



School of Leaders (SOL) The Holy Spirit & The Cursillo

E. Paul Semmens
July 2012

But the Spirit gives life.

-St Augustine, Sermon 136, 5



Agenda



- † Bible Enthronement & Reflection
- † Leader's Prayer
- † Reflection & Floating Group Reunion
- † Technique Talk: Holy Spirit
- † Discussion/Announcements
- † Closing Prayer





Leader's Prayer



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- † Lord grant that we may understand the necessity for depth in our Movement, rather than surface glory. Convince us of the truth that colorful programs do not constitute success.
 - † My God, give us a spirit of self sacrifice so that we may offer everything for Your cause: our time, our abilities, our health and even our lives if necessary. Instill in us courage in our initiatives, good judgment in our choice of the right means, and that determination, which in spit of failures, assures victory.
 - † Move away from us the tiny rivalries, sensitivities, discourtesies, pride, everything which distracts from You, everything which divides or discourages.



Leader's Prayer con't



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- † Help us to maintain at a high level, a meaningful supernatural and mutual charity among ourselves, so that each one will seek by preference, the most humble task and will rejoice at the good performed by others, so that all our spirits, united in a common purpose, will have one single spirit, Yours Jesus, and that this spirit may let us see Your attractive goodness marked in all our faces, Your warm accents in all our words, and in our lives something superior to the world, something that proclaims Your Living Presence among us. Amen
 - † Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas, Pray for US.
 - † St Paul, Patron of the Cursillo, Pray for US.



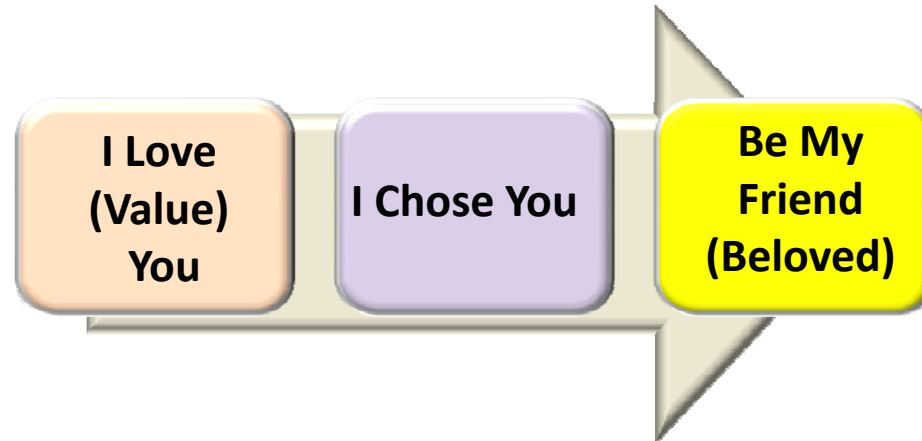
Technique Talk



Last Time We Discussed Friendship



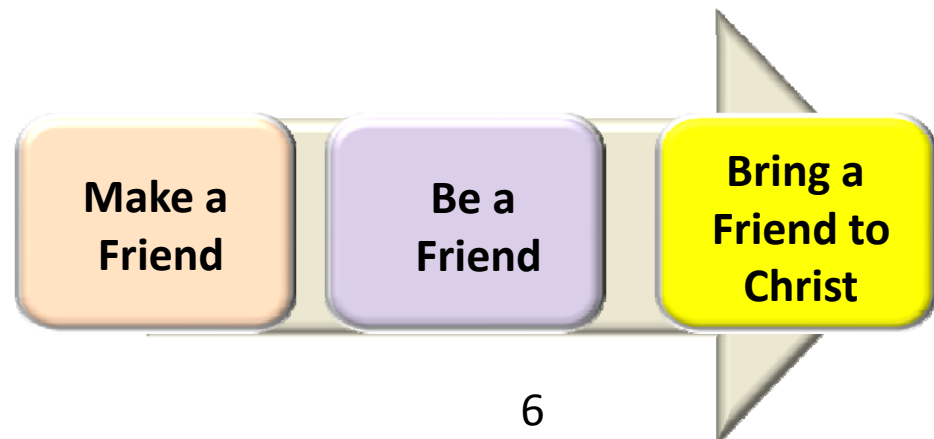
† Jesus told us:



† Jesus also told us to Love on another

† So the Cursillo Charism, method is through encounters with God (piety); self (study) we prepare ourselves to encounter others in our environments (action)

† We do this by being friends:

