

“Come, Holy Spirit.” – May 7, 2017  
by Wayne J. Schneider – Cum Sancto Spiritu

## **“Come, Holy Spirit!”**

Romans 8:22-27

Today is Pentecost Sunday the birth of the Church Universal. The Holy Spirit descends upon the church leadership and the church has often celebrated this day by receiving new members into its fellowship.

One of the wonderful Latino traditions is the *padrinos* and *madrinos*; godparents. We sometimes think of these fine people only during baptisms, weddings or confirmations. But their roles are much deeper. They help with the education of the child particularly if the parents became ill and are unable to provide for the child.

They also play another important role, that of mentors. That is, they model wisdom, guidance, and experience for the children. By and large our culture has lost its desire to mentor, and our children and youth are the losers. They do not know where to go to find the answers to how they should live and have meaningful lives.

Mentors also filled the role of unbiased listeners. Parents sometimes have difficulty listening to their children objectively, non-judgmentally. Godparents/mentors are one step removed from parental authority. Children may find a safe-space, a receptivity they might not feel with their parents, especially during adolescence.

One of the most important activities godparents do is pray for their godchildren. How marvelous to have someone care for you in prayer when you are ill physically, emotionally, or spiritually. To know you are loved and cared for is such a blessing. This is what faithful godparents do.

St. Paul tells us this morning that the Holy Spirit is the supreme godparent of all. Listen again to verses 26-27: *“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs*

*too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."*

Herein we find two significant features about the Holy Spirit. First, the Holy Spirit helps us when we are weak, even if we think we are strong. After all, we are not always the most objective of judges, are we? Sinful states such as arrogance and greed easily lure us.

The early church father, Origen, said: *"The weakness that the Spirit helps us with is the flesh. Whenever the Holy Spirit sees our spirit struggling with the flesh and being drawn to it, she intercedes for us."* What a gift that assists us in our weakness.

Second, The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, prays for us. She is an advocate on our behalf asking for mercy from God. Pleading for God's blessing and love. When we are truthful with ourselves, we admit that we are delicate and susceptible to distraction and temptation that lead us astray. We were never meant to journey alone. We desperately need someone to know us and help us, to remember us and care for us. And, this is exactly what the Holy Spirit's Modus Operandi is.

A sincere "Follower of the Way" was mother to a brilliant but unbelieving son. She prayed for him, modeled for him, took him to church, read the Holy Scriptures to him, but with no result. She asked neighbors and friends to pray for him. He continued to live a profane lifestyle. Yet, his mother never failed to pray for him.

One day, God answered her prayers and the Holy Spirit touched his life, he believed and became a "Follower of the Way. The Holy Spirit helped him in his weakness and interceded for him, and he became one of the church's leading theologians.

This same Spirit will do the same for you and I. We do not have to walk in defeat. Victory can be ours in Jesus if we but choose God. My constant prayer and hope is that you will allow God to assist you in your moments of weakness and allow the Holy Spirit to intercede for you and to act as your mentor. If you will so

do, you will be blessed beyond your wildest hopes. Alleluia. Amen.