



Pentecost Novena 2019

# Heart Lessons

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# NINE DAYS OF PRAYER in Solidarity with the People of Central and Eastern Europe

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## Impressum

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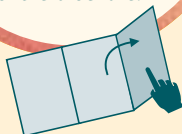
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## Basic structure for the progress of the daily Novena prayer

To keep track of the  
Novena program,  
use the flap in the back  
of the brochure.



**Dear Friends of the  
Renovabis solidarity initiative,  
Dear Friends engaging in prayer  
for our Pentecost Novena!**



**Pastor Dr. Christian Hartl,  
Director of Renovabis**

The members of our Renovabis team often speak of the „exchange of gifts“. This means that our initiative project will not only try to help our 29 Partner Nations in various ways, but that we, the German Church, will receive rich gifts from our foreign partners. You hold one such spiritual gift in your hands. It was written by the Hungarian Priest Csaba Török. I give him my heartfelt thanks! Csaba Török currently works as Professor of Fundamental Theology in Esztergom. He knows of the support which Renovabis has given to his countrymen in the past. Now we are receiving encouragement and spiritual stimulus from him on our faith journey.

When we read the thoughts of Csaba Török, then we learn what moves the heart of a Hungarian thinker. And we see that thoughtfulness takes place not only in the mind, but also in the heart. Thus the thoughts of Csaba Török also correspond to the theme of our Pentecost campaign this year: „Learning is Living“.

Learning must always be understood holistically, it is enriching, it challenges us throughout our entire lives, and it keeps us alive! The many aspects which Csaba Török derives from Biblical texts are brought together under the heading „Heart Lessons“. This is the essence of the educational work which Renovabis is trying to support.

Before You begin to read and to pray, here are a few notes regarding the design of the Novena prayer. The Pentecost Novena is generally prayed from the Friday after Ascension Day until the Saturday before Pentecost. That makes nine days! For Ascension Day a prayer unit for joining in is offered, for Pentecost Sunday a concluding unit.

Our concept is appropriate

- a.** as a prayer for an individual
- b.** as a prayer in a small group or (holy-) community
- c.** as a devotion in the congregation (or perhaps, in turn, in a pastoral work group)
- d.** associated with celebration of the Eucharist
- e.** integrated into a May Devotion or another regular religious service

Based on these options, the progression can then be correspondingly added to or simplified.

As a basic structure we propose:

1. Opening
2. Invitation to silence
3. Quote from Scripture, Impulse to Meditation and Prayer

4. Pentecostal Hymn

5. Prayer of Blessing

→ This basic structure can be found as a folding page at the end of this booklet.

Perhaps You will notice that the Pentecost Novena is not about „more prayer“, but rather about „more depth in prayer“. For that reason, the text is kept brief. The Impulse, the Intercessions and the Prayer should be spoken slowly and with great tranquility.

All who pray this Novena in the days before Pentecost should know: You are connected with many other praying persons in thanks and in Your prayer. The Renovabis team, too, will be praying with You during these days. But above all, God with his Holy Spirit will fill our hearts.

I have faith that this is so.

*Pastor Dr. Christian Hartl*  
*Director of Renovabis*



Csaba Török, born in 1979 in Budapest, has since 2012 held the position of Ordinary Professor at the Theological College of Esztergom. In recent years it has been one of his priorities to be active in the field of interreligious dialogue with Judaism and Islam.

### Dear Sisters and Brothers in Prayer,

St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: „[...] I] came [...] in weakness and in fear, shaking and trembling to you. My message and announcement to you was not persuasion through skillful and clever words, but was due to the proof of the Spirit and power.“

(1 Cor 2:3–4). That same feeling and the same humble conviction filled this writer when he was to write a prayer – for persons who were unknown to him, but who in faith and active love can

be described as friends, as sisters and brothers. Every meditation text, every impulse only has value to the extent that the spirit of God is transformed into words strongly and effectively by means of it, indeed to the extent to which it serves our Christianity through the grace of support and deepening of faith.

