



The Spirit of God brings unity

27th PENTECOST NOVENA
OF THE 2022 RENOVABIS CAMPAIGN



Pray for nine days
in solidarity with the people
of Central and Eastern Europe

We have illustrated this year's Renovabis Pentecost Novena with the glass color squares and other pictorial impressions of the Richter window covering 106 square meters in the southern transept of Cologne Cathedral. Finished in 2007, Gerhard Richter designed it from 11,263 individual discs randomly arranged by computer in 72 colors.

Renovabis Pentecost Novena 2022 – God's Spirit brings unity

by Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Dr. Pero Sudar, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Published by Renovabis,
the solidarity campaign of German Catholics
with the people in Central and Eastern Europe
Domberg 38/40, 85354 Freising, Germany
www.renovabis.de • © Renovabis, March 2022
Department of Communication and Cooperation,
Department Publications – Public Relations

in cooperation with pastor Ivica Komadina,
Croatian Pastoral Care in Germany, Frankfurt am Main

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Graphic design: Margret Russer, Munich

Typesetting: Vollnhals Fotosatz, Neustadt a. d. Donau
Production: MVG Medienproduktion, Aachen
Distribution: MVG-Vertriebsges.mBH,
Postfach 10 11 38, 52011 Aachen,
Phone: 0241/ 479 86 200, Fax: -745

Photo credits: cover page/page 32/page 44/page 64/
page 69: © design: Gerhard Richter, Cologne / photo:
Hohe Cologne Cathedral, Dombauhütte; Mira Unkelbach;
page 19/page 54/cover page: Matz und Schenk;
page 24/page 29/page 39/page 49/page 59: Jennifer
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27TH PENTACOST NOVENA FOR THE 2022 RENOVABIS CAMPAIGN

**The Spirit
of God
brings unity**

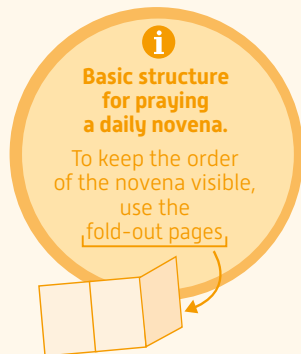
By Pero Sudar
Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Sarajevo

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Dear readers, To the faithful praying this novena!

As I write these introductory lines to the novena prayer composed by Auxiliary Bishop Sudar, to whom I would like to express my heartfelt thanks, we find ourselves in the seventh day of a senseless war waged by the Russian government against the Ukrainian people. We do not know today what lies

ahead. War rages in Europe: a crime against humanity. From the very beginning, Renovabis sharply criticized the military invasion of sovereign territory of Ukraine – for the past eight years and now during the most recent escalation. We are deeply concerned about the men, women and children in the entire country. During the past decades, many project partners of Renovabis could contribute to bringing opportunity to people in Ukraine. Now their mission – together with Caritas International and the reliable local partners we have worked with for years – consists of providing emergency assistance.



Pastor Dr. Thomas Schwartz,
CEO of Renovabis

Photo: KNA, Dieter Majr

When Renovabis was founded, the area of the former Yugoslavia witnessed the most atrocious war since the Second World War. The horrific numbers point to more than 100,000 people killed, over two million displaced, and innumerable individual stories of horror. More than 700,000 people fled abroad, and half of them to Germany; most have them have since returned home. Only a handful those responsible for the atrocities were ever convicted for the war crimes at the time by the UN International Criminal Court in the Hague. This was the only genocide in Europe up to that point since 1945. In spite of many millions of financial assistance from the EU and the USA as well as from churches, reforms and modernization have been lacking in the small Balkan country. Many recent developments point to the possibility of worse events transpiring in the future.

The war in Bosnia was fueled by the power struggle between competing ethno-political parties and their politicians who sowed hate and bitterly divided the country. Muslim Bosnians, orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats were pitted against one another in

Bosnia and Herzegovina: allied nations up to that point became enemies. War crimes such as the genocide of Srebrenica in July 1995, when 8,000 Muslim men and boys were executed, testify to the horrific so-called “ethnic cleansing” during the war in Bosnia. The Auxiliary Bishop in Sarajevo, Pero Sudar, spoke out against violence, war and hate and founded his “Schools for Europe.” There young people could meet one another without prejudices, study together, argue together and build a new Bosnia. These schools were founded a quarter of a century ago – and now Europe is at war again, in a battle of attack and expansion, aggressively carried out by one government against an entire people.

I therefore wish to express a deep sense of solidarity with the Ukrainians and their communities here in Germany. May God protect them as we await a great many refugees due to the war against the Ukrainian people and the suppression of their freedom; many people from Ukraine will seek refuge in the neighboring EU countries such as Romania, Poland and the Czech Republic, but also in Germany. What we need now is a genuine “welcoming culture of charity.”

FOREWORD

Renovabis will offer help on site quickly and effectively – in particular with its project work in Ukraine alongside Caritas there and with associated organizations such as the Malteser.

Please pray this novena for our neighbors in Ukraine as well. Let us not close our hearts to their suffering.

Freising, sent to the press on March 2, 2022

Yours,



Reverend Professor Dr. Thomas Schwartz
CEO of Renovabis

Dear friends of the Renovabis solidarity campaign, to the faithful praying our Pentacost Novena!

