

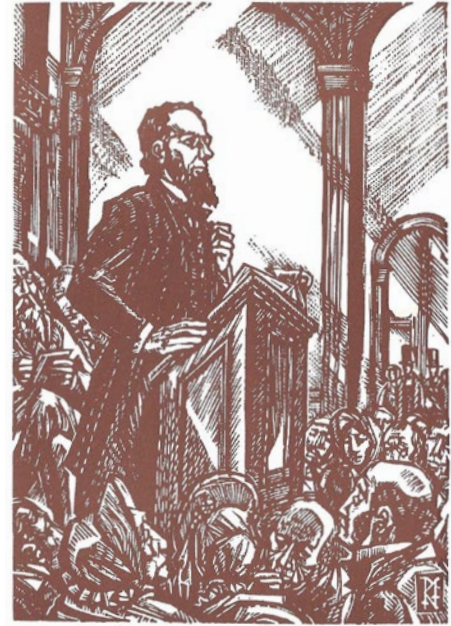
**Novena to the
Holy Spirit:
*Toward a More
Perfect Union***



**In conjunction with the
Isaac Hecker Symposium:
*Servant of God Isaac Hecker and
The Church in Our Age*
May 18-19, 2023**



Scenes of the life of Fr. Hecker are details from this painting by Lumen Martin Winter.



Novena to the Holy Spirit: Toward a More Perfect Union

*Composed in 2023 in Honor of the Hecker Symposium
Thursday, May 18 & Friday, May 19, 2023 at
Church of St. Paul The Apostle in New York City*

**Fr. Hecker and his companions
founded the Paulist Fathers in 1858.**

*To learn about his life and cause for canonization,
please visit: paulist.org/hecker.*

PREAMBLE

“Toward a More Perfect Union: Mission in an Age of Polarization”, the 2022 General Assembly document of the Paulist Fathers, calls us to address the division that rends our country and our church. This mission is an extension of the Paulist ministry of reconciliation.

To quote the document, “Isaac Hecker sought to address the needs of his age. In the spirit of Hecker, the Paulist General Assembly seeks to continue that tradition by addressing the needs of our age. ... the polarization of our society rose as a central concern of the Paulist Fathers ... many have called it a first-order crisis in that it must be effectively addressed in our church and our society before any of our other mission priorities can be pursued.”

This novena, *Toward a More Perfect Union*, has the same purpose as the founding ideal of the United States of America. The phrase from the U.S. Constitution was written about the body politic, which today shows painful ruptures. This novena recognizes that the Holy Spirit is the one moving us toward a more perfect union as the Body of Christ.

The founders of our country wanted all the nationalities represented in the states and all the states to form a union with an overarching identity, American. The intention of this novena is to pray toward a union in our church where individuals maintain their own identity while accepting the overarching identity of Catholic.

The aim is not uniformity, everyone walking in step to the same song. The intent is unity in our diversity, individuals living under the same tent. This means our church must be a big tent with the ability to widen the stakes and cover more people. The objective of this novena is to pray toward Jesus’ desire as expressed in the Gospel of John, “that all may be one.” John 17:21.

Note: We are using direct quotes from Servant of God Isaac Hecker throughout this novena. Some materials are from printed works; some are from his personal notes or diaries not meant for publication. The spelling, punctuation, and format are verbatim from the original texts. In addition, given that Hecker was working in the mid to late 19th century, the language is male-centric; we have not made any modifications to make his work more inclusive.

DAY ONE

Invocation

L: Come, Holy Spirit.

R: Fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

L: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

L: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Opening Prayer

O God, our love is imperfect, and our compassion is not strong,

yet we struggle to live in the love of Jesus.

Help us to grow in your love, and to bring it alive in acts of charity.

Help us to be gentle, and to strive to make others happy.

Let us give away the grace you give to us.

May we work to diminish human suffering.

May we console the afflicted, care for the sick, and give to those who have less than ourselves.



Help us to be forgiving and merciful.

Help us to not judge others.