We are preparing for the feast of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit which descended on the apostles 2000 years ago changed their hearts profoundly. Thus the promi-



se of Jesus is fulfilled: „But when he comes, the Spirit of Truth, he will guide you in the whole truth. [...] He will glorify me, for he will take of that which is mine and proclaim it to you.“ (*John 16:13-14*). Strength, courage and energy take the place of weakness, fear and paralysis - this is how the Church is born.

Our time is marked by many signs and burdened with questions that call for the truth of the Gospel. „The world needs Christ, and the world needs you because you belong to Christ,“ says a Hungarian hymn. Yes, the world needs people who let their hearts be formed and nurtured by the power and grace of the Spirit of Christ.

The path of nurturing the heart, however, is steep - and requires of us the ability to teach ourselves daily. „Nurture and educate your heart“, as the masters of spiritual life invite us to do. This year's Novena has set itself exactly that goal. The prayers and meditations of this little booklet are intended to offer help to us in walking this path „so that the man of God may be prepared and equipped for every good work“ (*2 Tim 3:17*). In this manner we pray together and for each other!

Yours Truly,  
*Dr. Csaba Török*



## ASCENSION DAY

# Chosen by God



**„I have chosen you and called you to set out  
and to bear fruit.“** John 15:16

## Impulse

The Incarnation is the greatest sign of God's human love: He not only came close to us, but became one of us. In this way „he, the Son of God, has united himself [...] with every human, one can say. He worked with human hands, thought with a human spirit, acted with a human will, loved with a human heart.“ (*Gaudium et spes*, No. 22)

The ascension of Christ opens to us a broader perspective of this event: the Son of God does not leave his human identity behind him; the Incarnation was not a temporary phase or a provisional decision. God

is with us and among us as a man, and does not wish to give up this community. Ascension means that the Resurrected One is received into the divine glory which knows no boundaries of space and time. And thus, as sons and daughters of God, we are all invited to the house of our common Father.

At the same time, however, this wonderful gift is a permanent task, for we are to bear witness to the hope that fills us (*cf. 1 Peter 3:15*): The community of God is never a closed society reserved for the privileged. Jesus commanded us: „Go and make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit“ (*Matt. 28:19*). As children of the one heavenly Father, we can look upon all people as sisters and brothers. The Holy Spirit wants to help us find a way to bring them closer to the healing and life-giving community with good works. Let us prepare our hearts for this in prayer.



## Intercessions and Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you went before us into the Father's house and you want us to be where you are. Your invitation to the kingdom of heaven is for all men.

Thus do we pray:

- FOR ALL PEOPLE who have found no purpose or meaning in their lives;
- FOR THE OUTSIDERS and the excluded who feel they have no value;
- FOR ALL whom no one cares about.



Eternal Father, the ascension of your Son opened our way to you and showed us how valuable we are as human beings. You have filled our hearts with a new hope and chosen us to testify to it and to do good. Send out your spirit, that we may accept your invitation and bear rich fruit. We ask this through Christ our Lord.



## FIRST DAY

# Purity of the Heart



**„Make my heart pure, O God, and renew  
a firm spirit inside me!“** Psalms 51:12

## Impulse

Clean water is a valuable basis for life: but let us remember that, although it flows out of our plumbing and is usually available without limits, in other parts of the world every drop is seen as a precious gift. The simplest actions, such as washing one's hands or filling a glass with drinking water, are regarded there as something special and unusual. A Hungarian aid fund has built a kind of „water center“ in Kenya: a building with a roof, some water taps, the opportunity to drink, shower or wash. Among us, these are all taken for granted, but there they mean an improvement in the lives of many thousands of people.

From a spiritual point of view, the Holy Spirit is the source of our life. But we need an „inner spring“ so that we can draw water from it. Our heart is the center of our being, the place where the water of life bubbles forth. This „inner spring“ can be polluted or purified by our decisions and actions. Egoism, greed, arrogance – or on the other hand selflessness, humility and love – shape people's hearts.

A powerful means of renewing us daily in our hearts is the prayer of Jesus, also called „prayer of the heart“: „Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me“. If we pray it regularly, the „water“ flowing through us will be pure and fresh, and can also bring life to our fellow humans – especially in life-threatening situations whereby goodness is as necessary as a drop of water.