Christian Hartl, who served until September 2021 as CEO of Renovabis, asked me to write the introductory text for this year's Pentacost Novena. This represents an enormous challenge for me, which, however, I gladly accepted due to my attachment to Renovabis, the solidarity campaign of German Catholics for people such as ourselves from Southeastern Europe.



When considering the content of this Novena, it seemed to me to make sense to pray for Christian unity particularly at this time. All of Christendom, East and West, indeed the whole divided world in which we live, needs unity and community today more than ever. In prayer addressed to God the Fa-

PERO SUDAR SERVED AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF SARAJEVO FROM 1993 TO 2019

Pero Sudar was born on July 3, 1951 in Bare in the municipality of Konjic in the Archdiocese of Vrhbosna-Sarajevo. He attended high school in Zagreb and Dubrovnik before studying philosophy in the archdiocesan seminary in Sarajevo.

On June 29, 1977, Sudar was ordained to the priesthood. As a chaplain, he worked for two years in Komušina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, before beginning a doctorate in Canon Law at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome in the fall of 1979, which he completed with a dissertation on the "Concept of the Physical Person in Canon Law" in the spring of 1985.

In the fall of 1985, he was appointed judicial vicar of the Ecclesiastical Court of the Archdiocese of Sarajevo and to the Ordinariate. Beginning in the spring of 1986, he was professor of Canon Law at the Theological College in Sarajevo, and three years later (1989) he became rector of the Theological Seminary and dean of the Theological College. In May 1993, Pope John Paul II appointed him auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Vrhbosna-Sarajevo. On January 6, 1994, he was consecrated bishop in the Sarajevo Cathedral. In May 2019, Pope Francis accepted the early resignation of Auxiliary Bishop Sudar.

Pero Sudar was the responsible coordinator for the multi-confessional and multi-ethnic European schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina promoted by Renovabis. He was awarded the Cardinal King Prize for his work in 2005



Auxiliary Bishop
Pero Sudar

Photo: Renovabis

ther through Christ in the Holy Spirit, we can make this unity our own. As Christians, we believe that God's Spirit gives unity, that it blows where it wills, and that He renews the face of the earth (= Renovabis). He brings about change, protecting each community from uniformity, and diversity from fragmentation. God's Spirit binds and liberates, makes the Church arise and grow, and creates an ecumenical community of hearts.

In our Pentecost Novena, we ask the Holy Spirit to pray in us and with us for that unity which Christ himself promised to His Church. This unity is necessary so that the Church may be the sign of his love for all people, even in today's world. The prayer for Christian unity in this Pentecost Novena is also meant to point to the fact that Renovabis has been witnessing to the brotherly love of Christians for more than a quarter of a century. Although I live in a country where Catholics are not in the majority, I have met many true sisters and brothers in non-Catholics and also non-Christian fellow human beings, also thanks to Renovabis. For us in South-

WELCOME

eastern Europe, Renovabis additionally stands for ecumenism and active Christian charity. The impulses of this novena should therefore also be a sign of gratitude to the German Catholics who support the people in Central and Southeastern Europe in solidarity and thus promote Christian unity

Elementary school students at Saint Joseph Catholic School in Sarajevo, which is one of seven Catholic school centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina with educational opportunities from kindergarten to high school. These centers became known as "Schools for Europe," promoted and developed since 1994 by Auxiliary Bishop Pero Sudar.



In the meantime, a gymnasium and a youth center could also be built in the middle of the old town of Sarajevo.



The "Schools for Europe" in Sarajevo and Bosnien-Herzegovina are a Lighthouse project

Commotion rises from the playground: little children are running, shouting, pushing, the older ones trying hard to look cool. Saint Joseph School Center in Sarajevo seems like a typical school. However, this institution is something special in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is a beacon in the educational landscape, a "School for Europe", and the name says it all. Here,

all girls and boys are taught together, regardless of their religion or ethnicity. Catholic Croats, Orthodox Serbs, Muslim Bosnians, non-believers, Jewish children: they all study here and thus practice peaceful coexistence every day as a matter of course. The first European School the Saint Joseph School Center

in Sarajevo was founded 28 years ago. There are now seven of these centers with 14 schools in various cities throughout the country, and the schools enjoy an



Muslim Bosnians, Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats as well as people of other faiths and non-believers: the students of the European Schools come from different ethnic groups and religious communities. They study, argue and play together. Auxiliary Bishop Sudar hopes that they are the future of Bosnia.

excellent reputation. Renovabis, the solidarity action of German Catholics with the people in Central and Eastern Europe, is enthused about this success and has supported the establishment and expansion of the European Schools from the very beginning. From 1994 to the present day, around nine million euros have flowed into the project.

The success story of the “Schools for Europe” began during the cruel Bosnian war from 1992 to 1995, a war that drove the ethnic groups in the former Yugoslavia apart. The now emeritus Auxiliary Bishop Pero Sudar from the Archdiocese of Sarajevo was the initiator and “spiritual father” of the “Schools for Europe.” The Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop, who is now 70 years old, founded the Saint Joseph School Center in Sarajevo in November 1994 while the war was still raging. At that time, shells were falling on the city almost daily, and classes often had to be held in the basement. Yet Auxiliary Bishop Sudar’s idea worked: Croats, Serbs, Bosnians, Jews, Christians, Muslims and non-believers went and still go to school together, memorizing vocabulary, plodding through homework and exams and enjoying school

festivities together. In this way, the European Schools make an important contribution to preventing prejudices from arising in the first place and to encouraging respect for other ethnic groups and religions to grow. Auxiliary Bishop Pero Sudar: “The fact that we have not had any religiously or ethnically motivated tensions in our schools over a quarter of a century speaks for itself, especially when you consider that the children of war victims and war criminals have sat on the same benches in our schools.”

