Awaken to the cry of the Trinity

PENTECOST NOVENA- 2024

Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit

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“Awake is the Call”

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Theme

"Awakened to the cry of the Trinity through the pain and suffering of Mother Earth and our sisters and brothers at the margins, ecological conversion and sustainable living become our ethical imperative." (15th GC Direction)

Introduction to the Novena

The Congregational Leadership Team suggested the Pentecost Novena of 2024, aligning with the Chapter Direction for the year. The theme chosen for the Novena is ***'Awaken to the Cry of the Trinity'***.

Therefore, united as members of the Arnoldus family, we enter into a special moment of preparation to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost.

The Arnold Janssen Spirituality (AJS) team of India East (Divine Word Province) reflected on the theme and sent us the novena prayer to enable us to listen to the pain and suffering of Mother Earth, our sisters and brothers at the margins, and the whole universe.

Each day of the novena is focused on a specific theme on the Cry of the Trinity and offers reflection from scripture and Church documents.

The following is the structure for each day:

1. Hymn: '*Awake* is the Call' or other songs *(if not possible to translate to your language)*
2. Opening prayer
3. Introduction from scripture
4. Moments of silent prayer
5. Reflection
6. Moments of sharing
7. Closing prayer

Suggestion:

We suggest displaying an image of the burning bush in an appropriate place in the chapel for the duration of the novena.

This novena can also be used with lay people, so use your creativity to adapt it to the reality of your community or group. Other songs can be added to create a prayerful atmosphere.

Hymn: Awake is the Call

Awake is the call of the One who is wakefulness
Waken me, O God, into your wakefulness
/Every fiber of my being awake, awake to God's call/ 2x

1. Those who are thirsty, let them come to me
   /Those who have faith in me drink abundantly/ 2x
   There shall flow living water out from believing hearts
   /Every fiber of my being awake, awake to God's call/ 2x
2. Those who are lonely, let them come to me
   /Those who are without friends, come and be with me/ 2x
   You shall find me at your side, leading you to life and love
   /Every fiber of my being awake, awake to God's call/ 2x
3. You who are precious in the eyes of God
   /You who are dearly loved by our God Most High/ 2x
   He shall set you like a light in the kingdom of His Son
   /Every fiber of my being awake, awake to God's call/ 2x

Opening Prayer

The Spirit of God is hovering over the universe, forming, creating, and giving life and energy.

You are the God of eternal wakefulness, and we are in your presence.

We are here with humility and reverence, aware of your infinite power and love.

We offer our prayers for all of humanity, the universal church, our congregation, the provinces/regions, communities, each of us the members of our congregation, our lay collaborators and partners in mission, our families, and Mother Earth.

We ask you to fill our hearts with your life-giving breath to guide us. We are unworthy yet grateful for your boundless mercy.

May Your presence be with us always so that we may never be separated from You or humanity in need.

Please lead us towards the Father and the Son, and help us to serve and glorify the Holy Triune God. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

God, Holy Spirit, sustainer of the universe,
You are the God of assurance and strength.
The Good News we listened to has created
ripples of Your grace in our souls.

We believe You bring new life and transform us
into people who listen, observe, care,
and move toward those in need, the deprived, and the lonely.

May the Father's ever-watchful and unsleeping eyes,
Jesus's burning heart, and Your presence, O Holy Spirit, remain with us.
We give thanks, praise, glory, and honor to You, O Holy Triune God,
for Your unconditional acceptance of us, Your children. Amen.

DAY ONE
The Burning Bush - Ex 3: 2-5

Hymn: Awake is the Call

Opening Prayer: page 5

Introduction from Scripture

"There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the flame of fire out of a bush: he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, I must turn aside and look at his great sight and see why the bush is not burned up". (Ex. 3: 2-3). *"Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground"* (Ex. 3: 5).

God repeatedly calls Moses, "Moses! Moses!"
Moses responds to His call and comes forward.

Today, each of us is called by Him. The burning bush is a promise that love can transform even the despised and weak within us into something beautiful.

Moment of Silent Prayer

From this reading, let's meditate on God's call to each one of us.

Reflection

As we approach Pentecost, let's meditate on God's promise to each of us and seek the guidance of the Spirit to fulfill our Global mission.

God is present and working in all situations we face. We trust and allow God to guide us to freedom. This will enable us to be compassionate with one another and move beyond boundaries towards the Holy Ground of our Global Mission. Let's ask:

- Am I standing on Holy Ground? Is there anything holding me back from recognizing this truth? (Pause)
- What are the 'sandals' that I must remove to fully embrace God's will and answer His call? (Pause)
- Do I believe that God is working within me like a blazing fire, transforming me into the person I am called to be? How do I experience this? (Pause)

Moment of Sharing

Based on today's theme, how does the Holy Spirit inspire us to live our call to mission more intensely?

