“The Holy Spirit, ‘giver of life’, is at the center and source of the Church’s renewal”

Encyclical
Dominum Et Vivificantem
“The Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World”
Saint John Paul II
Formation Introduction

Today you begin a small journey that will help you grow in a deeper understanding and a renewed relationship with the Holy Spirit for your journey of Discipleship. Over the next 5 days these formations are created in a way for you to reflect on key teaching points from Saint John Paul’s II encyclical on the Holy Spirit, *Dominum Et Vivificantem*.

Each day you will have three key teachings to reflect on. Each reflection guides you to consider how Saint John Paul II words can help you grow as a ‘missionary disciple’. Depending on how much time you would like to spend with the entire material each day, the daily reflection is designed to be completed between 5-10 minutes. As you journey through the 5 day’s I will be keeping you in my prayers. Now let’s begin our journey.

- Darrin Nelson
  Vibrant Parish Life Ministries

Today’s three points of Formation.

The Holy Spirit, as the ‘giver of life’.
We are called to draw near to the Holy Spirit.
The Church is compelled by the Holy Spirit.
Today’s Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit

“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.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.
Encyclical Formation

The Holy Spirit, as the ‘giver of life’.

Dominum Et Vivificantem, 1

“The Church, therefore, instructed by the words of Christ, and drawing on the experience of Pentecost and her own apostolic history, has proclaimed since the earliest centuries her faith in the Holy Spirit, as the giver of life, the one in whom the inscrutable Triune God communicates himself to human beings, constituting in them the source of eternal life."

Formation Reflection

If we truly desire to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we must continue to open our hearts to the Spirit allowing him to animate the mission of Christ within us. As Saint JPII states about the Spirit in this encyclical, “he is at the center of the Christian faith and is the source and dynamic power of the Church's renewal”. Take a moment right now to pray the Holy Spirit asking he will direct your life to be part of the Church’s renewal today.

We are called to draw near to the Holy Spirit

Dominum Et Vivificantem, 2

“This faith, uninterruptedly professed by the Church, needs to be constantly reawakened and deepened in the consciousness of the People of God…. the Holy Spirit as the vital principle of the Church, works in union with the Head of the Mystical Body, Christ… In our own age, then, we are called anew by the ever ancient and ever new faith of the Church, to draw near to the Holy Spirit as the giver of life….”

Formation Reflection

“Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: ‘Rivers of living water* will flow from within him” (DV 2). Jesus teaches us that those who came to believe in him will receive the Spirit. (John 7:38-39) Today create a space for your heart to open and draw near to the Holy Spirit. Take a moment right now to pray that the Spirit stirs within you so others may encounter Christ through your presence in their lives today.

Pray: Come Holy Spirit. Stir my heart.
The Church is compelled by the Holy Spirit

Dominum Et Vivificantem, 3

“The Church feels herself called to this mission of proclaiming the Spirit,… [This proclamation] are the words of Christ about the Holy Spirit, the inexhaustible source of the "water welling up to eternal life,"¹⁴ as truth and saving grace. Upon these words she wishes to reflect, to these words she wishes to call the attention of believers and of all people… she is compelled by the Holy Spirit to do her part towards the full realization of the will of God, who has established Christ as the source of salvation for the whole world."

Formation Reflection

Do we reflect enough on ‘How will I live out the mission of Christ in my life, today? In these words of Saint JPII, I hear him calling us to be disciples who are more ‘attentive’ to how the "inexhaustible source" for mission of Christ is the Holy Spirit working in our lives and the life of the Church. May these daily formation reflections lead you into a greater awareness of your relationship with the Holy Spirit and the Spirit’s role in your salvation and the salvation of others.

Pray: Come Holy Spirit. Awaken my heart today to your mission.

Your next reflection will be on

“The Spirit of the Father and Son given to the Church.”