

PENTECOST NOVENA



Friday 15th – Saturday 23rd May, 2026

*Gathered in diversity,
bonded in unity.*

Introduction

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples gathered in prayer with Mary in the Upper Room. From that moment, the mission of the Church began—sent into the world to proclaim God’s love among peoples of every culture, language, and background.

It is the Holy Spirit who forms us into one community of faith, who creates unity without erasing difference, who transforms diversity into a gift, and who empowers us to share in God’s mission with interdependency and co-responsibility.

This novena draws its inspiration from the ancient Pentecost Sequence, ***Veni Sancte Spiritus***. For our Founder and Co-Foundresses, both the *Veni Creator* and the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* were precious prayers, entrusted to us as part of our enduring congregational tradition. For this reason, we begin each day with the *Veni Creator*, and we also pray the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* together. In the wider Church, the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* is traditionally sung before the Gospel on Pentecost and during other significant liturgical celebrations such as Confirmation, ordinations, and the election of a pope.

In the spirit of the 2026 theme, **“Unity in Diversity – To live interculturality with interdependency and co-responsibility for our common mission,”** we ask for the gifts of the Spirit for each of us—personally and as a community. May these days become a time of renewal, a moment to rediscover the joy of Pentecost, and to take to heart Mother Josepha’s invitation: **“Let every breath of a Servant of the Holy Spirit be the unceasing prayer: ‘Veni Sancte Spiritus.’”** Come, Holy Spirit.

The novena may be adapted to the reality of each community, drawing on symbols, gestures, shared reflections, and a contemplative atmosphere that helps us open our hearts to the Spirit’s unifying and creative presence.

PENTECOST SEQUENCE: COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

1. Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
From Thy clear celestial height,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.
2. Come, Thou Father of the poor.
Come, with treasures which endure
Come, Thou Light of all that live.
3. Thou, of all consolers best,
Visiting the troubled breast,
Dost refreshing peace bestow.
4. Thou in toil art comfort sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat,
Solace in the midst of woe.
5. Light immortal, Light divine
Visit Thou these hearts of Thine,
And our inmost being fill.
6. If Thou take Thy grace away,
Nothing pure in us will stay;
All our good is turned to ill.
7. Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour Thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away.
8. Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill.
Guide the steps that go astray.
9. Thou, on those who evermore
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold gifts descend:

**10. Give them comfort when they die,
Give them life with Thee on high,
Give them joys that never end.**

Day 1

**Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
From Thy clear celestial height,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.**

Introduction



This year's Novena has the "Veni Sancte Spiritus" as its theme. This medieval hymn is also called the "Golden Sequence" because of its poetic beauty. In vivid yet gentle images, the verses speak about the Holy Spirit, how we can experience Her presence and workings in our being.

In the Novena, we will look at the verses one by one, savouring the deeper meaning of the images.

The Veni Sancte Spiritus was dear to our Founding Generation. The Sisters prayed it daily. Mother Josepha said: The Veni Sancte Spiritus is the breathing in and out of every Sister, Servant of the Holy Spirit. When we pray or sing the hymn attentively, it will make our souls take a fresh breath of God's presence that makes us free and whole.

Veni Sancte Spiritus

Sing, pray or listen the Veni Sancte Spiritus (in your local language or in Latin)

The hymn opens with a plea: **Veni Sancte Spiritus, Come Holy Spirit.** It is the plea of our longing hearts for God's presence. Spirit, You who are Light itself, send us a ray of your light. It is the light that echoes the first moment of Creation: God's Spirit hovered over the waters, and God, in a first act, flooded everything with light.

The stained-glass window at Father Arnold's sarcophagus in Steyl captures this light of Creation. Flames of fire in yellow and red light up in the darkness. The window is a prayer of light and colours:

"May the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the Spirit of Grace. And may the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all. Amen."

It is a deeply missionary prayer, expressing Fr. Arnold's confidence in God's Mission. Light does not argue with darkness; it simply shines. This is also true for every missionary disciple of Jesus: We are not the producers of light, but we are mirrors of the light that God has poured into our hearts.

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:1.5-7

We are missionaries by the grace of God, and so we do not lose heart.

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

It is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

Meditation

Close your eyes. Imagine you are seeing the planet Earth from above. Let your eyes wander about and perceive all the teeming life on earth. Plants growing, animals moving around; beautiful creation, endangered creation. See billions of people in the cities

and in the countryside. Life and death, so many joys and great sufferings... Look at some people who are dear to you...

