

Pentecost Novena 2018

Year of Communion with Others

Building Bridges of Friendship



Prepared by Participants and Staff of the
12th SSpS International Formators Course

Philippines North

Suggestions for prayer environment:

For the centerpiece, place a large red cloth on the floor and form it into a circular shape. Begin with a small circular shape. The symbols for each day will be placed on the cloth. Expand or widen the cloth area each day (maintaining the circular shape) to accommodate the additional symbols. The widening or expansion of the cloth area serves to symbolize the widening of our circle of communion.

Symbols for each day (optional)

Day 1: Love - picture of a family or a home

Day 2: Joy - candle

Day 3: Peace - picture of people of different cultures or a green plant

Day 4: Faithfulness - image of hands clasped in a circle

Day 5: Kindness - cross

Day 6: Goodness - bowl and towel

Day 7: Truth - sacred symbol of a non-Christian religion

Day 8: Gentleness - picture of our Blessed Mother or of women

Day 9: Self-Control - Bible or tablet/smartphone

For each of the nine days we will pray to widen our circle of communion with a particular group. If possible, invite a person or persons from the particular group to join the prayer. For example, when praying for lay partners, consider inviting co-workers or employees.

Suggested opening and closing prayer for each day:

Opening Prayer:

All: Come, Spirit of God, transforming breath of life and * _____ flowing forth from the loving communion of the Father and the Son. On the first Pentecost You descended upon Mary and the disciples gathered in the upper room. You empowered them to go forth and proclaim You as a Spirit of communion who unites peoples of every race, religion, culture and tongue. As we journey towards a new Pentecost, we call on You, Spirit of God, to breathe new life into us, to draw us into closer communion with You, and to lead us towards greater communion with others.

Leader: Open our eyes that we may see beyond our differences to recognize human diversity as an expression of Your divine creativity and generosity.

All: *Breathe on us, Spirit of God.*

Leader: Open our ears that we may listen beyond words to hear the yearning for communion that lies at the core of every human heart.

All: *Breathe on us, Spirit of God.*

Leader: Open our minds that we may truly perceive that the whole of creation is so wonderfully interconnected; that all is one in You.

All: *Breathe on us, Spirit of God.*

Leader: Open our hearts that we may be ready to receive and welcome You anew this Pentecost.

All: *Breathe on us, Spirit of God.*

Closing Prayer

Spirit of God, Your transforming power challenged Jesus to expand his consciousness when he wanted to limit his ministry only among the Jews. In the same way, You challenge us to recognize our call to move beyond our own comfort zones and limited perceptions of mission. May we heed You constantly calling us forward towards greater conversion and into deeper communion with You and with one another. As we journey towards this new Pentecost, expand our hearts to embrace all peoples in a spirit of * _____ and so draw them into this widening circle of communion. Amen.

***Opening and Closing prayer**

Day 1: Love

Day 2: Joy

Day 3: Peace

Day 4: Faithfulness

Day 5: Kindness

Day 6: Goodness

Day 7: Truth

Day 8: Gentleness

Day 9: Self-Control

Day 1

Communion with Families and Youths

Leader: Inspired by the Spirit of Love, let us widen our Circle of Communion with Families and Youths. (in silence a Sister places today's symbol in the prepared prayer space)

Centering (optional)

Leader: Let us take a moment to center ourselves (pause)... In the silence of our being let us become aware of our call to be in communion with our God... our world... and all of creation (pause)... In the depths of our hearts, let us implore the Spirit of love to draw into our circle of communion families and youths (pause)

Introduction:

The family is described as the “domestic church” (LG 11). Today's youth, upon whose shoulders the future of the Church rests, could be considered as the pillars of tomorrow's Church. For the majority of us our family, with all its goodness and shortcomings, was the first school in the faith and the place where love and care for our neighbor and the whole of creation was learned and nurtured.

