

*Holy Spirit! Lord of Light! From Your clear celestial height,
Your pure beaming radiance give!*



Only one thing is important -- eternal salvation. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared--sin! Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, and indifference. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Light, of Strength, and of Love. With His sevenfold gifts He enlightens the mind, strengthens the will, and inflames the heart with love of God. To ensure our salvation we ought to invoke the Divine Spirit daily, for 'The Spirit helpeth our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself asketh for us.'

Prayer: *Almighty and eternal God, Who hast vouchsafed to regenerate us by water and the Holy Spirit, and hast given us forgiveness of all sins, vouchsafe to send forth from heaven upon us your sevenfold Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the Spirit of Holy Fear. Amen.*

PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, before ascending into heaven, did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish 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, and 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 (From EWTN website.)



NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST Friday 30th May – Saturday 7th June

This is the first (and only official) Novena of the Church. There are no set prayers to be said but see back page for suggestions. This novena helps:

- To pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in particular a new and perpetual Pentecost.
- To increase our relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- To pray that we are docile to the Holy Spirit's wishes for our lives. (St Faustina said that this is the quickest way to sanctity.
- To reflect upon the Holy Spirit's gifts and charisms
- To pray for new offspring for the Church



Dear Faithful

We continue reading the great chapters of Saint John which narrate the discourse at the last supper. In this passage Jesus is telling us that love and obedience are two sides of the same coin. Indeed to love God means to keep his commandments. Likewise if we don't keep his commandments, we cannot love God. Sin is therefore an act in which love is denied and set aside: love of our Creator is replaced by love of self which is exactly the sin of Adam and Eve. In order to keep Jesus' commandments we shall need the power of the Holy Spirit within us so that transforming us into the likeness of Jesus who then lives within us and through his power operating in us, we shall be able not only to keep the commandments but embrace them in love so that far from limiting us they shall actually set us free.

We often think that commandments only refer to the ten commandments; but they refer to all that Jesus commanded us to do and all that the Church commands us to do, since the commands of the Church are the commandments of Jesus. In the original language the word commandment derives from the word for end or goal. Hence a commandment is something which enable us to attain our end – heaven. We should ponder this because often people think of commandments as something restrictive. Non-Christians often see Catholics as people that have to keep a whole series of rules. Whilst there is a truth to this, it leaves out the whole beauty – we could say as Catholics we are enwrapped by the love of God which manifests itself in Him guiding us to heaven. Likewise, not to keep the commandments of God is to give oneself over to darkness, and all manner of evils. Hence when today people are breaking even the natural law which is enshrined in everyone, there is great darkness over the whole world.

The word commandment goes even further since it includes also everything that is God's will for us – not just the great things but also the menial. Jesus constantly tells us that he came to do the will of the Father. This means through out his whole life he constantly carried out what his heavenly father wished him to do, to say, to think. Every action of Jesus including his very breathing was animated by his father's will. So when we live in union with Jesus the same thing applies to us – all our acts are taken up into the heavenly Father and we then attain the union that Jesus constantly prayed for – especially at the last supper – that we be one just as the Father and Jesus are one: *"I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me."* (john 17:21)

This is the goal that we are living through right now. The coming of the Kingdom in glory when this unity will be achieved. To bring this era about, God needs souls that are prepare to surrender their lives to him.

Now this may appear to be an outrageous statement that appears to be totally unachievable. But if we surrender to the Holy Spirit and trust in the power of God to transform us, not only can this be achieved but it must be achieved (either in this world or in purgatory).

Such is the case when we look at this with purely human eyes. But this is where the example of Mary is so important. She shows us that by believing in the power of God's promises and living in constant union with her spouse, the Holy Spirit, she always not only carried out the will of God but lived in its kingdom.

Mary teaches us the way to live out fully our obedience to God. It is worth pondering her response to the angel. She didn't start questioning what it would look like, how she would manage, how she would cope or what help she would get – she simply said "Fiat – Let it be." In other words she said yes to God and left everything up to him.

So often in life we feel tension and troubles because we are simply not surrendering totally to God. The Surrender Novena by Fr. Ruotolo is a great help:

"I perform miracles in proportion to your full surrender to me and to your not thinking of yourselves. I sow treasure troves of graces when you are in the deepest poverty. No person of reason, no thinker, has ever performed miracles, not even among the saints. He does divine works whosoever surrenders to God. So don't think about it any more, because your mind is acute and for you it is very hard to see evil and to trust in me and to not think of yourself. Do this for all your needs, do this all of you and you will see great continual silent miracles. I will take care of things, I promise this to you."
(Day 7)

Let us follow Mary's example and surrender everything to God – let us just say to him, I give everything to you and you will take care of everything.

Fr. Dominic Fiat!

