

Section 67:
**Spirituality of the Heart and the powerful presence
of the Spirit in the heart of creation.**

(By Hans Kwakman msc)

During the Sunday Eucharist, we confess in the Credo that we believe "*in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life.*" In Pope Francis' writings, too, the Holy Spirit plays an important role as Giver of Life and Sacred Power, who brings about in God's creation that, "*everything is connected to each other*" (LS 16; 70; 91; 117; 240; see Section 60).

In "Evangelii Gaudium", "the Joy of the Gospel," the Pope points out, conforming to St. Paul (Galatians 5:22-23) that the Holy Spirit is at work in our hearts, as God "*sends his Spirit into our hearts to make us his children, transforming us and enabling us to respond to his love by our lives*" (EG 112). Moreover, the Holy Spirit is also the driving force in the heart of the Church, by enriching her "*with various gifts to renew and build her up*" (EG 130), while empowering her to fulfil her mission in the world.

In "Laudato Si" the Pope declares that the Holy Spirit is "*the infinite bond of love,*" present "*at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways*" (LS 238). Just as the Holy Spirit enriches our hearts with all kinds of gifts, inspiring us to be sincere and generous, so the Holy Spirit also fills "*the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge*" (LS 80).

Pope Francis also testifies that the Holy Spirit possesses "*an infinite creativity, proper to the divine mind, which knows how to loosen the knots of human affairs, including the most complex and inscrutable*" (LS 80). He quotes the bishops of Brazil, who pointed out that "*the Spirit of life dwells in every living creature,*" and that, "*discovering this presence leads us to cultivate the 'ecological virtues'*" (LS 88). About "ecological virtues" we already talked in section 64 of this program.

REFLECTION

Trust in the Holy Spirit

*“Keeping our missionary fervor alive
calls for firm trust in the Holy Spirit,
for it is he who “helps us in our weakness” (Rom 8:26).*

*But this generous trust has to be nourished,
and so we need to invoke the Spirit constantly.*

*He can heal whatever causes us
to flag in the missionary endeavor.*

*It is true that this trust in the unseen
can cause us to feel disoriented:
it is like being plunged into the deep
and not knowing what we will find.
I myself have frequently experienced this.*

*Yet there is no greater freedom
than that of allowing oneself
to be guided by the Holy Spirit,
renouncing the attempt
to plan and control everything to the last detail,
and instead letting him
enlighten, guide and direct us,
leading us wherever he wills.*

*The Holy Spirit knows well what is needed
in every time and place.”*

(Pope Francis in “Evangelii Gaudium” n. 280)