



# PENTECOST NOVENA

MAY 22ND - MAY 30TH

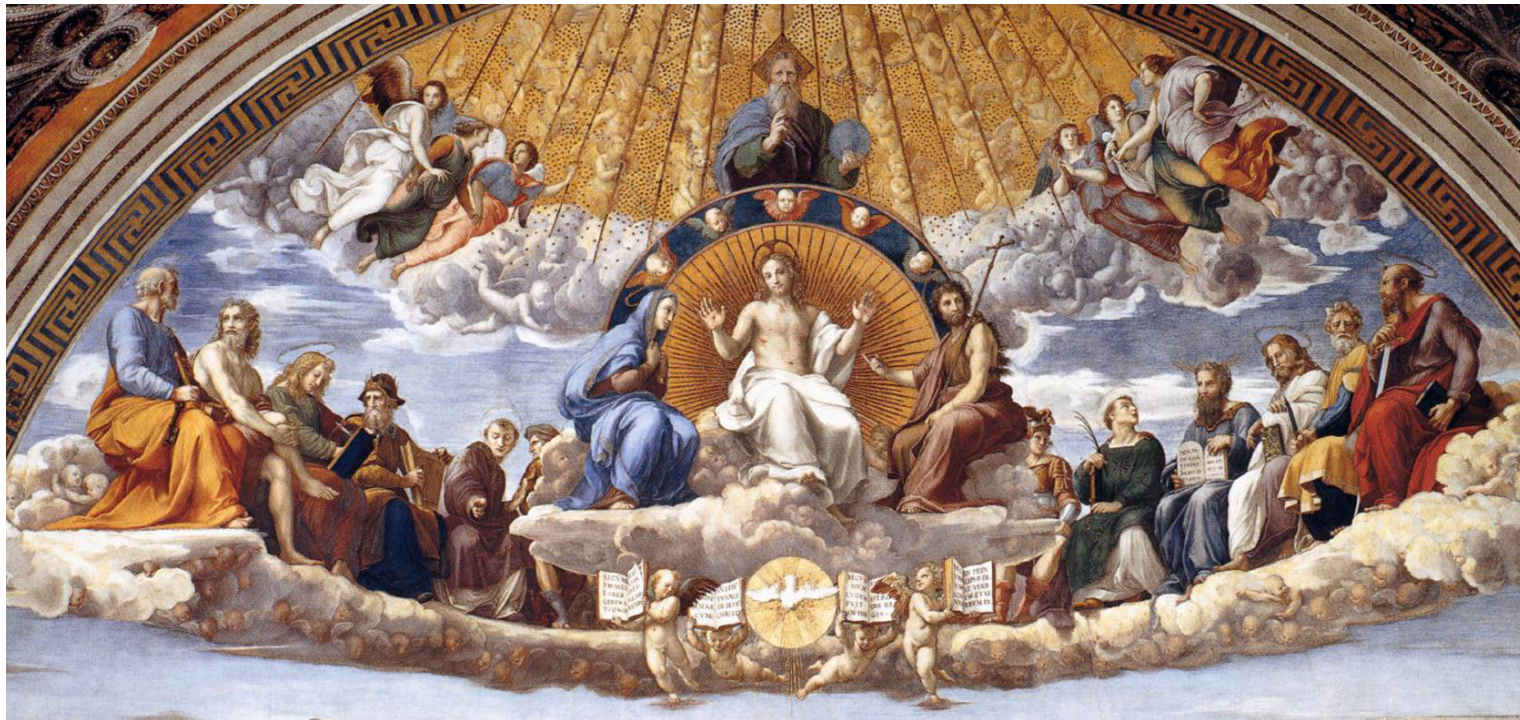
ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



# I - THE HOLY GHOST

“The just man, that is to say, he who lives the life of divine grace and acts by the fitting virtues as by means of faculties, has need of those seven gifts, which are properly attributed to the Holy Ghost. By means of them the soul is furnished and strengthened so as to be able to obey more easily and promptly His voice and impulse. Wherefore these gifts are of such efficacy that they lead the just man to the highest degree of sanctity; and of such excellence that they continue to exist even in heaven, though in a more perfect way. By means of these gifts the soul is excited and encouraged to seek after and attain the evangelical beatitudes which, like the flowers that come forth in the springtime, are the signs and harbingers of eternal beatitude. . . .These sublime truths, which so clearly show forth the infinite goodness of the Holy Ghost towards us, certainly demand that we should direct towards Him the highest homage of our love and devotion. Christians may do this most effectually if they will daily strive to know Him, to love Him, and to implore Him more earnestly. . . . What should be chiefly dwelt upon and clearly explained is the multitude and greatness of the benefits which have been bestowed, and are constantly bestowed, upon us by this divine Giver. . . . We owe to the Holy Ghost love, because He is God.”

