

# Reflection for August 2009: The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit

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**11. We are to make the Holy Spirit better known and loved. By steadfast prayer in our Cenacles we seek to *attract the Holy Spirit* so that our own hearts may be enkindled with God's love and that we may spread this fire to others. We ask to be filled with the gifts of the Spirit, wisdom and fortitude especially.**

The movement of the Spirit in Religious Life in Latin America is calling us to a mystical prophetic life. On the worldwide level this gust of the Spirit is expressing itself in a movement toward a Religious Life more impassioned with Christ and more impassioned with humanity. In sum, it is about a life whose starting point is a deep personal experience of God. At the same time it is a life that offers itself to us, as it is born from the commotion caused by the dramatic realities we experience today in the world, in our countries and their peoples. Right now, as I gather these thoughts, anguish and worry fills me over the possible disastrous results of the current political crisis in my own country of Honduras. We are all aware of the never ending list of lamentable situations and events occurring wherever. A passion for Christ, a passion for humanity, mystical, prophetic...O Come, oh Holy Spirit!

Father Judge constantly invites us to be creative in our faith in order to attract the Holy Spirit. With the impetus of these blowing winds I just mentioned, I think that our call now is to be docile, attentive, open.

The grace of the last years in our community and Missionary Family has brought us to appreciate the evolution of our spiritual exercises in which we take stock of our spiritual patrimony, our vowed life, our mission.

We could even say that the real challenge now is to live the spirit of the Missionary Cenacle Spiritual Exercises in the providence of our daily lives in mission. Most certainly, to speak of our devotion to the Spirit of the Father and the Son is to speak of obedience, both for those who serve in authority as well as for those subject to that authority. It is an invitation to the Church to live in docility to the Spirit.

In one sense, the sum total of our efforts at obedience and docility solidifies the faithfulness of our missionary community, as it learns to recognize the ever growing need we have to continue on our path in the heart of this Family, which we continue to celebrate in joy and thanksgiving.

Among the other expressions that give flesh and bone to the movement of God's life breath in our times are the voices of new generations of Religious Life in Latin America which call us to live an ever deepening life in our encounter with the Risen One, to a practice of a genuine community life that overcomes all superficiality, cynicism and individualism, and lastly really challenges us to step out of our comfort zones, to make our faith manifest by inserting ourselves into the midst of those men and women whose lives are the place where Christ suffers so terribly.

Indulge me as I share with you a simple prayer that I composed in an exercise to promote creativity, and which, perhaps, might help us to nourish and bring together our love for the Holy Spirit:

Come, oh Holy Spirit, Come, Spirit of the Father and the Son

Come Spirit of Love, Everlasting Love

Make me your paintbrush, make me your pen, make me your melody

to the glory of God. Amen.

#### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

1. Do you have a personal prayer to the Holy Spirit? Would you be able to write a new one from what you find in your own heart and from the vantage point of your life in mission?
2. One of our brothers has pointed out that the taking of counsel is one of the best ways to attract the Holy Spirit. How is this practice working for you in your Cenacle and in your personal life?
3. In your own particular mission, how is God's Spirit, who loves justice and hears the cry of the poor, taking on flesh or inspiring concrete options for us?
4. Given the current economic situation, what temptations could present an obstacle to our faithfulness to the Spirit who led Father Judge to guide this Missionary Family through the terrible economic depression of the 30's?