

## "IN THE CENACLE OF THE IMMACULATE HEART, LET US BE APOSTLES OF A NEW PENTECOST"

Letter of proclamation of new year 2020-2021



Dear Family:

Happy and blessed Solemnity of the Sacred Heart! How much love there is to contemplate in this Heart that has so loved humanity, donating Himself totally without sparing anything to save us and reveal His love to us! Before this contemplation, we must also recognize that in the face of so much love we must respond only with pure, sincere, total and unconditional love. Contemplating the Heart of Jesus, pierced by our sins and, at the same time, opening the source of salvation and grace, of life and redemption, we can only find the truth that love is stronger than death en fleshed. Seeing His Heart, we recognize what true love is: boundless love, but we have to painfully recognize that His love is not loved..., that His love is not known, that His love is not accepted, and is even often forgotten, rejected, or ignored. How much love we must repair and console! But love can only be consoled by love, and love wounded and offended can only be repaired by hearts that are consumed with love, which are willing to do whatever is necessary to allow themselves to be transformed, converted and purified by the ardent fire of the Sacred Heart. This fire that comes to us with great strength to purify and convert us, to give us new hearts, is the Holy Spirit. This fire that impels us to go out into the world, to carry the power of the Gospel of love without fears or mediocrities or being lukewarm, is the Holy Spirit. That is why Jesus said to His disciples so many times: "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Paraclete will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." John 16: 7.

When the disciples were in the Cenacle with the doors closed out of fear, Jesus appeared to them and put Himself in their midst, He said, "Peace be with you!" He showed His hands and the wound of His Pierced Heart, and breathed upon them, saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." This initial experience of the Spirit was to soothe their hearts, comfort them, and dispose them to the spirit of peace and prayer, to receive the promise of the Father which He had communicated to them before ascending to heaven. As we read at the end of the Gospel of St. Luke: "*You are my witnesses. And I will send you what my Father has promised you. Stay in the city until you are clothed with the strength that comes from above.*" And the same author, St Luke, tells us in a little more detail, the word of Jesus before returning to the Father: "*They will receive the strength of the Holy Spirit who will descend upon you, and they will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*"

The Lord confirmed the missionary mandate He had entrusted to his disciples, as we read in the Gospel of Matthew, 28: "*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to fulfill all that I have commanded them.*"

It is extremely clear that the disciples had to continue the mission of Christ in the Church that was born of the Pierced Heart of Christ, but needed to be received, cared for, nurtured and formed in a maternal heart, for a new life is always placed in the Sanctuary of Life which is the heart and womb of a Mother. These disciples, the new family of Jesus, would also be His apostles, His messengers, His representatives to the whole world to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world, and thus expand and increase the new family of Jesus by making it universal.

Having heard this missionary mandate again before the Ascension, the disciples returned to "their home," to the Cenacle, where the Mother of the Church, accompanied by others, awaited them with maternal love and tenderness. There, in the new home of Jesus' new family, in the heart of the house of Jesus' family, is the Mother of Christ and the Mother of the Church. She's already starting to carry out Her maternal mission. It will be up to her to make those men chosen by Her Son, one heart, one mind, and one spirit. It will be up to Her to be the living memory of every word, work, gesture, and teaching of Her Son. It will be up to Her to teach them to be in unceasing prayer in anticipation of the Father's promise, which will totally transform them interiorly, until they come to fully understand the promise of Ezekiel 36: *"For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will be My people, and I will be your God."* Yes, Our Mother, the Mother of the Church, sitting in the heart of the Cenacle, would explain to them the need to receive the Holy Spirit in order to be transformed by its purifying fire, which would free them from all their impurities, their sins, their selfishness and distractions, their fears and mediocrities, and give them a new heart, a heart like Christ. The Holy Spirit would have to come to sanctify them, for only the saints can be fruitful in their mission to go throughout the whole world to proclaim the Gospel. Only the saints can testify with their own lives the redeeming power of Christ's sacrifice, the saving and transformative power of His Word. Our Mother had a mission to testify to them what the Holy Spirit had done in Her when she was overshadowed by the Spirit, by its power, the Son of God became incarnate in Her virginal womb. They had to be covered with that same power from on high to go out into the world, as She did, full of Christ, to give Christ to humanity.



