

# *Lesson #12*

## *The Holy Spirit and the Church*

**The Grace I am seeking . . .**

*To always be attentive to the breathing of the Holy Spirit in my own heart and in the heart of the whole Church*

**Before each prayer session:**

*O Holy Spirit, fill me with Yourself; fill me with love. Help me to feel loved by the Father and by Jesus. Help me to feel loved by my Associates. Set me on fire with love. Teach me how to love the Father and Jesus. Teach me to love my Associates and my neighbors. As you taught the first Apostles at Pentecost to communicate the love of God to all persons, teach me to be the apostle I have been called to be. Let me bring the message of the Father's love and Jesus' love to all, but especially to those who really do not know You, who do not feel loved. Help me, O Holy Spirit of love, to be an apostle of love. Amen.*

**After each prayer session:**

*Jesus, spark me with your Holy Spirit and grant that I may never merit the condemnation of the lukewarm, whom You have declared You will vomit from Your mouth. Fire me with a passion for life, and a passion for loving You, my brothers and sisters, and all of creation. Holy Spirit, completely fill me as You filled my brother Jesus. Produce in me the same mind that was in Jesus so that I, like Him, will be consumed with a passion for the will of His Father and my Father. Amen.*

# *Missionary Cenacle Practice and Devotion*

The Holy Spirit animates, vivifies, enlightens, strengthens and confirms us in our missionary vocation. The Missionary Cenacle from its foundation has engaged in a crusade of prayer to the Holy Spirit!

- A **perpetual novena to the Holy Spirit** has been part of our tradition since January 18, 1913! Throughout the year different Cenacles – both lay and religious – are praying this novena in a never ending chain of devotion and love. A Sister at the Motherhouse is generally responsible for informing the individual Cenacles annually when their particular time will be in that given year to pray this Novena.
- As we have seen above, Father Judge urged that the **Litany in honor of the Holy Spirit** be prayed **daily** – before 9 a.m. if possible – by every member of the Missionary Cenacle Family.
- We invoke the Holy Spirit when we begin important meetings with the prayer:

*“Come, Holy Spirit, fills the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who did teach the hearts of the faithful by sending them the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort. Through Christ our Lord. Amen!”*

We pray to the Holy Spirit when we go on missionary visits and when beginning studies or before the reading of the Scriptures or some other spiritual book.

- We try to make an **annual retreat on or around the feast of Pentecost**.
- In our **correspondence**, we use the **salutation** *“May the grace and peace of the Holy Spirit be with us forever!”*
- We should **pray often throughout the day for the gifts of the Holy Spirit**, Wisdom and Fortitude especially. *“Come, Holy Spirit! Give me the gifts of Wisdom and Fortitude.”*

This living devotion to the Holy Spirit is the heart of the apostolic, missionary vocation. May these practices become ours as simple, daily ways of making us more aware of and present to the Holy Spirit’s constant presence in our lives.

# *Introduction*

For Father Judge, the Spirit is "the Soul, the very Breath of the Church" (MF 9314) The Church breathes the Holy Spirit. Thus, for Father Judge, devotion to the Holy Spirit means necessarily a profound love of the Church. Devotion to the Holy Spirit implies entering into the heart of the Church because the very heart of the Church is the Holy Spirit. Attention to the Church -- its needs, its desires, its sufferings -- is attention to, devotion to the Holy Spirit. The intimate unity between the Spirit and the Church was clearly demonstrated in this letter of Father Judge to Mother Mary of the Incarnate Word in the last year of his life:

*Attract the Spirit of God. Love the Church and the things of the Church and try to do what the Church wants .... [The Spirit] is Her Mystical Head, He loves the Church and He loves those who love the Church. Be scrupulous to avoid the things the Holy Spirit doesn't like. (MF 13271)*

Without the Spirit "no holy man or woman of God thinks or acts good, no confessor makes confession, no martyr dies for his faith, no virgin can keep her radiant purity, without Whom there cannot be a Saint" (MF 10419).

"The same Holy Spirit is leading us that led Jesus" (MF 8347). While in the seminary, young Tom Judge wrote that after "nineteen centuries of strife," the Catholic Church is as "vigorous and spotless, as full of life and promise as when She was stirred by the Pentecostal Fire of the upper chamber" (MF 9203). One might attribute this remark to the naivete of a young seminarian. However, after years of suffering often the injustices and harsh criticisms of the Church's leadership and members, Father Judge's belief in the beauty and vitality of the Church continued unabated and even more enthusiastic when he wrote thirty years later:

*What is the secret of the Church's longevity, her long life? Why is she so long-lived, what is the secret of her perennial youth? The Holy Spirit. What is the secret of that irresistible, invincible progress of the Church? The Holy Spirit .... The secret [of the Church] is the Holy Spirit, animating her, vivifying her, enlightening her, strengthening her, confirming her, taking care of her .... What is the secret of the [Church's] beauty and loveliness, youth and grace, and those years of her wisdom? The Holy Spirit .... (MF 8506)*

May this be our grace as well: as missionaries to love ever more fully the Holy Spirit who abides in us and in the heart of all creation. May this love be our strength and our light in loving the Church which "breathes the Holy Spirit" despite the scandals and failures of the members. May we always have the grace to see in her what God sees in her: His beloved Bride (see *Ephesians 5:25-33*)!

# *Process for Daily Prayer*

**▮ Read each passage once slowly, then reread it. Underline or mark any phrases or ideas that strike you.**

**▮ Think about what you've read. What attracts, challenges, excites, or upsets you? Perhaps the questions below can help you in your reflection.**

**▮ Talk to God about it. Whatever is on your heart -- concerns, anger, hopes, dreams, joy, thanksgiving -- open it up to God.**

**▮ Rest a while and let God speak to you in the quiet.**

# WEEK I

## ***Weekend Reflection:*** **The Church and the Spirit**

*[From the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church #1-4, Vatican Council II]*

Christ is the light of humanity; and it is, accordingly, the heart-felt desire of this Sacred Council, being gathered together in the Holy Spirit, that, by proclaiming his Gospel to every creature (see *Mark 16:15*), it may bring to all men and women that light of Christ which shines out visibly from the Church . . . . The Church, in Christ, is in the nature of sacrament – a sign and instrument . . . of communion with God and of unity among all men and women . . . . While men and women of the present day are drawn ever more closely together by social, technical and cultural bonds, it still remains for them to achieve full unity in Christ.

The eternal Father, in accordance with the utterly gratuitous and mysterious design of his wisdom and goodness, created the whole universe, and chose to raise up men and women to share in his own divine life; and when they had fallen in Adam, he did not abandon them, but at all times held out to them the means of salvation, bestowed in consideration of Christ, the Redeemer, ‘who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature’ (*Colossians 1:15*). All the elect, before time began, the Father ‘foreknew and also predestined to become conformed to the image of his Son, that he should be the firstborn among many brethren’ (*Romans 8:29*). He determined to call together in a holy Church those who should believe in Christ. Already present in figure at the beginning of the world, this Church was prepared in marvelous fashion in the history of the people of Israel and in the old Alliance. Established in this last age of the world, and made manifest in the outpouring of the Spirit, it will be brought to glorious completion at the end of time. At that moment, as the Fathers put it, all the just from the time of Adam, ‘from Abel, the just one, to the last of the elect’ will be gathered with the Father in the universal Church.