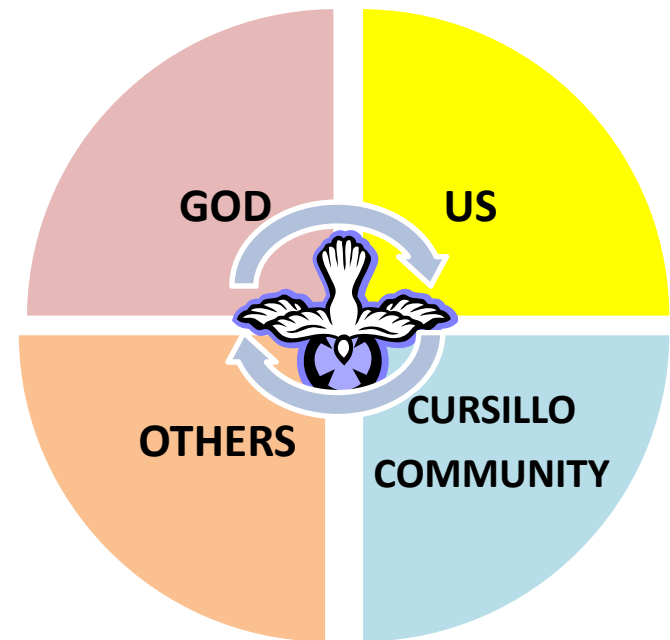




The Holy Spirit and the Cursillo



- † Jim Davis, our last Clausura speaker said most Christians are Resurrection People
- † He noted that Cursillistas are Pentecostal People due to our deep reliance on the Holy Spirit
- † What does that mean?





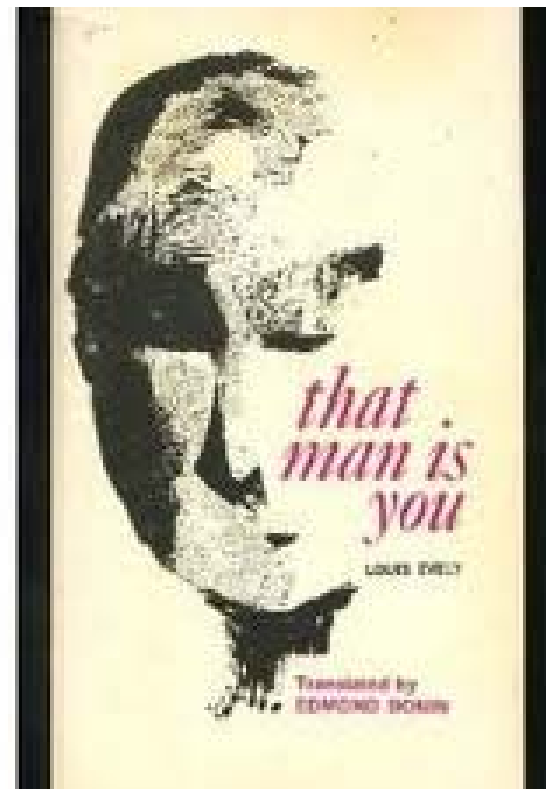
The Cursillo Prayer to the Holy Spirit



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- † Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of us, your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth.
- The Spirit is love
 - She can change us by filling our hearts with love
 - We are Her instruments; with Her help we can renew the face of the earth
- † O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, instructs the hearts of the faithful, grant that by that same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord, Amen
- The Spirit will teach us so we can be wise, that is discern what is right
 - As Cursillistas we should always “....we give you thanks almighty God for all your benefits...; our rejoicing in consolations is giving thanks



Following Thoughts on the Holy Spirit are From Father Louis Evely, That Man is You





Initial Thoughts



- † Pentecost proved that God had become flesh, not for 33 years but for all time; and that He'd shared with us the very thing that constitutes His life—in other words, His Spirit of love—forever.
- † Pentecost inaugurated the irrevocable and perpetual presence of Christ in the world. But where? In your humanity and mine. That's where He now continues His work of incarnation and redemption: the incarnation of God and the redemption of the world.
- † Pentecost was a more earth-shaking event than Christmas
- † Pentecost means that man's been invited to become God. Not only has God stooped down to us but He wants to lift us all the way up to Himself.
- † This was no longer God, submerged in anguish, becoming man; but a whole group of men, bathed in light and bliss, becoming God. "You'll do greater things than I," Jesus promised, with His Church in mind



...and You shall renew the face of the earth



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- The Holy Spirit begets a “new man” because[once] they’ve acquiesced and allowed themselves to be pervaded by this spirit of interchange and love, this spirit of communion
 - Each heard them speaking in his own language” —no linguistic feat, this, no super Berlitz; just proof that love makes us such that every man feels he’s understood, cherished, happy, close to us.
 - It’s only through love that we have access to the Spirit of Love, and His consolation consists in perpetually enabling us to love on another all over again.
 - His gifts and His work are essentially commutative. He operates through the mutual love of the faithful, a spirit of brotherly love and fellowship.