## Intercession and Prayer

God, you wish to lead us "to the springs from which the water of life flows" in order to quench our thirst. We wish to receive your water of grace with a pure heart.

Thus we pray:

- FOR THE THIRSTY who have no access to clean drinking water;
- FOR ALL who seek a spring in the deserts of their lives;
- FOR THE SINNERS whose inner wells are polluted and clogged.



Father, you have bathed your people in the desert with a spring from the rock, and in Jesus you have promised us water, for which we will never thirst again. Send out your spirit so that it may purify each of our hearts, and make it a well from which our sisters and brothers can draw from the water of life. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.



## SECOND DAY

# Recognition



**„Lend your ear and hear the words  
of wise men, turn your heart to  
my knowledge!“** Proverbs of Solomon 22:17

## Impulse

One of the most important steps on the path of our lives is a sincere self-knowledge, as well as the acceptance and love of our own self. Of course, this can mean that we are confronted with our dark aspects and weaknesses. But there, the question of the knowledge of God comes into play: The Father's love can be an answer to my imperfections and faults; the knowledge of His mercy frees me from imprisonment in my sins and shows to me the true value of my life. Thus I can also achieve respect for the lives of others.

Self-knowledge and knowledge of God go hand in hand in the faith. If we deepen one of them, we can understand the other better. They are like two legs on which one can walk along the path of one's life - and our walking stick is the nurturing and teaching of the heart; our compass is the Holy Spirit who enlightens, accompanies, and guides us with his gifts.

Today, it is particularly important that we choose the right path of self-education. If we simply try to protect ourselves from sin and to flee from evil, we will not get very far. It is far more advisable to oppose bad behavior and habits, to do things differently. More than three years ago (*September 2015*) many people migrated to Austria via Western Hungary in search of a better life. Politicians and the media said a lot of bad things about them - but the farmers in the villages put apples, pears, peaches and drinking water bottles along the roadside. In this simple and practical manner they recognized the true value of the lives of their fellow human beings.



## Intercession and Prayer

God, you have imbued human life with an inviolable dignity that serves as the foundation of all other values.

Thus we pray:

- FOR THE VICTIMS of aggression and war;
- FOR THE DISPOSSESSED and the disregarded;
- FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY and cannot discern the true values of life.



Beloved Father, you have created us in your image and have honored each one of us as unique and irreplaceable. Your Son who became man sacrificed Himself for us, and through His work of salvation has restored the beauty and dignity of our existence. Send out your spirit, so that we may recognize the value of each person's life and have the courage to stand up for its protection. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.



## THIRD DAY

# Sensitivity



**„Jesus had compassion for him; he reached out his hand, touched him and said: I am willing – become pure!“** Mark 1:41

## Impulse

The name Jesus means „God saves, God helps“. But what is this help? There are many „saviors“ in our own time who promise order, security, stability and well-being. They want to lead people to earthly happiness via strength and power - and there are many who let themselves be hypnotized by such brazen performances. The myth of strength finds expression in many forms: weapons, high walls, powerful but insensitive institutions ... Jesus approaches people differently. His eyes are looking for people who, in the din of great words, are silent, unheard, and remain unnoticed. He

seeks the little ones, the weeping ones, the powerless and voiceless ones, the ones who have been sold out... those who do not fit into the picture of this invoked power and might. He reaches out to them in their grief. His godly/human hands do not only touch the wounds, but are also able to heal. His eyes „weep with the weeping“ (*Romans 12:15*). His heart forms a bridge that leads from person to person. This is not a passive, but a highly active compassion: personal contact, yes, inner encounter, the origin of a new life. I once said to a student at the university casually: „How are you doing?“ - He stood still for a minute and then he replied: „Nobody has asked me about that in the last nine months“. That was the beginning of a longer, deeper, more moving conversation.

Once again, each day, we are called to become „the neighbors“ of the other. Love that is lived begins at our neighbor's door, at the train station or on the bus. In order to educate and nurture our hearts to the necessary states of sensitivity and sensibility, we need the help of the Spirit.





## Intercession and Prayer

God, you come to us with quiet steps and with a gentle power. Every one of us needs your healing presence. Thus we pray:

- FOR THE LONELY who long for the personal closeness of another;
- FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO SYMPATHY with their neighbors;
- FOR THE INSENSITIVE who themselves are very often injured.