Today, around 1,600 students are taught at St. Joseph’s in Sarajevo alone, and more than 4,700 children and young people attend the “Schools for Europe” throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. The special feature of the curriculum is a subject called “History of Religions” that is compulsory for all students and provides foundational knowledge for a respectful dialogue among cultures. In addition, the students have their own religious education or ethics classes. All other subjects, however, are taught together. This is because, according to Auxiliary Bishop Sudar, “In our schools, we strive to encourage young people to remain who they are: true Muslims,



School director Mario Ćosić, founder of “Schools for Europe,” Auxiliary Bishop Pero Sudar, Renovabis Country and Project leader Herbert Schedler, teacher Emanuela Borić, who herself was as one of the first students attending the St. Joseph school 25 years ago, are delighted to share the success story in 2019 “25 Years of Schools for Europe with Renovabis” with the CEO of Renovabis at the time, Burkhard Haneke

Orthodox Christians, Catholics or convinced and honest non-believers.” That is one of the reasons why there are no religious symbols in classrooms. Parents are free to decide whether their children attend the religious education classes of their own church or the subject of ethics

Krsto Lazarević

NOTES ON PRAYING THE PENTECOST NOVENA

Whether when praying the novena prayer alone or in a group, we recommend the following simple order, which you can find as a fold-out page at the end of the booklet:

- 1 *Opening*
- 2 *Invitation to stillness*
- 3 *Scripture, inspiration, reflection questions, silence, prayer of the day*
- 4 *Pentacost hymn (or sequence)*
- 5 *Blessing*

On workdays, the novena prayer can also be integrated into the celebration of the Eucharist. When doing so, it is helpful to have the inspiration, reflection questions, silence and prayer of the day 3 after the Gospel. The Pentecost hymn 4 can be sung after the communion silence. One of the prayers that lead to stillness 2 may be well-suited to this at the beginning of mass before the Kyrie or as a mediation after communion.

In daytime liturgy, the Pentecost hymn or sequence 4 can be sung at the beginning. The Scripture verse, inspiration, reflection questions and silence 3 replace the reading. The prayer of the day can serve as the closing oration.

The Pentecost Novena can also be integrated into a May devotion during the Marian month of May. We then recommend the following sequence: Marian hymn; introductory thoughts that tell of Mary praying for the Holy Spirit together with Jesus' disciples in the upper room in Jerusalem; prayer to the Holy Spirit in the Pentecost hymn 4; Scripture passage, inspiration, reflection questions, silence, prayer of the day 5; then a Marian devotional follows.

Alternatively, the basic structure can be extended to include a novena devotion. A corresponding template as well as a selection of prayers, intercessions and suggested songs can be found in the appendix to this booklet.

Essentially, we must remember that the Pentecost Novena is not about “more prayers,” but about “deeper prayer.” Therefore, the Scriptural passage is brief, the inspiration and the prayer should be spoken slowly and very calmly, and you should allow sufficient time for the reflection questions.



Thursday, May 26th 2022
Ascension of the Lord



You are
WITNESSES
of these things



INSPIRATION

Jesus encourages his disciples and all Christians to testify to his incarnation and his life as a man among men in their life and actions. This life was revealed in all its drama in Jesus' suffering and death.

His death on the cross shook his disciples and made them doubt his mission. Although he called those who did not take offense at him blessed, his terrible death terrified his disciples. Just as the disciples became aware of their own failures in the face of suffering and death, so too the Church is continually stained with guilt and sin. Jesus calls us to resist evil in all its expressions. To this end, we are to be strengthened by faith in his resurrection and in the forgiveness of sins.

We humans experience suffering and death as part of our lives as human beings. The reality of the resurrection, on the other hand, as an experience and a concept is foreign and inaccessible to us. In order to truly believe in the ascension of Jesus and his eternal communion with God, but also in our own resurrection, we need the Holy Spirit.

FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Jesus spoke to his disciples, saying: "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high!"

Luke 24: 46–49

Jesus speaks of the “promise of the Father.” This refers to the gift of the Holy Spirit. He will guide the disciples of Jesus at all times and in all places to be able to pass on the testimony of Jesus. The Spirit of Jesus creates unity. Those who believe in him need not be afraid of open dialogue, because individuality and freedom build unity. This is the basic idea of the “Schools for Europe,” which we have built in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the help of Renovabis after the experiences of war in the last decades. In these schools, we try to lead in the spirit of brotherhood of all people.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Do I ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit to believe in the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead?
- Do I pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit so that I myself can bear witness to Christ with my life?

PRAYER

Jesus Christ, true Son of Man and Son of God,
we thank you for sharing with us in your
humanity the suffering of injustice and death.
We ask you for the gift of the Spirit and faith in
your promises, but also for the strength not to
resign ourselves to any form of injustice and
violence against people.

Amen.



Friday, May 27th 2022
First day

Believe in
GOD
and love him



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus spoke to his disciples, saying: “Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy. When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.”