Now imagine that your heart is a mirror - a mirror for the light that is coming from God. Your heart gathers God's light - healing, soothing, glorious rays of light - and directs them to the Earth. Direct the rays to where you feel it is so much needed right now. Just trust in the power of this light...

Meditate in silence for some minutes

Sing an appropriate song, or pray a psalm

Concluding Prayer

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
From Thy clear celestial height,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.
Make us bearers and mirrors of your light.
Shine through us, through our eyes.
Make our speaking and acting transparent to you
So that who sees us, sees Christ.
Make us your hands and your feet
until all creation glows with your grace. Amen

Close with a blessing, or a song or Marian Antiphon

Day 2

**Come, Thou Father of the poor.
Come, with treasures which endure
Come, Thou Light of all that live**

Sing, pray or listen the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* (in your local language or in Latin).

Introduction

With the plea **“Come Father of the poor”** we gather before the Holy Spirit, aware of our human poverty and our deep longing for God. We come with open hearts, ready to acknowledge our limits, our vulnerability, and our need for God’s breath of life. This humble truth can become the doorway to compassion—toward ourselves and toward our sisters and brothers, particularly to those suffering poverty and injustice.

Scripture Reading: Luke 4: 18-19

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*

Meditate in Silence for some time.

Reflection

Throughout Scripture, and most clearly in the life of Jesus, we encounter a God who places the poor at the very center of His concern. He is the God who hears the cry of the poor and responds with love, justice, and freedom. The prophets raised their voices against every form of oppression and invited God’s people to a new sensitivity, a new heart capable of seeing and protecting the weakest. Only the Spirit can transform our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh, open to compassion and solidarity.

In the synagogue of Nazareth, He proclaimed His mission with clarity: to bring good news to the poor, to free the oppressed, to restore sight, to lift up the broken. His entire life embodied this mission.

As his disciples, we are invited to share in this same mission. We are called to encounter the suffering Christ in those who are impoverished, excluded, or wounded by the injustices of our world.

Our 15th General Chapter points to the same direction, *“Stirred by the life-giving Spirit, we invigorate our passion for God’s mission. We seek to cross multiple borders to encounter people where they are, especially those who are made invisible or excluded from our world.”*

Meditate in Silence for some time.

In every place, culture, and people, the cry of the poor rises in different voices and stories—yet all express the same sacred longing for dignity, justice, and belonging. As we invoke the Father of the Poor, may we listen and respond to this call with renewed openness, echoing the clarity and urgency expressed by Pope Francis:

“How evangelical it would be if we could say with all truth: we too are poor. Only in this way will we truly be able to recognize that the poor are present in our midst, to make them part of our lives, to be their friends, to listen to them, to understand them, and to welcome the mysterious wisdom that God wants to communicate to us through them.” (Pope Francis, 2021)

Song: The cry of the Poor or any appropriate song or psalm



Meditative Prayer with “Open Hands”

Mother Josepha’s trust in the Spirit of Love was inseparable from her readiness to recognize God’s presence in the sick, the poor, and all who suffer. She responded with a compassionate heart, convinced that every act of

mercy touches Christ himself. Her simple yet profound words continue to guide us: **“Whoever helps a person in need holds Jesus by the hand. Whoever speaks a comforting word to**

someone who is sad reaches out her hand to Jesus... Trust firmly in the help of the Holy Spirit.”

Let us pray with **open hands**:

- **Open hands** that express our dependence on God and our desire to be led by the Spirit.
- **Open hands** that show our willingness to receive and to give—because no one is so poor that they have nothing to offer, and no one so rich that they have no need to receive.
- **Open hands** that extend care and solidarity to those who are made invisible, excluded, or wounded in body or spirit.
- **Open hands** that pray and serve, as we remember by name those who carry heavy burdens and need our support. (*We may bring name of people or situations we want to pray for*)

Concluding Prayer

Holy Spirit, Father of the poor, teach us to embrace our own poverty with humility and trust. Open our eyes to see the suffering Christ in our sisters and brothers, especially in those who are forgotten, excluded, or burdened. Make us gentle and courageous, ready to listen, to accompany, and to restore dignity.

Giver of all gifts, make us instruments of compassion, builders of communion, and witnesses of Your presence in our world.

Holy Spirit, light of our hearts, stay with us as in our missionary journey. Warm us with Your fire and widen our hearts in inclusive love, so we may cross boundaries and meet people where they are.