Loving father, you have a sensitive heart and are always close to your children. You sent your son to us to reveal your mercy and benevolence. Send out your spirit so that we can shape and nurture our hearts after the model of the Heart of Jesus. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.



## FOURTH DAY

# Search for Peace



**„Blessed are those who make peace;  
for they will be called the  
Children of God.“** Matthew 5:9

## Impulse

We all wish to live in peace, yet conflicts and disputes are part of life: Human diversity, different opinions, unequal lifestyles cannot always be reconciled peacefully. Our politically correct language often tries to conceal, trivialize or paper over tensions. Pope Francis says in his apostolic letter *Evangelii gaudium*: „Conflict must not be ignored or glossed over. One must face it directly.“ (EC 226) But how can we do that? To face a conflict directly does not mean employing aggression, belligerence or compulsive self-assertion.

Such behavior leads to futile discussions or, even worse, to destructive struggle.

„If we get caught up in the conflict, we lose perspective, our horizons become smaller, and reality itself crumbles. If we continue in the ups and downs of conflicts, we lose the sense of the deep unity of reality,“ said Pope Francis (ibid.).

A conflict is therefore not just a fact, or something that is inevitable in life, but an invitation to seek peace, to make it happen. Peace must never become a caricature, like some unfinished agreement from the „green table“: peace comes about as the fruit of the Holy Spirit - with the active participation of man. We can pray for it, for example with the words attributed to St. Francis: „Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, that I may practice love where others hate; that I may forgive where some offend; that I may unite where there is conflict“.



## Intercession and Prayer

God, you have called us to be your peacemakers in the world. Thus we pray:

- For those who suffer from CONFLICTS of a political, social or military nature;
- FOR THOSE WHO ARE AFRAID of entering into a necessary struggle;
- FOR THOSE ADDICTED TO CONFLICT, who are eternally entangled in dispute.



Merciful Father, you have created a world characterized by diversity and tension. Your Son who became a man loved His own to the end, and gave us true peace through His death and resurrection. Send out your spirit, that in its power we may become instruments of peace. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.



## FIFTH DAY

# Unity in Diversity



**„Serve one another as good stewards  
of God's grace in all its forms, each with  
the gifts he has received!“**

1 Peter 4:10

## Impulse

What is the meaning of „unity“? Many believe that one needs an outer and an inner unity, even a spiritual unity, in order to fully integrate each individual into the community: that everyone should think the same, live the same way and have the same beliefs. If we think of unity that way, then it is a product of our human efforts. According to this idea, people ought to be treated like pieces of wood, from which identical shapes can be made with a carving knife. Bertolt Brecht formulated these thought-provoking lines: „What do you do,“ Mr. K. was asked, „when you love

a human being?“ „I make a template out of him,“ said Mr. K., „and make sure he looks like it.“ „Who? The template?“ „No,“ Mr. K said, „the human“. (*From: „If Mr. K. Loved a Man“*). We can observe this kind of attitude in different areas. One experiences intolerance, prejudice and isolation on a personal level. Populism, extremism, exclusion and even open hostility – all these are products of a misunderstood identity. People with such a sense of their own identity feel threatened by what is different, and seek security in forced homogeneity. God showed us at the first Feast of Pentecost how he approached diversity in the world: everyone was able to keep his own language and culture, yet all were united in the Holy Spirit. All could understand the apostles and form a community of faith – without man-made unity. Foreigners, those who think or believe differently, migrants - the outcasts of our society – today ask us the question: Are we ready to believe in the possibility of spiritual unity in diversity?





## Intercession and Prayer

God, you have created us all as members of one human family. We must never forget our basic unity. Thus we pray:

- FOR ALL WHO ARE FORCED to leave their homeland and to live in a foreign country;
- FOR THOSE WHO ARE FILLED WITH FEAR and prejudice;
- FOR ALL PEOPLES of the earth who share the common responsibility for peace in the world.



Father of all men, you are the foundation of all unity. It is your will that we come to unity of faith and knowledge of your son. To each of us you give special gifts which contribute to the building of the community. Send out your spirit, that we may learn from you how it is possible to experience unity in diversity. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.



