



We often refer to the Holy Spirit as the “Paraclete,” from the Greek *paraklētos* (“called to be at the side of”). The Spirit is also called the “Advocate,” from *advocatus*, the Latin rendition of *paraklētos*. In the Gospel, Jesus declares to the disciples precisely this role of the Spirit: the Spirit will be their defender; he will guide them to “all truth” about Jesus.

Luke presents the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (“fiftieth”), fifty days after the Passover which marks Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection. The Passover is actually the Jewish feast of the Shavuot which celebrates the giving of the Law at Sinai, fifty days after the Pesach/Passover that marks the departure of the Israelites from Egypt. The signs of the descent of the Spirit—a strong driving wind, tongues as of fire—recall the great theophany in Sinai: the presence of God accompanied by fire, earthquake, and trumpet blast (Ex 19:16-19).

The divine presence is not always marked by nature’s “upheaval.” The prophet Elijah felt God’s presence in a tiny, whispering sound by the cave in Mt. Horeb (1 Kgs 19:12). Likewise, the Spirit manifests himself in a gentle way, as a life-giving breath that the risen Christ bestowed upon the disciples in the evening of his resurrection (Jn 20:22).

In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke relates events showing the Holy Spirit guiding the early Christian community. The Spirit does not do

## THE SPIRIT GUIDES US TO ALL TRUTH



by Fr. Gil Alinsangan, SSP

it in an obtrusive way; the believers have to undergo the normal, human process at arriving at the resolution of issues that face them as believers. In the “Council of Jerusalem” the apostles and elders listen to Peter, to Barnabas and Paul, and to James, and most probably also to some others, before deciding on issues that concern the Jewish and Gentile believers. They do not hear the Spirit actually speaking, but convinced of the guidance of the Spirit, they can affirm: “It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities” (Acts 15:28). The Spirit guides gently, like a small voice, but full of power.

This is the way the Spirit blows through the ages. In most important events that touch the life and direction of the universal Church, the Spirit lets the People of God and their leaders undergo the normal process of prayer, discernment, dialogue, debate, and even confrontation to arrive at common decisions. Such is the process that happens in synods and ecumenical councils in the Catholic Church.

Without doubt, the most important

event in the Catholic Church’s life in this day and age is the Vatican Council II. What we know and experience of Catholic life today stems from the teachings of that Council. Reading the 16 documents promulgated by Vatican II Council today feels like they were produced with an air of serenity, with the Council Fathers following the blow of the Spirit. But in fact, some of the documents were hotly debated and even contested. The Church’s most authoritative teaching is the product of people exercising their wisdom, freedom, perspectives, personal opinions and biases, until they can say, “It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us...”

There is no turning back to the pre-Vatican II life for Catholics, although pockets of resistance still exist among those nostalgic of the former age. Modern Popes, from Saint Paul VI to Pope Francis, have pushed forward the application of Vatican II teachings. Pointing to some divisions in the Church after the Vatican Council II, Pope Francis says that it is permissible to think differently from one another, but always “in the unity of the Church, under Jesus the Shepherd.” Some ideas and positions create divisions that break the unity of God’s people. The Pope warns against those who think that their ideas are more important than the Holy Spirit who guides God’s people.

Vatican II is the work of the Holy Spirit.

### PASTORAL CATECHESIS FOR THE YEAR OF *MISSIO AD GENTES*

#### *Missionary Commitment in the Third Millennium*

Fr. James H. Kroeger, MM

The local Church in the Philippines, as noted earlier, sponsored the successful National Mission Congress in 2000 as a programmatic “first step as a local Church into the Third Millennium.” This perspective continues the implementation of the National Pastoral Plan that emerged from the 1991 Second Plenary Council of the Philippines: *In the State of Mission: Towards a Renewed Integral Evangelization*. In a word, missionary evangelization describes the dynamic, pastoral mission vision of the Philippine Church in its faith journey with the Filipino people.

A definite sign of a vibrant local Church is its mission outreach. In mid-2000 Catholic Filipino missionaries numbered 1,329 women and 206 men from 69 religious congregations serving in some 80 countries. The bishops established the Mission Society of the Philippines (1965). Maryknoll founded the Philippine Catholic Lay Mission (1977).

Cardinal Sin established the San Lorenzo Mission Institute (1987), whose goal is serving the Chinese; its patron is San Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint, canonized on October 17, 1987. Pedro Calungsod, beatified on March 5, 2000 and canonized on October 21, 2012, inspired the successful National Mission Congress in 2000. Several lay movements successfully engage in mission outreach (e.g. Knights of Columbus, Couples for Christ, *Cawad Kalinga*, *El Shaddai* movement, *Ligaya ng Panginoon*, and many others). Mission is alive in the local Church!

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Entrance Antiphon** (Wis 1:7)  
*(Recited when there is no opening song.)*

**The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.**

### Greeting

*(The sign of the cross is made here.)*

**P** — The Lord be with you.  
**All** — And with your spirit.

### Introduction

*(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)*

**P** — Pentecost marks a fresh start for all of us. Jesus announces the peace that comes with his victory over death. He gives us the Holy Spirit with the power to forgive and conquer sin. Like the apostles, we are strengthened by the Spirit to face the challenges of the world. The Holy Spirit showers us with gifts. Let us use these for the building up of the Church, the Body of Christ.