Open our hearts to experience the love that comes from Jesus your Son, who gave his life for all.

Help us to abide in Christ's love, that you may abide in us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

— *Augustine Hewitt, CSP, 1865*

Scripture Reading

For through faith, you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant, heirs according to the promise.

— *Galatians 3: 26-29*

Response

God of compassion,

You sent Jesus to proclaim a time of mercy reaching out to those who had no voice, releasing those trapped by their own shame, and welcoming those scorned by society.



Make us ambassadors of reconciliation.
Open our ears that we may listen with respect
and understanding.
Touch our lips that we may speak your words of
peace and forgiveness.
Warm our hearts that we may bring wholeness
to the broken-hearted
and dissolve the barriers of division.

Guide the work of your Church
and renew us with the Spirit of your love.
Help us and all people shape a world
where all will have a place,
where the flames of hatred are quenched,
and where all can grow together as one.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through
our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

— *Paulist Reconciliation Ministries*

From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

The Holy Spirit is at work among Chinese,
Moslems, and all nations, peoples and tribes,
in every rational soul. The love of God, so to
speak, compels this. ...

“The Holy Spirit fills the whole earth,” acts
everywhere & in all things, more directly on

the minds & hearts of rational creatures, dwells
substantially in the souls of the faithful, and is
the light, life, soul of the Church. This all-wise,
all-powerful action now guides, as He ever has
& ever will, all men & events to His complete
manifestation and glory. Pentecostal days! Were
the promise of His universal triumph.

—*The Purpose of Christianity*

*Spend time reflecting on the abiding Spirit in each
soul and offer a prayer of intention.*

Closing Prayer

Good and gracious God, you who love humanity
and call us to live in unity, pour out your gifts of
the Holy Spirit that we may live in one accord.
We pray we may live lives which bear witness of
your truth to all people. Help us to work for unity
of faith, a fellowship of reconciliation, and peace.
We pray this through our one savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

— *from Prayer Service for Unity*
The Paulist Prayer Book



DAY TWO

Invocation

L: Come, Holy Spirit.

R: Fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

L: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R And you shall renew the face of the earth.

L: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Opening Prayer

O Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Counselor, we seek your wisdom and guidance as we discern the best path toward unity with all people of faith.

Help us to rejoice in the diversity of creation while we strive to strengthen our common bonds. Inspire us to forge a world of peace and justice for all.

We pray, O Come, Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus ...

— *Philippians 2:1-5*

Response

God of compassion,

You sent Jesus to proclaim a time of mercy reaching out to those who had no voice, releasing those trapped by their own shame, and welcoming those scorned by society.

Make us ambassadors of reconciliation.

Open our ears that we may listen with respect and understanding.

Touch our lips that we may speak your words of peace and forgiveness.

Warm our hearts that we may bring wholeness to the broken-hearted and dissolve the barriers of division.

Guide the work of your Church
and renew us with the Spirit of your love.
Help us and all people shape a world
where all will have a place,
where the flames of hatred are quenched,
and where all can grow together as one.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through
our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

—*Paulist Reconciliation Ministries*

From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

For Christ is the peace of the world. His kingdom is peace on earth. "To men of good will." Good will to all who earnestly and sincerely seek God. To all, whether Jew or Gentile, Christian or non Christian for God is the Father of all and no respecter of persons. O sweet infant Saviour, give to us that peace which you came to bring on the earth. Peace to the young and the old, to the poor and the sick, to the sorrowful and to all of good will. Peace on earth to all nations, especially to Your Holy Church (Papal States) and to Your Vicar the Pope who like You suffers from the hands of others. Peace to the world at war that your kingdom may begin!

—*A Sermon on Christmas Day, 1870
Church of Saint Paul the Apostle, New York*

Spend time reflecting on fostering peace in our homes, our nation, and the world and offer a prayer of intention.

Closing Prayer

Good and gracious God, you who love humanity and call us to live in unity, pour out your gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may live in one accord. We pray we may live lives which bear witness of your truth to all people. Help us to work for unity of faith, a fellowship of reconciliation, and peace. We pray this through our one savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

—*from Prayer Service for Unity
The Paulist Prayer Book*



DAY THREE

Invocation

L: Come, Holy Spirit.