John 16:20–22

INSPIRATION

Today's Gospel invites us to rejoice in life despite difficult circumstances. This joy finds its source in faith in the promises of God. God is life, God is love, God loves life! He encourages us to believe in him and to love him. Through our love for God, we open ourselves to the fullness of life. Moreover, through the gift of his Holy Spirit, we become ready for selfless love. Selfless love makes us able to accept and love all people with joy. Every person who believes in God and loves him with all his heart creates a space for the ecumenical openness of the heart, in which all people can be accepted as sisters and brothers.

We Christians need this ecumenism of the heart. It helps us to live in the longing for community and to avoid everything that divides and separates people and societies. It enables us to complete works that bear witness to Christ. The prerequisite for this ecumenism of hearts is faith in the promise of Jesus: he will invite all his disciples into the miracle of unity with God and gather them as his people.

With the help of Renovabis, the Youth Center “John Paul II” was built in Sarajevo. It is a place of encounter and reconciliation, a place where young people of different origins and convictions meet and engage in conversation. In openness to every visitor, it builds bridges for a common future in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Indeed, this youth center is a successful example of the ecumenism of hearts!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I believe that God created me because he has loved me since the beginning of time and does not stop loving me?
- Do I know that the power of God's spirit is at work in every person that truly loves?

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH 2022
FIRST DAY

PRAYER

God of all goodness, you love and give life,
transform and ennoble our hearts so that we
may trust you and love you with that love
which enables us to be joyfully open and in
communion with our fellow human beings.

Open in us the eyes of the Spirit, so that
we may recognize in all people sisters and
brothers of Jesus and to accept them and to
love them as you love them.

Amen.



Saturday, May 28th 2022
Second day

OPEN
to
God's Spirit



INSPIRATION

Jesus Christ is the best way to the Father. What we ask him for in Jesus' name, he will grant us. In today's Gospel we are reminded that we are loved by God. The sign of this love of God is our willingness to believe in Jesus as the Son of God and to love him with all our hearts. In this, the Holy Spirit helps us. He also helps us to address prayers and petitions to Christ. God has a very specific goal: He wants our joy to be complete. The love of God makes us human beings joyful and happy.

Today we would like to ask God to give us Christians the spirit of unity, understanding and love, regardless of the church community in which we worship. Especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we painfully feel how much there is a lack of true fellowship among Christians. This often makes it difficult for us to credibly testify to God's love before the world. Jesus called us to mutual love and fellowship. This fellowship is first and foremost the fellowship of love. Without love, we Christians have no credible witness. Love

FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus spoke to his disciples, saying: "Amen, amen,

I say to you: On that day you will not question me about anything. Whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. Until now you have not asked anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. On that day you will ask in my name, and I do not tell you that I will ask the Father for you. For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God."

John 16:23–24; 26–27

is not just words, but also prompts action. The two belong together. Love must be lived out in prayer and brotherly togetherness. Jesus himself prayed for the unity of Christians and all people and he lived and suffered for this unity. Today, too, we need people who, in prayer and action, set out on the path of Jesus to lead the whole world to the Father.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I rejoice in those small signs of communion and togetherness among Christian churches and communities?
- How could I contribute more to unity among Christians and brotherhood among people?

PRAYER

**Merciful God, we ask you to be open to the work of your Spirit, so that Christians may truly follow Jesus and accept all people as your beloved children. In this way, lead us to Christian unity and universal brotherhood among people.
Amen.**



Sunday, May 29th 2022
Third day

UNITY in diversity



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus raised his eyes towards heaven and prayed:
“Holy Father, I pray not only for them, but also for
those who will believe in me through their word,
so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in
me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that
the world may believe that you sent me. And I have
given them the glory you gave me, so that they may
be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that
they may be brought to perfection as one, that the
world may know that you sent me, and that you
loved them even as you loved me.”

John 17:20–23

INSPIRATION

In today's Gospel Jesus prayed for the unity of those who believe in him: "Let all be one (...)." He even went one step further: they should be "brought to perfection as one." Christian unity has its origin and its goal in the unity of the Triune God. Something of God's glory is to become visible among us. Jesus told us about this glory. It consists in the bond of love established between the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. Jesus encourages all of us to continue this bond of love in his name, so that the world may believe in the love of God through our example.

God is perfect unity. Nevertheless, he has revealed himself to us in the Trinity. He thus shows us that unity and diversity are not irreconcilable opposites. Through the incarnation in Jesus Christ, God has included all people in this reconciled tension and invited them to such unity in diversity. It is precisely the incarnate Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, who has made it clear to us that unity among Christians and communion with all people is possible.

Jesus Christ promised us the power of the Holy Spirit. This Spirit gives us unity, bridges differences, and preserves the community of Christians in reconciled diversity. Ecumenical thought has long recognized that Christian unity must have its origin in Christ. Those who want to follow Christ, who are moved by his Spirit, understand that God wants to lead us to one another and enable us to recognize and accept one another as sisters and brothers.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I accept the fact that no talk of spiritual unity and communion with Christ is authentic unless it leads to a genuine longing and effort to relate well with others?
- Am I trying to see the differences that exist between people in the world as a richness that comes from and leads to God?

SUNDAY, MAY 29TH 2022
THIRD DAY

PRAYER

God of mystery, unattainable and amazing
mystery of the Trinity, give us the gift of a
firm faith that in Jesus Christ you have
irrevocably given us a share in your divine
communion and called us to build it up and
live it among men. Amen.



