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Ten Days to Prepare the Feast of the Holy Spirit

We propose a simple decade for young people to prepare for the Feast of the Holy Spirit: say a prayer, read a text by Saint Josemaría and propose a mission (a purpose).

28/05/2025

Download the 10-Day Devotion to the Holy Spirit

DAY 1

1 PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT Christ is Passing By, no. 132 - 133

I see all the circumstances of life — those of every individual person's existence, as well as, in some way, those of the great crossroads of history — as so many calls that God makes to men, to bring them face to face with truth, and as occasions that are offered to us Christians, so that we may announce, with our deeds and with our words strengthened by grace, the Spirit to whom we belong.

Every generation of Christians needs to redeem, to sanctify its own time. In order to do this, we must understand and share the desires of other men — as equals — in order to make known to them, with a gift of tongues, how they are to correspond to the action of the Holy Spirit, to that permanent outflow of rich treasures that comes from our Lord's heart. We Christians

are called upon to announce, in our own time, to this world to which we belong and in which we live, the message — old and at the same time new — of the Gospel.

It is not true that everyone today, in general, is closed or indifferent to what our Christian faith teaches about man's being and destiny. It is not true that men in our time are turned toward only the things of this earth and have forgotten to look up to heaven. There is no lack of narrow ideologies, it is true, or of persons who maintain them. But in our time we find both great desires and base attitudes, heroism and cowardice, zeal and disenchantment: those who dream of a new world, more just and more human, and others who — discouraged, perhaps, by the failure of their youthful idealism — hide themselves in the selfishness of seeking only their own security or remaining immersed in their errors.

*To all these men and women,
wherever they may be, in their more
exalted moments or in their crises and
defeats, we have to bring the solemn
and unequivocal message of St. Peter
in the days that followed Pentecost:
Jesus is the cornerstone, the
Redeemer, the hope of our lives. “For
there is no other name under heaven
given to men by which we must be
saved.”*

1 MISSION

To make the determined resolution
that **we will love God for what he is
in himself** and not for what he gives
or promises us.

DAY 2

1 PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT Christ is Passing By, no. 128

The profound reality which we see in the texts of Holy Scripture is not a remembrance from the past, from some golden age of the Church which has since been buried in history.

Despite the weaknesses and the sins of every one of us, it is the reality of today's Church and the Church of all time. "I will ask the Father," our Lord told his disciples, "and he will give you another Counselor to dwell with you forever."

Jesus has kept his promise. He has risen from the dead, and, in union with the eternal Father, he sends us the Holy Spirit to sanctify us and to give us life. The strength and the power of God light up the face of the earth. The Holy Spirit is present in the Church of Christ for all time, so that it may be, always and in everything, a sign raised up before all nations, announcing to all people the goodness and the love of God. In spite of our great limitations, we can look up to

heaven with confidence and joy: God loves us and frees us from our sins. The presence and the action of the Holy Spirit in the Church are a foretaste of eternal happiness, of the joy and peace for which we are destined by God.

Like the men and women who came up to Peter on Pentecost, we too have been baptized. In Baptism, our Father God has taken possession of our lives, has made us share in the life of Christ, and has given us the Holy Spirit. Holy Scripture tells us that God has saved us “through the baptism of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit; whom he has abundantly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, in order that, justified by his grace, we may be heirs in hope to life everlasting.”

The experience of our weakness and of our failings, the painful realization of the smallness and meanness of some

who call themselves Christians, the apparent failure or aimlessness of some works of apostolate – all these things, which bring home to us the reality of sin and human limitation, can still be a trial of our faith.

Temptation and doubt can lead us to ask: where are the strength and the power of God? When that happens, we have to react by practicing the virtue of hope with greater purity and forcefulness and striving to be more faithful.

1 MISSION

To ask and seek the **peace for my soul**, habitual disposition for the Holy Spirit to dwell always in me. **To detect what takes away my peace.**

DAY 3

1 PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT Christ is Passing By, no. 129

Let me tell you about an event of my own personal life, that happened many years ago. One day I was with a friend of mine, a man who had a good heart but who did not have faith. Pointing toward a globe, he said, "Look, from North to South, from East to West." "What do you want me to look at?" I asked.