R: Fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

L: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R And you shall renew the face of the earth.

L: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Opening Prayer

O Holy Spirit,

O Divine Presence,

O Ardent Charity!

We are grateful that you pour out your grace on everyone —

people of every race, nation, creed, gender, and way of life.

May we always behold the beauty of your divine presence in all persons.

Inspire us to uphold the dignity of each human soul, so we are no longer “us” and “them”;

instead, we are united in love as sisters and brothers.

We pray, O Come, Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble. Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing. For: whoever would love life and see good days must keep the tongue from evil and the lips from speaking deceit, must turn from evil and do good, seek peace and follow after it.

— *I Peter 3:8-11*

Response

God of compassion,

You sent Jesus to proclaim a time of mercy reaching out to those who had no voice, releasing those trapped by their own shame, and welcoming those scorned by society.

Make us ambassadors of reconciliation.

Open our ears that we may listen with respect and understanding.

Touch our lips that we may speak your words of peace and forgiveness.

Warm our hearts that we may bring wholeness
to the broken-hearted
and dissolve the barriers of division.

Guide the work of your Church
and renew us with the Spirit of your love.
Help us and all people shape a world
where all will have a place,
where the flames of hatred are quenched,
and where all can grow together as one.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through
our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

— *Paulist Reconciliation Ministries*

From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

God is charity, for in wishing His own happiness,
He wishes the greatest happiness of all. The more
charitable we are the more we are like God, and as
things alike readily unite, it follows that charity is
the most immediate and hence expeditious means
of our union with God. It is through the practice
of charity that one learns to forget oneself, and the
more we forget ourselves the more God is watchful
over us ... true charity consists in the perfect
forgetfulness of self for the good of another.

— *Notes on the Spiritual Life*

*Spend time reflecting on acts of charity and offer a
prayer of intention.*

Closing Prayer

Good and gracious God, you who love humanity
and call us to live in unity, pour out your gifts
of the Holy Spirit that we may live in one accord.
We pray we may live lives which bear witness
of your truth to all people. Help us to work for
unity of faith, a fellowship of reconciliation,
and peace. We pray this through our one savior
Jesus Christ. Amen.

— *from Prayer Service for Unity
The Paulist Prayer Book*



DAY FOUR

Invocation

L: Come, Holy Spirit.

R: Fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

L: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R And you shall renew the face of the earth.

L: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Father, your truth is made known in your Word.
Guide us to seek the truth of the human person.
Teach us the way to love because you are Love.

Jesus, you embody Love and Truth.
Help us to recognize your face in the poor.
Enable us to live out our vocation to bring love
and justice to your people.

Holy Spirit, you inspire us to transform our world.
Empower us to seek the common good for
all persons.

Give us a spirit of solidarity and make us one human family.

Amen.

— *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

Scripture Reading

I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

— *Ephesians 4:1-6*

Response

God of compassion,
You sent Jesus to proclaim a time of mercy
reaching out to those who had no voice,
releasing those trapped by their own shame,
and welcoming those scorned by society.

Make us ambassadors of reconciliation.
Open our ears that we may listen with respect
and understanding.

Touch our lips that we may speak your words of peace and forgiveness.
Warm our hearts that we may bring wholeness to the broken-hearted and dissolve the barriers of division.

Guide the work of your Church and renew us with the Spirit of your love. Help us and all people shape a world where all will have a place, where the flames of hatred are quenched, and where all can grow together as one.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

— *Paulist Reconciliation Ministries*

From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

This is plain to be understood: as between Catholics and Protestants it is more necessary to emphasize the terms of agreement than of disagreement. In that we are in accord with the Christian Union. Would that this had been the temper of men's minds at the start! ...

Let us cultivate the things that make for unity.

There is no reason why a movement toward unity should not set in, under the providence of God, in our own day, just as in the sixteenth

century the perversity of men brought about disunion and sects.