Closing Prayer: page 5

DAY TWO
Growing Deeper into intimacy with the Triune God

Hymn: Awake is the Call

Opening Prayer: page 5

Introduction from Scripture

"Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them" (Jn 14: 23).

The Trinitarian God revealed through Jesus' words, resides within our hearts when we accept Him as the one true God of humanity, as revealed to Moses and the patriarchs.

St. Arnold Janssen wrote in the 'Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart' in 1874:

> *"The mutual unity of the persons in the Holy Trinity is closer than the unity between the divinity and humanity of Jesus. The Father and the Holy Spirit are where the Son is, even though only the Son in his personhood is united to the humanity of Jesus. Thus, the whole Trinity resides in the Heart of Jesus - the omnipotence of the Eternal Father, the wisdom and beauty of the Eternal Word, the eternally generous love and wealth of the Holy Spirit."*

May the Lord grant us the grace to live our motto: *May the Holy Triune God live in our hearts and the hearts of all!*

Moment of Silent Prayer

Silently repeat our motto, asking the Blessed Trinity to especially touch the hearts of those most in need of his presence.

Reflection

- Let us pause for a while to enter into the mystery of the Trinity- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- How do I feel embraced and welcomed in the love of the Trinity?

Moment of Sharing

Recall and share some of your life-giving experiences of being enveloped by God, the Holy Trinity.

Closing Prayer: page 5

DAY THREE
I Have Heard the Cry of My People

Hymn: Awake is the Call

Opening Prayer: page 5

Introduction from Scripture

Then the Lord said, "*I observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them.*" (Ex 3:7-8)

God's voice becomes audible to us when we heed the cry of the impoverished. Ignoring this voice would lead us to harden our hearts against God as well as the poor. Throughout history, the God of Israel has always heard the cries of the Hebrews in their struggles, as seen during their time in Egypt. Under the leadership of Moses, the Israelites called out to

God, and He answered by granting them freedom from the bondage of Egypt.

The voice of God resonates within us, appointing us to be the instruments of his anguish for the deliverance of His people.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharoah and said, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, so that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness.'" (Ex 5:1)

Moment of Silent Prayer

In the silence of our hearts, let us ask for the grace to listen to the cries of the poor and to respond effectively to their needs.

Reflection

We can respond effectively to the cry of the poor by bringing back our social and spiritual sensibilities. In a world silenced by indifference and cruelty, this journey becomes all the more significant.

- As we implore God's grace to respond in truth and action to the cry of the poor, let us remember that the evil suffered by women and men throughout history goes unheard or unseen by our loving God. What father would not be moved by the suffering of his children?
- God calls to us through the cries of our world and creation. The Holy Spirit is already at work in individuals and specific situations.

Moment of Sharing:

How do you experience in your life God's compassionate love and care for suffering people ?

Closing Prayer: page 5

DAY FOUR
Cry of the Mother Earth

Hymn: Awake is the Call

Opening Prayer: page 5

Introduction from Scripture

Today, our common home - Mother Earth - continues to suffer from the consequences of endless exploitation and harm caused by human actions. The prevailing economic and scientific models, along with the throwaway culture, contribute to the continual degradation of our environment.

Our interconnectedness with the environment seems to have lost significance, hindering our human progress.

Though we consider ourselves 'civilized', our selfish attitudes prioritize exploiting natural resources as commodities, neglecting their sustainability for future generations. We must realize it's time to stop consuming more than we need.

In Genesis, the creation story highlights the deep connection between human life and our relationship with God, others, and the natural world. When humans dominate, it disrupts God's plan (Genesis 1:26), leading to an imbalance in creation.

Jesus calls on us to acknowledge God's paternal relationship with all His creatures (Matthew 11:25) and urges us to honor that bond. He emphasizes the significance of each being in God's sight.

"*Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them*" (Mt 6:26).

Moment of Silent Prayer

With gratitude, we embrace the profound connection with God and creation, feeling fully integrated into God's masterpiece.

Reflection

Let's ask:

- Do I nurture within me the heart of the creator God who cares for our 'common home'? What do I need to do in this regard? (pause)
- How much am I impacted by Mother Earth's constant cries? How concretely does this impact lead me to action? (pause)

Moment of Sharing

Each person shares their ideas on how we can improve care for our planet, Mother Earth.

Closing Prayer: page 5

DAY FIVE
Sustainable Living - Our Ethical Imperative

Hymn: Awake is the Call

Opening Prayer: page 5

Introduction from Scripture

Pope Francis, in his latest Apostolic Exhortation Laudate Deum on the climate crisis, emphasizes that *"responsibility for God's earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world."* (LD n. 62)

We believe in continuous growth and improvement but also recognize our ethical responsibility to ensure sustainable development. This involves finding a balance between meeting the present needs while preserving resources for the future. Ultimately, we all have a part to play in creating a better future for everyone.

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these." (Mt 6:28-29)

Moment of Silent Prayer

With faith, we ask forgiveness for exploiting nature's resources without taking into account the needs of others.

