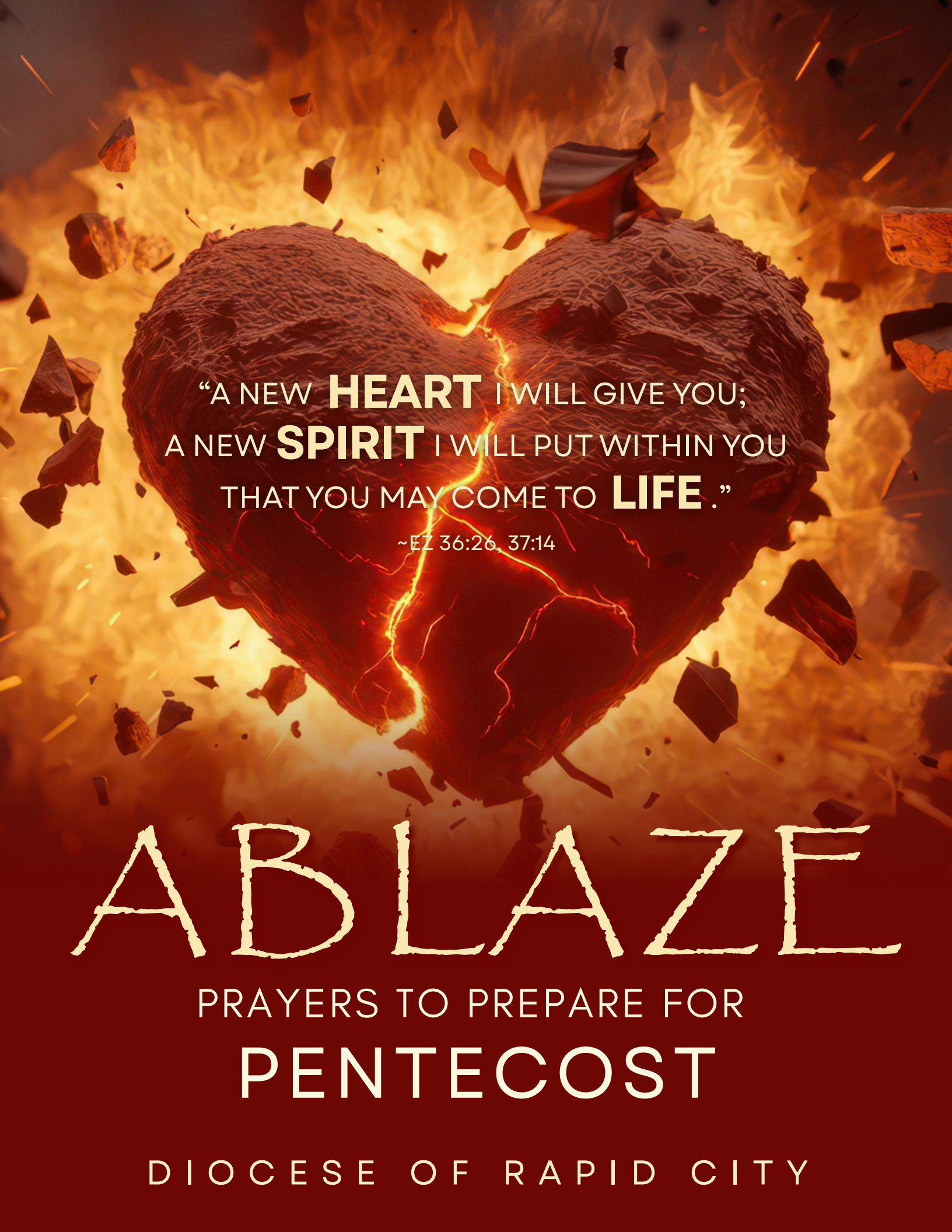

ABLAZE

PRAYERS TO PREPARE FOR PENTECOST

DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY

"A NEW **HEART** I WILL GIVE YOU;
A NEW **SPIRIT** I WILL PUT WITHIN YOU THAT
YOU MAY COME TO **LIFE** ."

~EZ 36:26, 37:14

Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit lead to transformation. We encourage you to pray with the following Scriptures and the first 4 chapters of the Acts of the Apostles to understand more deeply the transformation that the Lord desires to bring about in your heart and in the hearts of those who accept the gift of the Holy Spirit.

"Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in its land, they defiled it with their behavior and their deeds....So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through other lands; according to their behavior and their deeds I carried out judgment against them... But I will show the holiness of my great name.... I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you back to your own soil. I will sprinkle clean water over you to make you clean; from all your impurities and from all your idols I will cleanse you. **I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you**. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put my spirit within you** so that you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep them. You will live in the land I gave to your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God... Thus says the Lord GOD: When I cleanse you of all your guilt, I will resettle the cities and the ruins will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be tilled—once a wasteland in the eyes of every passerby. They will say, "This once-desolate land has become like the garden of Eden. The cities once ruined, laid waste and destroyed, are now resettled and fortified." Then the surrounding nations that remain shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt what was destroyed and replanted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken: I will do it." (Ezekiel 36:17-36)

"The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the LORD and set me in the center of the broad valley. It was filled with bones. He made me walk among them in every direction. So many lay on the surface of the valley! How dry they were! He asked me: Son of man, can these bones come back to life? "Lord GOD," I answered, "you alone know that." Then he said to me: Prophesy over these bones, and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Listen! I will make breath enter you so you may come to life. I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow over you, cover you with skin, and put breath into you so you may come to life. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I prophesied as I had been commanded. A sound started up, as I was prophesying, rattling like thunder. The bones came together, bone joining to bone. As I watched, sinews appeared on them, flesh grew over them, skin covered them on top, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me: Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man! Say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: From the four winds come, O breath, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life. I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath entered them; they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army. He said to me: Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel! They are saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off." Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I am going to open your graves; I will make you come up out of your graves, my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel. You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people! **I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life**, and I will settle you in your land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I have spoken; I will do it." (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

ST. ELENA GUERRRA:
THE APOSTLE OF THE Holy Spirit

Elena Guerra was born in Lucca, Italy in 1835 to a pious and devout family. Because of illness, she had very little formal education. She had a profound encounter with the Holy Spirit at her confirmation that shaped her life. She eventually founded the Oblates of the Holy Spirit in Lucca, which spread to other countries during her lifetime. During her time as a teacher in Lucca, she had as a student St. Gemma Galgani, another great saint from the same town. St. Gemma, in her autobiography, relates the great impact of Sr. Elena's new order on her own life and formation.

In 1886, she became aware of a prophetic task the Lord was asking from her: write to the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII, and encourage him to renew the Church through a return to the Holy Spirit. She wrote him 12 letters in total between 1895 and 1903, urging him to take on this important task.

Pope Leo responded to her entreaties, initially, by writing a letter in 1895 to the whole Church – *Provida Matris Caritate* – in which he asked the entire Church to celebrate a solemn novena (9 days of prayer) before the feast of Pentecost. After Sr. Elena's 3rd letter, he wrote the encyclical *Divinum Illud Munus* in 1897. Sr. Elena was grateful for the Holy Father's effort, but she was disappointed in the bishop's response to his plea.

In another letter to Pope Leo in 1900, Sr. Elena begged the Holy Father to ask all Catholics to place the new century under the Holy Spirit. In response to her request, at the dawn of the 20th century, on January 1, 1901, Pope Leo intoned the *Veni Creator Spiritus*, opening the new century by calling down the presence of the Holy Spirit. On that same day (Jan. 1, 1901), in Topeka, KA, the Pentecostal movement was born, which served as the precursor to the birth of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 1967. In 1902, Pope Leo XIII wrote another letter to the bishops, reminding them of their obligation to do the Pentecost novena annually.

Sr. Elena passed away on April 11, 1914 (exactly 11 years after St. Gemma). She was beatified by St. John XXIII in 1959, and canonized by Pope Francis in 2024, being named the "Apostle of the Holy Spirit." She and St. Gemma share the same feast day of April 11.

Quotes:

"Pentecost is not over. In fact, it is continually going on in every time and in every place, because the Holy Spirit desired to give Himself to all men and all who want Him can always receive Him, so we do not have to envy the apostles and the first believers; we only have to dispose ourselves like them to receive Him well, and He will come to us as He did to them."

"The mystery of Pentecost is a permanent mystery. The Spirit continues to come to all souls who truly desire Him . . . If they only want Him . . . if they only invoke Him . . . if they only prepare a place for Him in their hearts. . . . Who is hungry enough? Who is thirsty enough? Who is humble enough? Who is zealous enough? . . . It is necessary that we return to the Holy Spirit so that the Holy Spirit may return to us."

"Holy Father, the world is evil, the spirit of Satan triumphs over our perverted society and in a multitude of souls which he manages to tear away from the heart of God; and despite this miserable situation that we find ourselves in, our fellow Christians are not addressing unanimous supplications to He who can 'renew the face of the earth'... The faithful must unite in unanimous and unceasing prayer to the divine Spirit, to beseech an end to this stubborn struggle of the infernal spirit against the Church, so that the Light of the Paraclete may shine above the darkness of ignorance and error, and that thereby all unbelievers and dissidents may come back to the shield of the Church."

"[Holy Father], make haste to call the faithful to the New Upper Room, so that with the voice of unanimous prayer which is always heard in Heaven, they may call the Sanctifier of souls to renew the face of the earth."