After Pentecost, the Apostles received the grace of full inner freedom, the strength for supernatural intrepidity, the joy of suffering for Christ, the wisdom to face so many difficulties and to know what to respond appropriately at every moment, the inner strength to preach, and that the Holy Spirit would convince those who listened of the truth. They received the seven gifts of the Spirit and also the fruits, which were matured in them as they grew in the life of holiness. The Holy Spirit enabled them with all kinds of spiritual goods to go into the whole world so that they could perform the missionary mandate between tribulations and divine consolations. The Holy Spirit strengthened them to proclaim with conviction and enthusiasm the truth about Christ and His Gospel. He made them faithful and dynamic bearers of the power of Christ's love for humanity. The Holy Spirit, together with the prayer and mediation of Our Lady from the Cenacle of Her Maternal Heart, led them through the mountains and oceans, through hills and valleys, not only physical, but also those of the human heart, to take Christ and bring Him to every heart. With hearts open to receiving Jesus, His Word and His power, they would form communities, small families of Jesus, that were domestic churches where they gathered for the breaking of the bread, to listen to the teachings of the apostles and to be brothers, to care for each other with fraternal love, even selling everything so that no one would lack anything. This was essential, for only love among the brethren would be the guarantee that the love of Christ can transform the human heart.

Therefore, the apostles would go out from the Cenacle, not only physically, but from the Maternal Cenacle of the Immaculate Heart, to the whole world to preach the Gospel, to make disciples of Christ in all nations, to form communities or small household Cenacles or churches where the Eucharist and formation were indispensable to engender a true brotherly love. They would go out to form authentic Christian communities that, strongly united in one mind and one spirit, would be courageous in living and preaching the Gospel in the face of the great difficulties they encountered, in the face of the great obstacles to living their faith, even persecution, and would be luminous and coherent witnesses of Christ's love which was the reason for their existence. There was nothing nor anyone who could stop them or diminish their fidelity to Christ and their awareness of being a family of Christ, the older brother who came to save His brothers and return them to the Father's heart, nor their awareness that this family had a Mother, His own Mother, whom He had given us at the foot of the Cross. They



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were to be brothers called to pray together, to work together to expand the Kingdom of Heaven, to protect each other, to provide for each other and, above all, to be witnesses together that Christ transforms the human being and also transforms society, first creating small "cities" or "spiritual families", where the Kingdom of love, the civilization of love, was truly lived. Even if we read the history of the nascent Church, they also went together to their martyrdom with a smile on their lips. Why? Because living and dying for Christ with their brethren was an undeserved honor for them. They encouraged each other to donate themselves unreservedly for Him who had given Himself entirely for them.

To each generation we are told by the Constitution *Gaudium Spes*, n. 4: *"It is the permanent duty of the Church (and each of us) to thoroughly scrutinize the signs of the time and interpret them in the light of the Gospel, so that, in every way we can answer the perennial questions of humanity about the meaning of present life and future life, and about the mutual relationship of the two. It is therefore necessary to know and understand the world in which we live, its hopes, its aspirations and the dramatic bias that often characterizes it."*

Yes, it is up to us, to our generation, in the face of the great lights and the great devastating threats, to read these signs and in some way to know how to interpret them in the light of the Gospel. We all know that we live in times that we have not yet been able to define with certainty, but which are exceedingly difficult and strange, if you wish to use this word. It seems to us to be an unknown world, though not totally, for we have seen in recent years a terrible increase of sin and this will always bring confusion, division, and dire consequences against the human person.

It seems to us that we are surrounded by human and earthly uncertainties, and at the same time, more than ever, we feel the certainty of God's merciful closeness, of the mysterious realization of His designs. We know in the midst of the collapse of so many human assurances that we remain firm if we stand together with His Heart and within the Cenacle of His Mother's Heart, the permanent and mystical house where the Apostles, united to Her, receive the unique and necessary grace of a Pentecost in every generation. In the midst of the shadows that surround us, we perceive the force of God's light that guides our steps; it is like walking in a desert with sand storms, but with a lit lamp guiding us along the way.

