

“... in one Spirit”

the communities accompany in prayer the 7GC

Setting the atmosphere of prayer

What happens in Ariccia these days touches closely each Pastorella in any part of the world where she is found. A General Chapter is a particular event of the Spirit of God to gather and understand where the Good Shepherd is leading us and which attitudes are necessary to cultivate the dynamic and creative fidelity to the Charism which He has entrusted to us.

It is only one Spirit who operates and unites us (cf. I Cor 12:4). Therefore it is important that each of us feels involved in first person, participating actively with prayer for the capitulars, who are directly responsible in tracing the journey of the Congregation in the next sexennial.

We start this prayer with a contemplation of the Shepherd:

Psalm 23 *(sung or prayed)*

“We invoke the light of the Holy Spirit, His virtues, His grace in a way that our entire self may be penetrated by the Holy Spirit: mind, will and heart. When the Holy Spirit penetrated the Apostles, He made them wise with the wisdom of God, enlightened and strengthened their spirit.” (PrP IV, 1949, p. 34)

Refrain to the Holy Spirit (at the beginning and at the end)

*“O Holy Spirit
through the intercession of the Queen of Pentecost:
heal my mind of lack of reflection,
ignorance, forgetfulness, obstinacy, prejudice,
error, perversion,
and form Wisdom Jesus Christ – Truth in everything.
Heal my heart of indifference,
diffidence, bad inclinations, passions,
overly sentimental feelings, attachments
and form good taste, feelings, inclinations,
Jesus Christ –Life in everything.
Heal my will of lack of will power, fickleness,
inconstancy, sloth, stubbornness, bad habits,
and form Jesus Christ-Way in me,
new love for whatever Jesus Christ loves
and for Jesus Christ Himself.
Uplift in a God-like way
intelligence with the gift of Understanding,
wisdom with the gift of Wisdom,
knowledge with the gift of Knowledge,
prudence with the gift of Counsel,
justice with the gift of Piety
strength with the gift of spiritual strength,
temperance with the gift of Fear of the Lord.”*



Listening to the Word

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”

Acts 2:1-4

“Father [...] Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. “I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.”

Jn 17:17-21

From the writings of Blessed Fr. James Alberione:

“The greatest vocation is that of forming souls. Yours is a beautiful vocation but it requires an adequate preparation. The more that undertakings are directed towards the souls, so much more beautiful they are. This work on the souls is God’s work; it is the work of Jesus Good Shepherd who came into this world to save souls. You can get to know a lot of things but it is necessary also to love souls, to make sacrifices and to be ready to sacrifice yourselves for them” (PrP I, 1955, p. 22).

“The works through which the Pastorelle lend their cooperation are essentially: works of religious instruction, works of religious formation, works regarding the practice of the sacred cult [...]. The spirit and the apostolate of the Pastorelle Sisters correspond to the actual needs of the Church and the populations” (CISP, 239).

Moments of silence to welcome the Word

Spontaneous prayer

Our Father

Prayer for the 7GC

Heavenly Father, we thank You
for having called us to follow Jesus, Your Son,
our Good Shepherd,
and we bless You because through Your Spirit
you make us evermore like him.

Give us the grace
to make room for Him in our life
so that He may live in us
the mystery of his being the Shepherd
who listens to the cry of a humanity gone astray,
and takes care of each one of Your children
to lead them to You
the source of Life.

We humbly pray to You
with the heart of the apostles Peter and Paul
to make us docile to the voice of Your Spirit
so that we may walk together towards our 7GC
developing in us the gift and the grace
of the “care of souls” according to the mind
of our Founder, Blessed James Alberione,
a loving care
lived among us
and shared in the Church.

May Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd,
intercede for us Pastorelle
the grace to respond with our life
to the expectation of fullness of life
of those the Father entrusts to us.
Amen.

† Blessing

*Lord our God, on the paths of the Spirit
You grant us to follow our only Shepherd Jesus Christ,
who leads us to Your presence:
keep us vigilant
so that we may always discern the true light,
invisible to the eyes but visible to our heart that seeks and loves you.
Graciously hear us, and may You be blessed forever and ever. Amen.*

Final Song to Mary

*“A Shepherd of souls has to be close to each one
with the language of compassion and understanding.
He must, in a singular way, be capable of uplifting himself
above all others through prayer and contemplation.
The sentiments of piety and compassion
will allow him to make the weaknesses of others his own.
May contemplation bring him to overcome and win over himself
with the desire of celestial things.
Nevertheless the desire of achieving spiritual heights
may not make him forget the demands of the believers.
And in the same way the task
of providing and satisfying the needs of others
may not make him neglect his duty to uplift himself to celestial things.
Saint Paul is a living example
of so much equilibrium in the pastoral ministry.”*

*(St. Gregory the Great, *The Pastoral Rule*, II, c. 5)*

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