## SIXTH DAY

# Devotion



**„I can do all of this through him  
who gives me strength.“** Philippians 4:13

## Impulse

Self-protection is one of our natural basic instincts, and we can observe it everywhere and in all living beings. Our existence is worth protecting: We are unique, a gift from the Creator. But Jesus has given us a „new commandment“ (*John 13:34*):

„Love one another! As I have loved you, so shall ye love one another“. „There is no greater love than to give one's life for one's friends,“ (*John 15:13*) he says. We are called to love, the highest form of which is self-sacrifice. In this way we are meant to transcend the limits set by our instincts - and the Holy Spirit gives us the strength to do so.

To stand up for others, to make sacrifices, to offer oneself in surrender - this is human behavior that involves us directly in the dynamics of Christ's work of salvation. The motivation to love someone more than oneself does not come from arbitrariness or madness, but from the experience of a greater love: I was always loved by God first, even loved in advance, and loved and protected much more than I can myself. God is greater than my heart!

An old priest, who had worked with disadvantaged children all his life, always used to say: „I have never heard about anyone becoming good through being verbally abused. You become good through being praised!“ And these were not empty words: During the hardest times, during communist rule of Hungary, he gave faith, hope and a future to many motherless or fatherless young people, with extreme personal willingness to make sacrifices through his devotion.

The fear, poverty and weakness of other people must never leave us indifferent! The Holy Spirit can strengthen our hearts so that we may overcome our selfishness and be capable of self-sacrificing love.



## Intercession and Prayer

God protects all of who are small and weak,  
and he never forgets those who are in need.  
Thus we pray:

- FOR THE CHILDREN who have no protection and no security;
- FOR THE WEAK AND DESTITUTE who need our help;
- FOR THOSE WHO ARE POWERLESS to stand up for themselves.



Father who protects us, you are our hope and our strength. Through the gift of your Son, you have freed us from the anxious preoccupation with ourselves. Send out your spirit, that we may be prepared for devotion and sacrifice for the good of our fellow men. We ask this in the name of Christ, our Lord.



## SEVENTH DAY

# Standing Up for Justice



**„Whoever does not practice  
righteousness and does not love his brother,  
is not of God.”** 1 John 3:10

## Impulse

A great Hungarian poet, Mihály Babits, wrote in his poem „The Book of Jona“ in 1938: „Among sinners, he who is silent is an accomplice.“ Many believing people work hard to shape their hearts in order to achieve inner peace. But this must never mean that we withdraw into our inner world after the attainment of the peace for which we so long, in order to

SEVENTH DAY  
STANDING UP FOR JUSTICE

dwell there in a heavenly harmony. Jesus invites us to be awake and to active cooperation in shaping the future: „We expect, based on his words, a new heaven and a new Earth in which justice dwells.“ (2 *Peter* 3:13): „This is an active waiting, a creative participation, a dynamic interaction of people with God. Whoever has a heart which loves peace should also dare to stand up for justice and against indifference. The gospel of Christ has something provocative, challenging and disturbing about it, and those who want to live by it should speak words of justice and perform righteous deeds. The credibility of our Christianity also depends on our willingness to work for the well-being and the rights of our fellow human beings.

A theologian from India told of how he had realized, in conversation with the followers of other religions, how unique and special it is that the God of the Bible has formed a „defense alliance“ with the smallest and poorest. One can only proclaim her or his message by standing up for the just treatment of others.





## Intercession and Prayer

God, you are gracious and just. No one can be your child if she or he acts unjustly and unlovingly. Thus we pray:

- FOR THOSE who suffer INJUSTICE;
- FOR THOSE whose voices no one wants to hear;
- FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HELP who depend on our commitment.



Righteous Father, you are always ready to help your children. Your Son, Jesus Christ, proclaimed the gospel of your kingdom – the Kingdom of Righteousness. He has called upon his successors to work for a better, more humane and more just world. Send out your spirit, that we may prove to be your good collaborators. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.



