



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Pentecost Sunday

May 19, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

***“Breath in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.
Amen.”***

The Solemnity of Pentecost is upon us. How meaningful it is to offer this prayer composed by St. Augustine of Hippo. He was a saint who lived his life in the ways of the world but eventually embraced the life of Jesus and became an instrument of the Church to lead the faithful of God to a life of holiness.

Breath in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. This line acknowledges the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. Just as breath sustains life, the prayer asks for the Spirit’s presence to purify our thoughts, making them worthy and aligned with God’s will.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Here, we recognize that our actions are not solely our own but are influenced by the Spirit. By inviting the Spirit to act within us, we seek to carry out our tasks with integrity, compassion, and righteousness.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. The heart symbolizes our deepest desires and affections. By asking the Holy Spirit to draw our hearts, we express our longing to love what is truly holy—God, His Word, and His ways. It’s a plea for discernment and a heart aligned with divine love.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. As followers of Christ, we are called to defend truth, justice, and righteousness. This line implores the Spirit to empower us, giving us the courage and wisdom to defend what is sacred and just.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Finally, we entrust ourselves to the Spirit’s protective care. We acknowledge our vulnerability and dependence, seeking the Spirit’s guidance to remain holy and set apart for God’s purposes.

Mindful of God’s abiding presence through the Holy Spirit, may we draw closer to Jesus and live His way with inspiration so that we can transform our lives and this world we live in. In this way, we can truly experience peace, love, and joy in us and among us.

May this prayer continue to inspire and guide us on our spiritual journey.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual