Holy Spirit, knowledge gives us certainty that all things are ordered to God in Christ. This knowledge is revealed on every page of Scripture, deepened by the Church's living tradition, and celebrated in the liturgy. By a new Pentecost in our time, may the Holy Spirit confirm our faith in sure knowledge of the truths of faith.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Father, we ask you to send the Holy Spirit upon our minds and hearts so that the gift of knowledge which we received in Baptism and Confirmation may be purified and deepened in us. By his power may the darkness of our sins give way to the bright radiance of knowing you, the only true God, and the one whom you have sent, Jesus Christ, so that we may be instruments of renewal for our diocese, and of salvation for our world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Leader: Mary, filled with Knowledge,

Response: **Pray for us.**

Fifth Day: The Gift of Understanding

(Tuesday, June 3, 2014: Memorial of Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, martyrs)

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, perfects our faith by enabling us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths in a way that transcends human reason. Our natural way of knowing is elevated by intuition and insight into the things of God. By faith we know them, but by the gift of understanding we learn to appreciate and relish them. This appreciation radiates outward to others because our Catholic faith is no longer just a matter of information from a book, but a way of living rooted in intimacy with the mysteries of Christ. May the Holy Spirit attune our hearts to a deeper spiritual understanding of these mysteries, so that as agents of a new Pentecost in our time, we may draw others to Christ and his Church.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Father, send the Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds and hearts, giving us knowledge and understanding of the mysteries of salvation. May he teach and instruct us, the people of the Diocese of Toledo, so that we may never waver in our faith, but by the gift of understanding may be ready to give an answer to all who ask the reason for the hope that is within us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Mary, Seat of Understanding,

Response: Pray for us.



Sixth Day: The Gift of Counsel

(Wednesday, June 4, 2014: Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Easter)

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: The gift of Counsel applies the principles furnished by knowledge and understanding to the many concrete situations of everyday life. Counsel elevates the virtue of prudence, so that we will choose the wisest course of action in a given situation, especially when we are perplexed as to the right choice to be made. Counsel endows us with a desire to act always in a way that promotes our sanctification and salvation, in accordance with God's holy will. We pray that the Holy Spirit will richly endow us with the ability to judge rightly the situations that challenge our faith, so that we may not waver along the path of holiness.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Father, send the Spirit of Counsel upon us in the Diocese of Toledo, for the accomplishment of your holy will in the Church and in the world. Incline our hearts to your will, our minds to right judgment, and our actions to what is good, so that living by the Holy Spirit, we may truly be "the salt of the earth and the light of the world." We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Mary, Mother of Good Counsel,

Response: Pray for us.



Seventh Day: The Gift of Wisdom

(Thursday, June 5, 2014: Memorial of Saint Boniface, bishop, martyr)

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.



Leader: The gift of Wisdom is nothing less than loving, contemplative union with God which makes it possible for us to see all things from a divine perspective. When it is understood in its full breadth, wisdom can rightly be called “communion,” since it is a share in divine life, a union made perfect in the truth of love. Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, Wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. It strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity, and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. May the Holy Spirit raise up our hearts and minds to rest in God alone, so that we, the people of the Diocese of Toledo, may be living signs of a new Pentecost in our time.

Leader: Let us pray.

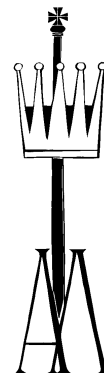
All: Father, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we in the Diocese of Toledo may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations. May he permeate our thoughts, words and actions, so that we may bear witness to the gift of salvation, and lead all people to Christ the Way, the Truth and the Life. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Mary, Seat of Wisdom,

Response: Pray for us.

Eighth Day: The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

(Friday, June 6, 2014: Friday of the Seventh Week of Easter;
Optional Memorial of Saint Norbert, bishop)



Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as a pledge of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity. These virtues mark the lives of those who live by the Spirit, as St. Paul tells the Galatians when he writes: “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the spirit, let us follow the spirit’s lead” (5: 16-17). The fruits of the Holy Spirit produce spiritual delight, and fill with joy the Diocese of Toledo, with joy in living our faith, so that many others may be drawn to Christ and his Church, as the fruit of a new Pentecost in our time.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Holy Spirit, eternal Love of the Father and the Son, kindly bestow on us the fruit of charity, that we may be united to you by divine love; the fruit of joy, that we may be filled with holy consolation; the fruit of peace, that we may enjoy tranquility of soul; and the fruit of goodness, that we may endure humbly everything that may be opposed to our own desires. Divine Spirit, be pleased to infuse in us the fruit of generosity, that we may willingly relieve our neighbor’s necessities; the fruit of kindness, that we may be benevolent toward all; the fruit of patience, that we may not be discouraged by delay but may persevere in prayer; and the fruit of gentleness, that we may subdue every rising of ill temper, stifle every murmur, and overcome the sinful

tendencies of our nature in all our dealings with our neighbor.

Creator Spirit, graciously impart to us the fruit of faithfulness, that we may rely with assured confidence on the Word of God; the fruit of modesty, that we may order our demeanor properly; and the fruits of self-control and chastity, that we may keep our bodies in such holiness as befits your temple, so that having by your assistance preserved our hearts pure on earth, we may merit in Jesus Christ, according to the words of the Gospel, to see God eternally in the glory of his kingdom. Amen.

Leader: Mary, Model of Life in the Spirit,

Response: Pray for us.



Ninth Day: Lord and Giver of Life, Paraclete

(Saturday, June 7, 2014: Saturday of the Seventh Week of Easter)

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.



Leader: In the Trinitarian plan of our salvation, the Father draws us to the Son, whom the Holy Spirit reveals and disposes us to welcome. As “the Lord and Giver of Life,” the Holy Spirit brings about our rebirth in Baptism as the Father’s adopted children in Christ and as sharers in divine life. Jesus calls the indwelling Holy Spirit our “Paraclete,” which literally means “one who stands besides us” as a counselor, consoler, advocate and friend. Finally, the Holy Spirit leads the Church into “all the truth,” and is the source and dynamic force of the Church’s unity and mission. It is no wonder, then, that in every age the fruitfulness of the Church depends on the renewal of the mystery of Pentecost in the minds and hearts of believers. This is the renewal that we seek in our novena. May the Holy Spirit rekindle the grace of baptism and Confirmation in every Catholic of our diocese, so that all may live the Christian life with fervor and zeal.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Spirit of the Father, Spirit of Love, enlighten us, strengthen us, guide us, comfort us. Spirit of the Father and of the Son: You who pray and act in us, make us know the Father by contemplating his Son so that we may proclaim that they are love. Make our life a sign of love. Make us a living word, a sanctifying presence, a consecration of the world to the Father of every gift, to the Father of all love. Amen.

Leader: Mary, Star of Evangelization and Saint Philip Neri

Response: Pray for us.

Additional Prayers and Meditations

The Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles

(from Biblical Prayers by Lucien Deiss)

Let us call upon the Spirit of Jesus:
Today, as in the time of the apostles,
may he assist his Church
for the glory of God the Father.

Spirit of Jesus,
poured out in flames of fire upon your disciples
on the day of Pentecost, *Acts 2: 1-11*
we pray to you: *[4: 31]*
Set afire the hearts of your faithful
so that they will announce in all the languages of the world
the wonders of the salvation of God.

Holy Spirit,
who helped Peter before the Sanhedrin *Acts 4 :8*
when he gave testimony to Christ Jesus,
we pray to you:
Help us to announce with confidence *Acts 5: 32*
the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit,
who filled Stephen the martyr with your wisdom,
who opened the heavens before him *Acts 6: 10*
and showed him Jesus
standing at the right hand of the Father, *Acts 7: 55*
we pray to you:
Enlighten the eyes of our hearts
so that in the difficulties
and the persecutions of this world
we may know how to recognize the presence of the Lord.

Holy Spirit,
who led the deacon Philip on the road from Gaza
to the meeting with the eunuch of the queen of Ethiopia
and had him announce the Good News of Jesus,
we pray to you:
Lead your missionaries
toward all those who are seeking the truth.

Acts 8: 26-40

Holy Spirit,
who built up the infant Churches
and filled them with your consolation,
we pray to you:
Make the Kingdom of God on earth
grow by your joy and your peace.

Acts 9: 31

Holy Spirit,
who called Paul and Barnabas
to their mission among the pagans
and filled them with the joy
of announcing the Good News,
we pray to you:
Today again bring to life some fervent witnesses for Christ.

Acts 13: 4

Acts 13: 52

Holy Spirit,
who helped the apostles at the Council of Jerusalem
and inspired their decisions,
we pray to you:
Enlighten those in authority
that their ministry
will be of service to their brothers and sisters.

Acts 15: 28

Acts 20: 28

Holy Spirit,
you who pointed out the way for your disciples
to announce the Gospel,
we pray to you:

Acts 16: 6-8

As in the time of the apostles,
guide today's messengers of the Good News.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

(from Prayers from Theology by Romano Guardini)

(translated by Richard Newnham)

When our Lord Jesus Christ was with his disciples in the evening for the last time and gave them "the uttermost proof of his love", he promised them that they would not remain behind alone, but that he would send them "another to befriend you", "the truth-giving Spirit". And then you came in the roar and flames of Pentecost, and are with us now.

You lead each one of us on the way to salvation. You lead God's empire through the darkness and confusion of the times. And, in spite of all that happens, you bring about the work of the new creation, which will only be revealed when "the Lord comes again to judge the living and the dead".

O Holy One, you have been given to us after the manner of the Spirit. You are with us in an ever new arrival. You stand by our side in an ever new approaching. And we have new life as you give it to us ever and again. So we beseech you to fulfill in us the mission on which the Son sent you.

"Take", O spirit of Jesus Christ, "that which is his and give it to me", that it may be mine. Let your light shine forth within me, so that I may recognize his truth. Bind my heart to the loyalty of faith, so that nothing may lead me from it. And teach me to love, for without love truth is dead. "That love resides, not in our showing any love for God, but in his showing love for us first". Convince my heart of God's love, and give me the strength to love him in return, that "I may abide in God and he in me".

O Spirit, you bring up the new creation in the old world; fill me with confidence in your holy power. It is not of earthly kind, and amidst the forces and wiles of earth it often appears foolish and weak. And so give my heart the hope for "the glorious freedom of God's sons."

O Holy Spirit, our Lord lived from you, and in your power he has "overcome the world". But the world is ourselves: our selfish, blind and foolish heart. Take it in your power, make it ready and open, so that he may live in us and we in him.
Amen.

Prayer of St. Augustine to the Holy Spirit

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit
that my thoughts may all be holy.

Move in me, Holy Spirit,
that my work, too, may be holy.

Attract my heart, Holy Spirit,
that I may love only what is holy.

Strengthen me, Holy Spirit,
that I may defend all that is holy.

Protect me, Holy Spirit,
that I may always be holy.



Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus Christ, who, before ascending into heaven, promised to send the Holy Spirit to complete your work in the souls of your apostles and disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me, that he may perfect in my soul the work of your grace and your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of your divine truth, the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with you, and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God, and may dread in any way to displease him. Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of your true disciples and animate me in all things with your Spirit. Amen.

A Litany of the Holy Spirit

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

Father all powerful,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, Eternal Son of the Father, Redeemer of the world,
save us.
Spirit of the Father and the Son, boundless Life of both,
sanctify us.
Holy Trinity,
hear us.

Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
enter our hearts.
Holy Spirit, who are equal to the Father and the Son,
enter our hearts.
Gift of God the Most High,
have mercy on us.
Ray of heavenly light,
have mercy on us.
Author of all good,
have mercy on us.
Source of water from heaven,
have mercy on us.
Consuming Fire,
have mercy on us.
Ardent Charity,
have mercy on us.
Spiritual Unction,
have mercy on us.
Spirit of love and truth,
have mercy on us.
Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
have mercy on us.
Spirit of counsel and fortitude,
have mercy on us.

Spirit of knowledge and piety,
have mercy on us.

Spirit of fear of the Lord,
have mercy on us.

Spirit of grace and prayer,
have mercy on us.

Spirit of peace and meekness,
have mercy on us.

Spirit of modesty and innocence,
have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier,
have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, who governs the Church,
have mercy on us.

Spirit who fills the universe,
have mercy on us.