## EIGHTH DAY

# Humble Service



**„Take my yoke upon you,  
and learn from me; for I am gentle and  
humble of heart.”**

Mathew 11:29

## Impulse

„Heart of Jesus, constituted in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit“, we pray in the „Sacred Heart of Jesus“ Litany. The idea that God has a heart is a symbolic statement of the Old Testament; with the Incarnation of Christ it became reality. The words and works of Jesus reveal to us the innermost life of the Trinity; it is a divine entity that far exceeds our human imagination. When we look at the Heart of Jesus, our concepts lose their meaning - or rather, only then

do they gain their true meaning. Majesty is humility, lordship is realized in service, greatness is shown in the art of small things. It is as if all our thoughts and ideas about God were to be reversed. We need these contradictions. They teach us perhaps the most important lesson of heart formation and -nurturing; Jesus carried out this lesson to His disciples before their very eyes at the Last Supper by washing their feet and saying: „You call me ‘Master’ and ‘Lord’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Therefore if I, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, then you also must wash one another's feet.“ (*John 13:13-14*) The Heart of Jesus must never become a dead object of our worship; it must always be an example that repeatedly shapes our lives.

True service is never undignified, humility is in no way humiliation. The great Hungarian poet János Pilinszky wrote on the occasion of the golden jubilee of a priest: „He who has consecrated his life to God has only one role left to play among men: Let him be there for all of us through his ministry and his love.“



## Intercession and Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you are present among us "in the role of one who serves", and your humility reveals to us your incomparable greatness.

Thus do we pray:

- FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO ONE who is there for them;
- FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING PERSONS who need our humble service so much;
- FOR THE PROUD AND HAUGHTY Christians who are afraid of indulging in activities which bring little respect.



Heavenly Father, in your compassionate love you have sent your Son into the world, who „came not to be served, but rather to serve". He has given us an example of how we should behave towards one another. Send out your spirit so that we may never hide from humble service, but may rather have the courage to surpass one another in love. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.



## NINTH DAY

# Magnanimity



**„By their approval of this service, they [the people] will glorify God, because you [...] have unselfishly helped them and all others.”** 2 Corinthians 9:13

## Impulse

We are accustomed to living our lives with a certain amount of privacy. On the one hand, it is understandable that we want to share our feelings and thoughts only with those we know well. On the other hand, there is the danger that we can end up „privatizing“ everything – reserving our time and energy only for ourselves, or for our close family and circle of friends. Pope Francis speaks in this connection of a „self-reference“, of an egocentric

attitude whereby the area of private life is so greatly expanded that no room remains for outsiders. He writes: „When the inner life is enclosed within the borders of one's own interests: there is no more room for the others, the poor no longer find entry, one no longer hears the voice of God, one no longer enjoys the profound joy of His love, one no longer feels the joy of doing good. The faithful, too, clearly and continuously run this risk.“ (*Evangelii gaudium* 2)

We have not received our hearts so that we may keep them to ourselves, or reserve them only for ourselves. We should open them and make them capable of „Pentecostal revelation“ and ready to be given. Even if this makes us vulnerable: To love, I must put my innermost, my whole self at risk. Yes, my soul can be dented and tarnished. But God will certainly look at a damaged and „self-consuming“ heart with love, because in reality it is similar to the heart of Jesus: pierced by love, it has become the source of life and all comfort. (*Cf. Sacred Heart of Jesus Litany*)





## Intercession and Prayer

God, you have opened your heart to us and called us to form and nurture our own hearts according to Jesus' example. Thus do we pray:

- **FOR THOSE WHO ARE PRISONERS OF EGOISM** and self-reference, who will not take the risk of love;
- **FOR THE PUSILLANIMOUS** who are afraid of personal relationships, frankness and uprightness;
- **FOR THE MISERLY** who want to keep their time and energy for only themselves.



Magnanimous father, you wish to give us everything that is good for our lives. For us humans and for our salvation, Your Son became flesh and dwelt among us. For this reason, we should also open our hearts to others. Send out your spirit so that our hearts may truly burn with love. We ask this in the name of Christ, our Lord.



