

PENTECOST NOVENA - 2023

Prepared by AJSN – ARM Team

Daily Petition:

“Come Holy Spirit revive in us the Passion for the Mission of God”

General introduction

As SSPS, in the year dedicated to the passion for Global Mission, in Communion with the entire Church and the Arnoldus family, we prepare for the solemnity of Pentecost, fervently imploring the presence of the life-giving Spirit with his gifts and graces; May the Holy Spirit enable us to continue crossing multiple borders, to move away from our security and comfort, promoting spaces and moments of encounters with people where they are, especially those who are invisible or excluded by our world.

Friday May 19 (day 1)

THEME: SSPS LOVED AND PASSIONATE BY THE GOD OF LOVE

Initial song (choose)

Pray the sequence of Pentecost

Introduction to the topic of the day

Knowing that we are loved, called by our name and living in the heart of God fills us with joy. Let us ask the Spirit of Love to open our minds and our whole being to let ourselves be loved by Him, to fill us with that fire that will enable us to love ourselves and love everyone and thus serve with joy wherever we are sent.

Biblical Reading:

Is. 49,16: “Look, I have your name tattooed on the palm of my hands

Is.43,1-4: I have called you by name, you are mine...Because you are worth a lot in my eyes, because I love you and you are important to me”

Moment of individual reflection with the following questions:

1. What catches your attention in this Biblical text? Why?
2. What does God invite me to, challenge me to personally?
3. What grace, what lights, do I want to ask the Lord for from this Biblical Text?

Thoughts of Our Mother Josefa, invites us to meditate:

M. Josefa burned with such love for God and humanity, that the only thing she wanted was to lead everyone to God; Lead them in the way of God. M. Josefa still touches hearts. She will touch our hearts too, if we allow it.

M. Josefa made her life a constant prayer. On one occasion, when asked if she always prayed, she replied: "I don't really know, but I feel like I'm praying." In the center of her being, with her simple gaze motivated by the love of her heart, she glimpsed the veiled presence of the One and Triune God, with whom she was united in incessant prayer.

Spontaneous sharing

PRAYER

COME BURNING SPIRIT OF GOD

Come, incandescent FIRE in my deserts.

Come, burning SPARK that penetrates my heart.

Renew in me the event of Pentecost!

Inundate me with your Fire, refine the matter of which I am made, enter to the bottom of my being and embrace me in your love.

I want to be an ardent disciple of Jesus.

Help me realize his dream of love for humanity.

May that love transform all my passions, my human longings.
Come, fiery spark of God.
Come, Word that sets me on fire but does not destroy me.
Come, Breeze that warms the coldness of my soil.
Renew my inner being in the heat of your forge,
the disorderly ties and affections of my fragile and restless heart.
Melt my personal projects in His,
Make me faithful in a new and creative way,
May my thirst for delivery and donation not be quenched by fear
and the insecurity of my affective impulses, and not knowing how to welcome the life of the other.
Come Spirit of God the Father-Mother,
light me again in the fire of First Love. Amen

Concluding Song: A Song to Mary

Saturday May 20 (day 2).

THEME: SSPS CALLS TO LIVE PASSIONATE LOVE

Initial song (choose)

Pray the sequence of Pentecost

Introduction to the topic of the day

In the Greek translation "to fan" means to light a fire, let's imagine we were going to blow the little flame that wants to gain strength among the firewood. Those of us who have lit a bonfire know that fanning the embers of a dying fire can help the fire to reignite from these embers and burn more strongly. In his letter to Timothy, Paul wanted to encourage his disciple's faith, he wanted to revive in him the missionary charism to witness to the community the good news of the Risen Christ.

On this second day of the novena in preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit, let us make sure that we have the spiritual fire burning, even if it is still tiny, let us protect it, so that it does not decay. Let us fan our spiritual gift to keep the fire burning in this important mission in which from Baptism we are called to live the love of the Risen Christ.

Biblical Reading: 2 Tim1:6 I beg you to revive the gift you have received....

