

## **Novena in Honor of God the Holy Spirit**

Prayers and Daily Meditations from:

### **The Paraclete: A Manual of Instruction and Devotion**

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### **Eighth day of the novena**

*"Give unto Thy faithful, who put their trust in Thee, Thy most sacred sevenfold gift"*

Along with sanctifying grace, the Holy Ghost infuses into your soul, the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity, and the germ of every other virtue, especially of the four great Cardinal virtues: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance. Now the Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost are bestowed upon you in order to assist you and the practice of the seven important virtues. It is thus the Divine Spirit places you wholly under His guidance and makes you capable of performing the most sublime and heroic deeds of virtue and perfection, and reach an eminent degree of holiness.

The gift of Understanding endows you with a keen insight into the hidden meaning of the revealed Truths of Religion, and thereby assists you in the practice of the Virtue of Faith.

The gift of Knowledge shows you how to set a right value on all things as viewed in the light of Divine Revelations, and thereby assists you in the practice of the Virtue of Hope.

The gift of Wisdom places all things before you in their relation to God, their first beginning and last end, and in relation to each other, and thereby assists you in the practice of the Virtue of Charity.

The gift of Counsel shows you what to do or to avoid under particular circumstances, and thereby assist you in the practice of the Virtue of Prudence.

The gift of Piety moves you to give to God that filial love and service you owe Him as your heavenly Father and respect each other as members of that universal Family, of which God is the Father, and thereby assist you in the practice of the Virtue of Justice which inclines the will to give everyone his due.

The gift of Fortitude imparts you special strength to overcome all difficulties in the practice of virtue, and thereby assists you in the practice of a virtue Fortitude.

The gift of Fear of the Lord, by making you sensible of your own nothingness as compared to the infinite majesty of God, keeps you in your right place, moderates your passions and desires, and thereby assist you in the practice of the Virtue of Temperance.

Do you realize what all this means? Oh, how can you ever sufficiently thank the Divine Spirit for all the aid He is constantly giving you.

You were born a slave to sin and misery. The Holy Ghost washed away sin, raised you to the dignity of the sonship of God and gave you a right to the eternal inheritance of heaven. But what can you do towards the attainment of heaven, if left to yourself, and yet you must do something.

Hence, the Holy Ghost Himself enables you to believe in God, to hope in Him, and to love Him above everything, and likewise to acquire and to practice every other virtue. But the practice of virtue also is, at times, very difficult, and even painful to poor human nature. This obstacle has likewise been removed by the Divine Spirit by bestowing upon you seven special gifts, which will render the practice of virtue sweet and easy. If with all this Divine Assistance, you fail to lead a good and virtuous life and reach heaven hereafter, surely the fault can only be your own.

Yet you must ever bear in mind that if you actually wish to possess the Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost, you must employ Him by humble and fervent prayer to bestow them upon you and enable you to use them. It is in the Sacrament of Confirmation that He grants you these Seven Gifts in a special manner. For it is then He strengthens you within the life of grace, so as to practice virtue and spite of all obstacles. But even then He will give them only in proportion to the fervor and earnestness of the prayers with which you teach Him to come to you. Yet at other times, you must also pray to Him for these Gifts; in fact, you should do so continually, for you need them continually. And the Holy Ghost, bestows upon you afresh His Divine Gifts each time you need them, and asked for them by humble prayer.

But here you are reminded to pray, not merely for yourself individually, but for all the faithful of the Holy Ghost, who put their trust in Him. "Grant unto Thy faithful who put their trust in Thee, the most Sacred Sevenfold Gift."

Who are the faithful of the Holy Ghost? Those whom He filled with faith in the Sacrament of Baptism. Hence, you should pray first on behalf of all the members of God's Church that the Holy Ghost who imbued them with faith, would please to complete His work in them by granting them His Seven Gifts which will enable them to practice and profess their faith openly in spite of all opposition and contradiction. And among the faithful you pray for those and special manner who have placed all their confidence in the Power of the Divine Spirit.

But while praying for those who already belong to the true faith, surely you will not forget to pray for those who are still deprived of the inestimable blessings of God's true Faith.

Then pray to the Holy Ghost and say to Him: Come, O Holy Ghost, fill the whole earth and lead all men to the knowledge of the one true Faith.

Come, oh Holy Ghost, and fill Thou the hearts of Thy faithful.

Without Thee, we can do nothing.

In Thee do we put all our trust.

Give unto us Thy most Sacred Sevenfold Gift.

Give us the spirit of understanding that we may believe in Thee more firmly.

Give us the spirit of Knowledge that we may hope in Thee more confidently.

Give us the spirit of Wisdom that we may love Thee more ardently.

Give us the spirit of Counsel that we may be more prudent all our actions.

Give us the spirit of Piety that we may be more just in all our dealings in regard to God and to men.

Give us the spirit of Fortitude that we may be able to overcome more easily all obstacles in the way of virtue.

Give us the spirit of the Fear of the Lord, that we may be more moderate in all things.

Thus assist us all continually, O Divine Spirit, by Thy sevenfold Gift, that we may glorify Thee on earth by a good and virtuous life and be glorified by Thee in the kingdom of heaven.