Final Song to the Holy Spirit

Day 3

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

Sing, pray or listen the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* (in your local language or in Latin).

Introduction

On this third day, we invoke the Holy Spirit as the ultimate source of solace for a world fractured by violence. We look to the Spirit to enter the "troubled breast" of humanity — especially in regions torn apart by war, from the Middle East and Ukraine to the forgotten conflicts across Africa and Asia. We pray for the grace of consolation, asking the Spirit to enter the turmoil of nations and transform the distress of the innocent into a stronghold of peace.



Scripture Reading

Psalm 46: 2-4, 11-12

God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress. Thus, we do not fear, though earth be shaken and mountains quake to the depths of the sea, though its waters rage and foam and mountains totter at its surging... Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob.

Meditate in Silence for some minutes

Reflection

The Holy Spirit as Sovereign Comforter and Peace-Giver

The Holy Spirit is the ultimate source of spiritual healing in a time of widespread anxiety. This is not a distant, abstract peace, but an intimate presence that enters our collective turmoil as the "soul's most welcome guest."

Today, the "mountains" are quaking through war, social unrest, and the uncertainty of the future. While the world offers temporary distractions or hollow treaties that mask our "woe and troubles," the Holy Spirit provides a peace that the world cannot give. When the headlines cause our hearts to surge with fear, the Spirit whispers the command: "Be still and know that I am God!"

This stillness is the "sweet refreshment" that soothes our inner storms so that we may become instruments of peace in the world. By making the Spirit our stronghold, we find that peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the Presence of a Divine Guest who transforms our inmost being into a sanctuary of calm, even when the world outside is in upheaval.

Sing a song of peace or a psalm

Concluding Prayer

Holy Spirit and Comforter, we thank you for your presence among us. Today, we lay the brokenness of our world at your feet. We pray for those devastated by war, and for all those suffering in conflicts that are hidden from the world.

When the earth shakes under the weight of war, be their ever-present support. Visit those in bomb shelters and on the front lines and bestow peace upon their innermost being.

Soften the hearts of world leaders and silence the storms of hatred with your divine love. Remind us all, "Be still, and know that I am God." Grant us the peace that remains steady when diplomacy fails, and let your consoling grace be a refuge for the refugee and the grieving. May we find the strength in You to face these times with a calmness born of absolute trust. Amen.

Final Song to the Holy Spirit

Day 4

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

Sing, pray or listen the **Veni Sancte Spiritus** (in your local language or in Latin).

Reflection

Each day of our lives is made up of many elements. Among them are the words we speak or hear; the thoughts we are attracted to or try to escape from; and the actions that depend on us or over which we have no control. Often, we experience pain and suffering because of this.

It was similar in the life of Saint Arnold Janssen. Arnold, like each of us, experienced suffering and needed help. On his path of growth, he found each day support in the Holy Spirit and strength for action and transformation.

St. Arnold Janssen consecrated himself personally to the Holy Spirit, 'totally and forever' in the Vincentian church in Vienna on Monday, October 3, 1887 with this words:

"I offer myself completely to the Holy Spirit, body and soul, as a sacrifice and ask of Him the grace to know the greatness of his love and to live and die for Him alone (...)

The Holy Spirit is the heart of the Church and also the heart of God. In the Spirit, God loves himself and loves humanity.

May the Spirit grant me the grace to live and dwell in this holy heart and to act always according to his holy will"



Reading: Mt 11, 28-30

Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.

Meditate in Silence for some minutes

Reflection

In the Holy Spirit, the saving plan of Jesus Christ is fulfilled for all of us. And although Jesus ascended into heaven, to the house of His Father, His promise and invitation remain ever actual.

The Holy Spirit is not only the giver of gifts, but also the Comforter. In Him we find strength and power in difficult and painful moments. It is He who transforms our weaknesses into strength and apostolic zeal. The Holy Spirit does not say to us: “Don’t worry, nothing happened, from now on everything will be better.” Rather, He gives us power, saying: “Even if things become a hundred times worse, I am with you, and you will never lack my strength.”

Let us not seek comfort or solutions to our problems in the world or in human wisdom; for all this—and even more—we will find in the Holy Spirit when we trust Him and surrender our whole being to Him.

Sing a song or psalm

Concluding Prayer

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.*

Let us pray,

*O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise*

*and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Sing a song to the Holy Spirit

Day 5

**Light immortal, Light divine
Visit Thou these hearts of Thine,
And our inmost being fill.**

Sing, pray or listen the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* (in your local language or in Latin).

