

Covenant Life

- Our prayer meeting pattern in May is different:
 - We will not meet today to allow families more time to celebrate Mother's Day.
 - **We will meet on May 19 to celebrate Pentecost together.**
 - The next meetings will be June 9 and 23 (returning to our normal pattern).
- As a Community we are praying daily the Pentecost Novena May 10-18 praying *VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS* found at the end of this letter.
- GodsDelight.org has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), [teachings](#), and [Jubilee](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

Depending on the service you attend this weekend you might hear different readings. In asking the Holy Spirit for a particular word for us today, I was again touched by the process that Peter used to determine who should replace Judas as the twelfth disciple in the [First Reading](#). Somewhat naturally I imagined many possibilities, most of which involved using natural human intelligence. Which of the followers had demonstrated the most leadership abilities, or was the most capable, or ... any number of other assessments. However, I think we can all learn from his process. It began with prayer. They proved the point that our human skills are limited, and we simply cannot presume upon God's perfect will.

We know from our study of God's word that His ways are not our ways and that He does have a divine plan that is unfolding if we will but surrender our will and good ideas. Let us resolve today to take these '*holy pauses*' throughout our day today, tomorrow, and beyond to stop and pause (as often as possible) and ask for God to reveal His perfect plan and then how can we cooperate with His most perfect will. Our prayer can end with the request that His Holy Spirit, which we know empowers our every good deed, give us the grace, resolve, and fortitude to respond as Jesus would. Following His example, empowered by His Holy Spirit after having discerned His direction, is the key for us to accomplish so much more than we can imagine.

I have often thought about the whole of God's word and asked myself, Lord give me a simple study aid that I can come back to over and over. I recall when I was

studying for an exam in college, I would write down the points I needed to recall on a tiny sheet of paper and study it over and over. When I was in the exam, I could better recall exactly what I wrote by picturing that small slip of paper. This came to mind as I was reading the [Second Reading](#) on God's love. Much like the greatest commandment serves as a simple study aid, this reading explains the very basics of the Gospel message. God is Love and commands us to love one another. It is really that simple...yet of course it is not simple or easy. We will spend our whole lives trying to really love God by loving one another. It is so much easier said than lived.

I recall time and again our founder, Bobbie Cavnar, beseeching us to learn to love one another. He was convinced that that was our Community's greatest calling. He taught that this was our greatest witness to the world. He was confident that the world would take notice of the way we loved one another. I firmly believe this to be true and, later in this same reading, we learn the secret to success. It is through the power of His Spirit within us. There is no end to what God can accomplish through us if we are surrendered to Him and docile to His Holy Spirit within us!

The [Gospel](#) today provides two very specific actions being requested of us. The first is the call to unity "*may they be one as we are one.*" I highlight this because it has always been a foundation stone of our commitment to one another, and I believe is even more vital to our future. We are the CHRISTIAN Community of God's Delight. God does not have favorites and nor should we. Our history is full of loving those unlike us (different faith backgrounds, different ethnic backgrounds, different socioeconomic backgrounds...) but that never mattered. We were one body CALLED to be A PEOPLE dedicated to our Lord and live each day loving Him and one another. This is all that mattered. Let us continue to live this way each day so that we can fulfill Jesus' John 17 prayer that the world will know that God sent the Son and that we may all be one!

The second action being requested of us is we accept the charge of being SENT into the world. It is a natural tendency to pass on responsibility as we age. But Jesus' words at the end of this reading are very clear...each of us is being asked to follow His example and [Go](#). Responsibility for outreach is not someone else's. We are all His disciples and must look each day for opportunities to witness the

transformation that we have experienced in giving our life to God. The world needs to know, and we must tell them. This is precisely what Jesus is asking of you and me today.

I end this exhortation with a word honoring all our mothers who have selflessly given their whole lives to respond to this message. More than any other subset of people, mothers across the Community, like my mother, have been the best examples of selfless service. I honor each of them today and urge us all to both honor them and follow their example of selfless service.

Jesus, You were the perfect example of all that we aspire to. Send us Your Holy Spirit so that we can follow Your example of deferring to the Father's perfect will, witnessing the Father's love, building unity, and proclaiming Your Gospel message. We love You Lord! Amen."

God Bless,
David

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest,
and in our souls take up Thy rest;
come with Thy grace and heavenly aid
to fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

O comforter, to Thee we cry,
O heavenly gift of God Most High,
O fount of life and fire of love,
and sweet anointing from above.

Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts are known;
Thou, finger of God's hand we own;
Thou, promise of the Father,
Thou Who dost the tongue with power imbue.

Kindle our sense from above,
and make our hearts o'erflow with love;
with patience firm and virtue high
the weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
and grant us Thy peace instead;

so shall we not, with Thee for guide,
turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow
the Father and the Son to know;
and Thee, through endless times confessed,
of both the eternal Spirit blest.

Now to the Father and the Son,
Who rose from death, be glory given,
with Thou, O Holy Comforter,
henceforth by all in earth and heaven. Amen.