



**Letter for Pentecost Vigil Network Event.**

Roma, 19 May 2020

Dear George,

I am writing to introduce a new experiment: a Pentecost Prayer Vigil.

A small international group of us, Jesuits and lay companions, are working together to prepare this event. Through digital means, we hope that it will bring together our Jesuit and Ignatian networks throughout the world in order to help us to pray and reflect together as Ignatian family on the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The digital vigil will take place during the eve of Pentecost, on the evening/night of Saturday 30th May. It will not last more than 30-40 minutes, and it will have a flow of testimonies, artistic expressions, combined with symbolic and interactive moments.

As we are inviting Jesuit and Ignatian networks around the world to participate, the vigil will be celebrated three times as the night arrives to Asia, Europe/Africa and the Americas.

It will take place in the Facebook, twitter and YouTube accounts of the Society of Jesus. We will send the specific information in following communications at the end of this week.

In some way, we are hoping that this 'Pentecost network' will allow us to experience the extraordinary gift of solidarity in mission that is the life of the Society of Jesus and our companions in the mission. From each corner of the world, united in prayer we can experience the deeper reality of the Holy Spirit which gathers us, sustains and inspires us in our service of Christ and His Church for 'the life of the world.'



This year the CoVid-19 pandemic has given our Pentecost prayer, “come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the earth” a new urgency. It has made us aware of our fragilities and the deep inequalities that wound us all; it has shown us our vulnerability and our poverty. Above all this, however, it has shown us the extraordinary generosity of so many people and their capacity for selflessness. Their light shines through all the darkness. We know that we need the gift of the Holy Spirit to re-create and renew this light; to bind us in a deeper universal community in our need and in our hope. This community can only live from prayer, that prayer which the Spirit places in the hearts of us all. It is the prayer of faith which overcomes the terror of the void and brings forth new life.

I hope you will find the time to join us and participate.

Please do make the occasion known to all those with whom you are in touch and feel might also want to join.

Now, perhaps more than ever we know that we need the gift of the Holy Spirit and what better way to ask for that gift than as a world-wide community of ‘friends in the Lord.’

With my prayers and best wishes, yours in Xt.

James

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