— *The Catholic World*, 47, 1888

Spend time reflecting on ways to promote unity among Christians and offer a prayer intention.

Closing Prayer

Good and gracious God, you who love humanity and call us to live in unity, pour out your gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may live in one accord. We pray we may live lives which bear witness of your truth to all people. Help us to work for unity of faith, a fellowship of reconciliation, and peace. We pray this through our one savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

— *from Prayer Service for Unity*
The Paulist Prayer Book



DAY FIVE

Invocation

L: Come, Holy Spirit.

R: Fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

L: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R And you shall renew the face of the earth.

L: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Spirit of Love,
Spirit of Grace,
Spirit of Beauty!

Open our eyes to the goodness in all human beings.
Open our ears so we may hear the truth from all lands.

Open our hearts that we can foster peace among all peoples and justice in the world.
Keep us attentive to the needs of others and give us a spirit of generosity.

Help us to welcome all as sisters and brothers,

Endow us with fortitude so we may persevere in unity.

We pray, O Come, Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

— *John 13:34-35*

Response

God of compassion,

You sent Jesus to proclaim a time of mercy reaching out to those who had no voice, releasing those trapped by their own shame, and welcoming those scorned by society.

Make us ambassadors of reconciliation.

Open our ears that we may listen with respect and understanding.

Touch our lips that we may speak your words of peace and forgiveness.

Warm our hearts that we may bring wholeness to the broken-hearted and dissolve the barriers of division.

Guide the work of your Church
and renew us with the Spirit of your love.
Help us and all people shape a world
where all will have a place,
where the flames of hatred are quenched,
and where all can grow together as one.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through
our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

— *Paulist Reconciliation Ministries*

From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

Grace is the free gift of God. God being universal
love will consequently give his grace to all those
who will submit to the love conditions of his
universal love.

The highest object of man's earth existence is to
be the same as Jesus, to submit to Christ, to yield
to heaven. To labour for the redemption of man,
the establishing of Gods kingdom upon earth.

Yield yourself to the absolute all embracing
Love and let it act in, through, and with you
in its own infinite loveful manner. Co-operate
with it in all its loveful purposes and this is
your work and none other.

— *The Diary, July 18, 1844*

*Spend time reflecting on the gift of love in God's
grace and offer a prayer intention.*

Closing Prayer

Good and gracious God, you who love humanity
and call us to live in unity, pour out your gifts
of the Holy Spirit that we may live in one accord.
We pray we may live lives which bear witness
of your truth to all people. Help us to work for
unity of faith, a fellowship of reconciliation,
and peace. We pray this through our one savior
Jesus Christ. Amen.

— *from Prayer Service for Unity*
The Paulist Prayer Book



DAY SIX

Invocation

L: Come, Holy Spirit.

R: Fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

L: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R And you shall renew the face of the earth.

L: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit,

you are the promise of Christ Jesus, directing us to divine truth, enkindling in us the fire of divine love.

Guide us on the way to unity, assist us to preserve our common beliefs, and help us to grow in mutual appreciation and respect for all people.

We pray, O Come, Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

Yet we do speak a wisdom to those who are mature, but not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

— 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Response

God of compassion,

You sent Jesus to proclaim a time of mercy reaching out to those who had no voice, releasing those trapped by their own shame, and welcoming those scorned by society.

Make us ambassadors of reconciliation.

Open our ears that we may listen with respect and understanding.

Touch our lips that we may speak your words of peace and forgiveness.

Warm our hearts that we may bring wholeness to the broken-hearted and dissolve the barriers of division.

Guide the work of your Church and renew us with the Spirit of your love. Help us and all people shape a world where all will have a place, where the flames of hatred are quenched, and where all can grow together as one.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

— *Paulist Reconciliation Ministries*

From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

An act of entire faith in the personal guidance of the Holy Spirit, and complete confidence in its action in all things — in its infinite love, wisdom, power; that it is under its influence and promptings up to now my life has been led. Though not clearly seen or known, He has directed every step. On this faith, on this principle, promised to act now and in time to come. To be above fear, doubt, hesitation, or timidity, but patient, obedient, and stable.