– Pope Leo XIII - *Divinum illud munus*



NOVENA PRAYER

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL.  
AND KINDLE IN THEM THE FIRE OF YOUR DIVINE LOVE.  
SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT AND THEY SHALL BE CREATED.  
AND YOU WILL RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

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WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.  
AMEN.



## II - WISDOM



“Wherefore I wished, and understanding was given me: and I called upon God, and the spirit of wisdom came upon me: And I preferred her before kingdoms and thrones, and esteemed riches nothing in comparison of her. Neither did I compare unto her any precious stone: for all gold in comparison of her, is as a little sand, and silver in respect to her shall be counted as clay. I loved

her above health and beauty, and chose to have her instead of light: for her light cannot be put out. Now all good things came to me together with her, and innumerable riches through her hands, and I rejoiced in all these: for this wisdom went before me, and

I knew not that she was the mother of them all. Which I have learned without guile, and communicate without envy, and her riches I hide not. For she is an infinite treasure to men! Which they that use, become the friends of God, being commended for the gift of discipline. And God hath given to me to speak as I would, and to conceive thoughts worthy of those things that are given me: because he is the guide of wisdom, and the director of the wise.”

Wisdom 7:7-15

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### III - FORTITUDE

“Through this Gift, the Holy Spirit moves our human mind in a way that exceeds its natural, particular abilities so that we enjoy a full and perfectly well-founded confidence in the strength of God. This Gift enables us to endure and persevere in achieving arduous (hard-to-reach) goods and in sustaining sufferings. Of course, this spiritual work is ultimately and gloriously achieved by the Holy Spirit in us when he leads us to eternal life—the consummate end of all good works and the final escape from every danger. The Fortitude that is a Gift of the Holy Spirit operates as a certain, unshakable confidence that will see us through the terrors and trials of earthly life to the eternal joys of heaven. Endowed with Fortitude, we are prevented from giving in to any fear that menaces us on the way to God. Fortitude will not grant these fears a hearing. As a kind of holy censor, Fortitude removes all credibility and influence from the fear and discouragement that would turn us back from the way of Christ.”

– Fr. Peter John Cameron O.P.



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## IV - PIETY

“The gifts of the Holy Ghost are habitual dispositions of the soul, rendering it amenable to the motion of the Holy Ghost. Now the Holy Ghost moves us to this effect among others, of having a filial affection towards God, according to Romans 8:15, “You have received the spirit of adoption of sons, whereby we cry: Abba (Father).” And since it belongs properly to piety to pay duty and worship to your father, it follows that piety, whereby, at the instigation of the Holy Ghost, we pay worship and duty to God as our Father, is a gift of the Holy Ghost.”

– St. Thomas Aquinas

Summa Theologiae II.II:121:1



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# V - UNDERSTANDING

“In fact, because we have been created for and ordained to supernatural happiness, we remain ever restless and unfulfilled unless we reach beyond ourselves to certain deeper and ineffable truths. Yet we are not alone in our desire to understand and to be understood. God also wants to be understood—by us! And so he blesses us through the Holy Spirit with the Gift of Understanding, to endows us with a certain, intimate knowledge of himself. Saint Thomas Aquinas observes that human knowledge starts from the outside through our interaction with the things around us via the five senses. However, the natural light of understanding that we possess bears only limited power. In terms of comprehension, it can carry us just so far. Therefore, we require a supernatural light capable of piercing the boundaries restricting natural light so as to give us access to a knowledge we could never otherwise reach on our own. Such is the Spirit's Gift of Understanding. Thus,

Understanding serves to satisfy the urgent longings of our soul by enabling us to apprehend the truth about our final end: we are called to eternal beatific communion with God. This intellectual light of grace provides us with a right appraisal and appreciation of that ultimate end. At the same time, the special perception of the truth produced by Understanding prompts us to cleave to this end firmly as our greatest good. We come to grasp the value and importance of all things in its light.”