...Kindle in Us the fire of your love



- † The Holy Spirit, who makes the Father go out toward the Son and the Son toward the Father, must also make us go out toward one another
- † [Each of Us] Destined to give himself, he can find fulfillment and happiness only in others...he can know and love himself better when someone frees him from his ego and shows him his true nature.
- † We bear the same relation to God as we bear to others: we're no closer to Him than we are to them.





**Come Holy Spirit...kindle in us the fire of your
love...we shall be instructed...and you shall renew
the face of the world.**



- † You'd heard it said you could find Me in putting up with your neighbor, but you didn't suspect that could be so difficult
- † Our real guilt can best be gauged, not by what we do, but by what we fail to do. Our indifference to others offends God.
- † Doing nothing is what'll damn us.
- † We stay in our little sphere—to preserve our virtue....A “Catholic circle” is a contradiction in terms.
- † “Sheltered” surroundings are places where the Holy Spirit's been made sterile. He's a creator, not a conservator
- † All those Christ spoke to after His Resurrection were went forth, oriented outward, propelled toward others.
- † Sinning against the Holy Spirit means preferring self-sufficiency, isolating ourselves from this exhausting communion, reaffirming our autonomy and repelling the temptation to start loving all over again, for God never stops tempting us: He's always ambuscaded [ambushed] in our hearts.



Key Thoughts



Holy Spirit



- ...fill the hearts of your faithful
- ...and kindle in us the fire of your love
- ...we shall be created
- ...you will renew the face of the earth

Holy Spirit is God – God is Love

The Spirit is Active; in us, around us, through us

The Spirit is the link between us and God; encounters with God and self change us

- ...instructs the hearts of the faithful
- ...so we may be truly wise
- ...and ever rejoice

The Spirit animates, instructs and guides us

The Spirit helps us in exactly the right way

The Spirit does most of Her work undercover & by stealth, not just to those who call



Discussion Questions



- † How can I enable the Spirit to work more fully through me as I use the Cursillo Methodology?
- † How do I prevent the Spirit from being able to work in my life, in the life of my Cursillo brothers and sisters, in the Cursillo Movement?
- † What actions must I take more fully to allow the Spirit to work in my life?



Summary



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- † Cursillistas believe in the grace and power of the Holy Spirit
 - † She holds all we do together
 - She creates us and fills us with the fire of God's love
 - She instructs us and energizes us so we can implement our piety, study and action
 - † Cursillo is God's movement but if we were specific, it is the Holy Spirit's movement



Announcements



SoL News



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- † Remote SoL is third Thursday of each month at 7PM. Attendance information is at cursillo.org/birmingham
 - † Change to the bylaws:
 - Recommendation has been introduced that states to be a member of the SoL, Cursillistas must attend a SoL session *physically* once a quarter and routinely participate in remote telecoms
 - Second change to the bylaws has been introduced which states no weekends will be scheduled until 16 candidate applications are on hand. Team formation will not begin until date has been approved.
 - Secretariat will vote on this change at the July meeting
 - Scheduling appointment with Bishop Baker to get them approved
 - † Pastoral Plan in draft by EOM July
 - † Next SoL is 2d Saturday of August in Cullman, 0930 (August 14)



SoL Six Month Schedule



	Jan	Feb [Ultreyas]	Mar [Ultreyas]	Ap [Cullman]	May [Cullman]	June [Cullman]
Doctrine	Role of the SoL	Ultreya Role	Ultreya Role	Sister Anne Marie	Sister Anne Marie	Theology of Friendship
Technique	Bylaw Revision	Ultreya Conduct	Sponsorship	Palanca	New Team Member Orientation	Being a Friend
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doctrine	The Holy Spirit	TBD				No SoL
Technique	The Holy Spirit & Cursillo	Set Up				



