

## KSC 2019 FORMATION PROGRAMME THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR TIME

### Session Two: Theme: Inspiration

The Oxford English Dictionary tells us that the word 'inspire' comes from the Latin which means to 'breathe in' or more precisely to 'breathe into'. It further tells us that this originally was particularly in reference to an action of the Divine.

#### Step 1: Opening prayer: from the Order's Prayers

#### Step 2: READINGS ON THE THEME

In Session One we noted the assurance from the gospel of John — "Do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you through the Holy Spirit." It is important to note that the Holy Spirit "gives words" not only in times of persecution, but also for the building of the Kingdom and the edification of listeners. Father Robert Spitzer SJ in writing about the inspiration of the Holy Spirit writes: "The Spirit does not blast thoughts into our head, but rather gives us a thesis statement with a sense of drawing us to something deeper. Now we, in our freedom, must follow this sense of being drawn. If we do, then our desire to help, and our effort to formulate, combine with this sense of following Wisdom, and words begin to tumble out. They may be prosaic or poetic, ordinary or beautiful to behold, plain and straightforward or filled with metaphor and imagination, but whatever the case, they have the capacity to reach into the hearts of deeply empathetic individuals, moving them to new depths and directions of love. Our job is to follow this sense of being drawn, and to exert the effort to put words into what our heart already seems to know. The Holy Spirit will take care of the rest." (FATHER ROBERT SPITZER, S.J. *Christendom College Graduate School of Theology* from his book 'Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life' (June 13, 2013)).



By now most would be (or should be) well aware of the process begun in the Catholic Church in Australia for the Plenary Council 2020. One of the most fundamental elements of this Plenary Council process is for every individual, group and community to immerse in the presence of the Holy Spirit in three ways – the first is by prayer, the second is by listening, and the third is by sharing. I would like to encourage everyone to invest in the time to read the website <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au> and draw encouragement in knowing that our great effort at discerning and participating in this vital activity is solidly built on the presence and action of the Holy Spirit as our foundation. In the last book of the New Testament – the Revelation to John (sometimes called the Apocalypse) – Chapters Two and Three recount the messages to the seven churches and at the end of each message there is the common plea: "Let anyone who can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

As the Holy Spirit continues to breathe into – Inspire - us as individuals, as groups and as community we need to make the effort to be aware of it, to remember it, and to treasure it by deeply reflecting on that Divine presence.

#### Step 3: Allow a few moments reflective silence.

**Step 4: SCRIPTURE READING**

“Let anyone who can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.” (Rev 2:7,11,17, 29. 3:6,13,22)

“Do you not realise that you are a temple of God with the Spirit of God living in you? 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 3:16,17)

**Step 5: REFLECTION (5 Mins)**

**Step 6: SHARING (10 Mins)**

The continuous abiding presence of the Holy Spirit is a great gift. Through the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation – that gift of the Holy Spirit has grown within us and gives us life. It sometimes happens that we tend to forget about this solid foundation. We know that if physically we forget to breathe we are in serious trouble and every effort is made to get us breathing again and that sometimes involves others. The same is true in our spiritual life – if we forget the inspiration of the Holy Spirit we need to address that issue and that can also sometimes involve others.

1. What is your experience of remembering the presence of the Holy Spirit each day?
2. Share your times when you have become aware of the action of the Holy Spirit’s influence.
3. What do you do to practically and deliberately call to mind the presence of the Holy Spirit?

**Step 7: CONCLUSION**

We pray together;

**Come, Holy Spirit, and fill my heart with your gifts.**

**Let my love be true and my charity be generous.**

**Help me in all my needs, and grant me knowledge to do what is right.**

**Advise me in my doubts, strengthen me in my weakness, protect me when I am tempted and console me when I am afraid.**

**Graciously hear me, O Holy Spirit, and pour your light into my heart, mind and soul.**

**Help me to live a holy life and grow in goodness and grace.**

**Amen**

**Step 8: *The meeting proceeds***

**Step 9: CLOSING PRAYERS – FROM THE ORDER’S PRAYERS**