

Mary and the Holy Spirit

Opening Hymn: O Bella Mia Speranza

O bella mia speranza  
Dolce amor mio Maria  
Tu sei la mia vita  
La pace mia sei Tu

Quando ti chiamo o penso  
A Te Maria, mi sento  
[Tal gaudio e tal content  
Che mi rapisce il cor] (2X)

Sotto de tuo be manto  
Amata mia Signora  
Vivere voglio, e ancora  
Spero morire un di.

*Presider:* Saint Alphonsus painted a picture of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit. It depicts Mary dressed as an ordinary peasant woman. In the picture, as Mary lifts her veil from her chest, the radiant dove of the Holy Spirit is seen there. As we begin our prayer, let us place a hand over our hearts and honor the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. (*All pray in silence for a few moments*)

*Presider:* Let us call forth the presence of the Holy Spirit on our gathering in the words of the prayer of Saint Alphonsus:

*All:* Most Holy Spirit, \*the Consoler, \*Defender of the Poor, \*Comfort of the afflicted,” \*God’s holy presence in our souls; \*come and make us aware of your presence. \*Your presence fills us with holy reverence. \*We bless you a thousand times \*and with the seraphim who stand before your throne, \*we also sing.

Veni Sancte Spiritus

*Presider:* You made Mary full of grace and you inflamed the hearts of the apostles with a holy zeal.

*All:* In flame our hearts with your love.

*Presider:* You are the Spirit of Goodness.

*All:* Give us the courage to confront evil.

*Presider:* You are fire.

*All:* Set us ablaze with your love.

*Presider:* You are light.

*All:* Enlighten our minds that we may see what is truly important.

*Presider:* You are the dove.

*All:* Give us gentleness.

*Presider:* You are a Soothing Breeze.

*All:* Bring calm to the storms that rage within us.

*Presider:* You are the Tongue.

*All:* May our lips ever sing God's praises.

*Pause for a period of silent Contemplation with the Icon*

Intercessions:

*Presider:* Sharing Saint Alphonsus' confidence that God lavishes the Spirit's gifts upon the world in abundance, let us pray for an outpouring of the Spirit's gifts on ourselves and our community:

Petition #1: Give us the willpower to avoid our past sins and inspire us to humbly ask God for pardon and strength.

*All:* Come, Holy Spirit, gift us with a *Fear of the Lord*.

Petition #2: May we have a stranger enthusiasm in serving God and following the commandments with greater fidelity.

*All:* Come, Holy Spirit, gift us with *Piety*.

Petition #3: For a deeper insight into the things of God so that we might walk steadily in the way of salvation.

*All:* Come, Holy Spirit, gift us with *Knowledge*.

Petition #4: Give us the courage to resist temptation and to avoid anything that might harm our relationship with God.

*All:* Come, Holy Spirit, gift us with *Fortitude*.

Petition #5: Help us make good choices in life. May we be able to discern in times of doubt and confusion how to choose what is best for us and for others.

*All:* Come, Holy Spirit, gift us with *Counsel*.

Petition #6: Teach us to distinguish between what is real and what is false.

*All:* Come, Holy Spirit, gift us with *Understanding*.

Petition #7: Lead us to direct all that we do for the glory of God, loving God as we ought so as to live forever in the possession of love

*All:* Come, Holy Spirit, gift us with *Wisdom*.

Final Blessing:

*Presider:* Holy Spirit, you give life and growth to our earth. Fill us with Mary's gratitude for God's abundant gifts.

*All:* Amen!

*Presider:* Holy Spirit, in the beginning, you moved over the waters to bring creation out of chaos. Move within us to give us lives of wholeness and integrity as Sons of St. Alphonsus.

*All:* Amen!

*Presider:* Holy Spirit, you come as a mighty wind that shakes the foundations of our world. Be our energy to build God's reign.

*All:* Amen!

*Presider:* Holy Spirit, who came at Pentecost as tongues of fire. Make us devoted preachers and evangelizers of the gospel of Jesus.

*All:* Amen!

Closing Hymn: O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God

O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love the things you love.  
And do what you would do.

O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until my will is one with yours,  
To do and to endure.

O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God  
My will to yours incline,  
Until this selfish part of me,  
Glows with your fire divine.

O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God  
So shall I never die,  
But live with you the perfect life,  
Of your eternity.