

INTRODUCTION

This week, we are all invited to be closer to the Holy Spirit, the third person in the Holy Trinity. What does it mean to have a closer relationship with the Holy Spirit? It means to know Him more because how can we be in closer relationship with the Holy Spirit if we don't have a full knowledge of Him. Most of the time in our Christian life the Holy Spirit remains an abstract and a mysterious person in the Holy Trinity. Yes, we pray to Jesus and we pray to the Father, but what about to the Holy Spirit? This week is our great moment to become closer to the Spirit of God. By listening to Him and allowing Him to reveal more of Himself to us, we can feel His presence within us in our daily life. In this way the Holy Spirit will be more visible in our personal lives and in our Verbum Dei Missionary family.

As a missionary family, we need to be open to the Holy Spirit, to receive Him every moment of our Verbum Dei missionary life. For it is the Holy Spirit whom Pope John Paul II reminded us as "the principal agent of the mission". Thus the Holy Spirit is indispensable in our Verbum Dei Missionary family. The Holy Spirit is the only true Helper, the Divine Consoler and Advocate. "Do not banish me from your presence, do not take your Holy Spirit away from me (Psalm 51:11)." This is the humble prayer of King David. He knew very well the importance of the Holy Spirit in his life and in leading his people according to the will of God.

Furthermore, the Holy Spirit is the giver of life. He is "life" himself. "...The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph descendants of David do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife for it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. She will have a son and you will name him

Jesus (Matthew 1:20)". The life of Jesus comes from the Holy Spirit as the Son of God. So it is also with our very own lives. It also comes from the Spirit of God as we are also God's children. In fact, the Holy Spirit is regarded as the breath of God. It is the same Spirit who gives life to us just as how God breathed life to the lifeless human clay in the palm of His hand.

MONDAY

The Holy Spirit is my Guide

¹ Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert **(Luke 4:1)**

² Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and people. **(Luke 2:52)**

⁵ "I am telling you the truth," replied Jesus. "No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ A person is born physically of human parents, but is born spiritually of the Spirit. ⁷ Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must all be born again. ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit." **(John 3:5-8)**

"The Holy Spirit is our guide as we journey in this life. He is the Spirit of God who watched over us when God the Father formed us in the womb of our mother. The Holy Spirit is the giver of life. He is the very breath of God. The Holy Spirit is what we receive in our baptism and makes us children of God as it was also shown in Jesus when he was baptized in Jordan River. The Holy Spirit is within us constantly guiding us to make us understand who God the Father and who God the son is in our life.

What does it mean to believe in the Holy Spirit? Did I see His presence in my daily life? How is He guiding me every day?

TUESDAY

The Holy Spirit is my Helper to find the TRUTH

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you for ever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and is in you.

(John 14:16-17)

²⁶ "The Helper will come — the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God and who comes from the Father. I will send him to you from the Father, and he will speak about me. **(John 15:26)**

²⁶ The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you. **(John 14:26)**

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth. He is the one who enables us to understand the love and mercy of God which is greatly expressed to us through Jesus. Today, Jesus is inviting us to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit in our prayers. That's why we need to pray every day to allow the "Helper" to come. Jesus is reminding us again that the Holy Spirit will not just come at random. We need to wait for Him in our daily prayers. "Come Holy Spirit; come to us in your own special way." Our world today is very much in need of this Helper that He may put to order what seems to be chaotic. We need Him to help us find the TRUTH most especially in what is going on now in our society today. The Spirit of TRUTH will help us stand up in the middle of many lies which lead our people astray.

What is the truth that the Holy Spirit is leading us today? How do I live my life with the Spirit? Am I aware that the Holy Spirit is leading me always in my following of Christ and as a VD disciple?

WEDNESDAY

The Holy Spirit is the motor of our Discipleship

¹⁶ God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children.