The Son . . . came, sent by the Father who, before the foundation of the world, chose us and predestined us in him for adoptive sonship. For it is in him that it pleased the Father to restore all things (see *Ephesians 1:4-5,10*). . . . When the work which the Father gave the Son to do on earth (see *John 17:4*) was accomplished, the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost in order that he might continually sanctify the Church, and that, consequently, those who believe might have access through Christ in one Spirit to the Father (see *Ephesians 2:18*). He is the Spirit of life, the fountain of water springing up to eternal life (see *John 4:47; 7:38-39*). To humanity, dead in sin, the Father gives life through him, until the day when, in Christ, he raises to life their mortal bodies (see *Romans 8:10-11*). The Spirit dwells in the Church and in the hearts of the faithful, as in a temple (see *1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19*). In them he prays and bears witness to their adoptive sonship (see *Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:15-16, 26*). Guiding the Church in the way of all truth (see *John 16:13*) and unifying her in communion and in the works of ministry, he bestows upon her varied hierarchic and charismatic gifts, and in this way directs her; and he adorns her with his fruits (see *Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:4; Galatians 5:22*). By the power of the Gospel he permits the Church to keep the freshness of youth. Constantly he renews her and leads her to perfect union with her Spouse. For the Spirit and the Bride both say to Jesus, the Lord: “Come!” (*Revelation 22:17*).

Hence the universal Church is seen to be “a people brought into unity from the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit” (*St. Cyprian*).

***How do you currently look on the Church? Is the Church for you just another “institution” or is the Church, for you, the lovely “Bride of Christ” filled with the Holy Spirit? Think back on your life up to this moment. What has been your own personal story of your relationship to the Church? Where did it begin? Be as specific and personal as possible. How have you grown or diminished in your love for the***

*Lesson #12, The Holy Spirit and the Church - 5*

*Church at different stages of your life? Currently, what is it you most love or appreciate about the Church? What is the principle difficulty you have in loving the Church more or at all? Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your understanding of and love for the Church.*

**Write** down your reflections briefly here:

# WEEK I

## Monday: The “Spirit fills the world”

*From Father Judge:*

"The Holy Spirit has everything of which we feel the lack whether it be spiritual or corporal. You need the Holy Spirit because you have needs that are spiritual and corporal. You have great spiritual aspirations. You desire perfection. You desire to do much for Jesus. You seek health. The Holy Spirit is as wonderful in the body as in the soul. He is the Finisher and Perfecter. There is not a tint nor a fragrance of a beautiful flower but it has been placed there by the Holy Spirit. He ripens the harvest. He gives form and shape and beauty and health to the body. These are valuable days for you because the Holy Spirit is so disposed to listen to the innocent and pure of heart and those who love Him.." (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 232)

*From the Word of God:*

<sup>1</sup> Love justice, you who judge the earth;  
think of the LORD in goodness,  
and seek him in integrity of heart;  
<sup>2</sup> Because he is found by those who test him not,  
and he manifests himself to those who do not disbelieve him.  
<sup>3</sup> For perverse counsels separate a man from God,  
and his power, put to the proof, rebukes the foolhardy;  
<sup>4</sup> Because into a soul that plots evil wisdom enters not,  
nor dwells she in a body under debt of sin.  
<sup>5</sup> For the holy spirit of discipline flees deceit  
and withdraws from senseless counsels;  
and when injustice occurs it is rebuked.  
<sup>6</sup> For wisdom is a kindly spirit,  
yet she acquits not the blasphemer of his guilty lips;  
Because God is the witness of his inmost self  
and the sure observer of his heart  
and the listener to his tongue.  
<sup>7</sup> For the spirit of the LORD fills the world,  
is all-embracing, and knows what man says." (*Wisdom 1:1-7*)

*Father Judge understood that the Spirit of God was not an occasional presence but, in fact, “filled the earth” with the divine presence, light, and love. As you think of your own life and experience, ask the Holy Spirit to show you three or four ways the Spirit has been made manifest or real for you in the past few days. Remember, the Spirit is responsible for all gifts both of “the body . . . and the soul” and in all creation.*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## ***Tuesday: “A devotion to the Holy Spirit”***

*From Father Judge:*

“We labor in vain unless God blesses it, it isn't any use. If the Spirit of God is not with us then we plan, think and work in vain. It is all folly. We must strive to get the grace of God, the blessing of God. How does that come about? First of all there must be the spirit of faith, the spirit of believing. There must be the love of God. Again, to get the grace of God we must ask for it. I am going to encourage you to have a devotion to the Holy Spirit. Let me tell you something about the Holy Spirit. There is one God, only one God, but God is three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God in His nature, in His substance, one; in Persons, three. This is the Mystery of the Adorable Trinity. All the Mysteries of our Lord are rooted in that first fundamental mystery. The Holy Spirit has His own mission in the Church. He has His own mission in the soul of each and every individual member of the Church.”  
*(Missionary Cenacle Meditations, p. 232)*

*From the Word of God:*

“Unless the LORD build the house,  
they labor in vain who build.  
Unless the LORD guard the city,  
in vain does the guard keep watch.  
<sup>2</sup>It is vain for you to rise early  
and put off your rest at night,  
To eat bread earned by hard toil—  
    all this God gives to his beloved in sleep.  
<sup>3</sup>Children too are a gift from the LORD,  
the fruit of the womb, a reward.  
<sup>4</sup>Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
are the children born in one's youth.  
Blessed are they whose quivers are full.  
They will never be shamed  
contending with foes at the gate.” *(Psalm 127)*

***Consider your life and your missionary efforts. Are you frequently or even occasionally beset by anxiety, discouragement? How much honestly do you believe that you are “in charge” of or responsible for the “success” of these efforts or the various situations of your life? Father Judge and the Scripture reminds us today that without the presence of the Spirit in our lives and our prayer, our efforts are truly “in vain”. Ask the Spirit to give you an unstoppable confidence in the divine Presence of God with you and in you at all times.***

**Write down your reflections briefly here:**

# Wednesday: The Promise of the Advocate

*From Father Judge:*

“You hear the very surprising gospel in which our Lord tells His Apostles the most extraordinary thing. He said that it is expedient, a good thing, the only thing “for you that I leave you.” How could they understand that? How could the Apostles understand that it would be a good thing for their Jesus, their Lord, their Saviour, their master, their Teacher, their All, that He leave them? Condescendingly, our Divine Lord explained: “For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he has come he will convict the world of sin, and of justice, and of judgment.”(Jn. 16:7-8) In other words, our Lord came and prepared the world for the coming of the Holy Spirit.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 232)

*From the Word of God:*

"I did not tell you this from the beginning, because I was with you;<sup>5</sup>but now I am going to the one who sent me. Not one of you asks, ‘Where are you going?’<sup>6</sup>Yet you are sad at heart because I have told you this.<sup>7</sup>Still, I am telling you the truth: it is for your own good that I am going, because unless I go, the Paraclete will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." (*John 16:5-7*)

*The word “paraclete” in Greek signifies “defense attorney”: the person who defends you, speaks on your behalf before the judge. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the “paraclete” or the “advocate” because the Spirit is the One who, after Jesus’ physical departure from our midst, will come to accompany us, to be with us no matter what the trial or the difficulty. Think about the trials and difficulties you have experienced in your life. How have they been resolved? How have you escaped them? How have these apparent “disasters” in your life turned into moments of newness: new opportunities for growth, insight, deeper compassion and understanding, renewed strength and determination? All of this was the work of the “Advocate”, the Holy Spirit!*

**Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## ***Thursday: “A love for the Holy Spirit”***

*From Father Judge:*

"The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church. Our Lord taught us a love of His Holy Spirit, He said: "Every kind of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men; but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven."(Mt. 12:31) Doesn't it follow that if the Lord is so unrelenting in punishing sins against His Holy Spirit, surely He will be most generous to those who cherish a love for the Holy Spirit? The Blessed Virgin had great devotion to the Holy Spirit. You cannot think a good thought unless it be given to you by the Holy Spirit. St. Paul said: "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit."(1 Cor. 12:3)" (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 232)

*From the Word of God:*

"About the gifts of the Spirit, brothers, I want you to be quite certain.<sup>2</sup>You remember that, when you were pagans, you were irresistibly drawn to inarticulate heathen gods.<sup>3</sup>Because of that, I want to make it quite clear to you that no one who says 'A curse on Jesus' can be speaking in the Spirit of God, and nobody is able to say, 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit." (*1 Corinthians 12:1-3*)

*Father Judge once said that the “radiance” of our vocation as members of the Missionary Cenacle was to be “witnesses to the truth.” From this perspective, what greater witness is there than to be able to know, experience and confess Jesus as the Lord of my life and the Lord of all creation! All this is the work of the Holy Spirit according to the Scripture. Spend a few moments giving thanks for the mysteries you of the faith you have come to know and believe and share with others. As you reflect on them – the Eucharist, the Incarnation, the community of the Trinity, the motherhood of Mary – realize that it is the Holy Spirit working and acting within your mind and heart to make this confession of faith possible.*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## ***Friday: “Warmth and Light”***

*From Father Judge:*

“(In the "Veni Sancte Spiritus" we ask of the Holy Spirit:) "Send down those beams, which sweetly flow in silent streams, from Thy bright throne." The Holy Spirit is to our souls what the sun in the heaven is to the world, and a great deal more. He gives us light. He gives us warmth. He fills us with brightness and joy.

As the sun gives fecundity to the earth and thus enables the plants to grow and produce beautiful flowers of endless variety of color, form and fragrance, and ultimately, fruits of a thousand different tastes, so the Holy Spirit, by the warmth and light He infuses into our souls enables us to bring forth the celestial flowers and fruits of every virtue.

The beams which in silent streams flow from His bright throne, are His precious graces which enlighten the understanding to know what is good, and inflame the will to embrace and follow those holy inspirations.

As the sun disperses the mists that sometimes shut out its rays and its heat from the earth so the Holy Spirit disperses the darkness of our minds, the worldly spirit, the dissipation of heart, that like the morning mists, prevent the warmth and brightness of God's love from reaching us.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 83)

*From the Word of God:*

<sup>1</sup>Alleluia! Praise, servants of Yahweh, praise the name of Yahweh. <sup>2</sup>Blessed be the name of Yahweh, henceforth and for ever. <sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its setting, praised be the name of Yahweh! <sup>4</sup>Supreme over all nations is Yahweh, supreme over the heavens his glory. <sup>5</sup>Who is like Yahweh our God? His throne is set on high, <sup>6</sup>but he stoops to look down on heaven and earth. <sup>7</sup>He raises the poor from the dust, he lifts the needy from the dunghill, <sup>8</sup>to give them a place among princes, among princes of his people. <sup>9</sup>He lets the barren woman be seated at home, the happy mother of sons.” (*Psalm 113:1-9*)

*As we think of the gift of God's Holy Spirit, Father Judge invites us to think of “warmth” and “light”, the dissipation of darkness and gloom, the resplendent glory of God shining upon us and from within us. To be bathed and enfolded by such warmth and goodness gives strength and security to the human heart. This same “light and warmth” is what makes mission both possible and “good news” for every person who hears it and accepts the Word within! Allow yourself a few minutes to “bathe” or “bask” in the warmth and the light of God's personal love for you and for all creation. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, “the Lord and Giver of Life!”*

**▶ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## WEEK II

### ***Weekend Reflection: Revelation and the Spirit***

*[From the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation #7-9, Vatican II]*

“God graciously arranged that the things he had once revealed for the salvation of all peoples should remain in their entirety, throughout the ages, and be transmitted to all generations. Therefore, Christ the Lord, in whom the entire Revelation of the most high God is summed up (see *2 Corinthians 1:20; 3:16-4:6*) commanded the apostles to preach the Gospel, which had been promised beforehand by the prophets, and which he fulfilled in his own person and promulgated with his own lips. In preaching the Gospel they were to communicate the gifts of God to all. This Gospel was to be the source of all saving truth and moral discipline. This was faithfully done: it was done by the apostles who handed on, by the spoken word of their preaching, by the example they gave, by the institutions they established, what they themselves had received – whether from the lips of Christ, from his way of life and his works, or whether they had learned it at the prompting of the Holy Spirit; it was done by those apostles and others associated with the apostles who, under the inspiration of the same Holy Spirit, committed the message of salvation to writing.

“In order that the full and living Gospel might always be preserved in the Church the apostles left bishops as their successors. They gave them ‘their own position of teaching authority’ (*St. Irenaeus*). This sacred Tradition, then, and the sacred Scripture of both Testaments, are like a mirror, in which the Church, during its pilgrim journey here on earth, contemplates God, from whom she receives everything, until such time as she is brought to see him face to face as he really is (see *John 3:2*). . . .

“The Tradition that comes from the apostles makes progress in the Church, with the help of the Holy Spirit. There is a growth in insight into the realities and words that are being passed on. This comes about in various ways. It comes through the contemplation and study of believers who ponder these things in their hearts (see *Luke 2:19, 51*). It comes from the intimate sense of spiritual realities which they experience. And it comes from the preaching of those who have received, along with right of succession in the episcopate, the sure charism of truth. Thus, as the centuries go by, the Church is always advancing towards the plenitude of divine truth, until eventually the words of God are fulfilled in her . . . .

“Thus God, who spoke in the past, continues to converse with the spouse of his beloved Son, [the Church]. And the Holy Spirit, through whom the living voice of the Gospel rings out in the Church – and through her in the world – leads believers to the full truth, and makes the Word of Christ dwell in them in all its richness (see *Colossians 3:16*).

“Sacred Tradition and sacred Scriptures, then, are bound closely together, and communicate one with the other. For both of them, flowing out from the same divine well-spring, come together in some fashion to form one thing, and move towards the same goal. Sacred Scripture is the voice of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the holy Spirit. And Tradition transmits in its entirety the Word of God which has been entrusted to the apostles by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit. It transmits it to the successors of the apostles so that, enlightened by the Spirit of truth, they may faithfully preserve, expound, and spread it abroad by their preaching. Thus it comes about that the Church does not draw her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Hence both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal feelings of devotion and reverence.”

***“Revelation”, as the Church understands it, is the opening up of God’s heart to humanity. God most fully opens up the divine heart to us in sending Jesus, the fullness of the Person of God living and breathing among us. Jesus, in turn, forms us into a Church, His holy Body filled with His own living Spirit. This Spirit continues to teach and to reveal to us in ever new ways the depths of God’s divine***

*Lesson #12, The Holy Spirit and the Church - 12*

*Love and Mystery. We come to know this through the Spirit-led instruction and guidance of our teachers in the faith (the Bishops), the accumulated experience and wisdom of the Christian community over two thousand years (Sacred Tradition) and the written account of that experience handed down to us (the Sacred Scripture). All this is made possible through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. How did you personally come to know God? How has your experience and knowledge of God grown and changed through the years? In what way has the Church led you and guided you to this ever deepening encounter? All this is the personal work of the Holy Spirit in your life.*

**▶ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## WEEK II

### Monday: “Come, Father of the Poor”

*From Father Judge:*

“‘O! Come Thou Father of the poor,’ the hymn [‘Veni Sancte Spiritus] says. It is well to be reminded of our spiritual poverty. Of ourselves and apart from God we are destitute of all supernatural good, of virtue, of merit, of good works, poor and needy and defenseless in the midst of enemies, strangers in a foreign land; orphans, yet unconscious of our poverty and utter misery.

