



Relationship with GOD

More than Just SUNDAY

We need the help of the Holy Spirit!

In the nine days following Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, the Apostles were gathered in Jerusalem with Mary and the disciples, praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit as Jesus had commanded them to do. Jesus kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit, which took place on the tenth day – Pentecost – as described in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. There was a strong, mighty wind that filled the Upper Room and tongues as of fire that rested on those gathered as they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Apostles were now “clothed with power from on high” to go forth and make disciples of all nations, as they had been commissioned by Jesus. They were filled with the needed power and presence of the Holy Spirit, strengthening them to overcome the fear that had seized them to the point of running away during Jesus' passion and crucifixion. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles went forth to teach, preach and baptize. The other disciples likewise went forth to bear witness to Jesus as the Son of God and our Savior.

The Holy Spirit has remained with the Church ever since and will stay with Her until the end of time. The Solemnity of Pentecost is more than the celebration of an event. Above all, it is the celebration of a Person, the Person of the Holy Spirit. This Divine Person is the bond of love between the Father and the Son. A relationship with the Holy Spirit is necessary for all believers, and we develop it through quiet times of daily prayer, listening for His inner promptings and guidance.

The Holy Spirit is the principal agent of the Church's evangelization

In our day, we need the help of the Holy Spirit to stir into flame a greater love for and stronger commitment to God. So many things in our lives vie for our time and can pull

our attention away from our friendship with Jesus. We need renewal, which is only possible through the Holy Spirit, the principal agent of the Church's evangelization.

When the Apostles were gathered in the Upper Room after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, they prayed the first novena, which was for the coming of the Holy Spirit. A novena is a nine-day period of focused private or public prayer to implore special intentions with a sense of urgency and need. Beginning on Thursday, May 10th, until Sunday, May 20th, let us join together in the prayer below to ask the Holy Spirit to help us grow in our relationship with Christ, to recognize and repent from sin, and to be renewed in our life of prayer and faith. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to people who no longer attend church and to heal their spiritual blindness, so that they may come to a realization of how much God loves them and of their need for God through the Catholic Church.

O Holy Spirit

Beloved of my soul, I adore You.

Enlighten me, guide me,
strengthen and console me.

Tell me what I ought to do
And command me to do it.

I promise to submit to everything
that You ask of me
and to accept all

that You allow to happen to me.

Just show me what is Your will, Holy Spirit.

— Prayer by Cardinal Mercier

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C E L E B R A T I N G
150 YEARS

BUILDING UPON A TRADITION
OF CATHOLIC FAITH