

A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

as we come out of Lockdown

Come Holy Spirit, Creator,

and infuse in us the inspiration and power of Jesus.

Without your prompting and grace we will not succeed in believing in him;

We will not have the courage to follow his footsteps;

the church will not be renewed;

our hope will die out.

So come and create in us the life-giving spirit of Jesus.

Come Holy Spirit,

and remind us of the inspiring message Jesus gave us.

Without your light and witness to him,

we will continue to forget the loving face of God;

the gospel will become a dead letter;

the church will not be able to proclaim any good news.

So come and teach us to listen only to Jesus.

Come Spirit of Truth,

and make us walk in the truth of Jesus.

Without your light and guidance we will never free ourselves of our errors and lies;

nothing new and true will be born among us;

we will be like the blind who try to guide the blind.

So come and make us disciples and witnesses of Jesus.

Come, Spirit of the Father,

and teach us to call God 'Father', as Jesus did.

Without your warmth and your joy,

we will live as orphans who have lost their father;

we will invoke God with our lips but not with our hearts;
our prayers will be empty words.
So come and teach us to pray with the words and heart of Jesus.

Come Spirit of Goodness,
and convert us to the project of the 'kingdom of God' begun by Jesus.
Without your power to renew, no one will change our tired hearts;
we will not have the courage to build a more humane world following God's will;
in your church the last will never be the first;
and we will continue in our bourgeois religion.
So come and move us to collaborate in the project of Jesus.

Come, Spirit of Love,
and teach us to love one another with the love Jesus loved.
Without your living presence among us,
the communion of the church will collapse;
the hierarchy and the people will go on distancing themselves from one another;
divisions will increase, dialogue will die out and intolerance will increase.
So come and reignite in our hearts and our hands the fraternal love that makes us like
Jesus.

Come, Liberating Spirit,
and remind us that Christ freed us to be free
and to not allow ourselves to be crushed again by slavery.
Without your strength and your truth we will not know the love that gives life,
but only our selfishness that kills it;
the freedom that makes the children of God grow among us will vanish,
and we will continue to be victims of fears, cowardice and fanaticism.
So come Holy Spirit and create in us the freedom of Jesus.

(Pentecost Prayer – José Pagola from *Following in the Footsteps of Jesus* (B))