In his exhortation “Amoris Laetitia” Pope Francis writes: “The couple that loves and begets life is a true, living icon... capable of revealing God the Creator and Savior.” He goes on to affirm: “The Triune God is a communion of love, and the family is its living reflection” (AL 11). This reveals for us the profoundly divine vocation of the family to “be love” in the world.

Opening Prayer (Page 1)

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor.13: 4-8a

(pause for some moments of quiet reflection)

Contextualized Reflection

“The Triune God is a communion of love, and the family is its living reflection” (AL 11). Therefore, any disruption and breakdown in love within the family leads to disruption and breakdown in love within the life of the Church and the society.

- ❖ How can I be more attuned to the struggles facing the families with whom I have contact? What support can I, or we as a community, offer to families in need?
- ❖ What concrete steps can I, or we as a community, take to support young people and young families to participate more fully in the life of the Church?

Intercessions

Leader: The family is called to be a living reflection of the loving communion of the Triune God, but so many factors mitigate against families attaining this potential.

For poor families wherein mothers are frantic trying to clothe and feed their children, fathers are frustrated because they cannot provide the basic daily needs of the family, and children cry because they are hungry

All: *Come, Lord Jesus, send Your Spirit to renew the face of the earth.*

Leader: For families separated by war or disasters, for families on the move to escape conflict and famine, for homeless families living in temporary shelters and refugee camps.

All: *Come, Lord Jesus, send Your Spirit to renew the face of the earth.*

Leader: For families wounded by broken relationships, addiction and domestic violence.

All: *Come, Lord Jesus, send Your Spirit to renew the face of the earth.*

Leader: For young people, especially those who feel disappointed and frustrated with life

All: *Come, Lord Jesus, send Your Spirit to renew the face of the earth.*

Leader: For the youth, that they may know that they are truly appreciated and loved

All: *Come, Lord Jesus, send Your Spirit to renew the face of the earth.*

Leader: For teachers, youth leaders and all who work with our youth that they may support and encourage our young people to develop their gifts and to understand their calling in life

All: *Come, Lord Jesus, send Your Spirit to renew the face of the earth.*

Our Father

Closing Prayer (Page 2)

Day 2

Communion with other Religious Congregations

Leader: Inspired by the Spirit of Joy, let us widen our Circle of Communion with other Religious Congregations. (in silence a Sister places today's symbol in the prepared prayer space)

Centering (optional)

Leader: Let us take a moment to center ourselves (pause)... In the silence of our being let us become aware of our call to be in communion with our God... our world... and all of creation (pause)... In the depths of our hearts, let us implore the Spirit of joy to draw into our circle of communion members of other religious congregations (pause)

Introduction

The desire for communion is deeply embedded in the vision of Fr. Arnold for his three foundations, and it is achieved through our common spirituality and missionary charism. This desire is especially evident in the Quarter-Hour Prayer when we pray: "Let us all be one in him". In "Lettera Consecrati", Pope Francis expresses as an expectation: "Where there are religious, there is joy" and refers to religious (and other consecrated persons) as being "experts in communion". The Pope also conveys his hope for a growth in communion between the members of different Institutes, and for us to work together, at the local and global levels, on projects involving formation, evangelization, and social action. (LC 1,3)

Opening Prayer (Page 1)

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

(pause for some moments of quiet reflection)

Contextualized Reflection

Reflecting on our local context, do we have ways to embody the vision of Pope Francis for religious congregations to be persons of "joy" and "experts in communion"?

- ❖ How can we, SSpS, enhance our working relationships with the SVD and other religious congregations?

Intercessions

Leader: We pray that all members of religious congregations may be true to their calling to be joyful witnesses of the Gospel.

All: *Spirit of Joy, fill our hearts.*

Leader: That we in consecrated life may respond to Pope Francis' call to be "experts in communion".

All: *Spirit of Joy, fill our hearts.*

Leader: That we may ever be open to the Spirit's call to work together to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in the society.

All: *Spirit of Joy fill our hearts.*

Leader: That the three foundations of St. Arnold Janssen may grow together in deeper communion.

