



A Rosary to the Holy Spirit

SHALOM

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Index

And they were filled with the Holy Spirit Homily given by Pope John Paul II.....	5
How to recite the Rosary	13
The beginning of the Rosary to the Holy Spirit	16
Litanies to the Holy Spirit	25
Acts of consecration to the Holy Spirit	30



And they were filled with the Holy Spirit

(Acts of the Apostles 2,4)

So it occurred in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Today, gathered here in this square, which represents the heart of the Catholic world, we relive the atmosphere of that day. During our times too, just like during the Last Supper in Jerusalem, a “strong wind!” passes through the Church. It too experiences the divine breath of the Holy Spirit, who opens it up to the evangelisation of the world.

It is a happy coincidence, that during today’s solemnities we have the joy of having here, beside the alter, the venerated remains of Blessed Pope John XXIII, who was moulded with God’s Spirit, and made into an admirable witness of His love. My most venerated predecessor left this life 38 years ago now, on the 3rd of June 1963, while, in St. Peter’s Square, there was a great crowd of people who had gathered together to pray, to be spiritually present at his bedside. To their prayers we would like to add today’s celebration, and while we commemorate the death of this



Blessed Pope, we give praise to God who granted him as a gift, to the Church and to the world.

As a priest, as a bishop and as a Pope, Blessed Angelo Roncalli was always most docile towards the action of the Holy Spirit, who guided him on his pathway towards holiness. For this reason, in the living community of saints, we would like to celebrate the solemnity of Pentecost together with him, allowing some of his inspiring reflections to accompany us.

“The light of the Holy Spirit is introduced from the very first words of the book of the Acts of the Apostles. The impetuous march of the Divine Spirit precedes and accompanies the evangelisers, by penetrating the souls of those who listen to them and by opening up the Catholic Church throughout the Earth, down through all the centuries of history.” (From: Discourse, messages and interviews with the Holy Father Pope John XXIII, page: 398).

It is with these words, exclaimed during Pentecost of 1960 that Pope John helps us to welcome the boundless missionary spirit, which is part of the mystery that we have come to celebrate on this solemn occasion. The Church is a born missionary, because it is born of the Father, who sent Christ into the world, it is born of his Son, who died and rose again, who sent

the Apostles and all people, and it is born of the Holy Spirit, who places light and strength within men, that we need in order to be able to help that same mission.

Also in this, its original missionary dimension, the Church is an icon of the Most Holy Trinity. It reflects in its history the abundance of God's own fertility, that is a fountain of love, which generates life and communion. It is with his presence and by means of his actions within the world, that the Church propagates this mysterious dynamism among men, diffusing the Kingdom of God which "is justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit". (Rm 14,17).

The Second Ecumenical Vatican Council, which was announced, called upon and opened by Pope John XXIII, was well aware of this vocation of the Church.

The Holy Spirit may well be considered to be the protagonist of the Council, from when the Pope invoked it, declaring to have welcomed, as something from above, an intimate voice which resounded within his soul (From: Cost. Ap. Humanae salutis, 25th Dec. 1961, 6). That "gentle breeze" soon became "a strong wind" and the event of the council became a renewed Pentecost. "It is in fact, within the doctrine and spirit of Pentecost, affirmed Pope John, that the great event