Reflection

- Am I guided by ethical duties as I strive to protect Mother Earth? (pause)
- As an individual, what steps have you taken towards living sustainably in your personal and social life? (pause)

Moment of Sharing

Let us share the fruits of our reflection and help each other develop concrete steps for a sustainable life.

Closing Prayer: page 5

DAY SIX
Overcoming War and Violence

Hymn: Awake is the Call

Opening Prayer: page 5

Introduction from Scripture

The prophet Isaiah describes God's rule, "*Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths. He shall judge between the nations and arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.*" (Isaiah: 2: 3-4).

The wars between Israel and Palestine, Ukraine and Russia, and violence in many parts of the world have been distressing. We entrust all the warring nations and the global world to the giver of peace, harmony, and human fraternity. May the Holy Spirit stir everyone's mind and heart to be agents of peace, healing, forgiveness, and love.

Moment of Silent Prayer

The violence and wars that affect the whole world begin within us when we don't cultivate peace and justice in our relationships. Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the grace to be peacemakers.

Reflection

- How should we, as followers of Christ and members of the Arnoldus family, respond to the increasing violence and armed conflicts?
- Moreover, how do we fulfill our commission to engage in dialogue, reconciliation, justice, and peace? (pause)

Moment of Sharing

Let's pray together, expressing our heartfelt longing for peace. We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to bring light to the conflicts in our families, communities, and society.

Closing Prayer: page 5

DAY SEVEN
Community Living

Hymn: Awake is the Call

Opening Prayer: page 5

Introduction from Scripture

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit and serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." (Rom.12:9-13)

"The Holy Spirit unites us in sincere sisterly love. In the differences of culture, nationality, personality, and age, we experience the richness of his gifts in each of us. We appreciate, encourage, and help one another, share our

joys and sorrows, and show interest in each other's life and work." (SSpS Const.304*)*

"Genuine community living calls us to continuous conversion as daily tensions, misunderstandings, and failures are unavoidable. An attitude of faith and humility will help us to reconcile when differences arise. We earnestly pray for the grace to forgive and to be forgiven." (SSpS Const. 306)

Moment of Silent Prayer

We are grateful to God for the blessing of community life, acknowledging the profound impact each person's presence has on us.

Reflection

Let's reflect on our participation and presence in community life:

- Is there an aspect of individualism, consumerism, and comfort culture in my life? (pause)
- In what way am I a life-giving person in my encounter with community members, family, and people around? (pause)

Moment of Sharing

How does the Holy Spirit enrich our lives through community life?

Closing Prayer: page 5

DAY EIGHT
The Family in Light of the Gospel

Hymn: Awake is the Call

Opening Prayer: page 5

Introduction from Scripture

"Bear with one another, and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." (Col. 3:13)

Today's families experience both joys and challenges, reflecting the complexities of modern life. A strong pastoral approach is necessary to address these diverse challenges. It's crucial to delve into the profound mystery of marriage and family life from a biblical perspective.

The Bible *"is full of families, births, love stories and family crises"* (Amoris Laetitia, no. 8). This impels us to meditate on how the family is not an abstract ideal but rather like a practical *"trade"* (AL, no. 16), which is carried out with tenderness (AL, no.28), but which has also been

confronted with sin from the beginning when the relationship of love turned into domination (AL, no. 19).

Hence, the Word of God *"is not a series of abstract ideas but rather a source of comfort and companionship for every family that experiences difficulties or suffering. For it shows them the goal of their journey"* (AL, no. 22).

Moment of Silent Prayer

Contemplate with love and compassion the difficult reality of families in today's society and pray in silence for God's blessing on your family and all families worldwide.

Reflection

- How does the Word of God bring nourishment and solace to the pain and brokenness of the families? (pause)
- How do I become the channel of God's grace to families and the people who are lost and lonely? (pause)

Moment of Sharing

What does the Holy Spirit urge us to do to embody the Word of God actively within our families and those nearby?

Closing Prayer: page 5

DAY NINE
Be My Witnesses

Hymn: Awake is the Call

Opening Prayer: page 5

Introduction from Scripture

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts: 1:8)

As followers of Christ, we are called to share the good news of His life, death, and resurrection with the world. Scripture reminds us that the Holy Spirit has empowered us to witness God's love and grace effectively.

The call to go into the entire world as Christ's witness continues to be the church's mission. We are witnessing Christ's love through our presence in

Africa, the Americas, Europe, Asia, Oceania, and every remote part of the world.

Moment of Silent Prayer

Imagine Jesus saying these words directly to you, calling your name: *"_____, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in* _____ (name of your place) *and to the ends of the earth"*.

Reflection

- Today, you and I, as part of the Arnoldus family, witness to Christ in the places and situations where God has placed us
- Personally, how am I dying to myself to live for Christ? (pause)

Moment of Sharing

Let's share our joy of witnessing Christ in the places and situations where we are.

Closing Prayer: page 5