All: *Spirit of Joy, fill our hearts.*

Leader: That VIVAT International, Solidarity with South Sudan, the refugee project in Greece, (please include collaborative projects of the province), will always be signs of God's joy and hope for communion among all peoples.

All: *Spirit of Joy, fill our hearts.*

Hymn

Closing Prayer (Page 2)

Day 3

Communion with other Cultures

Leader: Inspired by the Spirit of Peace, let us widen our Circle of Communion with other People of other Cultures. (in silence a Sister places today's symbol in the prepared prayer space)

Centering (optional)

Leader: Let us take a moment to center ourselves (pause)... In the silence of our being let us become aware of our call to be in communion with our God... our world... and all of creation (pause)... In the depths of our hearts, let us implore the Spirit of peace to draw into our circle of communion people of other cultures. (pause)

Introduction

“Our encounter with the stranger, with the one culturally different from us, reveals to us the “Other Face” of God – the unfamiliar, mysterious face of God. What the world needs today is to see, not the familiar and customary face of God – that image of God that is very often created according to our own image... but the face of God that challenges and disturbs us.”

“How different would our world be if we all learned to see the world with the eyes of God. Under the gaze of God's eyes, enemies become friends, separating walls become open doors, strangers become brothers or sisters, borders become bridges, diversity leads not to differences and conflict but to harmony and unity.” (Fr. Antonio Pernia, SVD)

Opening Prayer (Page 1)

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1: 16-18

(pause for some moments of quiet reflection)

Contextualized Reflection

Ruth and Naomi provide for us a wonderful icon of our human capacity to traverse the boundaries of religion and culture. This capacity is realized when we learn to see our world through God's eyes.

Our intercultural communities can become the place of concrete encounter with the “Other Face” of God.

- ❖ I evaluate how well I am doing in my living with my sisters from other cultures: am I truly open to them? ... Who in particular do I consider now as a “stranger” for me?
- ❖ What concrete steps do I need to take in order to encounter the “Other Face” of God?

Intercessions

Leader: Our world is sorely divided because of ethnic wars and conflicts.

All: Spirit of Peace, heal the nations that continue to seek vengeance; teach us how to forgive in the name of Jesus.

Leader: While He was on earth, Jesus prayed that we all might be one.

All: Spirit of Peace, help us to love one another and to live together in harmony and peace.

Leader: All of creation cries out for healing and peace.

All: Spirit of Peace, make us instruments of Your healing and peace.

Leader: You invite us to walk in Your ways of justice and truth.

All: Spirit of Peace, give us the insight and courage to overcome our prejudices and recognize our blind spots.

(please add your own prayers)

Hymn

Closing Prayer (Page 2)

Alternative Prayer: *The Jewish Prayer for Peace*

*Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
that we walk the paths of the Most High.
And we shall beat our swords into ploughshares,
and our spears into pruning hooks.
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they lean war any more.
And none shall be afraid,
for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.*

Day 4

Communion with our Lay Partners

Leader: Inspired by the Spirit of Faithfulness, let us widen our Circle of Communion with our Lay Partners. (in silence a Sister places today's symbol in the prepared prayer space)

Centering (optional)

Leader: Let us take a moment to center ourselves (pause)... In the silence of our being let us become aware of our call to be in communion with our God... our world... and all of creation (pause)... In the depths of our hearts, let us implore the Spirit of faithfulness to draw into our circle of communion our lay partners. (pause)

Introduction

Collaboration with the laity is an important aspect of our missionary activity. Since its inception, the mission foundation of St. Arnold Janssen has depended on the faithful generosity of lay benefactors and donors. His confidence in the grace of God to move people to be part of this great work enabled Fr. Arnold to proceed with projects while, as he himself said, the money was still in the pockets of people. Our own foundation sprang forth from the seeds of lay collaboration in the persons of the maids, who served faithfully for many years in the kitchen of St. Michaels, their way of actualizing their ardent desires to be missionaries themselves. It is important to note that the formation of the laity through retreats and seminars was of particular importance to Fr. Arnold and our founding generation. Today, in many places, we rely heavily on the loyalty of our lay employees and associates, to help us run our mission projects and institutions as their way of expressing faithfulness to God.

