



From the SVD CEREMONIAL, Second Edition, Rome 2009, pp. 26-30.

## **SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST**

As an international missionary community, the Society of the Divine Word celebrates the Solemnity of Pentecost with particular joy and enthusiasm. Traditionally referred to as the birthday of the Church, the Society recalls that it was on the first Pentecost that “the Spirit of the Lord filled the disciples, making them a missionary community to proclaim the gospel with power and courage” (Const. 405). While praying that the Spirit may come and unite in one faith and one baptism all the races and nations on earth to proclaim God’s glory, Divine Word Missionaries pray in a particular way for the Spirit’s blessing upon their apostolic labors for the building up of the Church, the one body of Christ. This solemnity is especially significant for the Society of the Divine Word in view of that particular devotion to the Holy Spirit which it has inherited from its founder, Saint Arnold Janssen. It is on this day that we rejoice with the two sister missionary congregations founded by Father Janssen also dedicated in a special manner to the Holy Spirit: the Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters. As far as possible we join with these communities in celebrating the solemnity of Pentecost.

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

#### **Consecration of the Society to the Holy Spirit on Pentecost**

Leader: Holy Spirit of God, whom we honor as the Father of the Society, in joy and gratitude we call to mind that on the first Pentecost you came upon the apostles and Mary, their Queen, to lay the foundation of the Church and to commence its missionary work.

All: On that day you beheld not only the apostles but all who in the future would work for the spread of the gospel.

L: In your wisdom you also saw those missionaries who have been and will be prepared and sent forth by the religious congregations founded by Saint Arnold Janssen.

A: Your gifts were sent to enrich all; all were to share in the dignity of the apostles.

L: Spirit divine, we believe that you cherish a special love for us. We believe that you are our first and truest friend. With deep appreciation for this friendship, we solemnly renew our dedication to you today.

A: To your love we owe all that we have and all that we shall possess. In gratitude we return all to you that we may be totally yours. Let us always respond to the movements of your grace as did Jesus and his holy Mother who were guided by you with no other desire but that your will should be done in and through them. We recognize that all is of little lasting value that does not proceed from you and redound to the glory of Christ and his eternal Father.

L: Through the hidden working of your providence you brought about the founding of our Society.

A: You have enabled us to join this missionary community and so to take part in the work of the apostles by devoting our lives to the imitation of Christ and the preaching of the gospel.

L: We acknowledge gratefully that, next to our faith, the missionary vocation is the greatest grace given us and the surest sign of your love for us.

A: Holy Spirit, love of the Father and the Son, love ever ancient yet ever new, enkindle in us that zeal and fervor that marked our Society at its foundation.

L: Grant us an increase of faith, hope and charity, a sincere mutual esteem and love for one another.

A: Grace us with true apostolic zeal and missionary dedication that we may become ever more worthy members of the religious family to which you have called us.

L: Give us the grace that ministering among others we may also grow in your love and holiness.

A: For what would it profit us to gain the whole world and work for the salvation of others if we fail to appear pleasing to you?

L: Grant that during the remainder of our lives we may work with ever increasing fervor and love and so fulfill our missionary calling according to the constitutions of our Society.

A: May we walk in the presence of God at all times. May we be devoted to prayer, eager in the pursuit of true holiness and fearful of nothing but what displeases you, the hidden companion of our lives.

L: By the working of your loving grace may we become even more pleasing to you.

A: Reign in our lives and hearts; be our divine inheritance.

