

# KSC 2019 FORMATION PROGRAMME

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR TIME

### Session Eight: Theme: Source of Unity and Cohesion

The Holy Spirit renews all things: He renews our heart, our life, and makes us live differently, but in a way that takes up the whole of our life. You cannot be a Christian of pieces, a part time Christian. *(Pope Francis)*



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

#### Step 2: READINGS ON THE THEME

“In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, and the Spirit of the Lord brooded over the waters” (Genesis 1:1-2). We conclude from this that the universe already existed in the moment when the Spirit intervened, but it was formless and dark, chaos. It is after his action that the creation assumes precise contours; light is separated from darkness, dry land from the sea, and everything takes on a definite shape.

Thus, it is the Holy Spirit who transforms the creation from chaos into cosmos, who makes it something beautiful, ordered, polished (“cosmos” comes from the same root as “cosmetic” and it means beautiful!), he makes a “world,” in the double sense of this word. Science teaches us today that this process went on for billions of years, but the Bible — with its simple and image-filled language — wants to tell us that the slow evolution toward life and the present order of the world did not happen by chance, following blind material impulses. It followed, rather, a project that the Creator inserted in it from the beginning.

God's creative action is not limited to the initial instant; he is always in the act of creating. Applied to the Holy Spirit, this means that he is always the one who transforms chaos into cosmos, that is, he makes order out of disorder, harmony out of confusion, beauty out of deformity, youth out of age. This occurs on all levels: in the macrocosm as in the microcosm, that is, in the whole universe as in the individual person.” *(Father Raniero Cantalamessa, Pentecost, 2007)*

In his homily at the Opening Mass (Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit) for the November 2018 Plenary Meeting of the Australian Bishop's Conference, Archbishop Coleridge referred to the Bernini window depicting the Holy Spirit in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. (We have already referred to this window in Session Four.) He drew attention to the fact that the artist deliberately tried to express the work of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of life and how that is often in contrasting the opposites. He pointed out that this is obvious when we look more closely at the central image — the dove. The dove is a very common image of the Holy Spirit in Sacred Scripture but Bernini's image has a unique feature. Here the beautiful white dove is hovering and gently descending but the feet are extended and have the appearance of eagle talons! The peaceful dove has been given the feet of a raptor!

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

**Step 4:**            **SCRIPTURE READING**

“Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. With the help of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, look after that precious thing given in trust. (2 Timothy 1: 13,14)

“So if in Christ there is anything that will move you, any incentive in love, any fellowship in the Spirit, any warmth or sympathy – I appeal to you, make my joy complete by being of a single mind, one in love, one in heart and one in mind. Nothing is to be done out of jealousy or vanity; instead out of humility of mind everyone should give preference to others, everyone pursuing not selfish interests but those of others.” (Philippians 2:1-4)

**Step 5:**            **REFLECTION** (5 Mins)

**Step 6:**            **SHARING** (10 Mins)

What do you think the words ‘humility of mind’ in the second Scripture Reading means?  
What causes disunity in the Church? How can we address this?

**Step 7:**            **CONCLUSION**

We pray together:

**Father we thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to be with us, to live in us and to guide us into the way of peace and truth.**

**We pray You would grant all those that are Your children, the spirit of wisdom and unity, so that we may be one, even as You are one with our Lord Jesus Christ – and He with You. Amen.**

**Step 8:**            *The meeting proceeds*

**Step 9:**            **CLOSING PRAYERS – FROM THE ORDER’S PRAYERS**