— *extract from private memoranda, made in Europe during illness, 1874-5*

Spend time reflecting on the Paulist mission and ministries of evangelization, reconciliation, and ecumenical and interfaith relations and offer a prayer intention.

Closing Prayer

Good and gracious God, you who love humanity and call us to live in unity, pour out your gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may live in one accord. We pray we may live lives which bear witness of your truth to all people. Help us to work for unity of faith, a fellowship of reconciliation, and peace. We pray this through our one savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

— *from Prayer Service for Unity
The Paulist Prayer Book*



DAY SEVEN

Invocation

L: Come, Holy Spirit.

R: Fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

L: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R And you shall renew the face of the earth.

L: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,

create in us a new heart

and renew your steadfast Spirit within us.

Imbue us with the courage to proclaim Your truth.

Help us to see with the eyes of faith

so we may promote freedom and justice, unity and peace in the world,

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Scripture Reading

Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

— *Romans 12:16b-21*

Response

God of compassion,

You sent Jesus to proclaim a time of mercy reaching out to those who had no voice, releasing those trapped by their own shame, and welcoming those scorned by society.

Make us ambassadors of reconciliation.

Open our ears that we may listen with respect and understanding.

Touch our lips that we may speak your words of peace and forgiveness.



Warm our hearts that we may bring wholeness
to the broken-hearted
and dissolve the barriers of division.

Guide the work of your Church
and renew us with the Spirit of your love.
Help us and all people shape a world
where all will have a place,
where the flames of hatred are quenched,
and where all can grow together as one.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through
our Lord Jesus Christ.

— *Paulist Reconciliation Ministries*

From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

We must look beneath all outward divergencies
and find out the central truth of all religions
... if we would bring about unity of belief and
unity of action.

— *Notes on the Holy Spirit*

*Spend some time reflecting on service opportunities
with people of other faith traditions and offer a
prayer of intercession.*

Closing Prayer

Good and gracious God, you who love humanity
and call us to live in unity, pour out your gifts
of the Holy Spirit that we may live in one accord.
We pray we may live lives which bear witness
of your truth to all people. Help us to work for
unity of faith, a fellowship of reconciliation,
and peace. We pray this through our one savior
Jesus Christ. Amen.

— *from Prayer Service for Unity
The Paulist Prayer Book*



DAY EIGHT

Invocation

L: Come, Holy Spirit.

R: Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

L: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R And you shall renew the face of the earth.

L: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit, you breathed life into the universe and animated people in every age.

Pour out your grace on us this day:

fill us with virtuous love so we may act with purity of heart;

and grant us the strength to remain faithful to the divine will all the days of our lives.

Come, O Holy Spirit,

Protector of the Poor, Source of All,

Comforter, Our Soul's Most Welcome Guest,

Solace in Troubling Times, Light Divine,
and bring us peace and joy.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ [Jesus] have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit. Let us not be conceited, provoking one another, envious of one another.

— *Galatians 5:22-26*

Response

God of compassion,

You sent Jesus to proclaim a time of mercy reaching out to those who had no voice, releasing those trapped by their own shame, and welcoming those scorned by society.

Make us ambassadors of reconciliation.

Open our ears that we may listen with respect and understanding.

Touch our lips that we may speak your words of peace and forgiveness.

Warm our hearts that we may bring wholeness
to the broken-hearted
and dissolve the barriers of division.

Guide the work of your Church
and renew us with the Spirit of your love.
Help us and all people shape a world
where all will have a place,
where the flames of hatred are quenched,
and where all can grow together as one.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through
our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

— *Paulist Reconciliation Ministries*

From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

Christianity was not intended to be confined
in its actions exclusively to those virtues which
will secure the soul's salvation; it was intended
to exercise and develop all moral virtues and
make great men, great Christian heroic men.
Its chief aim is to sanctify the soul by the gifts
and fruits of the Holy Spirit. It was not its
primary work to free men from sin, this was a
condition to the result ...

