

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

Prayers and Daily Meditations from:

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

*By Father Marianus Fiege, O.M.CAP.*

*Written in 1899 (referencing pp.267—312)*

### **Sixth day of the novena**

1. *"Unless Thou givest, there is naught in man, but what is sinful."*

Since every gift of nature and of grace, that ever has been, can, or will be, bestowed upon you, proceeds from the Divine Spirit, it follows that, without Him, you are nothing; or if you wish to claim anything as your own, it is your sins and miseries.

In so far as God made you, you were made aright and filled with every blessing. If, therefore, you are now subject to sin and misery, this is your handiwork. Then, once more, humbly acknowledge your own nothingness and sinfulness, and your utter dependence on the Holy Ghost, and say to Him again with all fervor and devotion: Come, O Holy Spirit! Be Thou my Assistance; for without Thee, I am nothing but sin and misery.

2. *"Wash thou what is stained."*

It is sin which defiles the human soul. Original sin has, like a universal deluge, swept over the whole human race and now causes each soul that is born into this world to come into existence without that supernatural beauty and perfection which God had bestowed upon man in the beginning.

Actual sin adds to that original defilement, or, once more, disfigures the soul after has been adorned with Divine Grace. Mortal sin blocks out entirely that supernatural beauty and perfection with which a soul is endowed when in the state of grace. Venial sin soils and stains the white garment of sanctifying grace.

Who cleanses your soul from sin? It is the Holy Ghost. For He applies to you, the infinite merits of your Divine Redeemer, and washes, so to speak, your soul in the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Are you in sin? Oh! delay not to call upon the Divine Spirit. Diligently employ the means of pardon and reconciliation, and then pray to Him and fervently say: Come, O Holy Spirit! Cleanse my sinful soul from all stain and guilt of sin. Wash me yet more from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

3. *"Water what is parched."*

Look around you on a hot summer's day. All nature is languid. Vegetation seems to be withered and dried up. The soil is furrowed with deep cracks. What is amiss? The earth is parched and thirsts for rain. Such as a state of a soul that suffers from dryness and aridity. All spiritual activity seems to have died out. The soul finds no relish in doing what is right. It has, in fact, almost become barren of every good.

What is needed? The vivifying and refreshing showers of Divine grace. Yet why does the Holy Ghost, that Heavenly Cloud, withhold, at times, the outpouring of His grace, and leaves your soul parched and withered? It is chiefly because you have grown careless and neglectful in prayer. You pray but seldom; and when you pray you do so in a listless manner. There is no heart in it. You hardly know yourself what you are about. Surely, that is not prayer. No wonder that your prayers are not answered. No wonder that your soul becomes "like earth that is without water."

Yet bear in mind that even prayer itself is a special gift of the Holy Ghost; for, without Him you cannot pray

aright, or even know what you should ask for in prayer.

Then rouse yourself, and, with all the intensity of your being, call upon the Divine Spirit to grant you the gift, and the spirit of prayer, so that you may pray, on all occasions, in a manner pleasing to God. Such prayer will pierce the Cloud and draw down upon you the refreshing showers of heavenly grace. Then will your soul be clothed with verdure and bring forth an abundance of good fruit in due season.

4. *"Healed Thou what is wounded."*

Original sin inflicted a deep wound on the human soul. The mind was darkened, the will, enfeebled and enslaved, all power for good impaired, and human nature rendered prone to evil. By your own actual sins, you make the case still worse; for you add wound upon wound.

Your Divine Savior is the Good Samaritan that took compassion upon you. He bound up your wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and carried you to the Inn to be taken care of and nursed. Yes, the Church of Christ is the Divine Sanitarium where you will find in an infallible remedy for all the wounds and ailments of your soul.

The priests of God's Church are the legitimate Physicians authorized by God to probe your wounds and apply the remedies. The Word of God and the Divine Sacraments are the remedies they employ. But who is it that actually applies to your soul internally the soothing and healing balm of Divine Grace? This is the Holy Ghost.

Then do your best to make use of all the means prepared for you by your Divine Samaritan; but do not fail at the same time, to call upon the Holy Ghost, the Divine Physician of your soul, and say to Him: Come, O Holy Spirit! Thou heavenly Physician of my poor soul! Heal Thou the wounds inflicted on my soul by sin, that it may be strengthened, and live only for God.