SoL Action Log



ISSUE	POC	STATUS
Revise By Laws-last updated Mar 12	SoL	Changes include scheduling of weekends and remote SoL guidance
Develop a list of potential alternate sites for the weekend	Secretariat	Partially Complete
Need to update Ultreya Facilitators on Web Site	Post Cursillo	Working
Need to identify all <i>groups</i> on Cursillo website	Post Cursillo	Working
Provide list of eligible team members to 3 day chair for Cursillo #s 127 & 128	SoL	Complete
Update Bylaws and schedule an appointment with Bishop Baker once approved	SoL	Working



Discussion



Closing Prayer



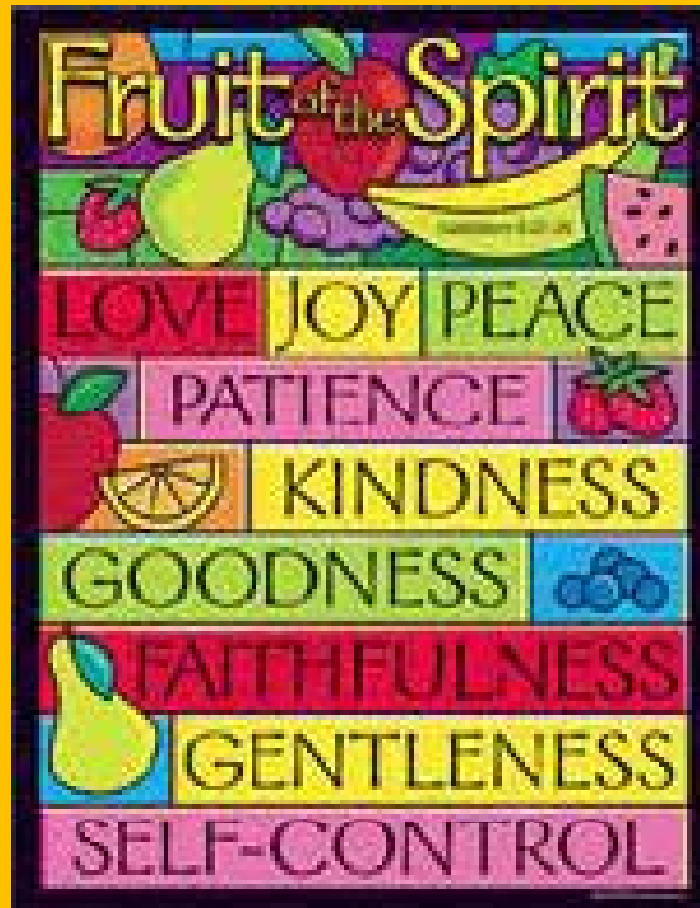
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- † Dear Lord, we must have fraternal charity, or we can accomplish nothing for you.
 - † In loving you, help us to have a genuine concern for one another, a generosity in sharing one another's burdens, a gallantry in defending the reputation of our group, a sincere sympathy in sharing one another's suffering and sorrows, and a joy in sharing their spiritual growth.
 - † By this shall all men know that we are your Apostles. Amen.

The Northern Alabama School of Leaders



I Am Third

Back UP Charts





Gifts of the Holy Spirit

(From the Novena to the Holy Spirit)



- † Love: the Spirit is the Spirit of light, strength and love
 - She enlightens the mind, strengthens the will and inflames the heart with the love of God
- † Fear of the Lord: the Spirit teaches us humility and filial submission to God
 - It is fear beginning of wisdom, detaching ourselves from worldly affairs that separate us from God and praising God
- † Piety: the Spirit inspires us to love God and respect persons and things consecrated to Him
 - One filled with Piety finds the practice of religion a delightful service vice a burdensome duty



Gifts of the Holy Spirit

(From the Novena to the Holy Spirit)



- † Fortitude: the Spirit strengthens the soul against fear and supports the performance of duty
 - Fortitude is the impulse and energy to take under without hesitancy the most arduous tasks, danger, or human abuse
- † Knowledge: gives the ability to evaluate created things in relation to God; reveals emptiness and pretense
 - Shows us the loving care of God even in adversity
 - Directs us to glorify Him in all things
 - Gives us the ability to put first things first
- † Understanding: gives us the ability to grasp and appreciate the meaning of our religious truths
 - Inspires a way of life that bears testimony to the faith inside us