— *Renewal of Christian Life* [December, 1875]

*Spend time reflecting on the fruits of the Spirit and
offer a prayer intention.*

Closing Prayer

Good and gracious God, you who love humanity
and call us to live in unity, pour out your gifts of
the Holy Spirit that we may live in one accord.
We pray we may live lives which bear witness
of your truth to all people. Help us to work for
unity of faith, a fellowship of reconciliation,
and peace. We pray this through our one savior
Jesus Christ. Amen.

— *from Prayer Service for Unity*
The Paulist Prayer Book



DAY NINE

Invocation

L: Come, Holy Spirit.

R: Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

L: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R And you shall renew the face of the earth.

L: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit,
send us your seven-fold gifts so we may increase in faith, hope, and charity.

Bestow on us
the wisdom to discern your will,
the understanding to appreciate the diversity in your creation,
the counsel to dialogue with people with differing points of view,
the fortitude to persist in faith during times of trouble,



the knowledge to inspire us to live virtuous lives, the piety to remain devoted to your work in the world throughout the ages, and the awe in your Divine power and grace so we may come to you with humility. Grant this to us, Giver of all good gifts, that we may attest to the glory of God. Amen.

Scripture Reading

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

— I Corinthians 12:4-11



Response

God of compassion,
You sent Jesus to proclaim a time of mercy
reaching out to those who had no voice,
releasing those trapped by their own shame,
and welcoming those scorned by society.

Make us ambassadors of reconciliation.
Open our ears that we may listen with respect
and understanding.
Touch our lips that we may speak your words of
peace and forgiveness.
Warm our hearts that we may bring wholeness
to the broken-hearted
and dissolve the barriers of division.

Guide the work of your Church
and renew us with the Spirit of your love.
Help us and all people shape a world
where all will have a place,
where the flames of hatred are quenched,
and where all can grow together as one.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through
our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

— *Paulist Reconciliation Ministries*

From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

The Holy Spirit is preparing the Church for an increased infusion of Himself in the hearts of the faithful. This increased action of the Holy Spirit will renew the whole face of the earth, in religion and in society. Souls will be inspired by Him to assist in bringing about this end.

The question is, How shall such souls co-operate with Him in preparation for this extraordinary outpouring of divine grace? The law of all extensive and effectual work is that of association. The inspiration and desire and strength to co-operate and associate in facilitating this preparation for the Holy Spirit must come to each soul from the Holy Spirit Himself.

What will be the nature of this association and the special character of its work? The end to be had in view will be to set on foot a means of co-operation with the Church in the conquest of the whole world to Christ, the renewal of the apostolic spirit and life. For unity, activity, and the choice of means, reliance should be had upon the bond of charity in the Holy Spirit, and upon His inspirations.

— *from Writings about Religious Life
and the Paulists*

Spent time reflecting on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and offer a prayer intention.

Closing Prayer

Good and gracious God, you who love humanity and call us to live in unity, pour out your gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may live in one accord. We pray we may live lives which bear witness of your truth to all people. Help us to work for unity of faith, a fellowship of reconciliation, and peace. We pray this through our one savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

— from *Prayer Service for Unity*
The Paulist Prayer Book



HECKER PRAYER

If you or a loved one is need of a miracle for healing, please consider praying the words below and stating your request where indicated. Two miracles must be attributed to Servant of God Isaac Hecker's intercession before he may be canonized as a saint.

Prayer for the Intercession of Servant of God Isaac Hecker

Heavenly Father, you called Isaac Hecker to preach the Gospel to the people of North America and to know the peace and the power of your indwelling Spirit.

Like St. Paul the Apostle, he spoke your Word with a zeal for souls and a burning love for all who came to him in need.

Hear our prayer and through the intercession of Father Hecker, grant (*state the request*).

We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. One God, forever and ever. Amen.

If God grants your prayer at the intercession of Fr. Hecker, please contact the Paulist Fathers at (212) 586-2074 or media@paulist.org.



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