Opening Prayer (Page 1)

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: Colossians 1: 9-13

(pause for some moments of quiet reflection)

Contextualized Reflection

As we reflect on our "Communion with Others", we are invited to widen and deepen this circle of collaboration with our Lay Collaborators.

- ❖ How do I personally perceive those who work for us, as employees or as partners in mission? How do I treat or speak to those who work with and for us?
- ❖ What is my own attitude towards lay persons who come to us for mission experience?

- ❖ Are we (province/ community) open to receiving persons who wish to volunteer in our mission?

After reflection, there can be a short time for sharing in dyads

Intercessions

Leader: We give thanks to the Spirit of Faithfulness, for the wonderful contribution of our lay personnel and mission partners to the mission of our congregation.

1. For the members of the Holy Spirit Missionary Association world-wide, that they may grow in their love of the Holy Spirit and be strengthened in their commitment to prayer and support for our Mission.
2. For our lay missionary volunteers, that they may continue to be bearers of God's faithful and unselfish love through their missionary witness.
3. For our generous benefactors, that they may experience in their hearts an abundance of God's grace.
4. For our employees, staff and lay partners who faithfully work alongside us in our houses, mission projects and institutions, that they may be fulfilled in their ministry and service in Christ's Kingdom.

(please add your own prayers)

Hymn (optional)

Closing Prayer (Page 2)

Day 5

Communion with Other Christians

Leader: Inspired by the Spirit of Kindness, let us widen our Circle of Communion with Other Christians. (in silence a Sister places today's symbol in the prepared prayer space)

Centering (optional)

Leader: Let us take a moment to center ourselves (pause)... In the silence of our being let us become aware of our call to be in communion with our God... our world... and all of creation (pause)... In the depths of our hearts, let us implore the Spirit of kindness to draw into our circle of communion people of other Christian denominations. (pause)

Introduction

Christian Unity was a concern that was very close to our Founder's heart. In his time, this meant the return of the separated churches to the Catholic fold. Fr. Arnold, recognizing that this could only be achieved through the grace of God, offered prayer and sacrifices for this intention.

In an address on Christian unity, in November 2016, Pope Francis stated that Christian unity is one of his principal concerns and one that he hopes is the concern of every baptized Christian. The Pope went on to say: "...This unity should be perceived as being a gift from God to be welcomed. Remember", he said, "that when we work, pray and serve the needy together, we are already united." (<http://en.radiovaticana.va/>)

Opening Prayer (Page 1)

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4: 1-6

(pause for some moments of quiet reflection)

Contextualized Reflection

The Christian vocation summons all Christians to act with kindness towards all people, especially those most in need of it. Pope Francis advocates that Christians working together to serve the needy, is one means through which Christian unity can be achieved.

- ❖ What can we do individually or as a community to create or strengthen our ties with other Christian Denominations?
- ❖ Is there some outreach or act of kindness we could jointly undertake with other Christian groups in our community to help the needy in our community?

Intercessions

Leader: Spirit of God, we praise You for Your unceasing kindness towards all your people. Heal us, heal our churches of their deafness, that together we may more clearly hear the sound of Your voice in the silence of the poor, the vulnerable, and the suffering in our communities and in the world.

All: Spirit of Kindness, draw us into communion.

Leader: We pray for Your divided church spread throughout the world. Breathe into us the desire to work without ceasing for Christian unity and grant that nothing will hinder our search for that unity for which Jesus prayed.

All: Spirit of Kindness, draw us into communion.

Leader: You who created us out of love, enable us to be faithful stewards of the earth, and to love our sisters and brothers unconditionally.

All: Spirit of Kindness draw us into communion.