Spirit of the adoption of the children of God,
have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, inspire us with horror of sin.

Holy Spirit, come and renew the face of the earth.

Holy Spirit, shed your light into our souls.

Holy Spirit, engrave your law in our hearts.

Holy Spirit, inflame us with the flame of your love.

Holy Spirit, open to us the treasures of your graces.

Holy Spirit, teach us to pray well.

Holy Spirit, enlighten us with your heavenly inspirations.

Holy Spirit, lead us in the way of salvation.

Holy Spirit, grant us the only necessary knowledge.

Holy Spirit, inspire in us the practice of good.

Holy Spirit, grant us the merits of all virtues.

Holy Spirit, make us persevere in justice.

Holy Spirit, be our everlasting reward.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
spare us, O, Lord

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us.

V. Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of your faithful,
R. *Enkindle in them the fire of your love.*

Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful Father, that the Holy Spirit may enlighten, inflame and purify us, that he may penetrate us with his heavenly dew and make us fruitful in good works, through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who with you, in the unity of the same Spirit, lives and reigns forever and ever.

R. *Amen.*

Pentecost Sequence

O HOLY SPIRIT! Lord of light!
From your clear celestial height
Your pure and beaming radiance
give.

Come, thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which
endure!
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou of all Consolers best,
Visiting the troubled breast,
Dost refreshing peace bestow.

Thou in toil art Comfort sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat,
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal! Light Divine!
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill.

If thou take your grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength
renew;
On our dryness, pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away.

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on those who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
In your sevenfold gifts descend.

Give them comfort when they die;



Give them life with thee on high;

Give them joys which never end.
Amen.

**A Meditation on the Holy Spirit
(St. Teresa Benedicta – Edith Stein)**

Who are you, sweet Light, that fills me
and illumines the darkness of my heart?
You lead me like a mother's hand,
and should you let go of me,
I would not know how to take another step.
You are the space
that embraces my being and buries it in yourself.
Away from you it sinks into the abyss
of nothingness, from which you raised it to the light.
You, nearer to me than I to myself
and more interior than my most interior
and still impalpable and intangible
and beyond any name:
Holy Spirit eternal love!

Are you not the sweet manna
that from the Son's heart
overflows into my heart,
the food of angels and the blessed?
He who raised himself from death to life,
he has also awakened me to new life
from the sleep of death.
And he gives me new life from day to day,
and at some time his fullness is to stream through me,
life of your life indeed, you yourself:
Holy Spirit eternal life!



Are you the ray
that flashes down from the eternal Judge's throne
and breaks into the night of the soul
that had never known itself?
Mercifully relentlessly
it penetrates hidden folds.
Alarmed at seeing itself,
the self makes space for holy fear,
the beginning of that wisdom
that comes from on high
and anchors us firmly in the heights,
your action,
that creates us anew:
Holy Spirit ray that penetrates everything!

Are you the Spirit's fullness and the power
by which the lamb releases the seal
of God's eternal decree?
Driven by you
the messengers of judgment ride through the world
and separate with a sharp sword
the kingdom of light from the kingdom of night.
Then heaven becomes new and new the earth,
and all finds its proper place
through your breath:
Holy Spirit victorious power!

Are you the master who builds the eternal cathedral,
Which towers from the earth through the heavens?
Animated by you, the columns are raised high
And stand immovably firm.
Marked with the eternal name of God,
they stretch up to the light,
bearing the dome,
which crowns the holy cathedral,
your work that encircles the world:
Holy Spirit God's molding hand!

Are you the one who created the unclouded mirror
next to the Almighty's throne,
like a crystal sea,
in which divinity lovingly looks at itself?
You bend over the fairest work of your creation,
and radiantly your own gaze
is illumined in return.
And of all creatures the pure beauty
is joined in one in the dear form
of the Virgin, your immaculate bride:
Holy Spirit Creator of all!

Are you the sweet song of love
and of holy awe
that eternally resounds around the triune throne,
that weds in itself the clear chimes of each and every being?
The harmony,
that joins together the members to the head,
in which each one
finds the mysterious meaning of his being blessed
and joyously surges forth,
freely dissolved in your surging:
Holy Spirit eternal jubilation!