(Romans 8:16)

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. ² Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak. **(Acts 2:1-4)**

The Holy Spirit is the principal agent of evangelization; it is He who impels each individual to proclaim the Gospel, and it is He who in the depths of consciences causes the word of salvation to be accepted and understood. **(EN # 75)**

The Holy Spirit is always with us every single moment of our daily activities since He dwells within us. As we come to the knowledge that we are God's children, how wonderful it is to witness the love of God in our life for other people and to proclaim that great identity that we have that we are God's children. There are many people around us who are not aware of their identity as God's children and they never recognize the love of God for them. This is what the Holy Spirit is pleading to us as Verbum Dei Missionary family that is to become His helper and advocate to all people everywhere, to proclaim and to

witness the love of God that we receive. The awareness of God's love is the only true way to renew the heart of the people. How many hearts that need to be renewed and to be transformed in our society today, thus, renewing the face of the earth?

"Come Holy Spirit Come and renew the face of the earth."

Do you see the urgency of the mission? Are you willing to work with the Holy Spirit in the mission? Are you ready to speak with the boldness of faith through a boldness of service?

THURSDAY

The Holy Spirit will teach us How to Pray

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are. For we do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express. **(Romans 8:26)**

How wonderful that today we can see the Holy Spirit as our real Advocate. He is speaking in our behalf to the Father. As Fr. Jaime Bonet our founder says, "A truly apostolic life is an abundantly contemplative life." A life that is constantly praying, where the center is the word of God. What a grace from God in showing us today that the Holy Spirit stands for us to speak in our behalf to the Father. There's nothing to be afraid of in our unworthiness and weaknesses in front of God for there's the Holy Spirit who pleads for us in groans that words cannot express. The only important thing we must do as disciples of Christ in the Verbum Dei missionary family is to fall on our knees in front of God daily, to be humble in front of the Father and to ask his mercy and love. As a VD disciple we need to grow in our dialogue with God daily. We need the Advocate to help us and to allow Him to transform us into the person He wants us to be.

How is your prayer life this week? How's your prayer life as a VD disciple? Are you humble enough to dialogue with God daily?

FRIDAY

The Holy Spirit is the Divine Consoler

"... But this same Spirit who brings sin to light is also the Consoler who gives the human heart grace for repentance and conversion." **(CCC 1433)**

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have seen how cruelly my people are being treated in Egypt; I have heard them cry out to be rescued from their slave-drivers. I know all about their sufferings,⁸ and so I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them out of Egypt to a spacious land, one which is rich and fertile and in which the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites now live. **(Exodus 3:7-8)**

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you."²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **(Jn 20:21-22)**

The Holy Spirit is our true Divine Consoler who comforts us in times of afflictions and sufferings. We are able to go beyond our pains simply because our Divine Consoler never gives up on us. We can always count on Him to encourage us and give us the hope that we need in each moment. As we acknowledge Him as our Divine Consoler, He is also sending to us all our brothers and sisters who are afflicted, depressed and pessimistic about life. We are sent to them in order to breathe on them the words of consolation, the words of hope and the words of life.

Who are the afflicted and suffering brothers and sisters you have around you? Are you willing to breathe on them words of

consolation, words of hope, and words of life that comes from above?

SATURDAY

The Holy Spirit is the Creator of Communion

¹ I urge you, then — I who am a prisoner because I serve the Lord: live a life that measures up to the standard God set when he called you. ² Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another. ³ Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ there is one God and Father of all, who is Lord of all, works through all, and is in all. ⁷ Each one of us has received a special gift in proportion to what Christ has given. **(Ephesians 4:1-7)**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **(2 Corinthians 13:14)**

What a great blessing to discover the communion of the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit within us which will empower us to be initiator of that communion as well in our family, school, offices and society as a whole. As baptized Christians, this is actually our calling to be initiator of communion in a world where division is prevalent. This communion is possible as we imbibe in us the values of the Gospel. In this way we safeguard the gift of unity that the Spirit gives.

Are you ready to collaborate in initiating communion in the place where you are? Are you aware the special gift of communion given by the Holy Spirit to you?

Verbum Dei

GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER

"The Holy Spirit... will teach you everything"

(c.f. Jn 14:26)

Week 4: In the Holy Spirit

Sept. 23-29, 2013

Objective of the Week:

To intensify our relationship with the Holy Spirit and be open in allowing Him to lead our life and the whole of our VD family.