Moment of individual reflection with the following questions:

1. What catches your attention in this Biblical text? Why?
2. What does God invite me to, challenge me to personally?
3. What grace, what lights, do I want to ask the Lord for from this Biblical Text?

Spontaneous sharing

Prayer to Mother Josefa (May 20, BMJ party)

MOTHER JOSEFA, Woman sensitive to the weakness of her neighbor and careful of brotherly love. We believe that life in the Spirit is surprise and daily presence. Therefore, help us to discover the way and instructions of the Spirit.

MOTHER JOSEFA, Woman of missionary courage and silent bravery on the cross. We believe that following Jesus needs strong and fruitful women. Therefore, help us to walk in the presence of the Spirit.

MOTHER JOSEFA, Woman with a universal heart, who let yourself be filled by the Spirit. We believe that the missionary life is above all fidelity and commitment. Therefore, help us to let ourselves be flooded by the Spirit.

MOTHER JOSEFA, Woman open to the signs of the times, willing to be used and led by the Spirit. We believe that He is the only one who can remind us of the risen Lord. Therefore, help us to be sensitive to the Spirit.

MOTHER JOSEFA, Woman, whose fibers of soul and body were entirely occupied by the strength of the Spirit. We believe that without Him we cannot come to know the total Truth. Therefore, help us to be transparent to the Spirit.

MOTHER JOSEFA, Woman strong in faith, firm in hope, and deep in love. We believe that the Spirit is the silent and fruitful artist who makes us children in the Son. Therefore, help us so that our constant breath is: COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

Concluding Song: A Song to Mary

Sunday May 21 (day 3)

THEME: SSPS SENT TO OPEN HEARTS TO LOVE

Initial song (choose)

Pray the sequence of Pentecost

Introduction to the topic of the day

When I think of the immense love that God has for us, I like to say that God expresses himself in love from waste, because He gives without measure, has no limit. The proof of this is the giving of his son Jesus even to the death of the Cross. This really is loving to the point of madness!

All those who want to love in this sublime way must be rooted in God, because psychologically, in our daily relationships, love expressed in affection expects reciprocity. On the other hand, sublime love, charitable love can set aside its own interests with the sole purpose of donating itself to the smallest, the most vulnerable and marginalized.

We know that we need human love in our lives, but the basis of unending love is the love of God made flesh that encompasses the entire history of humanity. On this third day of our novena, we are invited to live from the reality of the Resurrection, the source from which we receive the impulse to know ourselves sent to open hearts to love.

Biblical Reading: Jn 3, 16 God Loved the World So Much

Moment of individual reflection with the following questions:

1. What catches your attention in this Biblical text? Why?
2. What does God invite me to, challenge me to personally?
3. What grace, what lights, do I want to ask the Lord for from this Biblical Text?

Spontaneous sharing

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

COME HOLY SPIRIT, MAKE ME WITNESS.

Witness of peace and resurrection, goodness and forgiveness.

Make me a witness of love and justice, of resurrection and joy.

Come, Holy Spirit, pour out on those you have created
the renewing force of your Spirit and ignite with your tenderness those unable to love.
Invigorate the weak and despondent who cannot get up.
Restore with your fire the trust of those who cannot trust.
Encourage those who are oppressed and cannot free themselves.

Come Holy Spirit, make me just and supportive
with the forgotten and excluded, help me to fight with hope,
to be able to celebrate and share fraternity.
Help me write history by recreating life.

Come Holy Spirit, revive
a new alliance, from the mud of my life,
a new vigor and a new response of fidelity.
Light the flame of my love.
Enlighten me and make me a witness in the mission
to make you known, to love you and glorify you in all towns. **Amen.**

Concluding Song: A Song to Mary

Monday May 22 (day 4).