- Fr. Peter John Cameron O.P.



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# VI - KNOWLEDGE

“We witness the efficacy of the Gift of Knowledge in the holiness of the saints. Through the outpouring of grace from the Spirit, the saints possessed sure judgment in all matters of faith and practice so that they never strayed from the straight paths of justice and right faith. The Holy Spirit calls us to the same kind of holiness, and provides for it in his Gift of Knowledge.

The office and function of the Gift of Knowledge is to pass a right judgment about created things so as to purify and perfect our relationship with God. Creatures things can never stir us to spiritual delight unless



they are enjoyed in their fitting and proper relation to the Divine Good. In a special way, the Gift of Knowledge helps us to come to this right judgment about created things. It helps make us aware of the deadly loss created things may occasion when we stake our happiness on them. And it helps us to maintain a right and holy relation between God’ s uncreated Goodness and the things of creation that are designed to lead us to divine Goodness. The Gift of Knowledge instills in us solid sense of balance, proportion, and judgment.”

– Fr. Peter John Cameron O.P.

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## VII - COUNSEL



“The human person stands in a constant state of searching. The Catechism tells us that “only in God will man find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for .... He cannot live fully according to the truth unless he freely acknowledges the love of God and entrusts himself to his Creator.” In our searching, we need the invaluable guidance—the advice or “counsel” —of God, who knows all things... It is also highly significant that the Gift of Counsel liberates us from the trap of self-reliance. We are indeed only too-strongly inclined to depend on ourselves and our own resources in the pursuit of our goals.

Such radical individualism prevents us becoming truly mature persons and ensnares us an illusion of self-sufficiency. In reality, of course, maturity always involves a dynamic of mutual, life-giving interdependence, while recognizing our constant, fundamental, and very urgent practical need for God lies at the very root of the life of faith. Saint Thomas notes that even the angels in heaven consult God regarding their duties as our protectors and guardians. The all-wise prompting they receive from God also come from the Spirit, through a Gift of Counsel perfectly suited to the angelic intelligences. If the angels in all their power and holiness stand in need of practical advice from God, how much more do we who are ignorant, weak and still on our trial.”

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# VIII - FEAR OF THE LORD

“Fear is twofold, as stated above (Articles 2 and 4); one is filial fear, whereby a son fears to offend his father or to be separated from him; the other is servile fear, whereby one fears punishment.

Now filial fear must needs increase when charity increases, even as an effect increases with the increase of its cause. For the more one loves a man, the more one fears to offend him and to be separated from him.

On the other hand servile fear, as regards its servility, is entirely cast out when charity comes, although the fear of punishment remains as to its substance, as stated above (Article 6). This fear decreases as charity increases, chiefly as regards its act, since the more a man loves God, the less he fears punishment; first, because he thinks less of his own good, to which punishment is opposed; secondly, because, the faster he clings, the more confident he is of the reward, and, consequently the less fearful of punishment.”

– St. Thomas Aquinas Summa Theologiae II.II:19:10



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# IX - MARY, SPOUSE OF THE HOLY GHOST



“Built by Christ upon the Apostles, the Church became fully aware of these mighty works of God on the day of Pentecost, when those gathered together in the Upper Room “were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4).

From that moment there also begins that journey of faith, the pilgrimage of the Church through the history of individuals and peoples. We know that at the beginning of this journey Mary is present. We see her in the midst of the Apostles in the Upper Room, “prayerfully imploring the gift of the Spirit.”

In a sense her journey of faith is longer. The Holy Spirit had already come down upon her, and she became his faithful spouse at the Annunciation, welcoming the Word of the true God, offering

“the full submission of intellect and will...and freely assenting to the truth revealed by him,” indeed abandoning herself totally to God through “the obedience of faith,” whereby she replied to the angel: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”

The journey of faith made by Mary, whom we see praying in the Upper Room, is thus longer than that of the others gathered there: Mary “goes before them,” “leads the way” for them. The moment of Pentecost in Jerusalem had been prepared for by the moment of the Annunciation in Nazareth, as well as by the Cross.”

– Pope St. John Paul II – Redemptoris Mater

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