PRAYERS TO PREPARE FOR Pentecost

It is intended that the following prayers be prayed daily to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, May 24, 2026. If you feel moved, you are also invited to pray these prayers daily or weekly to prepare for the 2000 year anniversary of Pentecost in 2033.

Veni Creator Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest,
and in our souls take up Thy rest;
come with Thy grace and heavenly aid
to fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

O comforter, to Thee we cry,
O heavenly gift of God Most High,
O fount of life and fire of love,
and sweet anointing from above.

Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts are known;
Thou, finger of God's hand we own;
promise of the Father, Thou
Who dost the tongue with power endow.

Kindle our senses from above,
and make our hearts o'erflow with love;
with patience firm and virtue high
the weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
and grant us Thy true peace instead;
so shall we not, with Thee for guide,
turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow
the Father and the Son to know;
and Thee, through endless times confessed,
of both the eternal Spirit blest.

Now to the Father and the Son,
Who rose from death, be glory given,
with Thou, O Holy Comforter,
henceforth by all in earth and heaven. Amen.

Totally Yours

This prayer was composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe and recited daily by St. John Paul II. In this prayer, we are asking Our Lady - the Spouse of the Spirit - to conform our heart to be like hers so we can receive the presence of the Spirit more fully.

Immaculate Conception, Mary, my Mother. Live in me. Act in me. Speak in and through me. Think your thoughts in my mind. Love through my heart. Give me your dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide me to Jesus. Correct, enlighten and expand my thoughts and behavior. Possess my soul. Take over my entire personality and life. Replace it with yourself. Incline me to constant adoration and thanksgiving. Pray in me and through me. Let me live in you and keep me in this union always. *Totus tuus*, totally yours.

Chaplet of the Holy Spirit

Written by St. Elena Guerra in 1896 to ask the Holy Spirit for the grace of a new Pentecost.

Father, in the Name of Jesus, send forth your Spirit and ignite a new and ongoing Pentecost in me and in... (name specific individuals, groups, places), in the Church, and in the world.

Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, detach us from earthly things and infuse in us a love and taste of Heavenly things.
Father, in the Name of Jesus, send forth your Spirit and renew the world.
O Mary, who by the work of the Holy Spirit, conceived the Savior, pray for us.

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, enlighten our minds with the light of your eternal truth and the riches of holy thoughts.
Father, in the Name of Jesus, send forth your Spirit and renew the world.
O Mary, who by the work of the Holy Spirit, conceived the Savior, pray for us.

Come, O Spirit of Counsel, make us docile to your inspirations and guide us in the way of salvation.
Father, in the Name of Jesus, send forth your Spirit and renew the world.
O Mary, who by the work of the Holy Spirit, conceived the Savior, pray for us.

Come, O Spirit of Fortitude, and give us strength, constancy, and victory in the battle against our spiritual enemies.
Father, in the Name of Jesus, send forth your Spirit and renew the world.
O Mary, who by the work of the Holy Spirit, conceived the Savior, pray for us.

Come, O Spirit of Knowledge, be the Master of our souls and help us to put into practice Your teachings.
Father, in the Name of Jesus, send forth your Spirit and renew the world.
O Mary, who by the work of the Holy Spirit, conceived the Savior, pray for us.

Come, O Spirit of Piety, come to live in our heart to possess and sanctify all of our affections.
Father, in the Name of Jesus, send forth your Spirit and renew the world.
O Mary, who by the work of the Holy Spirit, conceived the Savior, pray for us.

Come, O Spirit of the Fear of the Lord, reign over our will and make us always disposed to suffer every evil rather than to sin.
Father, in the Name of Jesus, send forth your Spirit and renew the world.
O Mary, who by the work of the Holy Spirit, conceived the Savior, pray for us.

Invocation to Our Lady:
O most pure Virgin Mary, by your Immaculate Conception you were made a chosen tabernacle of Divinity by the Holy Spirit. Pray for us.

May the Divine Paraclete come soon to renew the face of the earth.
Hail Mary...
O most pure Virgin Mary, by the Mystery of the Incarnation you became true Mother of God by the Holy Spirit. Pray for us.

May the Divine Paraclete come soon to renew the face of the earth.
Hail Mary...
O most pure Virgin Mary, persevering in prayer with the Apostles in the Upper Room, you were abundantly inflamed by the Holy Spirit. Pray for us.

May the Divine Paraclete come soon to renew the face of the earth.
Hail Mary...

Closing Prayer *(adapted from the original):* Send Your Spirit, Lord Jesus, and transform us interiorly with Your sanctifying gifts to make us holy and equip us with Your charismatic gifts to build up the body of Christ and to evangelize the world. Create in us a new heart that we may be conformed to Your will and one in Christ. Overshadow us as you overshadowed Mary that we might carry the Holy Spirit in the womb of our hearts and give birth to Christ in the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.