

KSC 2019 FORMATION PROGRAMME

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR TIME

Session Six: Theme: Encouraging Participation

The Holy Spirit brings people into divine life as children of God where they can live, as true children, in a relationship of intimacy, freedom, and faith in the love and mercy of God. *(Pope Francis)*



Step 1: Opening prayer: from the Order's Prayers

Step 2: READINGS ON THE THEME

Father Raniero Cantalamessa is the Preacher to the Papal Household. He delivers the Lent and Advent Retreats to the Holy Father and the Curia. He is one of the leading authorities on understanding the action of the Holy Spirit in the Church in our time. "Where does the grace we experience in the Baptism of the Spirit come from? From those around us? No! From the person who receives it? No! It comes from God! We can only say that such grace is related to baptism, because God acts always with coherence and faithfulness and He does not do and undo. He honours the commitments and institutions of Christ. One thing is certain -- that it is not the brothers who impart the Holy Spirit, but they do invoke the Holy Spirit on the person. The Spirit cannot be given by any man, not even the Pope or a bishop, because no man possesses by himself the Holy Spirit. Only Jesus may give the Holy Spirit; all the others do not possess the Holy Spirit, but rather are possessed by Him. As to the manner of this grace, we may speak of a new coming of the Holy Spirit, of a new mission by the Father through Jesus Christ, or a new anointing corresponding to a new degree of grace. *(Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa OFM Cap 17 December 2011)*

Step 3: *Allow a few moments reflective silence.*

Step 4: SCRIPTURE READING

"Jesus said: 'I tell you, if anyone openly declares himself for me in the presence of human beings, the Son of man will declare himself for him in the presence of God's angels. But anyone who disowns me in the presence of human beings will be disowned in the presence of God's angels. Everyone who says a word against the Son of man will be forgiven, but no one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will be forgiven. When they take you before synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how to defend yourselves or what to say, because when the times comes, the Holy Spirit will teach you what you should say.'" *(Luke 12:8-12)*

"All who are guided by the Spirit of God are sons of God, for what you received was not the spirit of slavery to bring you back into fear; you received the spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself joins with our spirit to bear witness that we are children of God. And if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, provided that we share his suffering, so as to share his glory." *(Romans 8:14-17)*

Step 5: REFLECTION (5 Mins)

Step 6: SHARING (10 Mins)

Was Father Cantalamessa's thought that we are all possessed by the Holy Spirit helpful in understanding how we participate together as disciples of Jesus?

Are there any times when we have been faced with decisions that seem to bring into conflict what is 'comfortable' with what our faith-community might expect? How did we resolve that conflict? Was the Holy Spirit involved?

Step 7: CONCLUSION

We pray together:

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten our minds to perceive the mysteries of the universe in relation to eternity.

Spirit of right judgment and courage, guide us and make us firm in our baptismal decision to follow Jesus' way of love.

Spirit of knowledge and reverence, help us to see the lasting value of justice and mercy in our everyday dealings with one another.

May we respect life as we work to solve problems of family and nation, economy and ecology.

Spirit of God, spark our faith, hope and love into new action each day.

Fill our lives with wonder and awe in your presence which penetrates all creation.

Amen.

Step 8: *The meeting proceeds*

Step 9: CLOSING PRAYERS – FROM THE ORDER'S PRAYERS