## PENTECOST

# Moved by the Spirit of God



**„You send forth your spirit:  
They are created, and you renew  
the face of the Earth.“**

**Psalms 104:30**

## Impulse

In the „developed“ societies these days we attempt to create everything possible with technical skills and human strength. We regard hardships and difficulties as „projects“ to be worked on. We have become professional problem managers. Sometimes we consider another group of people to be a „challenge“ – a „case“ for which we require a goal-oriented solution.

But we must not forget the logic of devotion, the faith in the Holy Spirit. All of our professionalism will not suffice to renew the face of the earth.

A friend told me at the beginning of the refugee crisis in Hungary that he had initially been shocked by the many strangers on the streets of Budapest. But then he found his courage, and helped the migrants for a while as a volunteer. „I once gave an apple to a child. God himself was looking at me from that child's eyes,“ he said later. This apple was literally a „fruit of the Holy Spirit“ - and as the „Father of the poor“ the Holy Spirit renewed my friend's heart. God's Spirit is also the „Giver of Gifts“ and the „Light of Hearts“: Whoever he touches can draw new strength and set out to take part in God's great work of salvation.

Faith and the encounter with the Spirit know no end and no pause. The spirit always gives us a new beginning, and keeps us in constant motion. Those who walk the paths of the world together with us are our sisters and brothers. We are meant to share with them the gifts of mercy that we have received from the Holy Spirit, for the good of all.



## Intercession and Prayer

God, the world lives from the power and dynamism of your spirit, which drives us and keeps us in motion. Thus do we pray:

- FOR THOSE WHO PUT THEIR FAITH IN TECHNOLOGY, who do not trust in the power of the Holy Spirit;
- FOR THE FAINTHEARTED, who need the "encouragement" of the Holy Spirit;
- FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE who are preparing to be confirmed.



Almighty Father, you can do infinitely more than we ask or conceive. By the grace of Christ, your Son, you give us a share in the divine life. Send out your spirit so that we may become your collaborators in helping to renew the face of the Earth. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.

## Renovabis: 26 years of project work in the East



At the suggestion of the Central Committee of German Catholics, Renovabis was founded as the „Solidarity initiative of the German Catholics with the People in Central and

Eastern Europe“ in March 1993 by the German bishops. Renovabis maintains contact with partners from the church and from society in 29 Central, Eastern and Southeastern European countries, and promotes exchange with people there. As a solidarity program of German Catholics with the people of Central and Eastern Europe, Renovabis has supported a total of 23,800 projects with the sum of 746 million euros since 1993. Its name represents the relief program, inspired by the verse:

**„Renovabis faciem terrae – You renew the face of the Earth.“** These words from Psalm 104 are

interpreted by benefactors, partners and employees of Renovabis in this manner: „We want to

work together constructively toward the pastoral, social, and societal renewal of Eastern Europe; we know, however, that this is only possible through the power of God. The money required for this comes from the Pentecost offerings in all Catholic parishes in Germany, from individual donations and church taxes, as well as from public funds."

**You may request current information about Central- and Eastern Europe, and about the project- and partnership activities of Renovabis, from:**

**Renovabis, Kardinal-Döpfner-Haus,  
Domberg 27, D-85354 Freising,  
Telephone 08161/5309-0, Fax 08161/5309-44  
info@renovabis.de**

**www.renovabis.de • www.pfingsten.de**



**Donation accounts:**

**LIGA Bank eG**

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**IBAN: DE24 7509 0300 0002 2117 77**

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**BIC/SWIFT: GENODED1PAX**

**IBAN: DE17 3706 0193 3008 8880 18**

## Novena Prayer in Fellowship

*The basic structure for praying the Novena which is described on the fold-out page can be extended for use in a small or large group, or integrated into the structure of another form of worship service. Additional elements may include: longer reading(s), psalms, alternating antiphony songs/prayers, songs, intercessions, prayers of supplication, symbolic actions, creative elements, group/faith sharing. In the following, the procedure of a devotion is presented. Further information online at: **[www.renovabis.de/novene](http://www.renovabis.de/novene)***

- Opening
- Pentecostal hymn or sequence / song
- If desired, short introduction and invitation to be silent
- Silent meditation
- Textual recitation / Reading of the day
- If desired, short hymn
- Impulse of the day
- Silent meditation
- Daily intercession or spontaneous prayer for intercession, e.g.: „*Send out your spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.*“
- Lords Prayer
- Prayer of the day
- If desired, hymn
- Closing / Blessing



**Pentecost Sequence**    **Come, Holy Spirit, come!**  
 And from your celestial home  
 Shed a ray of light divine!

**Come, Father of the poor!**

Come, source of all our store!

