

First Letter to Leo XIII (April 17th, 1895)

"MAY CHRISTIANS RETURN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT"

Most Holy Father,

A humble daughter of Your Holiness has ardently wished for over seven years to make known to the Father of the faithful a lively desire of hers, and after having postponed and prayed at length has finally decided to write the following.

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".

Many types of worship are recommended - which is just fine - but nothing is said as to the particular worship which, according to the spirit of the Church, ought to be first and foremost.

Many Novenas are recited, which is fine, but the particular Novena which, by order of our Saviour in person, was prayed by Our Lady and by the Apostles, is now almost forgotten.

Our Preachers praise all the Saints, and this is just fine, but when does one ever hear a sermon in honour of the Holy Spirit, who moulds the Saints?

True: the divine Paraclete is *over and above all, praise*, but this is precisely what would cause St Thomas to repeat: "*Quantum potes tantum aude...*"

Yet who indeed, oh Holy Father, can really see to it that the Holy Spirit be better known and honoured, if not the Vicar of Jesus Christ, whose commands, and even whose desires, are so clearly effective on the hearts of the faithful? And, thank Heavens, we have seen that all the Pope need do is say just one word, and all good Catholics make it their law: a law of love, which they exult in obeying.

Therefore, oh Holy Father, You alone can get Christians to return to the Holy Spirit, so that the Holy Spirit may come back to us; demolish the devil's evil empire, and grant us the renewal of the face of the earth that we so yearn after.

And if I, worthless creature that I am, may dare to express my wish to you in its entirety, it is that Your Holiness may direct the Bishops to recommend that in the Parishes of their Dioceses this year many of the faithful should recite the Pentecost Novena, accompanied, wherever possible, by the preaching of the divine Word and by teachings and exhortations that may enlighten people's minds to know the Holy Spirit and move their will to correspond to His inspiration. And wherever it is impossible to do this now, during the solemnities of Pentecost, mightn't it be done throughout the year, as is also customary in the times of the Jubilee?

Oh, if only unanimous and fervent prayers could be lifted up to Heaven - as in the Upper Room in Jerusalem - to call forth the Holy Spirit, would not mountains of blessings and graces follow on those supplications?

And wouldn't our dearly beloved Mother Mary, who stayed with the Apostles those nine lucky days, and who prayed with them for so long, wouldn't they be with us as well in our New Cenacle? - and wouldn't she obtain for us quicker and more bountiful divine mercies?

Last year I happened to get the chance to offer Your Holiness, through Mons Tarozzi, a booklet of the Novena of the Holy Spirit entitled *The New Cenacle*, and Your Holiness deigned to accept it and bless it, expressing the wish that the unity of prayers that the booklet suggested for the Novena to the Holy Spirit would be made to bear fruit, for a healthy renewal of minds and hearts. Against the possibility that the booklet may have been lost, I am attaching another copy to this letter, so that Your Holiness may add new blessings, to the greater glory and good of souls.

Holy Father, one more word, and please forgive my insistence - the word is that you please make haste in recommending this unanimous prayer, so as to avoid a delay that might allow more souls to become prey to the devil and lost to our Good Jesus, who ransomed them with His blood.

I am remorseful for having out of shyness delayed so many years in writing the above to my Father, but now I fear I may have dared too much. ...

Holy Father, a blessing that may comfort me - a blessing on me who have dared take such a liberty, a blessing for the dear souls - Sisters and Pupils - who with me take part in the Christian education of young girls, while I kiss the Holy Foot of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, I humbly sign my name as

Your Most Devoted and Obedient
Sr Elena Guerra

Letter to Leo XIII (September 17th, 1895)¹

PRAYER IN REPARATION FOR THE INSULTS AGAINST THE POPE

Most Holy Father,

In reparation for the infernal exultation with which the enemies of the Church will soon be commemorating the nefarious date of September 20th, we, the Sisters of St Zita, in Lucca, offer to you, our grieving Father, a seven-day novena of prayers, Masses, Communions, mortifications, all humbly offered up to the Most High to entreat the exaltation of the Holy Church, that it may be reunited with all the Nations and, in other words, obtain the longed for renewal of the face of the earth.

Holy Father,

We are the ones who so fervidly supplicate the Holy Spirit, according to your wishes. Will you deign to bless us, as we kiss your sacred Foot with our utmost respect and, with truly filial love, sign our names as the

Sisters of St.Zita ²

Second Letter to Pope Leo XIII (Dec. 1st 1895)

THE REASON FOR ELENA'S LETTERS TO LEO XIII

Most Holy Father,

My poor heart rejoices in the knowledge that this letter is but an act of filial obedience to Your Holiness's fatherly goodness. It is to the greater glory of God, then, that I will unfold with the utmost simplicity a few things that on other occasions I hardly dared mention.

It has been for many years now that I have had a burning wish for the Faithful to come together to address the Holy Spirit, with one sole heart, and with incessant prayers for a happy renewal of the face of the earth. But as this wish of mine to this day has borne no fruit, the Lord has deigned to come to the assistance of my ineptitude and to let me better know His will by speaking repeatedly to the heart of one of my companions in religion.

This person is a poor girl who is simple and humble, but alight with divine love. About two years ago she told me that she felt compelled by Our Lord to tell me to write to the Pope and beg him to unite the faithful in a unanimous and universal prayer to the Holy Spirit, which should be like a new spiritual Cenacle/Upper Room, from which every day fervent prayers should be lifted up to heaven to implore that the earth be showered with as many good things as the number of evil things with which it is being flooded by the infernal society of Freemasonry.