THEME: SSPS PASSIONATE FOR THE MISSION IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Initial song (choose)

Pray the sequence of Pentecost

Introduction to the topic of the day

When reading the memories of the Sisters who remember her words or teachings, we discover that Mother Josefa united her presence and testimony with clear and simple words that, springing from love and experience, encouraged the Sisters in the Mother House as well as those who were away on the mission, to fidelity, to union with God, to the glorification of the Holy Spirit, to fraternal communion, to a simple life and to offer everything with love for the mission for the glory of God. In one of her letters to Sr. Andrea in Argentina she wrote: "In a foreign country there are always opportunities to make sacrifices. Let's do it willingly, cheerful, not with sad faces. The face is a mirror of the soul."

Biblical Reading: 1 Cor.12: 7-10 we each serve from our gifts and talents

"In each one, the Spirit manifests itself for the common good. The Spirit gives to one the wisdom to speak; to another science to teach, according to the same Spirit; to another faith, also in the same Spirit. To one is given the gift of healing, always in that one Spirit; to another, the gift of performing miracles; to one, the gift of prophecy; to yet another the gift of judging the value of the gifts of the Spirit; to this one the gift of tongues, to that one the gift of interpreting them. But in all this, it is the same and unique Spirit that acts, distributing his gifts to each one in particular as He desires."

Moment of individual reflection with the following questions:

1. What catches your attention in this Biblical text? Why?
2. What does God invite me to, challenge me to personally?
3. What grace, what lights, do I want to ask the Lord for from this Biblical Text?

spontaneous sharing

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, extract from the depths of the Trinity a ray of your Light and shed on us that Light that illuminates our minds, and at the same time, strengthen our will to follow it.

Come Father the poor, the poor in spirit, whom with your love you fill with the fullness of God. You don't just give us the good things: you give yourself as the supreme Gift, Gift of the Father and of the Son.

How refreshing is your Consolation! Caress that calms and dispels in an instant all sadness and doubt. You promise us victory when we fight against temptations. Your presence is our victory. You gently induce our timid hearts to trust in You.

You are our rest, our peace in the depths of our being when we carry out the greatest task: Give ourselves entirely to You. You dry our tears if we fall. You give us the grace to suffer for our faults and the sure hope of forgiveness.

Oh, delirium of Blessed LIGHT!
Fill the most hidden depths of the hearts of your faithful children!
Without you, neither the Divine Life, nor any virtue is possible in us.

If you withdraw your breath, our spirits perish and cannot be reborn
if you do not turn your gaze on us with your breath of Life.

Your presence is like dew, but you act firmly.
Although soft as a breeze, you are also in the whirlpool.
Like lava from a volcano, you make our faculties burn,
but only to melt the hardness of our hearts.

You throw us before You, like dry leaves in the strong winter wind,
but only so as to lead our steps to the narrow path.

Now, as if a mighty wind came, pour down torrents to wash away our sins.
Soak our deserted hearts with your grace, soothe the wounds you have cleaned.

Grant to all who trust in You with that authentic confidence that only You can give, your seven sacred gifts.
Grant us the reward of virtue, that is, Your very being!
Grant us perseverance to the end, and then eternal joy. Amen

Concluding Song: A Song to Mary

Tuesday May 23 (day 5).

THEME: SSPS PASSIONATE FOR THE MISSION AD INTRA AND AD EXTRA.

Initial song (choose)

Pray the sequence of Pentecost

Introduction to the topic of the day

Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well is a perfect expression of the necessary journey between the depth of the interior of the person and the movement out of oneself. Only those who allow themselves to be restored by the love of Jesus, who have tasted the living water, will have the energy to focus on the weaknesses and needs of their sisters and brothers. To make this journey and to find the source of grace requires a personal disposition for the transformation that the Samaritan woman underwent, allowing the sun's rays to unmask our vulnerability in the light of noon, so as to expose the false assurances with which we had covered ourselves, out of shame or neglect.

On this fifth day of our novena I let myself be seduced by the love of Jesus, in Him I will find restoration of my broken parts, I will be able to quench my thirst for emptiness and loneliness, and if I drink from the water he offers me, surely He will heal my deepest wounds. To tenderly welcome Jesus who inhabits us is to take the leap of looking at life with Easter enthusiasm.