Monday, May 30th 2022
Fourth day

Whoever
believes in
CHRIST
is never alone



INSPIRATION

In the Book of Genesis, God says it is not good for man to be alone. Our own experience also confirms that man cannot live alone in the long run. Man is not born alone, nor can he survive alone. Even in the moment of death, it is tragically inhumane to leave a person lonely and unaccompanied on his deathbed, as we have experienced during this pandemic. We live in multiple social and interpersonal relationships. Yet many people often feel alone and abandoned. Jesus himself experienced this.

The very example of Jesus shows that he was not alone in the hour of greatest agony. God was with him. Even on the cross, he could still entrust himself to him. Just as the Father is with Jesus and does not leave him alone, so Jesus will be with his disciples. He encourages them: "Take courage, I have conquered the world." Jesus is also among us. His Holy Spirit is not visible, but tangible. He is the power that inspires and drives us, he is the source of unity and relationship, his living Spirit power helps us to be able

FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

His disciples said to Jesus, "Now you are talking plainly, and not in any figure of speech. Now we realize that you know everything and that you do not need to have anyone question you. Because of this we believe that you came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you believe now? Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."

John 16:29-33

to shape our lives. And he comforts us when we feel lonely and abandoned.

God enters our lives and stays with us in the Holy Spirit that Jesus gives us: to introduce us to the whole truth, to comfort us, to protect us and to strengthen us. The Spirit of Jesus gives unity, unites us with God and with each other. How wonderful and gratifying is the certainty that we are united with God through the Holy Spirit. The indestructible foundation of this community is Jesus Christ himself, who promises to be with us always.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- To what extent am I aware that life was given to me and everything in life was made possible by others, ultimately by God?
- Do I believe that God is my friend who never leaves me alone, especially in times of distress and suffering?

PRAYER

Omnipresent God, you have shown us through Jesus that you are always with us. Give us faith in this joyful presence and give us strength, comfort, courage and joy of life in your Spirit.

Amen!



Tuesday, May 31st 2022
Fifth day

WITNESS to the end



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. Because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you.”

John 17:1–4, 8,11

INSPIRATION

The text of today's Gospel wants to familiarize us with the fundamental truth of faith, namely that Jesus came into the world to reveal God with his death and resurrection. He wants to glorify him, to redeem people and to reveal to them the meaning of their existence: the hope of eternal life. If we believe in this truth and live it out in our lives, we become witnesses of the good news.

Whoever confesses God also finds his own mission in life. Whoever knows that he is accompanied by God, a path to a successful life opens up even where others perceive only walls and dead ends. Jesus goes to the Father, but he does not leave us because of that. On the contrary, he leaves a luminous trace of his steps in the Holy Spirit. Our world becomes brighter and warmer because of it. And best of all: with the gifts of his Spirit we can even participate in this!

Life in communion with God and with our fellow human beings as our sisters and brothers can fill even injustice and suffering with meaning. The sacrifices

and prayers of all those who still believe in God today and try to pass on his love to others bear witness to this. How beautiful it is to experience that Jesus acts through the lives of all the countless people who believe in him and act through the power of his Spirit! These individuals glorify God and help his Church to continue his work of redemption despite all the sins and scandals.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I have the courage to believe that the Spirit promised by Jesus still guides his Church today and will thus lead all who entrust themselves to him to perfect truth and a fulfilled life?
- How convinced am I that the situation of the Church and the world today depends on my prayers and actions?

TUESDAY, MAY 31ST 2022
FIFTH DAY

PRAYER

Good and merciful God, grant to all Christians and to all people the fullness of your Spirit. Let your Church always be a recognizable sacrament of Christ's presence among people, and make the world a place of universal brotherhood among people.

Amen.



Wednesday, June 1st 2022
Sixth day

TRUTH
that liberates
and heals



INSPIRATION

In the midst of all the confusion and disorientation that many people face today, including we Christians, it is comforting to know that Jesus prayed to the Father on our behalf so that He would keep us in the truth. We must deeply internalize this precious truth so that it can become the truth of our lives. This truth has a name: Jesus. He is our life force and encourages us to witness. True witness to Jesus is our effort to be like him, to imitate his relationship with God and with people. Jesus' relationship with the Father is full of trust. His whole life shows that the proclamation of God's truth was always accompanied by a loving action towards the poorest and weakest, the marginalized and lost. It is precisely in this that Jesus confirms the truth of his proclamation. In all his public activity since the baptism in the Jordan, Jesus shows, guided by God's Spirit, that God is a loving Father.

Seen in the light of Jesus, serious ecumenism does not consist primarily in words and discussions about the right way to believe, but in authentic and credible solidarity in prayer and action and in love for people

FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed,
“Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.”

John 17:11b–13,17–18

in need. Renovabis has been demonstrating this in a convincing way for more than a quarter of a century. This solidary action for all people regardless of religion is a proof of the truth of the proclamation that God in Jesus accepts all people and that we are all his beloved children. Jesus Christ, God's Word, became man to proclaim this good news to us.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Is it my desire for the church to be credible in its witness to the truth of Jesus accompanied by my own prayer and energetic love?
- Do I allow the Spirit of God to inspire and guide my thoughts, words and deeds as it relates to other Christians and people in general?

PRAYER

**Good God, grant us your Spirit,
so that he may introduce us to your truth
about people and help us to bear witness
to this truth in ever new solidarity with
our energetic love.**

Amen.



