



## Novena to the Holy Spirit: Day 5



**“A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh”. (Ezek. 36:26)**

These words from the prophet Ezekiel were written at a time when Ezekiel had gone through enormous hardship – he had seen his beloved country destroyed through a war, he was forced into exile, he experienced a lot of his certainties collapsing. But right in the middle of this negative experience he realised the world’s problems are caused by humanity going its own way, forgetting issues of justice, care for the poor and the marginalised. He realised his people needed a new heart and that is what the Holy Spirit does – he gives us a new heart. God promises to give us a new heart, a new spirit.

**Experience.** Oscar Romero lived in El Salvador. As a priest and then Bishop, increasingly prompted by the Holy Spirit, noticing around him the conditions of terrible injustice and poverty, he realised he could not remain on the side-lines but had to speak up and act on behalf of the poor. The ruling authorities did not like that. He was martyred in 1979, shot dead while celebrating Mass. To follow the Holy Spirit is not about staying in our comfort zone, or not doing anything bad. It costs to follow the Holy Spirit because he sends us out in action with a new heart to resolve the social issues around us. Oscar Romero did this with his motto to be of one mind with the Church.

**Action:** Be a peacebuilder today by taking an option to reach out to those in need around us.

**Request:** In silence make your request-petition.

**Prayer:** Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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