Leader: You who take infinite care of each of us, awaken us to the needs of others and strengthen our common witness as Christians in favor of justice and compassion.

All: Spirit of Kindness, draw us into communion.

Hymn : **We are One in The Spirit** by *Peter Scholtes* (or any other suitable hymn)

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah they'll know we are Christians by our love*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

Closing Prayer (Page 2)

Day 6

Communion with the Local Church

Leader: Inspired by the Spirit of Goodness, let us widen our Circle of Communion with the Local Church. (in silence a Sister places today's symbol in the prepared prayer space)

Centering (optional)

Leader: Let us take a moment to center ourselves (pause)... In the silence of our being let us become aware of our call to be in communion with our God... our world... and all of creation (pause)... In the depths of our hearts, let us implore the Spirit of goodness to draw into our circle of communion members of the local Church. (pause)

Introduction

In "Evangelii Gaudium", Pope Francis, expressing his missionary vision for the Church says: "The Church which "goes forth" is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn. 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the out-cast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy. (EG 24)

Opening Prayer (Page 1)

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: Mark 10: 42-45

(pause for some moments of quiet reflection)

Contextualized Reflection

As SSpS we are well placed to animate and support our local Church develop its missionary charism.

- ❖ Reflecting on your local context, allow the Spirit of Goodness to enable you to identify some concrete ways that you can support the members of your local church to respond to their calling to missionary service within the Church.
- ❖ In what ways can we better support of our local Church?

Intercessions

Response to each petition: *Triune God, unite us through your Spirit of Goodness.*

1. Let us pray that may each local church take to heart the message of the Gospel and be a Church of humble service
2. May our Church leaders focus more on the goodness and mercy of Christ's message and proclaim it to all the faithful.
3. May Pope Francis continue to inspire the faithful to seek the lost and welcome the excluded.
4. May we, as a congregation, be true and faithful witnesses to our missionary charism. May we inspire others by our commitment to serve the poor and most vulnerable.

(include prayers based on local context)

Hymn: (suggestion - One Spirit, One Church)

Closing Prayer (Page 2)

Day 7

Communion with People of Other Beliefs

Leader: Inspired by the Spirit of Truth, let us widen our Circle of Communion with People of Other Beliefs. (in silence a Sister places today's symbol in the prepared prayer space)

Centering (optional)

Leader: Let us take a moment to center ourselves (pause)... In the silence of our being let us become aware of our call to be in communion with our God... our world... and all of creation (pause)... In the depths of our hearts, let us implore the Spirit of truth to draw into our circle of communion people of other beliefs. (pause)

Introduction

Some of the most groundbreaking and transformative statements to come out of Vatican II are contained in "Nostra Aetate", the document on non-Christian religions. Referring to the major religions, the document states: "The Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions. She regards with sincere reverence those ways of conduct and of life, those precepts and teachings which, though differing in many aspects from the ones she holds and sets forth, nonetheless often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all people..." (NA 2).

In his reflection on the topic of faith and truth one spiritual commentator writes: "When we seek what is truest in our own tradition, we discover we are one with those who seek what is truest in their tradition. There is a point of convergence where we meet each other and we recognize each other as seekers of awakening." (James Finley)

Opening Prayer (Page 1)

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: John 4:19-24 - Jesus' encounter with the woman of Samaria

(pause for some moments of quiet reflection)

Contextualized Reflection:

Jesus' encounter with the woman of Samaria provides us with a wonderful model of inter-faith dialogue. The encounter, initiated out of the human need for water (dialogue of life), leads to a conversation that develops into an inter-faith dialogue (a dialogue about Truth). This story demonstrates for us that dialogue needs to begin on common ground. It also requires a sense of mutual openness, curiosity and respect.

As a means of widening my circle of communion with persons of other faiths, I can:

- ❖ learn about other faiths through reading materials from reliable sources,
- ❖ visit the place of worship of another religion to experience their sacred space.

As a community, we can invite a person of another faith to come and share with us about their faith.

