



Not tomorrow, but right now: A procrastinator's prayer to the Holy Spirit

St. Josemaria Escriva's mission in the Church was to emphasize the importance of the present moment and current circumstances — this is what we have to offer to God. Nothing else.

This prayer of his to the Holy Spirit is perfect for those of us who need help remembering that the time to choose love is now:

Come, O Holy Spirit!

Enlighten my mind to know your commands; strengthen my heart against the snares of the enemy; inflame my will... I have heard your voice, and I don't want to harden myself and resist, saying "Later..., tomorrow." *Nunc coepi!* Now I begin! In case there is no tomorrow for me. O Spirit of truth and wisdom, Spirit of understanding and counsel, Spirit of joy and peace! I want whatever you want. I want because you want, I want however you want, I want whenever you want.

The Catholic teaching about the Holy Spirit derives, as Pope St. John Paul II pointed out, from "the very source of her faith, Jesus Christ." Jesus attests to the personal nature of the Holy Spirit: "When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me" ([John 15:26](#)). The Catechism explains that "at work since creation, having previously 'spoken through the prophets,' the Spirit will now be with and in the disciples, to teach them and guide them 'into all the truth.' The Holy Spirit is thus revealed as another divine person with Jesus and the Father" (CCC 243).

As St. Josemaria Escriva explains in his homily entitled "[The Great Unknown](#)," "The solemn coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was not an isolated event. There is hardly a page in the Acts of the Apostles where we fail to read about him and the action by which he guides, directs and enlivens the life and work of the early Christian community." According to Escriva, "It is he who inspires St. Peter's preaching, who strengthens the faith of the disciples, who confirms with his presence the calling of the Gentiles, who sends Saul and Barnabas to the distant lands where they will open new paths for the teachings of Jesus. In a word, his presence and doctrine are everywhere."

The Church confirms this in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, explaining how the Holy Spirit has always been present in the world and will continue to be in the world, "From the beginning to the end of time, whenever God sends his Son, he always sends his Spirit: their mission is conjoined and inseparable ... The Holy Spirit, whom Christ the head pours out on his members, builds, animates, and sanctifies the Church. She is the sacrament of the Holy Trinity's communion with men" (CCC 743,747).

This continual presence of the Holy Spirit should give us hope, knowing that God is with us, even in our weaknesses. As Escriva points out, “The Holy Spirit is present in the Church of Christ for all time, so that it may be, always and in everything, a sign raised up before all nations, announcing to all people the goodness and the love of God. In spite of our great limitations, we can look up to heaven with confidence and joy.”

God did not forget about us or leave us as orphans. He continues to show his love for us through the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world today. Let us continue to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, welcoming him and allowing him to have a greater impact on our lives.

