

EVE OF PENTECOST

Dispositions for receiving the Holy Spirit

42.1 First Point

In today's Gospel Jesus Christ points out to us three dispositions we need in order to receive the Holy Spirit, expressed in these words: If you love me, keep my commandments, and I will ask my Father, and he will give you another Consoler to be with you always.²⁸⁵

The first of these dispositions is to love God and to give yourself entirely to him. For this you must detach yourself from all creatures and love God alone. Whoever is attached to the world and its goods is not capable of receiving the Spirit of God, who communicates himself to those only whom he finds empty of all that is not God. That is why, as Jesus Christ observes, the world cannot receive this divine Spirit,²⁸⁶ because it loves only the concupiscence of the flesh, the concupiscence of the eyes, and the pride of life.²⁸⁷

Detach yourself from all things, then, and attach yourself to God alone if you wish to be in a state to receive the Spirit of God.

42.2 Second Point

The second disposition required to receive the Holy Spirit is to keep God's commandments faithfully and to strive to do his holy will in all things. Jesus Christ says that this divine Spirit will always be in and with those who receive him,²⁸⁸ and that he cannot be pleased save with those who try always to do what God desires of them and always to be in harmony with his holy will. We should, then, not expect to receive the Holy Spirit if we do not try to accomplish the holy will of God in all things.

You have left the world, no doubt, to give yourself entirely to God, and to possess abundantly his divine Spirit. Do not expect to achieve this, however, unless you punctually fulfill what you know is God's will for you. Be very careful to observe your Rule exactly.

42.3 Third Point

Nothing disposes us better to receive the Holy Spirit than prayer. This is why Jesus Christ assures us that our heavenly Father will give his Spirit, full of love and goodness for us, to all those who ask him.²⁸⁹ Yet, because he knows that the fullness of this divine Spirit is difficult to obtain and because he desires to give the Spirit to his apostles, he promises them that he will pray to the Father for them²⁹⁰ that they will receive his Spirit in profusion.

If you wish to dispose yourself as well as God asks of you in order to be filled with the Spirit of God on Pentecost day, apply yourself with attention and fervor to interior prayer in order to be filled with God's grace. For this is the day on which he generously pours out his graces; it was on this day that he gave himself to the holy apostles and to all those who then made up the Church. Do not fail to pray to him during all these holy days, and often repeat with the Church these holy words: Send forth your Spirit to give us a new life, and you will renew the face of the earth.²⁹¹

285 Jn 14:15-16
286 Jn 14:17
287 1 Jn 2:16

288 Jn 14:16-17
289 Lk 11:13
290 Jn 14:16

291 Ps 104:30