Come, within our bosoms shine.

**You, of comforters the best;**

You, the soul's most welcome guest;

Sweet refreshment here below;

**In our labor, rest most sweet;**

Grateful coolness in the heat;

Solace in the midst of woe.

**O most blessed Light divine,**

Shine within these hearts of yours,

And our inmost being fill!

**Where you are not, we have naught,**

Nothing good in deed or thought,

Nothing free from taint of ill.

**Heal our wounds, our strength renew;**

On our dryness pour your dew;

Wash the stains of guilt away:.

**Bend the stubborn heart and will;**

Melt the frozen, warm the chill;

Guide the steps that go astray.

**On the faithful, who adore**

And confess you, evermore

In your sevenfold gift descend;

**Give them virtue's sure reward;**

Give them your salvation, Lord;

Give them joys that never end.

Amen. Alleluia.

from „Veni Sancte  
 Spiritus“ 12th/13th  
 Century, attributed to  
 Stephan Langton

1.

## Opening

O God, come to my assistance;

*O Lord, make haste to help me.*

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

*As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end.*

*Amen*

2.

## Invitation to silent meditation

Come Holy Spirit,

fill the hearts of your faithful

*and kindle 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.*



**or**      May I be a vessel  
capable of receiving thoughts of peace  
    *a vessel for you, Holy Spirit.*

May I keep hold my empty hands  
open for the fullness of life:  
    *empty hands for you, Holy Spirit.*

May I open my heart and  
make it ready for the power of love –  
    *a heart for you, Holy Spirit.*

May I be good earth  
loosened for seeds of justice –  
    *good earth for you, Holy Spirit.*

May I be a riverbed,  
receptive to the water of goodness –  
    *a riverbed for you, Holy Spirit.*

Anton Rotzetter

## 5. Prayer of Blessing

Mysterious God, we ask for your blessing –  
for ourselves and for the people of Eastern Europe.  
Empower us in goodness and give us the inspiration  
of the Holy Spirit, so that the face of the Earth may  
be renewed.  
Amen.

4.

**Pente-  
costal  
hymn**

**Come, Holy Ghost**, Creator, come  
from thy bright heav'nly throne;  
come, take possession of our souls,  
and make them all thine own.

**Thou who art called** the Paraclete,  
best gift of God above,  
the living spring, the living fire,  
sweet unction and true love.

**Thou who art sevenfold** in thy grace,  
finger of God's right hand;  
his promise, teaching little ones  
to speak and understand.

**O guide our minds** with thy blest light,  
with love our hearts inflame;  
and with thy strength, which ne'er decays,  
confirm our mortal frame.

**Far from us** drive our deadly foe;  
true peace unto us bring;  
and through all perils lead us safe  
beneath thy sacred wing.

**Through thee may** we the Father know,  
through thee th'eternal Son,  
and thee the Spirit of them both,  
thrice-blessed three in One.

**All glory** to the Father be,  
with his co-equal Son;  
the same to thee, great Paraclete,  
while endless ages run. Amen.

from "Veni,  
creator Spiritus",  
9th Century,  
attributed to  
Hrabanus Maurus

# Basic Structure for the progress of the daily Novena prayers

1.

## Opening

*see prayer on page 56*

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2.

## Invitation to silent meditation

*see prayer on page 56/57*

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3.

## Text readings, Impulse, Intercession and Prayer

*of the respective day*

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4.

## Pentecostal hymn or sequence

*see reverse side and page 55*

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5.

## Prayer of Blessing

*see prayer on page 57*

*The basic structure can be enriched as desired, e.g., for prayer meditation among the congregation with additional elements (longer text reading, Psalms, songs/hymns, intercession, other creative element). Proposal, page 54 ff.*



# Lernen ist Leben

Unterstützen Sie  
Bildungsarbeit  
im Osten Europas!