Happily, we have a Father, powerful and rich and loving, full of tenderest compassion for our poverty and misery and blindness; a Father who is the very Person of Love, whose attributes are goodness and benevolence, who is the Comforter of the afflicted, the Solace of the needy, the Support of the weak. In this invocation we invite Him to come and enrich our souls with spiritual wealth.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 83)

*From the Word of God:*

“<sup>32</sup>That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils.<sup>33</sup>The whole town came crowding round the door,<sup>34</sup> and he cured many who were sick with diseases of one kind or another; he also drove out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.” (*Mark 1:32-34*)

*Jesus reveals the Spirit in the depths of his being when he exercises compassion, care, and concern for those who are afflicted and troubled. The life of Jesus and the power of the Spirit working within him were dynamic forces for good: the alleviation of suffering, liberation from all that denigrated human dignity, hope and consolation in the midst of sorrow. Father Judge desired that the Missionary Cenacle be a “power for good”! This “power for good” is the Holy Spirit acting on behalf of those who feel marginalized, lonely, sick, and afraid. Can you name a few specific ways in the past few weeks where you have seen the action of the Spirit, “Father of the Poor,” evident in your own life or in the life of other missionaries with whom you serve? Give thanks!*

**✎** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## ***Tuesday: “Source of all our store”***

*From Father Judge:*

“Thou bounteous source of all our store.” The Holy Spirit is the Treasurer of God, the Storehouse of His gifts, the Depository of all the priceless treasures of the Incarnation. He is the Spirit of Love and love is like a fire, communicative of itself; it longs to give.

Do we desire spiritual health?

Do we desire grace?

Do we desire lively faith, firm hope and ardent charity?

Do we desire salvation and all the gifts and graces that lead up to it?

All these the Holy Spirit holds forth to us from the inexhaustible storehouse of His gifts.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 257)

*From the Word of God:*

“It is because of this that I, Paul, a prisoner of the Lord Jesus on behalf of you gentiles. . .<sup>2</sup>You have surely heard the way in which God entrusted me with the grace he gave me for your sake;<sup>3</sup>he made known to me by a revelation the mystery I have just described briefly—<sup>4</sup>a reading of it will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.<sup>5</sup>This mystery, as it is now revealed in the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets, was unknown to humanity in previous generations:<sup>6</sup>that the gentiles now have the same inheritance and form the same Body and enjoy the same promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.<sup>7</sup>I have been made the servant of that gospel by a gift of grace from God who gave it to me by the workings of his power.<sup>8</sup>I, who am less than the least of all God’s holy people, have been entrusted with this special grace, of proclaiming to the gentiles the unfathomable treasure of Christ<sup>9</sup>and of throwing light on the inner workings of the mystery kept hidden through all the ages in God, the Creator of everything.<sup>10</sup>The purpose of this was, that now, through the Church, the principalities and ruling forces should learn how many-sided God’s wisdom is,<sup>11</sup>according to the plan which he had formed from all eternity in Christ Jesus our Lord.<sup>12</sup>In him we are bold enough to approach God in complete confidence, through our faith in him;<sup>13</sup>so, I beg you, do not let the hardships I go through on your account make you waver; they are your glory.” (*Ephesians 3:1-13*)

***What is your Cenacle “practice” (see above), the particular virtue you are trying to grown in right now? Ask the Holy Spirit daily to assist you with God’s grace in this area of your life. Don’t try to “go it alone”: transformation into Christ is not some type of “self-improvement”program. Rather it is the power of the Holy Spirit acting in our minds, hearts and wills to transform us, to fill us bounteously with the graces and blessings we need and desire to “become Christ”! This is God’s desire and dream for us. Frequently, each day, call on the Holy Spirit to continue this gracious work in you.***

**Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## Wednesday: The “Apostolic Spirit”

*From Father Judge:*

“Are we not of apostolic spirit, does not the spirit of the apostles appeal to us? Perhaps afar off, maybe imperfectly, we follow the footsteps of the apostles. No man, says the apostle, speaks of the Lord Jesus, unless it be given him by the Holy Spirit. (1Cor.12:3) Let us accentuate this thought. It is so important. Problems are coming up as things advance and we must have the blessing of God. This we will have only in the Spirit of God. Recognize this as a primary, basic truth. We are here only through the Holy Spirit.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 293)

*From the Word of God:*

““The hand of Yahweh was on me; he carried me away by the spirit of Yahweh and set me down in the middle of the valley, a valley full of bones.<sup>2</sup>He made me walk up and down and all around among them. There were vast quantities of these bones on the floor of the valley; and they were completely dry . . . .<sup>9</sup>He said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man. Say to the breath, “The Lord Yahweh says this: Come from the four winds, breath; breathe on these dead, so that they come to life!’”<sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he had ordered me, and the breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army. . . . Say to them, “The Lord Yahweh says this: I am now going to open your graves; I shall raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel.<sup>13</sup>And you will know that I am Yahweh, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people,<sup>14</sup>and put my spirit in you, and you revive, and I resettle you on your own soil. Then you will know that I, Yahweh, have spoken and done this—declares the Lord Yahweh.” ’” (*Ezekiel 37:1-2,9-10,12-14*)

***Father Judge understood the challenges and trials of the missionary life. He knew that, of ourselves, we would soon give up. However, like the prophet Ezekiel, he taught us that , by calling upon God’s Holy Spirit, even the most seemingly hopeless situations can suddenly be filled with life: God’s life! What are the “dry bones”in your own life, the life of your Missionary Cenacle, the life of the Church? Have the courage to cry out over them “Dry bone, come to life!” The Holy Spirit can and will accomplish this.***

**▶ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

# **Thursday: The Virgin Mary and the Spirit**

*From Father Judge:*

“O how Jesus the God-man loved that Spirit that did such wonderful things in the Immaculate Virgin Mary, that fitted her to be His mother, the co-redemptrix with Him. There must not be any neglect of His Holy Spirit. He who honors the Spirit of God delights the Sacred Heart of our Divine Lord. In nothing can we please Him more than in honoring His Holy Spirit, in loving His Holy Spirit, in attracting the Holy Spirit, in guarding ourselves lest we offend His Holy Spirit.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 293)

*From the Word of God:*

“. . . the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour.<sup>31</sup> Look! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus.<sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David;<sup>33</sup> he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’<sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I have no knowledge of man?’<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God.<sup>36</sup> And I tell you this too: your cousin Elizabeth also, in her old age, has conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month,<sup>37</sup> for nothing is impossible to God.’<sup>38</sup> Mary said, ‘You see before you the Lord’s servant, let it happen to me as you have said.’ And the angel left her.” (*Luke 1:30-38*)

***God chooses to bring about our salvation only with our human cooperation. This is the role of the Church as it was the role of Mary. By a generous, faith-filled, and confident “yes” to God’s invitation in our lives, God once again can become “incarnate”, “enfleshed” in our lives and in our world as “Savior” through the action of the Holy Spirit. What do you sense God is inviting you to in your life? What is your reaction? Is your response whole-hearted like Mary’s so that in you – as in Mary – the Word might once again become flesh for others? One of the Fathers of the Church once said, “There are many annunciations but few incarnations!” Pray that, in your life and in the life of the Cenacle, there may be many “incarnations” through the power of the Holy Spirit!***