Biblical Reading Jn 4:1-42 The Samaritan woman allowed herself to be transformed into a missionary for her own people.

Moment of individual reflection with the following questions:

1. What catches your attention in this Biblical text? Why?
2. What does God invite me to, challenge me to personally?
3. What grace, what lights, do I want to ask the Lord for from this Biblical Text?

Spontaneous sharing

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

SPIRIT THAT LIVES IN ME,

Open my heart to your presence today.

May your presence in me connect me to all living beings.

Open my heart to listen when you call my name.

Make your divinity and grace within me living energy
so that your love and goodness shine in the world.

Open my heart to your love.

Give me an available heart, open to hear the cry of the world,
of the world close to me and of that that is far away.

Quick to approach others with kindness, interest and compassion.

May you open all hearts to love, making the dream of Mother Josefa come true. Amen.

Concluding Song: A Song to Mary

Wednesday May 24 (day 6).

THEME: SSPS PASSIONATE FOR THE MISSION, GOING OUT AS A SYNODAL CHURCH.

Initial song (choose)

Pray the sequence of Pentecost

Introduction to the topic of the day

Pope Francis invites all Christians to renew and to move out of ourselves. He asks us to abandon our security and face the risk of leaving our comfort zone so as to bring the joy of the Gospel to those who do not know it. In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis tells us that an outgoing Church is a community of missionary disciples who lead, who get involved, who accompany, who bear fruit and celebrate.

- A Church on the way does not shut itself in, does not withdraw into its security: discern the ways of the Spirit, even if you run the risk of getting dirty with the mud of the road.
- A Church on the way is a mother with an open heart who goes out to meet those on the peripheries, prioritizing listening and accompaniment, more than the urgencies to be resolved.
- A Church on the way seeks to be the open house of the Father that shows a welcoming and understanding attitude towards those who come to our Christian communities. Let us not be afraid to review our religious customs that may be very far from the Gospel, or norms that no longer have educational force as channels of Christian life (EG#24,45,46).

On the sixth day of our novena, let us continue to implore the presence of the Holy Spirit with all fervor and confidence. May the Holy Spirit, give us a renewed love and enthusiasm for the Mission of God, following the example of our founding generation; strengthen us in the commitment to create and promote welcoming, open communities that are rooted in contemporary realities. As communities, lifelong learners, let us rehearse ways of walking in synodality, with the gaze and heart of God, who continues to meet a humanity that cries out and awaits gestures of new life in the Spirit.

Biblical Reading: Acts 10: 9b- 23 Peter after the vision is sent to the house of Cornelius

Moment of individual reflection with the following questions:

1. What catches your attention in this Biblical text? Why?
2. What does God invite me to, challenge me to personally?
3. What grace, what lights, do I want to ask the Lord for from this Biblical Text?

Spontaneous sharing

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

God of light, strength and love, who are present, acting in history and in each one of us, I consecrate myself to You, committing myself to the truth and to life.

Confirm me in trust in You, in openness to my brothers and sisters and in the authenticity of living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Confidently, I put myself under your direction, with all that I am and have. I give you my skills and talents, and my entire being in its human frailty.

Spirit of Love, make me an authentic witness of Christ, committed to building your Kingdom of justice, fraternity and peace.

Holy Spirit, evangelizing force and guide of the Church, revitalize and renew the faith of all Christians, so that all peoples can experience the love of the Father and the happiness of being brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Concluding Song: A Song to Mary

Thursday May 25 (day 7).

