

The Novena to the Holy Spirit is the oldest novena in the Church. Jesus himself asked for it. "Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, 'Which', He said, "you heard of from Me" (Acts 1:4). When Jesus had ascended to heaven, the disciples with the Virgin Mary returned to Jerusalem and waited praying together for the Father's promise - the Holy Spirit.

So this novena is made in all the Church from Ascension Thursday until the vigil of Pentecost (Saturday).

We all agree that the Holy Spirit inspired and gathered not just the Church, but also our Faith and Light communities, and continues to accompany us. Hearing all the time how new friends and families are lacking and how communities are aging, and finally, having read Ghislain's Easter letter ("Our breathing is starting to fail... Last year during our big international gathering in Leeds the conclusion was made that our communities are getting old, that some of them will even cease to exist, few new communities are established, it's hard to attract young people and families...") I thought it was time to turn in a special way to the One who is the Spirit of God, who inspires all that is alive, thanks to whom we are alive at all.

Therefore I propose to approach Pentecost this year with a special prayer by our community (the novena this year starts on May 30), each day praying "Come, Holy Spirit..." for Faith and Light in all the world.

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Faith and Light coordinator in Lithuania

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Sequence for Pentecost

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

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come, with treasures which endure;
Come, thou Light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow.

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

Light immortal, Light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill.

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

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

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

Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend.

Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory Be...



Pentecost Novena for the Faith and Light communities



Day 1. Friday. We pray for all the Faith and Light communities in the world

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator, enlighten our paths, revive our first enthusiasm and joy, so that we might without rest give witness to the world of the value of each person, the blessing of friendship and God's infinite love. Lord, we thank you that 40 years ago you inspired the creation of the Faith and Light community. We ask you to bless us, show us the way, give us courage and wisdom, support revitalize and renew us.

Sequence of Pentecost

Day 2. Saturday. We pray for all the coordinators and other persons with responsibilities in Faith and Light

Come, Holy Spirit of Truth and Wisdom, enlighten our minds and hearts, give strength and understanding to all those responsible for carrying out the Lord's calling - to lead and care for the Faith and Light communities. Lord, we thank you for all those who have accepted responsibility in Faith and Light. Grant them all the necessary gifts, comfort and strengthen them in difficulties, and grant us zeal to help, not to leave them alone, and constantly remind us that each of us is responsible for the community.

Sequence of Pentecost

Day 3. Sunday. We pray for families that are suffering, who haven't yet recognized God's gifts in their children who are different, and for all those who don't recognise everyone's right to life

Come, Holy Spirit of Life, heal the hearts of wounded families, transform our society by your power and renew the face of the earth, so that everyone might live with full meaning and might be loved. Lord, we thank you that you so wonderfully change pain and suffering into joy and blessing. We especially pray for those who are going through a difficult moment - help them not to break down and to experience

your saving love. We also pray for lawmakers and doctors, that in their work they might protect all life.

Sequence of Pentecost

Day 4. Monday. We pray for new people (families and friends) to come to Faith and Light communities

Come, Holy Spirit of the love of the Father and the Son, invite more people to Faith and Light communities, so that as many hearts as possible might be revitalized by love, simplicity, sincerity and friendship. Lord, we thank you that you don't leave us alone and you give us friends. We pray that you bring more people to Faith and Light, and we especially pray for those communities that most lack new members.

Sequence of Pentecost

Day 5. Tuesday. We pray for the establishment of new Faith and Light communities

Come, Holy Spirit of Fellowship and Love, enlighten the hearts of families and friends, give them courage to create new Faith and Light communities, so that no person with disabilities be left without friends and without knowledge of Christ. Lord, we thank you that all over the world, in our province and in our country there are already many Faith and Light communities. We pray that there might be even more of them.

Sequence of Pentecost

Day 6. Wednesday. We pray for the Faith and Light communities that are experiencing difficulties and divisions or losing their vitality or growing old

Come, Holy Spirit Refresher, inspire us with new power and hope, show us solutions, help us overcome the obstacles, teach us to live in unity, humility and love, so that where all is dry, life may bloom again. Lord, we thank you for the challenges and difficulties with which you help us grow. We ask your help not to

break down, to live this period fruitfully and get to know your love even more.

Sequence of Pentecost

Day 7. Thursday. We pray for the unity of Christians and peace in the world

Come, Holy Spirit of Unity, unite your Church, that there may be no more scandal over divisions between brothers and sisters in the Christian faith. Heal our resentment and calm the pride in our hearts, so that all peoples might live in peace and harmony. Lord, we thank you for the grace of experiencing in a lively way in our province the desire for Christian unity and love for all peoples. We pray for peace in all the countries, especially in Syria, in Nigeria, we pray for peace between Russia and Ukraine and all the neighbouring states.

Sequence of Pentecost

Day 8. Friday. We pray for the Faith and Light communities in our country

Come, Holy Spirit, Renewer, watch over the Faith and Light communities in our country, help us all to live in unity, humility and love, assist us in difficulties, revive those who have lost strength and create new communities, so that in every town there might be at least a small part of the joy of your little ones. Lord, we thank you for all the years that we had Faith and Light communities. We pray that you make us more and help us always be faithful to you.

Sequence of Pentecost

Day 9. Saturday. We pray for every member of Faith and Light

Come, Spirit of Holiness, light up our hearts, pour out your gifts, help us to recognise them and make them bear fruit, increase our mutual love and friendship, teach us to do as much good as possible for your glory and to follow your way. Lord, we thank you for your infinite love, help us to become saints.

Sequence of Pentecost