

## A Novena to the Holy Spirit in Advance of Our Diocesan Synod

All Catholics in the Diocese are invited to pray a Novena to the Holy Spirit over the course of the nine days that begin on Wednesday, May 24. Our hope is that this time-honored form of prayer will help us prepare for the Diocese of Gary's first Synod as God would have us do so.

A novena recalls the nine days that the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary dedicated themselves to prayer between the Ascension and Pentecost Sunday. They awaited the Holy Spirit who had been promised to them by Jesus. It is thus appropriate that all of us who cherish the Diocese of Gary participate in a novena of this kind as we, too, invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Although a novena can be prayed anywhere either on one's own or in a small group, nine parishes will provide a communal focus for this very special Novena to the Holy Spirit:

- Holy Angels Cathedral on Wednesday, May 24;
- Sacred Heart in Wanatah on Thursday, May 25;
- St. Paul in Valparaiso on Friday, May 26;
- Sacred Heart in LaPorte on Saturday, May 27;
- Our Lady of Guadalupe in East Chicago on Sunday, May 28;
- Ss. Cyril and Methodius in North Judson on Monday, May 29;
- St. Thomas More in Munster on Tuesday, May 30;
- St. Michael in Schererville on Wednesday, May 31; and
- St. Francis Xavier in Lake Station on Thursday, June 1.

Novena Readings	
Day 1:	Genesis 2:4b-10, 18, 21-25 (The LORD breathed into the Man the breath of life.)
Day 2:	Exodus 19:3-8a, 16, 20b (The LORD came down upon Mount Sinai before all the people.)
Day 3:	First Kings 19:11-13a (The LORD was heard in the tiny whispering sound.)
Day 4:	Proverbs 8:22-31 (I was beside him, like a master worker; rejoicing before him always.)
Day 5:	Jeremiah 31:31-35 (I will make a new covenant, written on their hearts.)
Day 6:	Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Dry bones of Israel, I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life.)
Day 7:	Joel 3:1-5 (I will pour out my spirit upon the servants and handmaids.)
Day 8:	Romans 8:22-27 (The Spirit intercedes with inexpressible groanings.)
Day 9:	John 7:37-39 (Rivers of living water will flow.)

Each of the novena services will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a hymn, Exposition of the Eucharist, and an opening prayer. This will be followed, in turn, by a scripture reading unique to the evening, our Synod Prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, and prayers of petition. The evening will close with Benediction, a closing prayer, and a closing hymn.

All members of the Diocese of Gary are encouraged to join Bishop Hying in praying this Novena to the Holy Spirit, and a special invitation is extended to all throughout the Diocese to participate in one or more of the nine public services noted above.