Introduction

As we reach the midpoint of our journey toward Pentecost, we call upon the Holy Spirit not just as a distant comfort, but as the **"Light immortal"** that pierces through the darkness of our own confusion.

Today, we ask for the Gift of Knowledge—the spiritual grace that "unmasks the pretense" of the world and reveals the true value of all created things in relation to God. In asking the Spirit to "visit these hearts", we invite Him to occupy the center of our lives, transforming our perspective so that we may, evaluate our lives and discern the will of the Father who always guided the light of the Holy Spirit.

Meditate in Silence for some minutes

Reading from a Letter by St. Arnold (9 June 1893 / 55.832)

May the Holy Spirit fill you with his light and his strength so that you will be in a position to be able to carry out such a difficult assignment in so run-down a parish and will also manage to deal with so many enemies, using both the prudence and the decisiveness that your situation makes necessary.

Sing a short song, a psalm or invocation to the Holy Spirit

Reflection

The stanza "***Light immortal, Light divine, / Visit Thou these hearts of Thine, / And our inmost being fill,***" is a plea for clarity amidst spiritual fog. It asks the Holy Spirit to not merely visit us as a passing guest, but to establish residence within our "inmost being," fundamentally transforming how we perceive the world.



The provided reading from Father Lambertz—addressing the challenge of ministry in a "run-down parish" rife with "challenges"—gives this plea a practical and urgent edge. We see here that the Gift of Knowledge is not just for quiet contemplation; it is a spiritual necessity for practical action.

When the Divine light fills us, it grants us the grace to "evaluate our lives and discern the will of the Father," even under duress. This indwelling light provides both the "prudence and the decisiveness" needed to navigate conflict and hardship while remaining true to our mission. The Holy Spirit's illumination unmask worldly deceptions and empowers us to act with conviction, fortified by a wisdom that is truly "Immortal" and "Divine."

Concluding Prayer

Light immortal, Light divine, fill our hearts this day. Grant us the Gift of Knowledge to see Your hand in all things and the prudence to navigate our challenges with a steady spirit.

When we face opposition or exhaustion, visit our inmost being with Your strength, so that we may act with the decisiveness born of Your truth. Guide us to love what is eternal and to serve You with a clear and joyful heart. Amen.

Final song to the Holy Spirit

Day 6

*If Thou take Thy grace away,
Nothing pure in us will stay;
All our good is turned to ill.*

Sing, pray or listen to the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* (in your local language or in Latin).

Introduction

With the ancient invocation ***Come, Holy Spirit— If Thou take Thy grace away, nothing pure in us will stay; all our good is turned to ill***—we acknowledge our deep dependence on God. The Spirit alone gives us the light to see ourselves honestly and the courage to embrace both the grace of our goodness and the truth of our fragility, our wounds, and our incompleteness.

Blessed Mother Maria Helena often reminded the community: **“God knows our weakness, but He also sees our good intention.”** For this reason, she urged the sisters to keep bonds of love and respect within the community, trusting that the Spirit would strengthen their communion and guide them even in moments of difficulty. **“Place your full trust in God, for the Holy Spirit will assist you in your anxieties and needs, even in the most difficult circumstances.”**

Meditation with a Symbol (a broken vessel or bottle with a candle)

This fragile vessel represents our own hearts and our wounded world—cracked, imperfect, yet still capable of holding light. It also mirrors our intercultural



communities, where beauty and brokenness often coexist: the blessings of diversity, and the challenges that arise when different histories, expectations, and ways of seeing the world meet.

Saint Paul describes us as “jars of clay” entrusted with a treasure not of our own making. Our very frailty becomes a sign that “the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” This truth frees us. It invites us to stand before God without masks or fear, trusting that the Spirit meets us precisely in our fragility. The Spirit enters the places where misunderstandings have wounded us, where cultural differences have created distance, where unspoken hurts or assumptions have dimmed our capacity to see one another with compassion.

Intercultural living is both a blessing and a challenge. It stretches us beyond what is familiar and invites us to grow in humility, patience, and mutual reverence. Yet it can also expose our fears, our biases, and the wounds we carry from our own personal and cultural stories. Only the Spirit can help us embrace our differences as gifts, heal what keeps us apart, and open our eyes to see one another anew.