His answer was: "The failure of Christ. For twenty centuries people have been trying to bring his doctrine to men's lives, and look at the result." I was filled with sadness. It is painful to realize that many people still don't know our Lord, and that, among those who do know him, many live as though they did not. But that feeling lasted only a moment. It was shortly overcome by love and thankfulness, because Jesus has wanted every man to cooperate freely in the work of redemption. He has not failed.

His doctrine and life have been effective in the world at all times. The redemption carried out by him is sufficient, and more than sufficient.

God does not want slaves, but children. He respects our freedom. The work of salvation is still going on, and each one of us has a part in it. It is Christ's will, St. Paul tells us in impressive words, that we should fulfill – in our flesh, in our life – that which is lacking in his Passion, “for the good of his body, which is the Church.”

It is worthwhile to put our lives on the line, to give ourselves completely, so as to answer to the love and the confidence that God has placed in us. It is worthwhile, above all, to decide to take our Christian life seriously. When we recite the Creed, we state that we believe in God the Father Almighty, in his Son Jesus Christ, who died and rose again, and in the Holy

Spirit, the Lord and giver of life. We affirm that the Church – one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic – is the body of Christ, enlivened by the Holy Spirit. We rejoice in the forgiveness of sins and in the hope of our own resurrection.

But do those words penetrate to the depths of our own heart? Or do they remain only on our lips? The divine message of victory, the joy and the peace of Pentecost, should be the unshakable foundation for every Christian's way of thinking and acting and living.

1 MISSION

To take seriously my time of prayer. In this way I will enter your life and together we will give testimony of my faith.

DAY 4

1 PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT Christ is Passing By, no. 130

“The arm of the Lord has not been shortened.” God is no less powerful today than he was in other times; his love for us is no less true. Our faith teaches us that all creation, the movement of the earth and the other heavenly bodies, the good actions of creatures and all the good that has been achieved in history — in short, everything — comes from God and is directed toward him.

The action of the Holy Spirit can pass unnoticed, because God does not reveal to us his plans, and because man’s sin clouds over the divine gifts. But faith reminds us that God is always acting. He has created us and maintains us in existence, and he leads all creation by his grace toward

the glorious freedom of the children of God.

For this reason, Christian tradition has summarized the attitude that we should adopt toward the Holy Spirit in just one idea: docility. This means that we should be aware of the work of the Holy Spirit all around us and that in our own selves we should recognize the gifts he distributes, the movements and institutions he inspires, the affections and decisions he provokes in our hearts. The Holy Spirit carries out in the world the works of God. He is, as we read in a liturgical hymn, the giver of grace, the light of our hearts, the soul's guest, our rest in work, our consolation in sorrow.

Without his help there is nothing innocent or valuable in man, because he is the one who cleanses the soiled, heals what is sick, sets on fire what is cold, straightens what is bent, and

guides men toward the safe harbor of salvation and eternal joy.

But our faith in the Holy Spirit must be complete — not a merely vague belief in his presence in the world, but a grateful acceptance of the signs and realities into which he has poured forth his power in a special way.

When the Spirit of truth comes, our Lord tells us, “He will glorify me, for he will take of what is mine and declare it to you.” The Holy Spirit is the Spirit sent by Christ to carry out in us the work of holiness that our Lord merited for us on earth.

And so there cannot be faith in the Holy Spirit if there is not faith in Christ, in his sacraments, in his Church. One cannot act in accordance with his Christian faith, cannot truly believe in the Holy Spirit, without loving the Church and trusting it. A man cannot be a coherent Christian if he limits himself to pointing out the

deficiencies and limitations of some who represent the Church — if he judges her from the outside, as though he were not her son. Consider, moreover, the extraordinary importance and abundance of the Paraclete when the priest renews the sacrifice of Calvary by celebrating Mass on our altars.