Gifts of the Holy Spirit

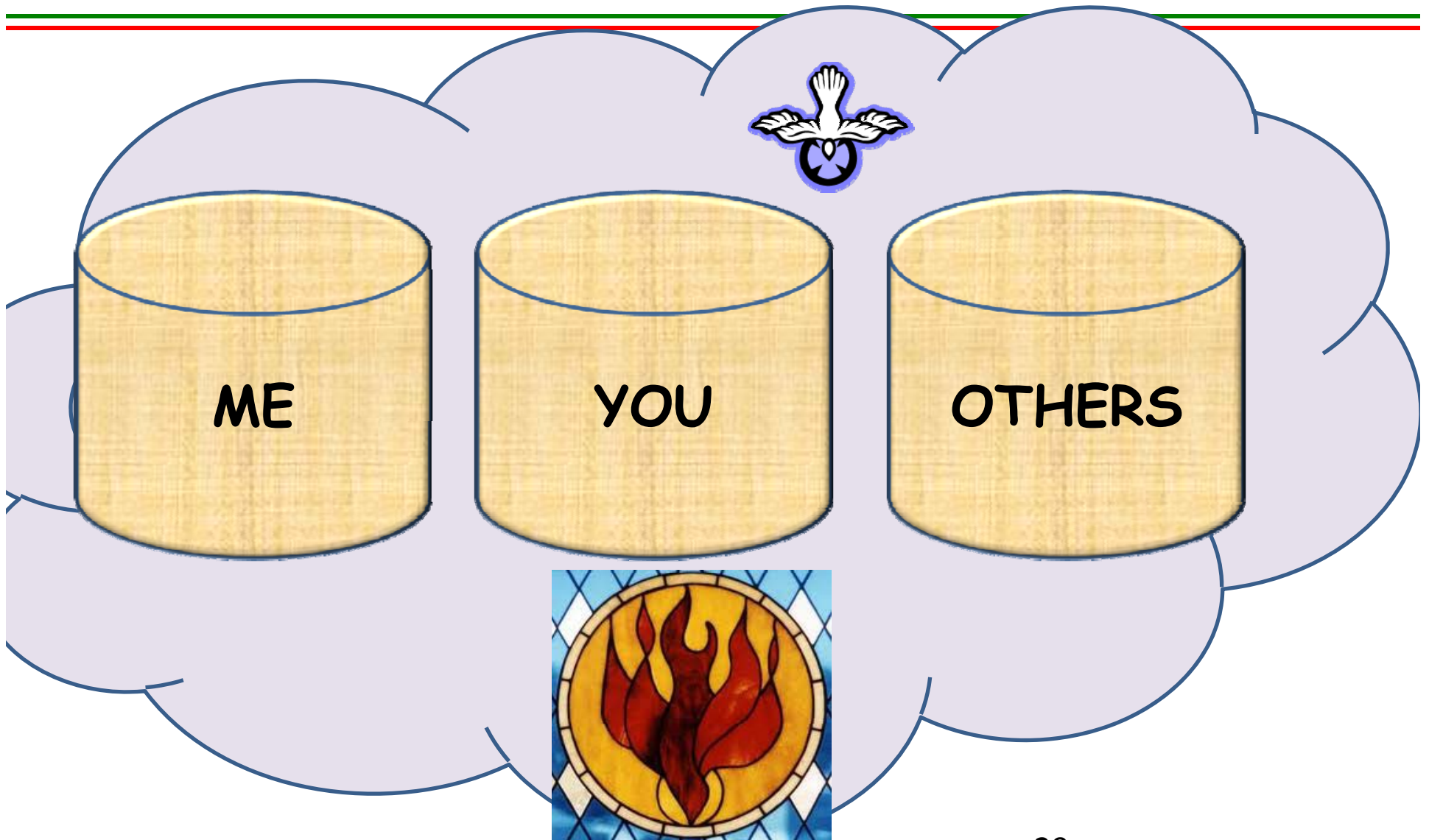
(From the Novena to the Holy Spirit)



- † Counsel: allows the soul the ability to judge what must be done
 - Guided by the principles formed as a result of knowledge & understanding
 - Supernatural common sense
- † Wisdom: is the most perfect of all gifts; strengthens faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity and promotes virtue
 - Wisdom lets us discern things divine and appreciate earthly joys of our Savior
- † **Fruits of the Holy Spirit:** perfect virtue by allowing us to practice them with greater docility to divine inspiration
 - We become more sincere and generous, our practice of virtue more perfect
 - Acts of virtue fill the heart with joy and consolations that motivate us to still greater efforts