With the truth of the Sequence—*“If Thou take Thy grace away, nothing pure in us will stay; all our good is turned to ill”*—we acknowledge how deeply we depend on the Spirit in our intercultural living. Without grace, our differences can divide; with grace, they become gifts. And so in a moment of silence, we ask the Spirit to breathe new life into our relationships, to heal the wounds that cloud our vision, to deepen our intercultural sensitivity, to restore what has been damaged, to soften what has grown hardened and give us the courage to move toward forgiveness, understanding, and renewed communion.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit. You are truth and light, open the eyes of our hearts.

We cannot heal what we refuse to see. So gently reveal to us the wounds we carry— the ones we name and the ones still hidden,

the hurts that shape our fears, our reactions, and our relationships. Let Your presence shine into every shadow within us.

Creator Spirit, come! You have created unity in the midst of diversity. Forgive us, for in our brokenness as human beings we turn diversity into a source of alienation, injustice, oppression, and wounding.

Empower us to recognize and celebrate differences as your great gift to the human family. Enable us to be the architects of understanding, of respect and love.

Spirit of compassion, our Divine Therapist, strengthen us to rise above our ego, to return to the goodness you planted in us from the beginning. Heal what is broken, calm what is restless, and reconcile what has been wounded.

Come, Holy Spirit. Make us whole in your love. Amen.

Reading from Thomas Merton

“At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God, which is never at our disposal, from which God disposes of our lives, which is inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the brutalities of our own will. This little point of nothingness and of absolute poverty is the pure glory of God in us. It is so to speak [God’s] name written in us, as our poverty, as our indigence, as our dependence, as our [birthright]. It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven...”

Meditate in Silence for some minutes

Sing a song or psalm

Concluding Meditative Prayer

From our sacred center, we pray for healing and reconciliation—within ourselves, within our communities and within the world. Let us become aware of the Spirit in our breath...breathing in God's healing, breathing out God's kindness.

- **Holy Spirit, may I embody healing in every breath I take and in every word I speak.** May my language mend, uplift, and bring hope.
- **Holy Spirit, may I act with generosity of heart, especially toward those who differ from me.** May I receive their uniqueness with empathy, understanding, and respect.
- **Holy Spirit, may I be eager to listen and slow to speak,** Help me to let go of the need to be right and to listen with an open heart.
- **Holy Spirit, may I choose actions that help others flourish,** help me be a peacemaker in my relationships, building bridges instead of walls.
- **Holy Spirit, may I not be ruled by negativity, one-sidedness, or revenge,** but let my heart open to empathy and compassion for all beings, especially for those with whom I disagree.

Holy Spirit, if You take Your grace away, nothing pure in us will stay. Root us again in the spark of your presence. Amen.

We may end with a song or gesture of reconciliation

Day 7

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

Sing or pray the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* (in your local language or in Latin).

Reflection

*Lava quod est sordidum,
Riga quod est aridum,
Sana quod est saucium.*

Unlike some translations, the Latin text is free of moral words. There is no talk of sin or guilt. It is a simple plea, asking the Spirit to “wash what is dirty; water what is dry; heal what is sore”.

These images are taken from everyday life:

- The Spirit is like a washerwoman or a cleaning lady, cleaning the dirt away and making everything shine again.
- The Spirit is a gardener, keeping the plants watered so that they grow and bloom.
- The Spirit is like a physician, healing wounds and injuries. These are three different images with one message: God's Spirit is full of loving care.

The well-known ceramic of the Merciful Trinity expresses this visually: We are at the centre of God's attention



Most people crave attention: we want to be noticed, and to be given what we see as our due. We like to present ourselves as good, talented, attractive persons. But this ceramic shows a different picture. The person is there at the centre, yes, but wounded, in need, unable to care for herself.

Like the Good Samaritan, God the Father takes the person in his arms. God the Son kisses her feet, alluding to the foot washing. And hovering above, the Holy Spirit is waiting to breathe life and warmth into the lifeless human body as on the day of creation.

Meditate in Silence for some minutes

Arnold Janssen wrote in his Spiritual Testament:

The Holy Spirit is called vivificans, i.e. the life-giver. He completes the salvation through the sanctification of humankind. He is also called Creator Spirit, and therefore we can attribute to him the creation of all living beings, and especially the revitalization of the person.

Sing a short song or invocation to the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:5-8

No shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground. But streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.

Then God formed a human being from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the human being became alive. God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the person he had formed.

Meditative Prayer

Look at the ceramic. Focus your attention on the centre. Whom or what do you see there at the centre of God's attention – today, where you live and work ...