**▶ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

# ***Friday: Failure and the Holy Spirit***

*From Father Judge:*

“Why is it so many good works fail, so many that start with enthusiasm, with hope; why do they fail? I am afraid it is because we did not call on the Holy Spirit. Might it not be, if something is wrong that we are on the outs with the Holy Spirit? Some people told Saint Paul, “We have not so much as heard whether there be a Holy Ghost.” (Acts 19:2)

Today we know there is a Holy Spirit but I am afraid some of us act as if there were not. I am wondering has the life gone out of our prayers to the Holy Spirit. What force do we put into our prayer to the Spirit of God?” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 293)

*From the Word of God:*

“There was also a man called Ananias. He and his wife, Sapphira, agreed to sell a property;<sup>2</sup>but with his wife’s connivance he kept back part of the price and brought the rest and presented it to the apostles.<sup>3</sup>Peter said, ‘Ananias, how can Satan have so possessed you that you should lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land?’<sup>4</sup>While you still owned the land, wasn’t it yours to keep, and after you had sold it wasn’t the money yours to do with as you liked? What put this scheme into your mind? You have been lying not to men, but to God.’<sup>5</sup>When he heard this Ananias fell down dead. And a great fear came upon everyone present.<sup>6</sup>The younger men got up, wrapped up the body, carried it out and buried it.<sup>7</sup>About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had taken place.<sup>8</sup>Peter challenged her, ‘Tell me, was this the price you sold the land for?’ ‘Yes,’ she said, ‘that was the price.’<sup>9</sup>Peter then said, ‘Why did you and your husband agree to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Listen! At the door are the footsteps of those who have buried your husband; they will carry you out, too.’<sup>10</sup>Instantly she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men came in they found she was dead, and they carried her out and buried her by the side of her husband.<sup>11</sup>And a great fear came upon the whole church and on all who heard it.” (*Acts 5:1-11*)

*Father Judge clearly wanted us to call often on the Holy Spirit in our missionary works. Before each missionary visit, we were to invoke the Holy Spirit’s presence and guidance. Before any new undertaking, we were to seek the wisdom and the strength of the Holy Spirit. When we experience or witness “failure”in the apostolic mission, it is important to question ourselves. Did we truly seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit before undertaking this work? Did we continually seek the strength of the Spirit as we confronted difficulties in fulfilling the task? Or was it really “my idea”, the “thing” I wanted to push? Did I become discouraged or cantankerous when people did not respond the way I felt they should or would? Was there a good deal of “me”in the work from the beginning? “Failure”-- like the Cross! – may be a sign and source of blessing . . . but we shouldn’t presume this until we’ve examined carefully our own actions and attitudes.*

**✎** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## WEEK III

### ***Weekend Reflection: Spirit, Church, Mission***

*[From the Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity #2-4, Vatican II]*

“The Church on earth is by its very nature missionary since, according to the plan of the Father, it has its origin in the mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit. This plan flows from ‘fountain-like love,’ the love of God the Father. As the principle without principle from whom the Son is generated and from whom the holy Spirit proceeds through the Son, God in his great and merciful kindness freely creates us and moreover, graciously calls us to share in his life and glory. He generously pours out, and never ceases to pour out, his divine goodness, so that he who is creator of all things might at last become ‘all in all’ (*1 Corinthians 15:28*), thus simultaneously assuring his own glory and our happiness. It pleased God to call men and women to share in his life and not merely singly, without any bond between them, but he formed them into a people, in which his children who had been scattered were gathered together (see *John 11:52*).

“This universal plan of God for salvation of humanity is not carried out solely in a secret manner, as it were, in the minds of men and women, nor by the efforts, even religious, through which they in many ways seek God in an attempt to touch him and find him, although God is not far from any of us (see *Acts 17:27*); their efforts need to be enlightened and corrected, although in the loving providence of God they may lead one to the true God and be a preparation for the Gospel. However, in order to establish a relationship of peace and communion with himself, and in order to bring about brotherly and sisterly union among men and women, and they sinners, God decided to enter into the history of humanity in a new and definitive manner, by sending his own Son in human flesh, so that through him he might snatch people from the power of darkness and of Satan (see *Colossians 1:13; Acts 10:38*) and in him reconcile the world to himself. He appointed him, through whom he made the world, to be heir of all things that he might restore all things in him (see *Ephesians 1:10*).

“Jesus Christ was sent into the world as the true Mediator between God and humanity. Since he is God, all the fullness of the divine nature dwells in him bodily (*Colossians 2:9*); as man he is the new Adam, full of grace and truth (*John 1:14*), who has been constituted head of a restored humanity. So the Son of God entered the world by means of a true incarnation that he might make men and women sharers in the divine nature . . . . The fathers of the Church constantly proclaim that what was not assumed by Christ was not healed. . . .

“Now what was once preached by the Lord, or fulfilled in him for the salvation of humanity, must be proclaimed and spread to the ends of the earth (*Acts 1:8*), starting from Jerusalem (see *Luke 24:27*), so that what was accomplished for the salvation of all men and women may, in the course of time, achieve its universal effect.

“To do this, Christ sent the Holy Spirit from the Father to exercise inwardly his saving influence, and to promote the spread of the Church. Without doubt, the Holy Spirit was at work in the world before Christ was glorified. On the day of Pentecost, however, he came down on the disciples that he might remain with them forever (see *John 14:16*); on that day the Church was openly displayed to the crowds and the spread of the Gospel among the nations, through preaching, was begun. Finally, on that day was foreshadowed the union of all peoples in the catholicity of the faith by means of the Church of the New Alliance, a Church which speaks every language, understands and embraces all tongues in charity, and thus overcomes the dispersion of Babel. The ‘acts of the apostles’ began with Pentecost, just as Christ was conceived in the Virgin Mary with the coming of the Holy Spirit and was moved to begin his ministry by the descent of the same Holy Spirit, who came down upon him while he was praying. Before freely laying down his life for the world, the Lord Jesus organized the apostolic ministry and promised to send the Holy Spirit, in such a way that both would be always and everywhere associated in the fulfilment of the work of salvation. Through the ages the Holy Spirit makes the entire Church ‘one in communion and ministry; and provides her with different hierarchical and charismatic gifts’ (*Lumen Gentium #4*), giving life to ecclesiastical structures, being as it were their soul, and inspiring in the hearts of the faithful that same spirit of

mission which impelled Christ himself. He even at times visibly anticipates apostolic action, just as in various ways he unceasingly accompanies and directs it.”