1 MISSION

Mortification. To offer up to Him what costs me, my difficulties. To help him to carry the Cross.

DAY 5

1 PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT Christ is Passing By, no. 131

We Christians carry the great treasures of grace in vessels of clay.

God has entrusted his gifts to the weakness and fragility of human freedom. We can be certain of the help of God's power, but our lust, our love of comfort, and our pride sometimes cause us to reject his grace and to fall into sin. For more than twenty-five years, when I have recited the Creed and asserted my faith in the divine origin of the Church as "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic," I have frequently added, "in spite of everything." When I mention this custom of mine and someone asks me what I mean, I answer, "I mean your sins and mine."

All this is true, but it does not authorize us in any way to judge the Church in a human manner, without theological faith. We cannot consider only the greater or lesser merits of certain churchmen or other Christians. To do this would be to limit ourselves to the surface of things. What is most important in the

Church is not how we humans react, but how God acts. This is what the Church is: Christ present in our midst, God coming toward us in order to save us, calling us with his revelation, sanctifying us with his grace, maintaining us with his constant help, in the great and small battles of our daily life.

We might come to mistrust other people, and we should each mistrust ourselves (and end each day with an act of contrition that is profound and sincere). But we have no right to doubt God. And to doubt the Church, its divine origin and its effectiveness for our salvation through its doctrine and its sacraments, would be the same as doubting God himself, the same as not fully believing in the reality of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

“Before Christ was crucified,” writes St. John Chrysostom, “there was no

reconciliation. And while there was no reconciliation, the Holy Spirit was not sent ... The absence of the Holy Spirit was a sign of the anger of God. Now that you see him sent in fullness, do not doubt the reconciliation. But what if people should ask, 'Where is the Holy Spirit now? We can talk of his presence when the miracles took place, when the dead were raised and the lepers were healed. But how are we to know that he is truly present now?' Do not be concerned. I will show you that the Holy Spirit is present among us now as well.

"If the Holy Spirit were not present, we would not be able to say, 'Jesus is the Lord,' for no one can invoke Jesus as the Lord unless it is in the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit were not present, we would not be able to pray with confidence. For when we pray, we say, 'Our Father, who art in heaven.' If the Holy Spirit were not present, we could not call God our Father. How do

we know this? Because the apostle teaches us: ‘And, because you are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”’

“When you call on God the Father, remember that it is the Spirit who, with his motion in your soul, has given you this prayer. If the Holy Spirit were not present, there would be no word of wisdom or knowledge in the Church; for it is written, ‘The word of wisdom is given through the Spirit’... If the Holy Spirit were not present, the Church would not exist. But if the Church exists, there is no doubt of the presence of the Holy Spirit.”

Beyond all human deficiencies and limitations, the Church is the sign and, in a certain sense, though not in the strict sense in which the Church has defined the nature of the seven sacraments of the new law, the

universal sacrament of the presence of God in the world. To be a Christian is to be reborn of God and sent to announce the news of salvation. If we had a strong faith, a living faith, if we were bold in making Christ known to others, we would see with our own eyes miracles such as those that took place in the time of the apostles.

Today, too, the blind who have lost the ability to look up to heaven and contemplate the wonderful works of God recover their sight. The lame and the crippled who have been bound by their passions, and whose hearts have forgotten love recover their freedom. The deaf who did not want to know God are given back their hearing. The dumb whose tongues were bound because they did not want to acknowledge their destroyed life come to life again. We see once more that “the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.”

And, just as the first Christians did, we rejoice when we contemplate the power of the Holy Spirit and see the results of his action on the minds and wills of his creatures.

1 MISSION

To train my docility. To ask for light and strength to love whatever You love.

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DAY 6

1 PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT Christ is Passing By, no. 132 - 133

I see all the circumstances of life — those of every individual person's existence, as well as, in some way, those of the great crossroads of history — as so many calls that God

makes to men, to bring them face to face with truth, and as occasions that are offered to us Christians, so that we may announce, with our deeds and with our words strengthened by grace, the Spirit to whom we belong.

