

# Augustinian Friends - Prayer Resource Guide From our Chaplain

Feast of Pentecost 2012

Dear Friends,

St. Augustine loved to lead his people through the yearly re-telling of the saving actions that God carried out in our world in the Lenten passing of his Son through suffering and death on the cross to the Easter triumph of the resurrection and ascension, culminating in the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the infant faith community on the Feast of Pentecost. *"Today's solemnity makes us remember the great Lord God and the great grace that has been poured out over us. That, after all, is why a solemnity is celebrated, to save something that only happened once from being lost to the memory."*

*(Sermon 267)*

God's 'grace' is the Spirit itself whom Augustine, the Doctor of Grace, tells us *"breathes into us the love that makes us burn with desire for God, and have us think lightly of the world, and rid ourselves of dross so that the heart is purified like gold."* *(Sermon 227)*

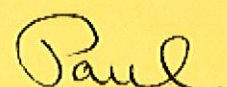
A number of times in his Pentecost sermons throughout the years Augustine warned his listeners not to be upset that we no longer have the gift of tongues which the Holy Spirit bestowed on the first group of 120 gathered in the upper room. *"The Church was then in one house, it received the Holy Spirit; it consisted of a few people, it consisted of the languages of the whole world. The fact, I mean, that that small Church was speaking with the tongues of all nations, what else can it signify but that this great Church 'from the rising of the sun to its setting' is speaking with the tongues of all nations. Now is being fulfilled what was then promised."*

*(Sermon 267, 3)*

For Augustine, the gift of the Holy Spirit, more important than that of speaking many languages, was the bond of unity and peace which comes into our hearts when we allow the love of God to transform our souls. He uses the analogy of the soul animating the body and all its particular parts to that of the Holy Spirit animating the Church and all its particular members. *"What the soul is to the body of a human being, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ, which is the Church: the Holy Spirit does throughout the Church what the soul does in all the members of a single body . . . If you wish to live by the Holy Spirit, preserve charity, love truth, and desire unity so that you may attain to the truth."* *(Sermon 267, 4)*

It is easy to see why this Solemnity of Pentecost is so central to Augustine since the Holy Spirit is the gift by which God unites us to Himself and with one another in a bond of unity that calls us to a share in the very life of the Trinity which is lived out

With much love,



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**The Purpose of the Prayer Resource Guide**

Each of us is on a journey to God like our patron Augustine.

The Friends prayer resource is offered to you as a support in your day to day prayer and will be sent to you 4 times a year.

It is centered on the Gospel readings and quotes from Augustine. Formation material is offered from different sources including a prayer orientated letter from our Chaplain.



# Prayers to the Holy Spirit

## Prayer for the Indwelling of the Spirit

Holy Spirit, powerful Consoler,  
sacred Bond of the Father and the Son,  
Hope of the afflicted, descend into my heart and  
establish in it your loving dominion.  
Enkindle in my lukewarm soul the fire of your Love  
so that I may be wholly subject to you.

We believe that when you dwell in us,  
you also prepare a dwelling for the Father and the Son.  
Deign, therefore, to come to me,  
Consoler of abandoned souls, and  
Protector of the needy.  
Help the afflicted, strengthen the weak,  
and support the wavering.

Come and purify me.  
Let no evil desire take possession of me.  
You love the humble and resist the proud.

Come to me, glory of the living, and hope of the dying.  
Lead me by your grace that I may always be pleasing to you. *Amen.*

*Saint Augustine of Hippo*

## Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
that my thoughts may all be holy.

Move in me, O Holy Spirit,  
that my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
that I may love only what is holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
to defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
that I may always be holy.

*Prayer of St. Augustine*



## Veni Sancte Spiritus

Come sacred Spirit  
Send forth your light  
Softly from the stars.

Come protector of the poor  
Come provider in our need  
Come lighten hearts with love.

Trusted true supporter  
Heart's most welcome guest  
strong breeze of fresh ideas

Transform our labour into love  
Cool us when the heat is on  
Comfort when we grieve

Graceful light  
The secrets of our hearts  
Know, your faithful ones

Unless I have your touch of love  
I find no worth in what I am  
Nothing but what is selfish

Clean away our sordid stains  
Saturate our parching clay  
Heal our wounds and bruises.

Shake us from our fixed ideas  
Melt our frigid core  
Redirect our devious ways.

Give us all, belief in you  
Trust in you  
Your mystic sevenfold grace

Give reward unto our efforts,  
Life's outcome secure  
give never-ending joy  
Amen Alleluia

Translation T. Lawless 2011

## **Fire Blessing**

### **Of the indigenous people of the Kimberley Region**

May the fire be in your thoughts  
Making them good and just

May it protect you from all harm  
May the fire be in your eyes  
May it open your eyes to see what is good in your life  
May it protect you from speaking against another.

May the fire be in your ears  
We pray that you may hear with deep listening  
So that you may hear the flow of water  
And of all Creation and of the Dreaming.

May you be protected from gossip  
And from those things that harm and break down your family.

May the fire be in your arms and hands  
So that you may be of service and build up love.

May the fire protect you from all violence

May the fire be in your whole being, your legs and feet,  
Enabling you to walk the earth with respect and care  
So that you may journey in the ways of goodness and trust  
And so protect you from walking away from what is true.

### **A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Church in Galatia: 5. 16, 22, 25.**

*Learn to live and move in the Spirit;  
then there is no danger of your giving way  
to the impulses of corrupted nature.  
The Spirit yields a harvest of love, joy, peace, patience,  
kindness, generosity, forbearance, gentleness, faith,  
courtesy, temperateness, purity.  
Since we live by the Spirit, let the Spirit be our rule of life.*