Thursday, June 2nd 2022
Seventh day

So that
LOVE
remains in you



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, “Holy Father, I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

John 17:22–24, 26

INSPIRATION

Jesus asks his heavenly Father to bind his own together with the inseparable bond of love. We belong to Jesus through the profession of faith and through baptism. In baptism we are called to be where Christ is present: in his Church. Christians are sisters and brothers through baptism, as St. Augustine taught, even if they do not know it or acknowledge it. Even guilty rebellion against Christian unity does not change the fact that we have a common Father in heaven. Faith in Christ gives us irrevocable participation in the glory and love of the Father with which he has endowed us in his Son. This gift of becoming a child of God and the love of God is irrevocable and therefore the unity of Christians and Christian churches is also real, even if the most diverse reasons and motives keep us from realizing it.

The unity of Christians is alive in the Spirit of God, even if many Christians do not live and recognize it. This spiritual unity exists through our union with Christ. Through Jesus' intercession, the Father ac-

cepts us as His own and loves us, even if we have not yet attained the life and grace of communion in perfection that allows us to love all of Christ's members without reservation, thereby strengthening the bond of visible unity. All believing baptized persons are inseparably united in this sacrament. They are incorporated into a divine "community of destiny." Nevertheless, "we must be aware: ultimately we cannot 'make' unity, it cannot be our work. It is a gift of the Spirit of God; he alone can reconcile hearts. It is for this spirit of unity that we must pray. Spiritual ecumenism is therefore the center and the heart of ecumenism," as Walter Cardinal Kasper says.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I believe in the inseparable bond by which I am joined to Christ and all Christians through baptism?
- Do I believe in Jesus' promise that God has an open heart for all our needs and prayers?

THURSDAY, JUNE 2ND 2022
SEVENTH DAY

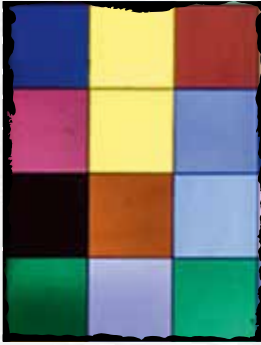
PRAYER

Merciful God, we ask you for the constancy of faith and for the conviction that your love is stronger than all our human shortcomings, your grace greater than our sins, and our unity in you deeper than any separation.
Amen.



Friday, June 3rd 2022
Eighth day

**It is important
to God
WE LOVE
HIM**



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He then said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” [Jesus] said to him, “Feed my sheep.”...And when he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

John 21:15–17, 19b

INSPIRATION

Every time I read or hear this passage from the Gospel, I wonder why it is so important to Jesus that Peter loves Him and He wants to hear that from Him three times. Admittedly: It is very important for every human being to love and to be loved! However, when someone confesses his love to us, we often become somehow embarrassed and do not know what to say about it and how to behave. One of the main causes of human misery is the fact that the most beautiful and important things seem unreal or even embarrassing to us. Nevertheless, this is essential for any deep relationship: children, parents as well as lovers often ask each other to confess their love.

Above all, love binds the one who loves. Love drives us out of our isolation and self-centeredness. The one who loves no longer flutters around his own concerns like a moth around a lightbulb. Love is seen through openness and care for others because love is only alive and real as long as it is lived through concrete deeds. Therefore, we are not to love in word and tongue, but in deed and truth, as it is written in the First Letter

of John (1 John 3:18). For Jesus, Peter's confession of love is important because Jesus' love for Peter would be fruitless if it were not accepted by Peter's love in return. And this is just as true for us as Christians. Jesus demonstrated his love for Peter and for us through his death on the cross. He laid down his life so that we might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10). The credibility of our love for God and our love for one another is proven by our willingness to serve, to give and to defend life. God's Spirit creates unity and unites us in a bond of love.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I believe that God is love, that he loves me, and that it is important to him that I return his love with sincere and genuine love in return?
- Do I understand that with God, love for fellow human beings is the only measure of human kindness and faith in him?

PRAYER

**God, our Creator and Redeemer, help us
that your love may bear fruit in our lives of
care and commitment to our fellow
human beings, especially to those who need
our special help and loving attention.**

Amen.



Saturday, June 4th 2022
Ninth day

HOPE in the face of all hopelessness



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus spoke to Simon Peter: “Follow me!” ...Peter turned and saw the disciple following whom Jesus loved, the one who had also reclined upon his chest during the supper and had said, “Master, who is the one who will betray you?” When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about him?” Jesus said to him, “What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours? You follow me.” So the word spread among the brothers that that disciple would not die. But Jesus had not told him that he would not die, just “What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours?”

John 21:20–23

INSPIRATION

The difficulties of life can sometimes trigger in us a sense of hopelessness. Although we know that injustice and suffering are inescapable shadows over our existence, we often react more sensitively than those who do not believe. The terrible scandal of sexualized violence against children and adolescents committed by priests and church employees has shown and made public before the whole world that a false idea of good and infallible shepherds was created and spread over a long period of time. The fact that people who were supposed to be saints turned out to be sinners and the fact that these crimes were not consistently prosecuted and the perpetrators were institutionally protected have led to a situation today in which it takes courage to publicly profess to be a member of the Catholic Church. Some radically renounce the community of faith. Many sincere believers rightly ask themselves what they can hope for in this situation and from where they can draw the strength to remain in the Church. Many convinced Catholics are calling for real and profound reforms in the Church. One must

not ignore this serious struggle or simply respond to it with meaningless and superficial platitudes.

