



By Roberto Ferruzzi

A Pentecost Prayer and a Marian/Franciscan Reflection

By Fr. Stephen Gross, CNSA President-in-Turn
From Three Prayers by Oliver Clement

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O
Heavenly
King,
the
Comforter,
the Spirit of Truth,
Who are everywhere and fill all things;
Treasury of blessings and
Giver of Life;
Come and dwell in us,
and cleanse us of every impurity,
and save our souls
O
Good One!
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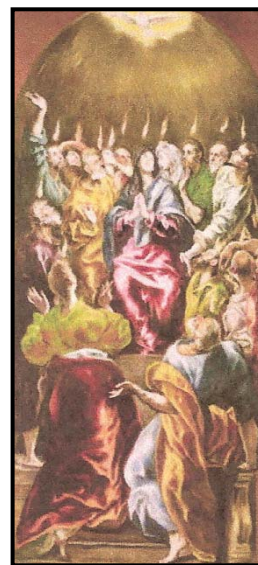
The Holy Spirit, though He bears us up and gives us life, surrounding us like an atmosphere that is ready to penetrate the slightest fissure within our souls, cannot do so without our consent, our call/invitation. We must pray: Come! *Veni Creator Spiritus!*

Creation exists only by the will, the love and the protection of God, Who, at the same time, is excluded by mankind from the heart of this creation – because that heart is man himself. We may then suggest that if creation has its abode within God, He cannot have His abode within creation, for man has retained, as it were, a perverted, luciferian guardianship of the keys: he is able to close the universe off to God. And thus the forces of evil arise, paradoxically given substance.

Mary gave a ‘city,’ a dwelling-place, back to God. She enabled Him to be incarnate within the heart of His own creation, as if to recreate it. One of the great teachers in the church said, “God created the world to find a mother.” Mankind welcomes its God through freedom, within Mary’s womb.

Jesus has no stone upon which to lay His head, unless it be in the ‘marian’ love of those who welcome Him. The Spirit, from all eternity the abode of the Son, can make of each one of us Franciscans the abode of the incarnate Son, on one fundamental condition – that we pray, “Enlighten the darkness of my heart” and “Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of every impurity.” (This ‘impurity of heart’ is likened to a tarnished mirror in need of cleaning and polishing.)

We must pray for receptivity. Like an empty cup that is freely offered up. May we receive the flame of the Spirit Who descends to recreate/renew us. May we become an interiorized Pentecost.



The Pentecost by El Greco