Every generation of Christians needs to redeem, to sanctify its own time. In order to do this, we must understand and share the desires of other men — as equals — in order to make known to them, with a gift of tongues, how they are to correspond to the action of the Holy Spirit, to that permanent outflow of rich treasures that comes from our Lord's heart. We Christians are called upon to announce, in our own time, to this world to which we belong and in which we live, the message — old and at the same time new — of the Gospel.

It is not true that everyone today, in general, is closed or indifferent to what our Christian faith teaches

about man's being and destiny. It is not true that men in our time are turned toward only the things of this earth and have forgotten to look up to heaven. There is no lack of narrow ideologies, it is true, or of persons who maintain them. But in our time we find both great desires and base attitudes, heroism and cowardice, zeal and disenchantment: those who dream of a new world, more just and more human, and others who — discouraged, perhaps, by the failure of their youthful idealism — hide themselves in the selfishness of seeking only their own security or remaining immersed in their errors.

To all these men and women, wherever they may be, in their more exalted moments or in their crises and defeats, we have to bring the solemn and unequivocal message of St. Peter in the days that followed Pentecost: Jesus is the cornerstone, the Redeemer, the hope of our lives. “For

there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

1 MISSION

To ask the gift of fortitude and to train myself to overcome the difficulties that I may find in my path of fidelity to God.

DAY 7

1 PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT Christ is Passing By, no. 133

I would say that, among the gifts of the Holy Spirit, there is one that we all need in a special way: the gift of wisdom. It makes us know God and rejoice in his presence, thereby placing us in a perspective from which we can judge accurately the situations

and events of this life. Had we been consistent with our faith when we looked around us and contemplated the world and its history, we would have been unable to avoid feeling in our own hearts the same sentiments that filled the heart of our Lord:

“Seeing the crowds, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were bewildered and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Not that the Christian should neglect to see all that is good in humanity, to appreciate its healthy joys, or to participate in its enthusiasm and ideals. On the contrary, a true Christian will vibrate in unison with all the good he finds in the world. And he will live in the midst of it with a special concern, because of knowing, better than anyone, the depth and the richness of the human spirit.

A Christian’s faith does not diminish his spirit or limit the noble impulses of

his soul — rather, it makes them grow with the realization of their true and authentic meaning. We do not exist in order to pursue just any happiness. We have been called to penetrate the intimacy of God's own life, to know and love God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and to love also — in that same love of the one God in three divine Persons — the angels and all men.

This is the great boldness of the Christian faith: to proclaim the value and dignity of human nature and to affirm that we have been created to achieve the dignity of children of God, through the grace that raises us up to a supernatural level. An incredible boldness it would be, were it not founded on the promise of salvation given us by God the Father, confirmed by the blood of Christ, and reaffirmed and made possible by the constant action of the Holy Spirit.

We must live by faith. We must grow in faith, up to the point where it will be possible to describe any one of us in the terms used by one of the great Doctors of the Eastern Church to describe Christians in general: "In the same way that a transparent body, upon receiving a ray of light, becomes resplendent and shines out, so the souls that are borne and illuminated by the Holy Spirit become themselves spiritual and carry to others the light of grace. From the Holy Spirit comes knowledge of future events, understanding of mysteries, comprehension of hidden truths, giving of gifts, heavenly citizenship, conversation with the angels. From him comes never-ending joy, perseverance in God, likeness to God, and the most sublime state that can be conceived, that of becoming God-like."

Together with humility, the realization of the greatness of man's dignity — and of the overwhelming fact that, by

grace, we are made children of God — forms a single attitude. It is not our own forces that save us and give us life; it is the grace of God. This is a truth which can never be forgotten. If it were, the divinization of our life would be perverted and would become presumption, pride. And this would lead, sooner or later, to a breakdown of spiritual life, when the soul came face to face with its own weakness and wretchedness.