See the Spirit at work: cleansing, giving water, healing wounds...

Concluding Prayer

Washerwoman Spirit, make me shine again as a missionary, as a fellow-Sister.

Gardener Spirit, help us to keep your creation alive and well.

Physician Spirit, help us to become aware of the wounds and sufferings of the people around us. Make our words a medicine, and our actions an ointment.

Bless us, keep us in your love, and bring us to life and joy that never end. Amen

Final Song according to your choice.

Day 8

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

Sing, pray or listen the Veni Sancte Spiritus (in your local language or in Latin)

Reflection

The human heart can become as hard as the toughest steel—so rigid that no machine in the world can break it or even bend it slightly. Stubbornly clinging to our own will, jealousy, hatred, forcing others to live according to human-made ideologies, and many other attitudes make our hearts resistant to change and conversion.

There is only one power in the world that can change this. That power is the Holy Spirit, for whom nothing is impossible. In our prayers each day, we ask Him to help us become humble witnesses of His love, with hearts set ablaze by His love and walking along His path.

Scripture Reading: Ez. 36: 26-28

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and bring it about that you walk in My statutes, and are careful and follow My ordinances. And you will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

Meditate in Silence for some minutes

Meditation

The process of founding the three religious missionary congregations was certainly a time when the Founding Generation received many gifts from the Holy Spirit. People observing from the outside shook their heads in disbelief. Surely, there were many who doubted that such a work would ever come into being. But they were mistaken.

The Holy Spirit not only bestowed wonderful gifts upon the Founding Generation, but also transformed their hearts. He removed the obstacles hidden deep within them. The old heart and the old spirit were replaced with new ones. The same process is still taking place today in the hearts of those who, like the Founding Generation, have fully trusted in God.



Concluding Prayer:

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.*

Let us pray

*God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise
and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Day 9

**Thou, on those who evermore
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold gifts descend:**

**Give them comfort when they die,
Give them life with Thee on high,
Give them joys that never end.**

Sing, pray or listen the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* (in your local language or in Latin)

Reflection

*Da tuis fidelibus
In te confidentibus
Sacrum septenarium.*

*Da virtutis meritum,
Da salutis exitum,
Da perenne gaudium.*



Finally! Like an opera or a symphony, the hymn gathers momentum for a grand final, summing up what was said before in a final accord charged with great emotions. The previous verses asked for particular divine action and individual gifts. Now, the hymn asks for it all: the *sacrum septenarium*, the sevenfold holy gift – seven being the symbolic number of

completeness. Once the Divine Spirit has healed the broken human vessel, this vessel becomes capable of holding the fullness of God.

Thus equipped, we are ready to shift to the next level. The last verse invites us to look beyond our present reality; it asks us to lift our eyes and direct our attention to the future that awaits us. The verse prays for “the reward of virtue,” “a blessed end,” and “eternal joy.” The words prompt us to face what we tend to forget: One day, our lives will come to completion; one day, this world will come to an end. And what will happen then? Whatever it is, it will be a gift - no automatism, not a great void, but a gift from God’s hand.

Sing a short invocation or mantra, or play soft music for some moments

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

*Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there
was no longer any sea.*

*I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of
heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her
husband.*

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s
dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with
them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them
and be their God.*

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more
death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has
passed away.”*

*He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything
new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are
trustworthy and true.”*

*He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the
Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost
from the spring of the water of life.*

Meditate in Silence for some minutes

Meditative Prayer

Think of all your loved ones, family, friends and fellow sisters, that have passed away ... See yourself with every day that passes advancing to the end of your life ...

Become aware of this world, a constant process of birth and death, of coming into being and perishing ...

And hear God`s promise: "I am making everything new" ...

Spontaneous Prayer of Thanksgiving or Intercession

Holy Spirit,

you gather us from every people and culture.

Open our hearts to receive you

and to receive one another

with reverence, love, and joy.

Make our diversity a blessing,

and our unity a sign of Pentecost,

a gift to the world. Amen.

Close with a song to the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the great father of love, in whom God loves himself and the world. Through him God's love is poured out into our hearts.

St. Arnold Janssen

I hope to offer and consecrate to the Holy Spirit my whole being and every moment of my life.

Bl. M. Maria Helena Stollenwerk

Try to achieve everything with love and in love; then the Holy Spirit will bless our efforts.

Bl. M. Josepha Stenmanns