There are human sins, especially those committed under the guise of hypocritical holiness, that are simply appalling, and only God can forgive them. We must not and cannot expect such forgiveness from human beings, especially from the victims of these sins. But even this belief that God will not only be merciful but also judge is very difficult to convey to people who have been seriously wronged. This applies all the more to the conviction that he will make good all the sufferings endured! However, this in no way diminishes the obligation of the Church to do everything in its power to make reparation for the injustice and suffering inflicted as best it can. I am deeply convinced that God will then, through the healing power of his spirit, lead us out of this difficult situation to a new beginning.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I have the strength and willingness, despite human sinfulness, to pray for the gift of faith so that Jesus' spirit will lead his church to a new beginning in honesty and humility?
- How sincerely do I have compassion for the victims of sexual abuse and other violence in the church?

PRAYER

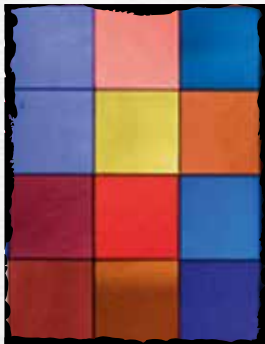
Merciful God, you know the injustices and crimes that have been and continue to be committed in the Church. Nevertheless, you have called the Church through your Son to serve the salvation of the world. Give us strength and perseverance in our efforts to do good and to resist evil with determination. Amen.



June 5th 2022
Pentecost

A large, vibrant mosaic background composed of many small, multi-colored squares in shades of red, blue, yellow, green, and purple. Overlaid on this mosaic is the text 'Receive the HOLY SPIRIT'. 'Receive the' is in a white, sans-serif font, and 'HOLY SPIRIT' is in a larger, bold, yellow, distressed font. A short yellow horizontal line is positioned below the text.

Receive the
HOLY SPIRIT



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

John 20:19–23

INSPIRATION

People today are in great danger of being so absorbed by everyday life that we have neither the time nor the courage to listen to and answer the fundamental questions that arise from the depths of our existence. This is also true for us Christians. One of these fundamental questions is the question: who am I, what is the meaning of my existence, and what do I hope for?

Our Christian faith tells us: God considers human beings to be the fruit of his creative love. He has given us the gifts of his Holy Spirit. Belief in the resurrection is one of these spiritual gifts. Only faith in our own resurrection, in an eternal life with God and in God, gives us the final and comprehensively fulfilling answer to our doubts and questions in our search for meaning.

Yet at the same time, only the power and the gift of faith in the resurrection can change our devotion to God and our love and solidarity with all people. How beautiful and healing it is to be able to walk serenely on the path of life, even if it sometimes leads through a dark valley. How much comfort we experi-

ence when, with the power of God's Spirit, we know where our path leads and whom we are going to meet! This is Pentecost: the spirit of human beings in the embrace of the spirit of God! The spirit-empowered strength of faith makes it easier for us to believe that the unity of Christians exists despite all divisions and that the universal brotherhood of all people is the goal to which God invites us!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I believe that God created the world and man so great that he will not leave him to nothingness in the end?
- Do I believe in the truth of Jesus' promise that he will always be with us through the Holy Spirit?

PRAYER

**Good God, let us be grateful for the gift
of life in faith in the resurrection of your Son.
Help us to work every day anew in the spirit
of brotherhood for the unity of Christians.
Amen.**



THE PRAYER IMAGE

for the 2022 Renovabis Pentacost campaign shows the rose window of the Richter window in the south transept of the Cologne Cathedral. On the back page, a prayer written by the Auxiliary Bishop Pero Sudar encourages belief in the presence of Jesus that brings comfort, courage and joy in living.

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SELECTION OF PRAYERS AND HYMNS

PRAYERS THAT LEAD TO STILLNESS

see cover flap:
Basic structure 
of the Novena

Come, Holy Spirit ...

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your believers,
*and light in them the fire
of your love.*

Send forth your spirit,
and all will be created new,
*and you will renew the face
of the earth.*

PRAYERS THAT LEAD TO STILLNESS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled
as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.
Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

I wish to be a vessel ...

I wish to be a vessel
to receive thoughts of peace

A vessel for you, Holy Spirit.

I hold my empty hands out to you
open to the fullness of life

Empty hands for you, Holy Spirit.

I want to open my heart
ready for the power of your love

A heart for you, Holy Spirit.

I want to be good earth
prepared for the seeds of justice

Good earth for you, Holy Spirit.

I wish to be a riverbed
to receive the waters of goodness

A riverbed for you, Holy Spirit.

Anton Rotzetter

The good God enlightened the disciples
by the infusion of the Holy Spirit;
bless us and give us the riches of his gifts.
Amen.

May the fire that descended
on the disciples in many tongues
purify our hearts and ignite
divine love in us.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who has united the many languages in the
confession of faith,
strengthen us in the truth and lead us from
faith to sight.
Amen.

May the Triune God,
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
grant us this.
Amen.

According to missal

SELECTION of intercessions

Trusting in God's goodness and faithfulness, we bring our intentions before you and pray:

- For Christians of all denominations in the East and West who are united by baptism: Let them seek you in renewed unity with all their hearts.

Answer:

Send forth your spirit, and the face of the earth will be renewed.

