

ASCENSION TO PENTECOST IN PRAYER

'All the apostles joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary, the mother of Jesus' (cf Acts of the Apostles 1:14)

One way to pray these nine days of prayer, the first and original novena, is to pray the great 9th century hymn *'Come Holy Ghost, Creator Come'* each morning and evening.

Come, Holy Ghost, creator, come,
From thy bright heav'nly throne.
Come take possession of our souls,
And make them all thy own.

Thou who art called the Paraclete,
Best gift of God above,
The living spring, the living fire,
Sweet unction and true love.

Thou who art sevenfold in thy grace,
Finger of God's right hand
His promise teaching little ones
to speak and understand.

O guide our minds with thy blessed light,
With love our hearts inflame;
And with thy strength, which never decays
Confirm our mortal frame,

Far from us drive our deadly foe;
True peace unto us bring;
And through all perils lead us safe
Beneath thy sacred wing.

Through thee may we the Father know,
Through thee the eternal Son,
And thee the Spirit of them both,
Thrice-blessed Three in One.

All glory to the Father be,
With his coequal Son;
The same to thee, great Paraclete,
While endless ages run.

SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT LORD, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

'Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, Come' is an anonymous 19th century translation of the 9th century Latin hymn, *'Veni Creator Spiritus'*, attributed to Rabanus Maurus (766-856), a German Benedictine monk.