*According to the Vatican Council, the saving Word of God advances and spreads through the missionary efforts of the baptized. “Faith comes through hearing!” Father Judge insisted on the responsibility of Catholic men and women to reach out to others with the gift of faith. It was really not just a “nice option”, something “nice to do if you’re so inclined.” It rather was a necessary dimension of a truly living faith: to proclaim the one whom we have seen and touched, whom we have come to know -- the Word of Life (see 1 John 1). And all this is possible only through the Holy Spirit. What is your own personal attitude toward missionary effort? Zealous? Indifferent? Afraid? Timid? Uncertain? On fire? No matter where you are personally, ask the Holy Spirit to give you a rich, full share of this missionary spirit, and it will be yours!*

**Write** down your reflections briefly here:

## WEEK III

### Monday: “Uction in our prayer”

*From Father Judge:*

“Let us contrive to bring this Holy Spirit amongst us. We need the Spirit of God, we just must have the Holy Spirit move amongst us. He is the One to soften your hearts, enlighten your minds, to give power and strength to your will. We want strength and power, but that is of the Holy Spirit. Now let us put more unction in our prayer to the Spirit of God.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 293)

*From the Word of God:*

“<sup>4</sup>Once they had scattered, they went from place to place preaching the good news.<sup>5</sup>And Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them.<sup>6</sup>The people unanimously welcomed the message Philip preached, because they had heard of the miracles he worked and because they saw them for themselves.<sup>7</sup>For unclean spirits came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured.<sup>8</sup>As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.<sup>9</sup>Now a man called Simon had for some time been practicing magic arts in the town and astounded the Samaritan people. He had given it out that he was someone momentous,<sup>10</sup>and everyone believed in him; eminent citizens and ordinary people alike had declared, ‘He is the divine power that is called Great.’<sup>11</sup>He had this following because for a considerable period they had been astounded by his wizardry.<sup>12</sup>But when they came to accept Philip’s preaching of the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women,<sup>13</sup>and even Simon himself became a believer.” (*Acts 8:4-13*)

***Reflect on the working of the Holy Spirit in your own life and in the lives of others you know. Can you see how the Spirit “softens hearts, enlightens minds, gives power and strength to wills”? Feel confident that the Holy Spirit can and will do the same for you in your own life, in the lives of your family, friends, the Missionary Cenacle and the Church. We must simply ask with confidence and constancy.***

**Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## ***Tuesday: “Strengthen, confirm, establish”***

*From Father Judge:*

“Our Holy Mother the Church today is very happy. She rejoices much, and she has a prayer, many prayers, today [Pentecost], but there is one prayer that throbs and vibrates all through her liturgy and that prayer is this: “O God, strengthen, confirm, establish more and more that which Thou has done in us.” Oh, that is a great prayer; in fact, the Church was taught that prayer by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is very vigilant, the Holy Spirit is very active, the Holy Spirit is most solicitous that not an atom will be lost of all that the good Jesus did for your soul, and so He enlightens the Church to pray. “O Lord, that that which Thou has done will be strengthened, will be confirmed, will be fastened.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 179)

*From the Word of God:*

“<sup>7</sup>Brothers and sisters, your faith has been a great encouragement to us in the middle of our own distress and hardship;<sup>8</sup>now we can breathe again, as you are holding firm in the Lord.<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you, for all the joy we feel before our God on your account?<sup>10</sup>We are earnestly praying night and day to be able to see you face to face again and make up any shortcomings in your faith.<sup>11</sup>May God our Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, ease our path to you.<sup>12</sup>May the Lord increase and enrich your love for each other and for all, so that it matches ours for you.<sup>13</sup>And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.” (*1 Thessalonians 3:7-13*)

*The Holy Spirit is the one who “confirms”with God’s glory and strength the works of God. As we go about our missionary lives, God’s invitation to us is to call upon the Spirit often that we ourselves and other s may be “encouraged” -- filled with confidence and courage in the face of opposition and obstacles. Think of an instance in your own life where you have had to confront some difficulty, small or large. Were you able to sense or experience the presence of God’s Spirit with you? Even if you did not experience that presence consciously in the moment, were you able to see that presence with the perspective of time and reflection?*

**▶ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## Wednesday: “Conquer the world for Christ”

*From Father Judge:*

“How much the Holy Spirit has done in you, in all of us, and how much He is doing in Holy Mother the Church! Do you know that this is one of the great feasts of the year? This feast of Pentecost is one of the happiest of all the festival days of the Church. This is the day that the Church came out of the Cenacle. This is the day that the Church went forth enlightened, inspired, strengthened by the Holy Spirit to conquer the world for Christ. The Church remembers this day with gladness..” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 179)

*From the Word of God:*

“<sup>44</sup>The next Sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God.<sup>45</sup>When they saw the crowds, the Jews, filled with jealousy, used blasphemies to contradict everything Paul said.<sup>46</sup>Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out fearlessly. ‘We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, here and now we turn to the gentiles.’<sup>47</sup>For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said: I have made you a light to the nations, so that my salvation may reach the remotest parts of the earth.’<sup>48</sup>It made the gentiles very happy to hear this and they gave thanks to the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers.<sup>49</sup>Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.<sup>50</sup>But the Jews worked on some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city; they stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their territory.<sup>51</sup>So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went off to Iconium; but the converts were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.” (*Acts 13:44-52*)

*The apostolic, missionary vocation implies a struggle against the accumulated force of negativity, ignorance and evil. The world does not readily or happily hear the Good News. Open persecution or -- perhaps worse -- indifference or disdain are often peoples’ reactions. Certainly this was the experience of Father Judge, Mother Boniface, Doctor Healy and the early Cenacle missionaries. At the same time, paradoxically, fidelity to the mission despite the rejection and ridicule brought with it a special happiness and joy. This joy in the face of persecution – direct or indirect – is a genuine mark of the gift of the Holy Spirit in one’s life. Have you ever experienced this particular type of joy? What were the circumstances?*

**✎** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## ***Thursday: “The first novena to the Holy Spirit”***

*From Father Judge:*

“Where did the Church lead us today [Pentecost]? She brought us back to Jerusalem. She brought us all to the Cenacle and she showed us what was happening. She pointed out to us the Queen of the Apostles, our holy Mother of Light; she glorified Mary Immaculate as the spouse, the Immaculate spouse of the Holy Spirit. She showed us those Apostles, those disciples, those world-conquerors, and then she showed us the visible action of the Holy Spirit. Oh, today we hear the mighty wind; today we see the tongues of fire. We see today people of every tribe and clan under God's heaven gathered together that first Pentecost Sunday. We were there at the completion of the first novena to the Holy Spirit, led by the Mother of the Lord herself. All this did the Church tell us and show us today.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 179)

*From the Word of God:*

“<sup>12</sup>So from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, they went back to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a Sabbath walk;<sup>13</sup> and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James.<sup>14</sup> With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.” (*Acts 1:12-14*)

***The first “novena to the Holy Spirit” according to Father Judge was that prayed by the Virgin Mary with the first apostles in the original Cenacle. There they prayed together, patiently and confidently awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit . . . and came the Spirit did! In the Missionary Cenacle, as we have seen above, we have many practices of prayer relative to the Holy Spirit. These include an ongoing perpetual novena to the Holy Spirit, prayer to the Holy Spirit before any meeting or gathering or reading of the Scripture, daily Litany to the Holy Spirit and a constant pleading for the Spirit’s gifts, nine days of prayer to the Spirit prior to the feast of Pentecost. The results of that first Pentecost when they came were very obvious. What results have you seen as a consequence of your own prayer and that of your Cenacle to the Holy Spirit? Be as specific and practical as possible.***

**Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## ***Friday: “The secret is the Holy Spirit”***

*From Father Judge:*

“Think what was wrought and is being wrought in the Church. After all, what is the secret of the Church’s longevity, her long life? Why is she so long-lived, what is the secret of her perennial youth? The Holy Spirit. What is the secret of that irresistible, invincible progress of the Church? The Holy Spirit. We read Church history in amazement. We see it taking one position after another. We watch her in battle, we study her in peace, this Mother of the Ages. The secret is the Holy Spirit, animating her, vivifying her, enlightening her, strengthening her, confirming her, taking care of her. Is it any wonder that the Church loves the Holy Spirit O this chaste, beautiful, lovely, spotless, stainless Spouse of Christ! What is the secret of her beauty and loveliness, youth and grace, and those years of her wisdom? The Holy Spirit. Why is it that the gates of Hell cannot prevail against her? Why is it that those foolish men, those princes of the people rise up against Christ and His Church in vain?