- For the Church, a worldwide community of prayer and solidarity.
- For all who are entrusted with the proclamation of your liberating message.
- For those responsible in government and society who strive for peace, freedom and justice.
- For the many people in our time who have to experience insecurity and fear.
- For people who carry out their daily work with patience and love.

SELECTION OF INTERCESSIONS

- For all those who often painfully question the meaning of human existence.
- For the children and young people to whom the future belongs and from whom we have only borrowed the earth.
- For all who are wounded in body and soul by war, violence and crime.
- For all those who have been driven from their homes: around the world, especially for those who have been forced to flee the war in Ukraine.
- For all who are suffering, marginalized and in need through no fault of their own.
- For ...
- For the deceased who have passed from this world and yet are connected to us.

Lord, we thank you for continually renewing our world, and we trust in you that you will soon give us peace. To you be praise and glory, now and forever. Amen.

See also: Model for a novena devotion, page 81



The promotional poster of the Renovabis Pentecost campaign takes up the miracle of Jesus walking on water in its most concise form as a pictogram in a generally understandable way. It speaks powerfully of trust, trust in God and self-confidence, and of faith. And it answers the question “whom do I choose to believe?” with a smile, as a “sign” at the place of the miracle, the Sea of Galilee ...

MODEL FOR A NOVENA DEVOTION

Besides the basic structure of the novena (cover), other elements could include: longer scripture reading(s), psalms, alternate hymns/prayers, intercession hymns, prayers of supplication, symbolic actions, creative elements, group sharing/faith sharing.

- Opening P: Our help is in the name of the Lord ...
R: Who created heaven and earth.
- Pentecost hymn or Pentecost sequence
- Option of brief introduction and invitation to stillness
- Silence
- Reading of the day (from page 20)
- Option of short song
- Inspiration of the day (from page 21)
- Silence
- Prayer of the day
- Intercessions
- Our Father instead of final intercessions
- Option of a song
- Closing/blessing

ACTIVE IN THE EAST WITH RENOVABIS

Renovabis was founded in March 1993 by German bishops as a campaign of solidarity between German Catholics and the people of Eastern Europe at the suggestion of the Central Committee of



German Catholics. Renovabis remains in contact with partners from churches and communities in 29 Central, Eastern

and Southeastern European countries and fosters communication there. As a campaign of solidarity between German Catholics and the people in Central and Eastern Europe, Renovabis has put almost 820 million euros into funding around 25,400 projects since 1993.

The title of the aid program is "Renovabis faciem terrae "You renew the face of the earth." These words from Psalm 104 are interpreted by benefactors, partners and employees of Renovabis as follows: "We want to constructively contribute to

the pastoral, social and societal renewal of Eastern Europe, but we know that this is only possible with the power of God." The funds that are required for this campaign come from the Pentecost collectives in all Catholic parishes in Germany, from one-time donations and from church taxes, and to a further extent from public funds.

The latest information about Central and Eastern Europe as well as about the project and partnership work of Renovabis can be requested from:

**Renovabis, Domberg 38/40, D-85354 Freising,
Phone 08161/5309-0, fax 08161/5309-44,
Email: info@renovabis.de
www.renovabis.de • www.pfingsten.de**



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1 Opening

Oh God, help me.

Lord, come to my rescue.

Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit.

*As it was in the beginning, so now and always
and for eternity.*

Amen.

2 Invitation to stillness

I will receive from your hand forever more.

So it is and so it shall be.

That is my truth and my joy.

Forever more will you turn your eye to me,

and I live from your gaze,

you my creator and my salvation.

Teach me your presence in the stillness,

the secret to understanding what I am.

And that I am through you and before you and for you.

Amen.

Romano Guardini

alternatively: further prayers on pages 74 to 76

4 PENTECOST HYMN

Come, Holy Spirit, creator of life,

ewith your power fill us.

Your creative word called us into being:

Now breathe God's breath into us.

Come, comforter, guider of hearts,

helper sent by the Lord;

from you flows light, love and fervor,

Make us, the weak, stronger and braver.

Send forth God's omnipotence

through fire and through storm;

Our speechless mouths you open

and to the world the truth proclaim.

Ignite our senses and our soul,

that love may glow in our hearts

and our weak flesh and blood

with your power do what is good.

Ward off the power of evil,
always send us your peace.
Keep us on the right path,
so that we may come to no harm.

Let us see the Lord with faith,
and understand his image, the Son,
and trust in you, who is within us,
and brings the love of God to us.
Amen.

Modeled on "Veni, Creator Spiritus," 9th Century,
attributed to Hrabanus Maurus
Other option "Pentecost sequence"

5 PRAYER OF BLESSING

God of mystery, we pray for your blessing –
for us and for the people of Eastern Europe.
Strengthen us for the better and
Give us the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
To renew the face of the earth.
Amen.

BASIC STRUCTURE for praying the daily novena prayer

1

OPENING

→ Page 84

2

INVITATION TO STILLNESS/SILENCE

→ Page 84 (and pages 74 to 76)

3

WRITTEN TEXT, INSPIRATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

→ Starting on page 19

4

PENTECOST HYMN

→ Page 85

5

PRAYER OF BLESSING

→ Page 86 (and page 77)

The basic format can be supplemented by other elements as desired, for example, for a devotion in the parish with other elements (Scripture reading, psalms, songs, intercessions, creative elements). Suggestion: Page 81.



COLLECTION
ON PENTECOST SUNDAY,
JUNE 5TH 2022