Intercessions

Response to each petition: O come, Spirit of God.

Kindle within us all the fire of your love,
carry upon Your wings the prayers of all men and women,
who long for the truth to set us free.

Walk with us along the paths of life;
embrace us all with the friendship of Your love;
take away barriers that divide us
and make us pray together in spirit and in truth.

Draw all peoples together
and bring us into the mystery of Your life.
Teach us through the prayers of others
that You are God and no-one else.
Enable us together to praise Your name for evermore.

(WCC & PCID/ adapted)

Intercessions based on local context (optional)

Closing Prayer (Page 2)

Alternative Prayer: *Prayer of Dag Hammerskjöld*

*Let Your name be hallowed – not my name,
Let Your kingdom come – not my kingdom.
Your will be done – not my will. Give us to live in peace with You,
With humanity and with ourselves,
And deliver us from fear.*

Day 8

Communion with Women

Leader: Inspired by the Spirit of Gentleness, let us widen our Circle of Communion with Women. (in silence a Sister places today's symbol in the prepared prayer space)

Centering (optional)

Leader: Let us take a moment to center ourselves (pause)... In the silence of our being let us become aware of our call to be in communion with our God... our world... and all of creation (pause)... In the depths of our hearts, let us implore the Spirit of gentleness to draw women across the world into our circle of communion. (pause)

Introduction

As we reflect on communion with women, we turn first to Mary of Nazareth, who provides us with a bold yet gentle model of discipleship. In the Joy of the Gospel Pope Francis asserts: "Whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness. In her we see that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong who need not treat others poorly in order to feel important themselves. Contemplating Mary, we realize that she who praised God for "bringing down the mighty from their thrones" and "sending the rich away empty" (Lk 1:52-53) is also the one who carefully keeps "all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19). Mary is able to recognize traces of God's Spirit in events great and small. (EG 288)

Opening Prayer (Page 1)

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26: 6-13

(Pause for some moments of quiet reflection)

Contextualized Reflection:

Despite the opposition and criticism of those present, Jesus commends this woman for her gentle and courageous act of gentleness towards him. The gentle but bold actions of this woman remind us that we too are called to challenge cultural norms and taboos that prevent us from doing the good that is needed.

- ❖ As a means of widening my circle of communion with other women, I seek to become more informed about situations of gender inequality within my own culture, society and Church.
- ❖ Whom do I consider to be most in need of a gentle word or gentle gesture from me at this time? Is it one of my Sisters in my community, or maybe I need to be more gentle towards myself?

Intercessions based on local context (optional)

Prayer for Women Everywhere – B. D’Arcy

With Miriam, who with Moses and Aaron led the people of Israel out of Egypt;
With Deborah, who judged the people of Israel in truth and righteousness;
With Ruth, who was an example of faithfulness;
With Mary Magdalen, who first brought the good news of the resurrection;
With Phoebe, deacon and leader of the early Church;
With Priscilla, who labored with Aquila in service of Christ;
With Dorcas, who spent herself doing good and helping the poor;
With Mary the mother of Jesus, who said ‘yes’ with no holding back.
With these our sisters,
We pray for women everywhere who see their families divided, their children sad;
We pray for women who against the odds create a good place for their families to live in;
We pray for women who, when tempted to give up, find new strength from their sisters
and go on. Amen.

Closing Prayer (Page 2)

Day 9

Communion with the Whole World through our use of Social Media

Leader: Inspired by the Spirit of Self-Control, let us widen our Circle of Communion with the whole World through our use of Social Media. (in silence a Sister places today's symbol in the prepared prayer space)

Centering (optional)

Leader: Let us take a moment to center ourselves (pause)... In the silence of our being let us become aware of our call to be in communion with our God... our world... and all of creation (pause)... In the depths of our hearts, let us implore the Spirit of self-control to draw into our circle of communion all citizens of this Global Electronic/Digital world. (pause)