### Penitential Act

**P** — Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. (Pause)

**P** — You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

**All** — Lord, have mercy.

**P** — You came to call sinners:

**All** — Christ, have mercy.

**P** — You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

**All** — Lord, have mercy.

**P** — May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All** — Amen.

### Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you**

**thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### Collect

**P** — Let us pray. (Pause)

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**All** — Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD



### First Reading (Acts 2:1–11) (Sit)

*Luke describes the descent of the Holy Spirit in tongues as of fire which rest on the apostles and fill them with courage to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. Pentecost marks the birth of the Church, the new people of God.*

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

WHEN THE TIME for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began

to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

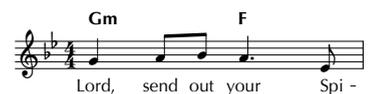
— The word of the Lord.

**All** — Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 104)

**R** — Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

A. Tuazon



1. Bless the LORD, O my soul!/  
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!/  
How manifold are your works, O LORD!/  
The earth is full of your creatures. (R)

2. If you take away their breath,  
they perish/ and return to their dust./  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,/ and you renew the face of the earth. (R)

3. May the glory of the LORD endure forever;/ may the LORD be glad in his works!/  
Pleasing

to him be my theme; / I will be glad in the LORD. (R)

## Second Reading

(1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13)

*The Spirit is the bond of unity; his varied gifts should lead not to division but to unity and peace in our community.*

## A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

— The word of the Lord.

**All — Thanks be to God.**

## Sequence

**All — Come, Holy Spirit, come! And from your celestial home shed a ray of light divine!**

**Come, Father of the poor! Come, source of all our store! Come, within our bosoms shine.**

**You, of comforters the best; you, the soul's most welcome guest; sweet refreshment here below;**

**In our labor, rest most sweet; grateful coolness in the heat; solace in the midst of woe.**

**O most blessed Light divine, shine within these hearts of yours, and our inmost being fill!**

**Where you are not, we have naught, nothing good in deed or thought, nothing free from taint of ill.**

**Heal our wounds, our strength renew; on our dry-**

**ness pour your dew; wash the stains of guilt away:**

**Bend the stubborn heart and will; melt the frozen, warm the chill; guide the steps that go astray.**

**On the faithful, who adore and confess you, evermore in your sevenfold gift descend.**

**Give them virtue's sure reward; give them your salvation, Lord; give them joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia.**

## Alleluia (Stand)

**All — Alleluia, alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel (Jn 20:19–23)

**P —** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**All — Glory to you, O Lord.**

ON THE EVENING of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

— The Gospel of the Lord.

**All — Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily (Sit)

## Profession of Faith (Stand)

**All — I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; on the**

**third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Faithful

**P —** Let us ask the heavenly Father to fill us with the Holy Spirit, who will aid us in our weakness and be our advocate and guide. Full of trust, we pray:

**R — Through the power of the Holy Spirit, listen to us, O Lord.**

**C —** Fill the hearts of our Church leaders with your Spirit, that they may discover their charisms in order to actively participate in proclaiming your truth to all. We pray: (R)

**C —** Send your Spirit to government and civil leaders and rekindle the fire of their heart, that they may use their power and authority in the service of truth and liberation of our people from poverty. We pray: (R)

**C —** Fill all consecrated men and women, missionaries, and workers of evangelization with your Spirit, that the Good News of salvation may reach the whole world and people may come to know you and your Son Jesus. We pray: (R)

**C —** Send your Holy Spirit to comfort the elderly, the sick, and the dying, and to give eternal life to those who have died. We pray: (R)

**C —** Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: (R)

**P —** Father in heaven, listen to your people gathered in prayer. Send us your Holy Spirit and transform us, as you transformed the disciples at Pentecost.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All — Amen.**

**Presentation of the Gifts (Stand)**

**P** — Pray, brethren...

**All** — May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

**P** — Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All** — Amen.

**Preface: The Mystery of Pentecost**

**P** — The Lord be with you.

**All** — And with your spirit.

**P** — Lift up your hearts.

**All** — We lift them up to the Lord.

**P** — Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** — It is right and just.

**P** — It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, bringing your Paschal Mystery to completion, you bestowed the Holy Spirit today on those you made your adopted children by uniting them to your Only Begotten Son. This same Spirit, as the Church came to birth, opened to all peoples the knowledge of God and brought together the many languages of the earth in profession of the one faith.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

**All** — Holy, Holy, Holy... (Kneel)

**Acclamation (Stand)**

**All** — We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

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**THE COMMUNION RITE****The Lord's Prayer**

**All** — Our Father...

**P** — Deliver us, Lord...

**All** — For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

**Invitation to Peace****Invitation to Communion (Kneel)**

**P** — Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All** — Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

**Communion Antiphon**

(Acts 2:4, 11)

**They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.**

**Prayer after Communion (Stand)**

**P** — Let us pray. (Pause)

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All** — Amen.

**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

**P** — The Lord be with you.

**All** — And with your spirit.

**Solemn Blessing**

**P** — Bow down for the blessing. (Pause)

May God, the Father of lights, who was pleased to enlighten the disciples' minds by the outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, grant you gladness by his blessing and make you always abound with the gifts of the same Spirit.

**All** — Amen.

**P** — May the wondrous flame that appeared above the disciples, powerfully cleanse your hearts from every evil and pervade them with its purifying light.

**All** — Amen.

**P** — And may God, who has been pleased to unite many tongues in the profession of one faith, give you perseverance in that same faith and, by believing, may you journey from hope to clear vision.

**All** — Amen.

**P** — And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**All** — Amen.

**Dismissal**

**P** — Go in peace, Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All** — Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!