In my poor discernment, I have come to the conclusion that I should often make memory of all that God has done in the last century with His urgent call for that time, but I believe it was also a prophetic call for our times. Two great unexpected graces that we have been receiving in the last two centuries are the incessant presence of the Blessed Virgin in the world, the bearer of Christ and His will, appearing in so many places in the world, as the great missionary of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. She gives us Her Heart as a home, refuge, and safe path. At the same time, without excluding other great graces, we cannot deny that most of us have seen something that the generations of our brothers did not see at the same level that we saw and lived, this was the universal outpouring of the Holy Spirit, in what came to be called the Charismatic Renewal. I think that both the Mother of the Church— who called us to enter into Her Immaculate Heart, into the living and mystical Cenacle, because it is not a physical place, but spiritual and universal—and the Universal Outpouring, the universal Pentecost of the Holy Spirit, have much to say to us. The Lord, in times of great shadows and difficulties, has wanted to take us to the Cenacle, not in Jerusalem, but to the Universal Cenacle of the Heart of His Mother, the spouse of the Spirit, so that there might be a Pentecost, not only in Jerusalem, but in the whole world at the universal level, because we need to receive the same graces and gifts that the Apostles received 2,000 years ago.



*At the same time that these two great graces were granted to us, the Cenacle of the Immaculate Heart appearing throughout the world and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit pouring out into the whole world unable to be contained, the Lord called us to a New Evangelization, to be a Church that understood itself to be and live in mission.* The enemy was stealing the world and souls, and it was up to us to go to the whole world with the wisdom, strength, intrepidity and power of the Holy Spirit, that is, by receiving a new Pentecost, to go to a world hostile to Christ and to the Gospel, and to proclaim with a coherent Christian life, with a firm and radical conviction, that Christ is the Lord and that only in Him is the true realization and liberation of the human person. In a world, and sometimes in certain sectors of the Church, where some have stopped believing in the supernatural, transcendental, God multiplied His signs and His manifestations to remind us that neither human intelligence nor science are above Him. A world that wanted to exclude Him from all spheres is now

directionless, moving forward without a compass, and it is up to us to have it well tuned, so that we can have our horizon clearly directed towards God's will and teach others to walk safely in these times of disorientation and foginess.

I believe, dear family, it is our turn to return to make memory, as our beloved St. John Paul II said, so that we can understand what the Spirit says to the Church today. There are so many manifestations of Our Mother in which she asks in so many different ways that we go to her Heart, to enter into Her Heart, into Her Cenacle, as I call Her Heart, and this universal outpouring of the Spirit can only mean that we live in times that need a new Pentecost. I do not consider it to be optional, but rather the solution to all the evils of our time for those who will be the apostles whom were spoken of by St. Louis of Montfort, who will have to rise during the time of great confrontation between good and evil. This confrontation was prophesied to us by Karol Wojtyla in 1977, in Philadelphia who therefore insisted that we should live a Christianity like that of the first Christians, like that of the Apostles. "When the night envelops us we must reflect so as not to lose control, we must believe that the Church is reborn every morning through its apostles filled with the Holy Spirit." (John Paul II, Reims, September, 1996)

What do we need now more than ever? A new Pentecost, and as St. John Paul II, St. Louis of Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and in his locutions still being studied, Father Stefano Gobbi, taught us, this Pentecost will come through and within the Immaculate Heart. This Heart is the new Cenacle, where we are kept in prayer and formation through Marian Consecration. This consecration has as its primary fruit the coming of the Holy Spirit, a New Pentecost in every soul that is consecrated. What do we need today?



I answer with the words of St. Paul VI in 1972: "What do we feel is the first and last need of this blessed and beloved Church of ours? We must say it, almost trembling and praying, because as you know well, this is the Church's mystery and life: the Spirit, the Holy Spirit. He it is who animates and sanctifies the Church. He is her divine breath, the wind in her sails, the principle of her unity, the inner source of her light and strength. He is her support and consoler, her source of charisms and songs, her peace and her joy, her pledge and prelude to blessed and eternal life. **The Church needs her perennial Pentecost.** She needs fire in her heart, words on her lips, prophecy in her outlook. She needs to be the temple of the Holy Spirit," that is, a total cleansing and interior life. **The Church and the world need more than ever the**

"wonder of Pentecost is prolonged in history."

In this year, dear Family, two great pillars will be Marian Consecration and the total openness to receive a New Pentecost, to set out to respond to the challenges of our times and, at the same time, to be prayerful and intrepid apostles to proclaim, in season and out of season, the Truth of the Gospel and thus expand the Kingdom of the Heart of Christ and the Kingdom of the Heart of Mary, to all humanity. The time has come for us, driven by the renewing and sweeping force of the Spirit, to do all we can to conquer the world for the Two Hearts. *"The Church, united with the Virgin Mother, prays unceasingly as the Bride to her divine Spouse, as the words of the Book of Revelation, quoted by the Council, attest: "The Spirit and the bride say to the Lord Jesus Christ: Come!" (St. JP II, DV)*

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