“The Holy Spirit is there to defend and conquer for the Church. Why is it that the Church must go on and on and that she must not fail? It is because the Holy Spirit is the Soul of the Church..” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 179)

*From the Word of God:*

When they had brought them in to face the Sanhedrin, the high priest demanded an explanation.<sup>28</sup>‘We gave you a strong warning’, he said, ‘not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt for this man’s death on us.’<sup>29</sup>In reply Peter and the apostles said, ‘Obedience to God comes before obedience to men,’<sup>30</sup>it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, whom you executed by hanging on a tree.<sup>31</sup>By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and Savior, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel.<sup>32</sup>We are witnesses to this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.<sup>33</sup>This so infuriated them that they wanted to put them to death.” (*Acts 5:27-33*)

*The beauty, the glory, the goodness, the “perennial” youthfulness of the Church is something Father Judge constantly reflects on with profound awe and gratitude. Why? This crazy band of believers with all its poverty, weaknesses, foibles and sinfulness has truly been the bearer of the Good News to billions of people through the generations. Only the Spirit of God could explain such divinity and goodness masked in such ignorance, scandal, pettiness and irresponsibility we often experience in ourselves and in our sisters and brothers in the faith. This keen awareness of the Spirit’s glorious presence in the heart of the Church can be a source of continual consolation and encouragement. As one of the early Missionary Cenacle priests once said, “My greatest consolation in life as a priest has been to remember that Jesus once used an ass to get to Jerusalem. If he can use one then, he can use one now!” All this is possible only through the Holy Spirit! Reflect on your own experience of the Spirit’s presence in the midst of our human frailty and insufficiency as Church. Does it discourage you or are you able to acknowledge the ever-present Spirit there with awe and gratitude?*

**Write** down your reflections briefly here:

## WEEK IV

### ***Weekend Reflection: “One body . . . one Spirit”***

*[From the Decree on Ecumenism #2-3, Vatican II]*

“After being lifted up on the cross and glorified, the Lord Jesus poured forth the Spirit whom he had promised, and through whom he has called and gathered together the people of the New Covenant, which is the Church, into a unity of faith, hope and charity. . . : ‘There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism’ (*Ephesians 4:4-5*). For ‘all you have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ . . . for you are all one in Christ Jesus’ (*Galatians 3:27-28*). It is the Holy Spirit, dwelling in those who believe and pervading and ruling over the entire Church, who brings about that wonderful communion of the faithful and joins them together so intimately in Christ that he is the principle of the Church’s unity. By distributing various kinds of spiritual gifts and ministries, he enriches the Church of Jesus Christ with different functions ‘in order to equip the saints for the work of service, so as to build up the body of Christ’ (*Ephesians 4:12*). . . .

“The Church, then, God’s only flock, like a standard lifted on high for the nations to see it, ministers the Gospel of peace to all humanity, as it makes its pilgrim way in hope towards its goal, the fatherland above. This is the sacred mystery of the unity of the Church, in Christ and through Christ, with the Holy Spirit energizing its various functions. The highest exemplar and source of this mystery is the unity, in the Trinity of Persons, of one God, the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit.

“In this one and only Church of God from its very beginnings there arose certain rifts, which the Apostle strongly censures as damnable. But in subsequent centuries much more serious dissensions appeared and large communities became separated from the full communion with the Catholic Church – for which, often enough, men of both sides were to blame. However, one cannot charge with the sin of the separation those who at present are born into these communities and in them are brought up in the faith of Christ, and the Catholic Church accepts them with respect and affection as sisters and brothers. For men and women who believe in Christ and have been properly baptized are put in some, though imperfect, communion with the Catholic Church. Without doubt, the differences that exist in varying degrees between them and the Catholic Church – whether in doctrine and sometimes in discipline, or concerning the structure of the Church – do indeed create many obstacles, sometimes serious ones, to full ecclesiastical communion. The ecumenical movement is striving to overcome these obstacles. But even in spite of them it remains true that all who have been justified by faith in baptism are incorporated into Christ; they therefore have a right to be called Christians, and with good reason are accepted as sisters and brothers by the children of the Catholic Church.

“Moreover, some, even very many, of the most significant elements and endowments which together go to build up and give life to the Church itself, can exist outside the visible boundaries of the Catholic Church: the written Word of God; the life of grace; faith, hope, and charity, with the other interior gifts of the Holy Spirit, as well as visible elements. All of these, which come from Christ and lead back to him, belong by right to the one Church of Christ. . . .

“Today, in many parts of the world, under the influence of the grace of the Holy Spirit, many efforts are being made in prayer, word, and action to attain that fullness of unity which Jesus Christ desires. The sacred

*Lesson #12, The Holy Spirit and the Church - 26*

Council exhorts, therefore, all the Catholic faithful to recognize the signs of the times and to take an active and intelligent part in the work of ecumenism.

“For although the Catholic Church has been endowed with all divinely revealed truth and with all means of grace, yet its members fail to live by them with all the fervor that they should. As a result the radiance of the Church’s face shines less brightly in the eyes of our separated brethren and of the world at large, and the growth of God’s kingdom is retarded. . . . While preserving unity in essentials, let everyone in the Church . . . preserve a proper freedom in the various forms of spiritual life and discipline, in the variety of liturgical rites, and even in the theological elaborations of revealed truth. In all things let charity prevail . . . .

“Catholics must gladly acknowledge and esteem the truly Christian endowments for our common heritage which are to be found among our separated brethren. It is right and salutary to recognize the riches of Christ and various works in the lives of others who are bearing witness to Christ, sometimes even to the shedding of their blood. For God is always wonderful in his works and worthy of all praise. . . . Whatever is truly Christian is never contrary to what genuinely belongs to the faith; indeed, it can always bring a more perfect realization of the very mystery of Christ and the Church.”

*What is your own personal attitude toward the members of other Christian churches and communities? Are you respectful and loving in dealing with and speaking of these “brothers and sisters” as the Council describes them? Have you actively sought out opportunities to meet with and share in prayer and dialogue with these sisters and brothers? Have you looked for ways to engage with them on projects or works of peace and justice? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you -- concretely and practically -- what you might do to hasten the day when there is truly “one body, one Spirit” among all the baptized.*

**▶ Write** down your reflections briefly here:

## WEEK IV

### Monday: A “particular devotion to the Holy Spirit”

*From Father Judge:*

“How few there are, how very few there are who have a particular or a pronounced devotion to the Holy Spirit. And O sadness, great sadness-How many today give very little or no thought to the mystery or the meaning of Pentecost. If you could question people about (Pentecost) and ask them what thoughts they had, you would be startled at the very few people who have expressed an act of faith in the mystery of Pentecost.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 181)

*From the Word of God:*

“<sup>8</sup>You have not seen him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him you believe in him and so are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described;<sup>9</sup> and you are sure of the goal of your faith, that is, the salvation of your souls. <sup>10</sup>This salvation was the subject of the search and investigation of the prophets who spoke of the grace you were to receive,<sup>11</sup> searching out the time and circumstances for which the Spirit of Christ, bearing witness in them, was revealing the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow them.<sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that it was for your sake and not their own that they were acting as servants delivering the message which has now been announced to you by those who preached to you the gospel through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even the angels long to catch a glimpse of these things.” (*1 Peter 1:8-12*)