“And shall I dare to say, ‘I am holy’?” asks St. Augustine. “If I mean by ‘holy’ that I bring holiness and that I need no one to make me holy, I would be a liar and full of pride. But if by ‘holy’ I understand that one is made holy as we read in Leviticus, ‘You will be holy, because I, God, am holy,’ then the whole body of Christ, down to the last person living at the ends of the earth, may dare to say, together with its head and under him, ‘I am holy.’”

Love the Third Person of the most Blessed Trinity. Listen in the intimacy of your being to the divine motions of encouragement or reproach you receive from him. Walk through the world in the light that is poured out in your soul. And the God of hope will fill you with all peace, so that this hope may grow in you more and more each day, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 MISSION

To dream with the miracles that I will see if I live with faith and audacity my Christian life.

DAY 8

1 PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT Christ is Passing By, no. 134

To live according to the Holy Spirit means to live by faith and hope and charity — to allow God to take possession of our lives and to change our hearts, to make us resemble him more and more. A mature and profound Christian life cannot be improvised, because it is the result of the growth of God's grace in us. In the Acts of the Apostles we find the early Christian community described in a single sentence that is brief but full of meaning: "And they continued steadfastly in the teaching of the apostles and in the communion of the breaking of the bread and in prayers."

This is how the early Christians lived, and this is how we, too, should live: meditating upon the doctrine of our faith until it becomes a part of us; receiving our Lord in the Eucharist; meeting him in the personal dialogue of our prayer, not trying to hide behind an impersonal kind of conduct, but coming face to face with him.

These means should become the very substance of our attitude. If they are lacking, we shall have, perhaps, the ability to think in an erudite manner, an activity that is more or less intense, some practices and devotions. But we shall not have an authentically Christian way of life, because we are all, equally, called to sanctity. There are no second-class Christians, obliged to practice only a “simplified version” of the Gospel. We have all received the same Baptism, and although there is a great variety of spiritual gifts and human situations, there is only one Spirit who distributes God’s gifts — only one faith, only one hope, only one love.

And so we can apply to ourselves the question asked by the apostle: “Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” And we can understand it as an invitation to deal with God in a more personal and direct manner. For

some, unfortunately, the Paraclete is the Great Stranger, the Great Unknown. He is merely a name that is mentioned, but not Someone, not one of the three Persons (in the one God) with whom we can talk and with whose life we can live.

We have to deal with him simply and trustingly, as we are taught by the Church in its liturgy. Then we will come to know our Lord better, and at the same time we will realize more fully the great favor that has been granted us when we became Christians. We will see all the greatness and truth of the divinization to which I referred earlier, which is a sharing in God's own life.

1 MISSION

To grow up in trusting God. To ask you, without fear, what is the plan that you have thought for me to be happy. To trust you.

DAY 9

1 PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT Christ is Passing By, no. 134 - 137

“The Holy Spirit is not an artist who draws the divine substance in us, as though he were alien to it. It is not in this way that he leads us to a resemblance with God — but rather, being God and proceeding from God, he himself marks the hearts of those who receive him, as a seal upon wax. In this way, by the communication of his own life and resemblance, he restores nature according to the beauty of the divine model, and returns to us our resemblance to God.”

Let us see how this truth applies to our daily lives. Let us describe, at least in general, the way of life that

will bring us to deal in a familiar manner with the Holy Spirit, and, together with him, the Father and the Son.

We can fix our attention on three fundamental points: docility, a life of prayer, and union with the cross. First of all, docility, because it is the Holy Spirit who, with his inspirations, gives a supernatural tone to our thoughts, desires, and actions. It is he who leads us to receive Christ's teaching and to assimilate it in a profound way. It is he who gives us the light by which we perceive our personal calling and the strength to carry out all that God expects of us. If we are docile to the Holy Spirit, the image of Christ will be formed more and more fully in us, and we will be brought closer every day to God the Father. "For whoever are led by the Spirit of God, they are the children of God."