THEME: SSPS PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S MISSION, CROSSING MULTIPLE BORDERS

Initial song (choose)

Pray the sequence of Pentecost

Introduction to the topic of the day

Since the beginning of his pontificate Pope Francis has constantly invited us to be outgoing missionary disciples, to go in search of the sheep, to go beyond our own borders. He tells us in Document *Evangelii Gaudium* n°36, to leave no doubts, he tells us clearly what the content of that announcement is: "The beauty of God's salvific love manifested in Jesus Christ who died and is risen." This means that we have to ensure that everyone sees the beauty of the love that God has, that they recognize that love in Jesus Christ which was delivered to the end on the cross and that they experience that love in the encounter with the risen Jesus Christ, truly alive. It is love that saves us: "Those who allow themselves to be saved by it are freed from sin, from the sadness of interior emptiness, from isolation. With Christ joy is always born and reborn".

Biblical reading: Acts 1,1-11 They will be my witnesses...

In my first Book, dear Theophilus, I was referring to everything that Jesus did and taught, from the beginning until the day he ascended to heaven, after having given his last instructions through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles he had chosen. After his Passion, Jesus manifested himself to them, giving them numerous proofs that he lived, and for forty days he appeared to them and spoke to them about the Kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he recommended that they not go far from Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father. "The promise," he told them, "that I have announced to you. Because John baptized with water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit, within a few days." Those who were assembled asked him, "Lord, is it now that you are going to restore the kingdom of Israel?" He answered them: "It is not for you to know the time and the moment that the Father has established with his own authority. But you will receive strength from the Holy Spirit who will descend on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, the Apostles saw him rise, and a cloud hid him from their sight. As they remained with their eyes fixed on the sky while Jesus was going up, two men dressed in white appeared to them, who said to them, "Men of Galilee, why do you keep looking at the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken from you and was raised up to heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him leave."

Moment of individual reflection with the following questions:

1. What catches your attention in this Biblical text? Why?
2. What does God invite me to, challenge me to personally?
3. What grace, what lights, do I want to ask the Lord for from this Biblical Text?

Spontaneous sharing

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

COME HOLY SPIRIT OF LOVE,

Create in me an ecclesial and Missionary Heart, that loves your Church and following its example, opens paths of Love to the ends of the earth.

Create in me a Missionary Heart, that I can hear the cry of the people, especially the cry of those who need your mercy most.

Create in me a Missionary Heart and have the courage to leave EVERYTHING for the cause of the Gospel and the Mission.

Create in me a Missionary Heart that knows how to welcome the laity so that together we continue the mission of Jesus, to build the Kingdom.

Create in me a Missionary Heart, that in your strength and joy we work so that the love of God the Trinity is better known, loved and glorified by all people. Amen.

Concluding Song: A Song to Mary

Friday May 26 (day 8).

THEME: SSPS PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S MISSION, WHEREVER LIFE CRIES

Initial song (choose)

Pray the sequence of Pentecost

Introduction to the topic of the day

The Spirit is the Spirit of Life and prompts us to be present in situations where life has less opportunity, where the dignity of the human being is trampled on and people are excluded and marginalized – this is what our missionary charism also asks of us. A perceptive spirituality helps us to recognize those small acts of compassion that restore hope and dignity to those fallen by the wayside....

Jesus, the good Samaritan, par excellence, with a sensitive heart, with a compassionate look, sees our falls by the side of the road, knows our tiredness, and the wounds we carry, with gestures of tenderness he approaches and does what our hearts long for. Jesus invites us to cultivate this sensitivity of the heart, which is manifested in compassion for those who suffer.

Preparing ourselves to live the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, let us live this moment in prayer to remember our experiences of Compassion and Care, of our call to be instruments of compassion in our wounded world, where life cries out for gestures of compassion. We do not want to pass by so many people who are injured on the path of life. We want to get closer and spread compassion to express tenderness, offer the oil that heals, and the wine that soothes, recreates and falls in love. A single gesture of care and compassion can heal wounds, save and restore the dignity of a brother or sister assaulted and wounded on the path of life...

We approach the Biblical Story of Lk 10: 25-37: parable of the Good Samaritan

Moment of individual reflection with the following questions:

1. What catches your attention in this Biblical text? Why?
2. What does God invite me to, challenge me to personally?
3. What grace, what lights, do I want to ask the Lord for from this Biblical Text?