Doctrinal Talk





The Holy Spirit Prayer Has two Parts



- † Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of us, your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth.
- We are asking for God to create us in His image: LOVE
 - We are admitting that God can change US
 - So we can be his instruments to change the world
- † O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, instructs the hearts of the faithful, grant that by that same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and *ever rejoice* in His consolations, through Christ our Lord, Amen.
- Asking God to talk to us, to teach us so we can be wise
 - So we can thank and praise God for His many gifts to us





Holy Spirit Prayer Part I



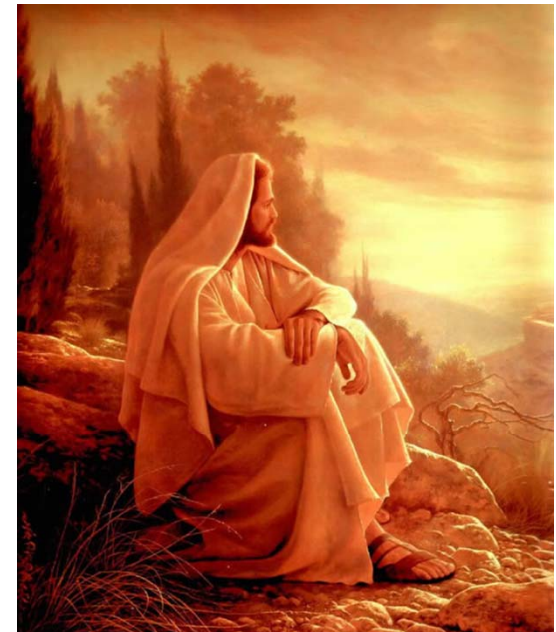
- † Come Holy Spirit, *fill the hearts* of us, your faithful and kindle in us the *fire of your love*. Send forth your Spirit and *we shall be created* and *You shall renew* the face of the earth.
- † All the words used to describe the Spirit are active: fire, wind, alive, moving, universal
- † Cursillistas believe Pentecost is every day; the Holy Spirit is Here; all we have to do is be awake and recognize Her presence; the presence of God, of Love
 - The Spirit is here; in us, around us, between everything
 - The Spirit is actively involved in our lives; She is not an intellectual belief
 - Interaction with God is an interaction with Love. Our piety allows us to encounter God's love



Holy Spirit Prayer Part II



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- † O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, *instructs* the hearts of the faithful, grant that by that same Holy Spirit we may be *truly wise* and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord, Amen.
 - She meets us where we are and helps us in exactly the right way; She teaches, She motivates, She inspires
 - The Spirit overcomes the obstacles that we create and surrounds us with enough peace so we can endure, accept wounds and persevere
 - The Spirit animates, instructs and guides us.
 - The Spirit does most of Her work undercover; by stealth and disguise and not just in response to those who call Her
 - † As Cursillistas, we believe that the Spirit will teach us the way
 - † Knowing one is with God produces an incomprehensible joy





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- † Sinning against the Holy Spirit means no longer believing He can change the world because we no longer believe He can change us.



The Holy Spirit



- † We say the Holy Spirit Prayer before we begin anything
- † Let's reflect on it
- † Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts **of us**, your faithful and kindle in us the fire of you love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, instructs the hearts of the faithful, grant that by that same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord, Amen.





Thoughts on the Holy Spirit



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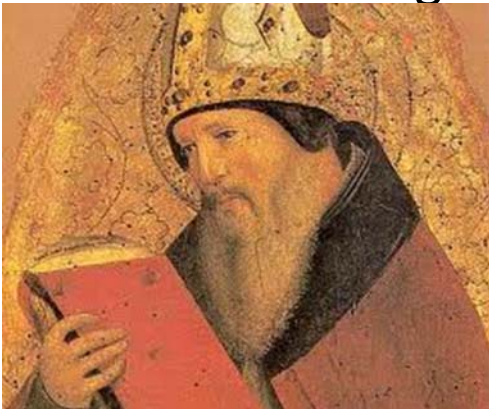
The Spirit



- † You have received the law, and you wished to keep it but were unable to do so. You have fallen through pride, and realized your weakness. Run to the Physician and wash your face.
- † Long for Christ, confess Christ, and believe in Christ. The Spirit will be added to the letter (world), and you will be saved. If you take away the Spirit, the letter kills, and then what hope will remain? *But the Spirit gives life.*

- St Augustine, Sermon 136, 5

- † Excellent guest that He is, the Spirit finds you empty and fills you; hungry and thirsty and satisfies you abundantly.



... Spirit, Who comes from God, when He enters into
... them to the love of God and neighbor. Indeed He is

- St Augustine, Sermon 225,4