*This idea of a “particular or a pronounced devotion to the Holy Spirit” was a key element, for Father Judge, in the formation of a missionary. Do you feel you have such a “particular or pronounced devotion”? Do you know someone who does? If so, what are the characteristics of such a devotion? How does it become real or apparent in your own life or in the lives of others you know?*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## **Tuesday: “The Holy Spirit possesses you”**

*From Father Judge:*

“The Holy Spirit works in you, and therefore the gladness of the Church today [Pentecost] is a personal gladness with us. The Holy Spirit possesses you; you are marked and pointed and signed and sealed unto the Holy Spirit. You are His. And Oh, that wonderful merit the Lord obtained through the shedding of His Blood the Holy Spirit applied to your soul! In the words of St. Paul: “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who by the Holy Spirit offered himself unspotted unto God, cleanse our conscience.”(Heb. 9:14).” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 181)

*From the Word of God:*

“<sup>11</sup>But now Christ has come, as the high priest of all the blessings which were to come. He has passed through the greater, the more perfect tent, not made by human hands, that is, not of this created order;<sup>12</sup>and he has entered the sanctuary once and for all, taking with him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but his own blood, having won an eternal redemption.<sup>13</sup>The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkled on those who have incurred defilement, may restore their bodily purity.<sup>14</sup>How much more will the blood of Christ, who offered himself, blameless as he was, to God through the eternal Spirit, purify our conscience from dead actions so that we can worship the living God.” (*Hebrews 9:11-14*)

*Thank the Holy Spirit for having taking possession of you. Thank the Most Holy Trinity for the perfect gift of the Spirit by which you have been brought into the very heart of God. Rest there with God, in the Spirit, in the divine Heart. Let your mind and heart be overwhelmed, embraced, enfolded in this mystery of God’s personal Love for you: the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**✎ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## Wednesday: “Temples of the Holy Spirit”

*From Father Judge:*

“Think of the action in your soul in the reception of the Sacraments! And what is the greatest charm of your body-O what is your body's supremest glory? Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, truly temples of the Holy Spirit. You know the Holy Spirit operates not only in your soul but in your body. He is jealous of that body of yours. O, what is it that gives light to your eye, that causes your optic nerve to function? It is the Holy Spirit. Who gives you health and grace and charm, who is it that has molded you so exquisitely and splashed the color of a rose in your cheek. It is the Holy Spirit. Would you be well? Pray to this Father of Lights, pray to this Holy Spirit from Whom comes every decent and good gift.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 181)

*From the Word of God:*

“Now each one must be careful how he does the building.<sup>11</sup>For nobody can lay down any other foundation than the one which is there already, namely Jesus Christ.<sup>12</sup>On this foundation, different people may build in gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay or straw<sup>13</sup>but each person’s handiwork will be shown for what it is. The Day which dawns in fire will make it clear and the fire itself will test the quality of each person’s work.<sup>14</sup>The one whose work stands up to it will be given his wages;<sup>15</sup>the one whose work is burnt down will suffer the loss of it, though he himself will be saved; he will be saved as someone might expect to be saved from a fire.<sup>16</sup>Do you not realise that you are a temple of God with the Spirit of God living in you?<sup>17</sup>If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy that person, because God’s temple is holy; and you are that temple.” (*1 Corinthians 3:10-17*)

*Take a few minutes to consider your own body. How do you feel about your body? What do you think of your own body? Do you consider it holy and sacred? Do you properly care for your body and honor it? Do you recognize your own body as a living Temple of the Holy Spirit? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal that Divine Presence within you so that you might “glorify God in your body” and honor and reverence ever more fully that same Presence in every human being and all creation. .*

**Write** down your reflections briefly here:

# Thursday: The Spirit within

*From Father Judge:*

“[The Spirit] works particularly in your souls, for after all, the body is only happy, the body is only favored because of its association with the soul, because of its personal union with the soul. And yet how little have we honored the Holy Spirit. O, truly can it be said He is the unknown God, and even to us who are enlightened He is too often the hidden God, the forgotten God..” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 181)

*From the Word of God:*

“What no eye has seen and no ear has heard, what the mind of man cannot visualize; all that God has prepared for those who love him; <sup>10</sup>to us, though, God has given revelation through the Spirit, for the Spirit explores the depths of everything, even the depths of God.<sup>11</sup> After all, is there anyone who knows the qualities of anyone except his own spirit, within him; and in the same way, nobody knows the qualities of God except the Spirit of God.<sup>12</sup> Now, the Spirit we have received is not the spirit of the world but God’s own Spirit, so that we may understand the lavish gifts God has given us.<sup>13</sup> And these are what we speak of, not in the terms learnt from human philosophy, but in terms learnt from the Spirit, fitting spiritual language to spiritual things.<sup>14</sup> The natural person has no room for the gifts of God’s Spirit; to him they are folly; he cannot recognize them, because their value can be assessed only in the Spirit.<sup>15</sup> The spiritual person, on the other hand, can assess the value of everything, and that person’s value cannot be assessed by anybody else.<sup>16</sup> For: who has ever known the mind of the Lord? Who has ever been his adviser? But we are those who have the mind of Christ.” (*1 Corinthians 2:9-16*)

*God’s personal intimacy with each person open to the Divine Presence of the Spirit is total and all-embracing, never-failing. This is the summit of the gifts that God can give to us: God’s own personal Love dwelling within us, in the depths of our own spirit. This unity of mind, heart, and spirit with the living God is the perfection and the fulfillment of Life. Are you aware of this Divine Presence within you? Normally? Every once in a while? Never? Ask the blessed Spirit of God to indwell the very abyss of your being that you might know life ... and have it to the full! This is the experience of the Divine Life that the missionary most effectively and powerfully shares with others.*

**Write** down your reflections briefly here:

# ***Friday: The “heart beat” of the Church***

*From Father Judge:*

“Now I am going to become personal with you. I wonder how many of you, (on Pentecost) made an act of faith in the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. I will tell you what you should have done. As soon as you opened your eyes (that) morning you should have elicited an act of faith in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. You should have done that.

If your heart was beating in close union understand, in a perfect rhythm and harmony with the heart-beat of Holy Mother Church, you would have done that. You would have said, “Holy Mother, I believe all that you believe because you were taught by Christ, enlightened by His Holy Spirit.” Did you do it? You should have done it. You missed something. You should have done more; you should have elicited acts of faith and love, praise and adoration. You should have glorified Him, you should have thanked Him.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 181)

*From the Word of God:*

“I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you therefore to lead a life worthy of the vocation to which you were called.<sup>2</sup>With all humility and gentleness, and with patience, support each other in love.<sup>3</sup>Take every care to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together.<sup>4</sup>There is one Body, one Spirit, just as one hope is the goal of your calling by God.<sup>5</sup>There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,<sup>6</sup>and one God and Father of all, over all, through all and within all.<sup>7</sup>On each one of us God’s favor has been bestowed in whatever way Christ allotted it ”  
(*Ephesians 4:1-7*)

*To “think with the Church” -- “sentire cum ecclesia”-- was one of Father Judge’s ideals for the Cenacle missionaries. It was not merely a rational exercise. Rather they were to feel with the Church, to sorrow with the Church, to rejoice with the Church, to hope and dream with the Church\.* Why? *Because at the very heart of the Church lies the Holy Spirit and so to be in harmony or rhythm with the heartbeat of the Church was to be in harmony and rhythm with the heartbeat of God! Listen to your own “heartbeat”. How much is it in union with the beating in the soul of the Church? This will give you a fairly accurate measure of your own personal unity with the Spirit of God.*

**▶ Write down your reflections briefly here:**