If we let ourselves be guided by this life-giving principle, the Holy Spirit in us, our spiritual vitality will grow. We will place ourselves in the hands of our Father God, with the same spontaneity and confidence with which children abandon themselves to their fathers' care. Our Lord has said: "Unless you become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." This is the old and well known "way of childhood," which is not sentimentality or lack of human maturity. It is a supernatural maturity, which makes us realize more deeply the wonders of God's love, while leading us to acknowledge our own smallness and identify our will fully with the will of God.

In the second place, a life of prayer, because the giving of one's self, the obedience and meekness of a Christian, are born of love and lead to love. And love leads to a personal relationship, to conversation and

friendship. Christian life requires a constant dialogue with God, one in three Persons, and it is to this intimacy that the Holy Spirit leads us. “For who among men knows the things of a man save the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so, the things of God no one knows but the Spirit of God.” If we have a constant relationship with the Holy Spirit, we ourselves will become spiritual, we will realize that we are Christ’s brothers and children of God, and we will not hesitate to call upon our Father at any time.

Let us acquire the habit of conversation with the Holy Spirit, who is the one who will make us holy. Let us trust in him and ask his help and feel his closeness to us. In this way our poor hearts will grow; we will have a greater desire to love God and to love all creatures for God’s sake. And our lives will reproduce that final vision of the Apocalypse: the

Spirit and the Spouse, the Holy Spirit and the Church — and every Christian — calling on Jesus Christ to come and be with us forever.

And, finally, union with the cross, because in the life of Christ, the Resurrection and Pentecost were preceded by Calvary. This is the order that must be followed in the life of any Christian. We are, as St. Paul tells us, “heirs indeed of God and joint heirs with Christ, provided, however, we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified with him.” The Holy Spirit comes to us as a result of the cross — as a result of our total abandonment to the will of God, of our seeking only his glory and renouncing ourselves completely.

Only when we are faithful to grace and determined to place the cross in the centers of our souls, denying ourselves for the love of God, detaching ourselves in a real way

from all selfishness and false human security, only then —when we live by faith in a real way — will we receive the fullness of the great fire, the great light, the great comfort of the Holy Spirit. It is then, too, that souls begin to experience the peace and freedom that Christ has won for us, and that are given to us with the grace of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, long suffering, mildness, faith, modesty, continency, chastity; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

1 MISSION

To ask the gift of counsel to help the others and to give them direction in their encounter with God.

1 PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT Christ is Passing By, no. 138

In the midst of the limitations that accompany our present life, in which sin is still present in us to some extent at least, we Christians perceive with a particular clearness all the wealth of our divine filiation, when we realize that we are fully free because we are doing our Father's work, when our joy becomes constant because no one can take our hope away. It is then that we can admire at the same time all the great and beautiful things of this earth, can appreciate the richness and goodness of creation, and can love with all the strength and purity for which the human heart was made. It is then that sorrow for sin does not degenerate into a bitter gesture of despair or pride, because sorrow and knowledge of human weakness lead us to identify ourselves again with Christ's work of redemption and feel

more deeply our solidarity with others.

It is then, finally, that we Christians experience in our own life the sure strength of the Holy Spirit, in such a way that our own failures do not drag us down. Rather, they are an invitation to begin again and to continue being faithful witnesses of Christ in all the moments of our life — in spite of our own personal weaknesses, which, in such a case, are normally no more than small failings that hardly perturb the soul. And even if they are grave sins, the sacrament of Penance, received with true sorrow, enables us to recover our peace with God and to become again a good witness of his mercy.

Such is the brief summary, which can barely be expressed in human language, of the richness of our faith and of our Christian life, if we let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit.

That is why I can end these words in only one way: by voicing a prayer, contained in one of the liturgical hymns for the feast of Pentecost, which is like an echo of the unceasing petition of the whole Church: “Come, creating Spirit, to the minds of those who belong to you, and fill, with grace from above, the hearts that you have created... Grant that through you we may know the Father and become acquainted with the Son; may we believe in you, the Spirit who proceeds from the Father and Son, forever. Amen.”

1 MISSION

To come back to the essence, to live in conformity with the three theological virtues: **faith, hope and charity.**

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