Introduction

We find ourselves in a digital age where the rate and speed of communication surpasses all our expectations. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram - 20 years ago we could never imagine these things would be possible. But now they are a major part of our daily lives. Father Arnold recognized the great potential of media in his day to promote God's Kingdom and no doubt he would expect the same from us in our day. Speaking on the topic of social media, Pope Francis stated: "It is not technology which determines whether or not communication is authentic, but rather the human heart and our capacity to use wisely the means at our disposal". He also added: "This is a gift of God which involves a great responsibility." (www.catholicerald.uk) The challenge facing us today is to use social media in such a way that it facilitates the deepening of our relationships with one another and so create greater communion among people.

Opening Prayer (Page 1)

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: Lk.4:16-22

(pause for some moments of quiet reflection)

Contextualized Reflection

While social media can be an enormous means for good, it may impede the quality of our community life and missionary activity. For example, when our primary use of social media is to maintain and foster relationships with family and friends back home we cease to be fully present where we are.

Reflecting on the very positive gift that social media is to our world:

- ❖ Are there ways that I, or we, as a community, can make better use of social media to promote communion among ourselves and the other Sisters in our province and congregation?
- ❖ In what ways can I use social media to promote gospel values?
- ❖ What steps do I or we need to take to ensure a more responsible use of social media?

Intercessions: Canticle of the Media of Social Communication

Response: *Blessed be the Lord our God*

1. Blessed be the Lord our God, for our sister, the printed word, food for the intellect and light for the soul.
2. We pray to you, Lord, for all the journalists of the world, cartoon and poster designers, publicity artists.
3. Fill with the light of your wisdom writers, printers, distributors, and readers; keep them in your love and at the humble service of truth.
4. Praise be to you, O Lord, for our brother Cinema and his dynamic story-telling. He has the fascinating power of dialogue, drama, music and visual.
5. Guide, O Lord, producers, directors, actors and audiences towards all that is true and good, all that celebrated life and love of God.
6. Blessed be the Lord our God for our sister Radio who walks on the wings of the wine and makes the earth seem small.
7. We pray for all radio stations and transmitters; may this gift of God and work of humans be used for the freedom, growth, and unity of all your children.
8. Praise be to you, O Lord, for television. May this pulpit in the heart of every home not disturb but increase harmony in families and prepare a people guided by Gospel values.
9. Praise be to you, Lord God, for email and internet, CD, FAX, cellphone, social media, and all the powerful means for the service of communication in the world and your Kingdom. May they sing your praise and glory.
10. We Praise, O Lord, for the unending Pentecost of your creative Holy Spirit which enables your sons and daughters to catch fire from your Truth, Beauty and Goodness.

(Based on prayer by Blessed James Alberione)

Alternative prayer (or any other suitable prayer or hymn):

(Based on Pope Francis' interview for the Catholic Herald, 2016)

1. "It is not technology which determines whether or not communication is authentic, but rather the human heart and our capacity to use wisely the means at our disposal".

All (Sing or Pray):

O breathe on me,
O Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love the things you love,
And do as you would do. (St. Columba)

2. “Communication, wherever and however it takes place, has opened up broader horizons for many people. This is a gift of God which involves a great responsibility.”

All (Sing or Pray):

O breathe on me,
O Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure;
Until my will is one with yours,
To do and to endure.

3. “Social networks can facilitate relationships and promote the good of society, but they can also lead to further polarization and division between individuals and groups.

All (Sing or Pray):

O breathe on me,
O Breath of God,
My will to yours incline,
Until this selfish part of me
Glows with you fire divine.

4. “The internet can help us to be better citizens”, but “access to digital networks entails a responsibility for our neighbor whom we do not see but who is nonetheless real and has a dignity which must be respected.”

All (Sing or Pray):

O breathe on me,
O Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love the things you love,
And do as you would do.

Our Father

Closing Prayer (Page 2)

We thank the staff and participants of the 12th SSps International Formators Course for preparing this Pentecost Novena.

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