Spontaneous sharing

PRAYER to the HOLY SPIRIT

Spirit! Power and passion of my being, inject your love into me and move my fragmented life, preparing me to consecrate myself to you, call always present even in more insignificant moments.

Spirit! Source of vision, timely guide, bathe my moments of choosing not what is false but what is true. Take me along the paths of goodness and abundance, teaching and supporting me in your love.

Spirit! Blessing for the tired heart, wrap me with your loving energy and fill me with your loving strength, energized with tenderness. Deepen faith in me and strengthen me in your dynamism in the midst of my weakness and tiredness.

Spirit! Breath of life, touch of mystery who is like an inner connecting thread. For you everything recovers unity. Grant me to keep an eye on interdependence and fill me with compassion and a deep faith that knows no limits. Because of you, life recovers its unity and keeps us interdependent. Keep me on the lookout for this interdependence.

Spirit! Place of dwelling, sanctuary of silence, you are the one I long for. In you I find comfort, and at the same time you challenge me. Grant me to stay open to the inspirations of your transforming force so that I can know the power of your company. AMEN.

Concluding Song: A Song to Mary

Saturday May 27 (day 9).

THEME: SSPS PARTICIPANTS IN THE MISSION OF GOD COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF THE COMMON HOME

Initial song (choose)

Pray the sequence of Pentecost

Introduction to the topic of the day

Creation becomes conscious in the human being. If we did not exist, why would God have created so much beauty? Only the human being, image of the Creator, is capable of singing to Creation.

An ecological spirituality supposes in the first place an empathic connection with reality; with the entire cosmos, not only with "living" nature, but with the entire reality of matter. An empathic connection that goes beyond "materiality", opening up to its spiritual dimension. We are part of the cosmos; it is essential for us to live in harmony with creation in order to be at peace with ourselves. An ecological spirituality is a way of conceiving God and the relationship with him, going from an attitude of domination to an attitude of caring for the gardener, to an image of God as a Trinitarian relationship, a God who goes out to meet Humanity, a God who cares what happens to human beings and the cosmos.

Pope Francis, in his proposal for the "Laudato Si" action plan, calls on all of humanity, which is in urgent need of leaders who inspire care for our common home to stop environmental degradation. "Humanity is in need of leaders who feel part of the world community; of leaders who pray, work and act for the care of our common home".

As women disciples open to the Holy Spirit, we stand in solidarity with the collective responsibility that all human beings have and we raise our prayer for forgiveness to God, our Creator. On this last day of our novena, we implore that the life-giving Holy Spirit continue to transform our Missionary Hearts, making us sensitive to the cries of so many human beings who suffer the consequences of our mistreatment and neglect of our common home.

Bible Reading: Rom 8: 22-27 the entire creation groans in labor pains...

Moment of individual reflection with the following questions:

1. What catches your attention in this Biblical text? Why?
2. What does God invite me to, challenge me to personally?
3. What grace, what lights, do I want to ask the Lord for from this Biblical Text?

Spontaneous sharing

Prayer OUR ECOLOGICAL FATHER

Our Father who art in the forest, in the sea, in the desert and in the city.

Hallowed be your creation, full of development, strength and life.

May your wisdom come to us, to protect and develop the beauty that you have given us, which is in the flower and the rainbow, in the water, and in the fertile mother earth, in the warm breath of the sun and in the cool darkness of rest.

Lord, your will be done, so that we may be human beings in your image and likeness, those of us who assume the challenge of maintaining the vital process of creation.

Give us today the greenery of each day, in the meadow and on the mountain, in the garden and on the earth that is dying.

Forgive our irresponsibility, by not taking care of what you have given us, as we, out of love, forgive polluters; and we vehemently urge them to stop their work of destruction.

And do not let us fall into desertification, which leads to death, which denies your work and annihilates life. **and free us from conformism**, so that our lives can be transformed into a dynamic force that reproduces life. Amen.

Concluding Song: A Song to Mary