



Day 7

A Symbol from the Original Shrine:
HOLY SPIRI



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A Symbol from the Original Shrine:

HOLY SPIRIT

The greatest work of the Holy Spirit, one to which all others continually refer as to a source, is the Incarnation of the Eternal Word through Mary. By his power the Virgin becomes Mother of the Saviour. It is the same spirit that fills Elisabeth during Mary's visit, when she feels the joyful movement of her child in her womb and makes Elisabeth exclaim in a loud voice: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:41-43). Elisabeth is therefore the first to recognize Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Risen Lord also ultimately promises his apostles the mission of the Holy Spirit. Mary's closeness opens their frightened hearts to a new beginning in him, so that the young Church can come into being - ready to bear witness without ifs and buts. They cannot remain silent about what they have heard and seen (cf. Acts 1).

At the opening of the World Synod on October 4, Pope Francis affirmed that "the Church paused as the apostles paused on Holy Saturday". It is the Holy Spirit who *"unites us in harmony across all differences. Without harmony there is no Spirit."*

For Mary, the coming of the Holy Spirit was not something new. He was already the soul of her soul. And it is her gift to people today when she chooses the

shrine as the place of his presence and efficacy with its gifts and fruits, as a cenacle for our time. Fr Kantenich describes it like this in the Schoenstatt Offices in the “Cenacle Hour”:

There you implored the Spirit for the Church
who freed her from the scourge of halfheartedness,
guided her to the teaching of Christ
and enkindled in her the spirit of the apostles and
the martyrs.

That is how you want to work in our shrine:
strengthening our weak eyes of faith
so that we might see life as God sees it
and always walk by heaven’s light.

An Impulse from Life

“Saint Ambrose of Milan, in his commentary on the Gospel of Luke, writes that Mary set out in haste towards the hills, ‘because she rejoiced in the promise and looked to serve others with the enthusiasm born of her joy. Full of God, where else could she have gone if not towards the heights? The grace of the Holy Spirit allows no delay’. Mary’s haste is thus a sign of her desire to serve, to proclaim her joy, to respond without hesitation to the grace of the Holy Spirit. (...)

May the Holy Spirit kindle in your hearts a desire to arise (...) Now is the time to arise! Like Mary, let us ‘arise and go in haste’. Let us carry Jesus within our hearts and bring him to all those whom we meet!”
(Pope Francis. Message for XXXVII WYD 2023)

(M)y Contribution Today

The power of the Holy Spirit works in many ways. It gives joy about a promise..., makes us see..., inspires our steps..., awakens us to stand up..., opens our hearts to a new beginning ..., encourages us to bear witness..., does not let us remain silent about what we have heard and seen....

What is it with me? What gift of grace would I like to ask the Holy Spirit for today, so that her *gift for people* can bear fruit?

Prayer (*at the conclusion of the Novena*)



Daily Prayer at the conclusion

Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

In the shadow of the shrine our worldwide family was born.

With our Founder, Father Kentenich, we believe that you settled here in a special way on 18 October 1914 and work miracles of grace.

In the Covenant of Love we know ourselves united



across countries and continents and place ourselves at your service.

“All those who come here to pray shall experience the glory of Mary and confess: ‘It is good for us to be here. Here we will build our tents, here our favorite place.’ (...) Whoever knows the history of our sodality will have no trouble believing that Divine Providence has something special in store for it.” (Founding Document)

Together we want to pass on your gift to people.

Together we want to use every opportunity to properly evaluate the challenges of the great processes of major change in world and Church.

Together we consciously put our contributions into the capital of grace today and commend to you all the people we hold in our hearts.

Together and gathered around you, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in all questions so that your gift bears fruit in the manifold needs of our time.

Let all Schoenstatt shrines be places of divine grace. Give us a home, bring about change and send us.

So we place ourselves at your disposal once again in the little consecration in preparation for Covenant Day on 18 October:

My Queen, my Mother ...