But I did not dare write to Your Holiness then: and thinking I could make up for this by other means I told Msgr. Volpi everything. He attempted in various ways to convey all this to the man who represents God on earth, but since these attempts of mine were to no avail, my dear companion said that it was God's will that Msgr. Volpi himself (who, at the time, was simply a priest) should go to Rome. His reply was that he had no opportunity at all to go to Rome. So my companion, a very simple-minded woman, said, in prayer: "You know, Jesus, there is no way for us to proceed because Msgr. Volpi says he has no intention of going to Rome". In reply she heard the words "I'll find the opportunity for him to go." Lo and behold, just a few days later Msgr Volpi had to hasten to Rome because, to his great consternation, they intended to make him Dean of Saint Michael's.

But in those days of anxiety, he was unable to explain the matter to the Holy Father clearly; he only mentioned it briefly.

He dedicated over a year to other attempts to achieve this goal, but without the desired effect; in the meantime my sweet girl kept harping on the first proposal; and insisting that I write to the Pope.

So I then dared to send Your Holiness a Letter dated April 17th of this year, and you, oh most Holy Father, nearing the Feast day of the Pentecost, sent out that warm invitation to all of the Faithful, exhorting them to devoutly recite the Pentecost Novena to the Holy Spirit; and on May 5th (the day in which your revered Letter came out) that companion of mine told me that you were doing what we ardently wished for.

¹ WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ASSURE THAT THIS LETTER WAS EVER DELIVERED TO LEO XIII

² Fuori catalogo. Archivio delle Oblate dello Spirito Santo 569. Lucca. Non siamo in grado di affermare se questa lettera sia stata consegnata a Leone XIII.

And a few days later, to our immense consolation, we did indeed receive the venerable document.

Apparently, however, God wants our devotion to the Holy Spirit to be more widespread, so that, instead of a mere Pentecost Novena, there should be incessant world-wide prayer. That sweet girl has kept relating to me what she hears after Holy Communion and it always has to do with imploring the Holy Father to open up to the Faithful a new Upper Room / Cenacle; exhorting him to make his voice heard all over the world, in order to call all hearts to the Eternal Love.

Recently she said that Mons. Dean was to go back to Rome, while he had no intention of doing so, but two or three days later he was indeed compelled to rush to Rome, on account of some very urgent business.

Once back in Lucca, he did not let this companion of mine know anything about what he had been told on this occasion. But, as usual, she found out anyway, in her extraordinary way, and reasserted, and repeated with the utmost precision, that the Lord wants nine days of fervent prayers to the Holy Spirit, every year, with sermons, wherever possible, to teach the divine Word, in our Churches, as well as in Churches all over the world.

She says that just as evil people are untiring in their service to Satan and in helping him perpetrate evil, so the good should also be as ready and generous in doing good.

She says that the measure of iniquity is now overabundant, and that the suggested means are the last grace that God will be meting out to our perfidious world, and that if he isn't required he will set his hand to the plagues we deserve.

She says that it is up to the priests and to others who are consecrated to God to set a good example.

She says that their prayer to the Holy Spirit must be combined together so as to be uninterrupted, so that the **Veni** to the Divine Paraclete may be unceasing.

She says that God wants his Love not to be despised any longer but rather acknowledged, honoured, loved back.... and other things that I will not dwell on, so as to avoid making this too long-winded.

But there is one thing I can not be silent about: the fact that God granted my companion's prayer last year to heal a nun who was sick. I wish to relate it, as a token that can confirm that what the Lord says to her is true.

Nor can I be silent about the following reassuring piece of news.

A few days ago this sweet girl, speaking in her customary simplicity to the Lord, asked Him: "What reward will there be for the Pontiff, once this new Upper Room / Cenacle is set up all over the world?" Here is the answer she heard: "Happy is he who has the good fortune of propagating a life-giving work. I will give him the reward that I gave my beloved John; he will rest on my Heart and I will rest on his and he will be the Disciple of my love."

Holy Father, please forgive me if I've written too much and with utter simplicity, but how could I keep to myself all these things without pouring them forth into Your Holiness's fatherly heart? It is in the warmth that comes of holy love that the things that are here proposed can ripen into saving works.

Most Holy Father, now all that is left for me to do is to pray as I always do, so that the face of the earth may be renewed by the Holy Spirit. And to this purpose, may this devout family of the nuns of St Zita continue their extraordinary prayers to the Holy Spirit, while we also implore our sweet Mother Mary to pray for us now, just as she prayed with the Apostles in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, so that we may soon see the dawn of that happy day in which all of the Faithful will be like the Apostles, united in invoking the Sanctifier of our souls. And with what firm hope we will turn to Mary, certain that she will favour us because Your Holiness has acquired for her so much honour and glory, especially in reviving the beautiful devotion to the Holy Rosary!

And imploring the Apostolic blessing, etc.

Obed.and Dev.
Sr Elena Guerra

THE UNIVERSAL CENACLE / UPPER ROOM

Most Holy Father,

What a grace, what a consolation it is for a poor girl to hear that the Supreme Pontiff is so benevolent towards her as to allow her to write to him.

Only one, oh Holy Father, is the wish, one is the prayer that I place at your feet, or rather, in Your Heart. And since, with the precious Brief of May 5th 1895, Your Holiness has placed great hopes in a religious commitment to prayer to the Divine Paraclete, I dare to reveal that it is precisely this union of *prayers to the Holy Spirit that I make bold to ask for; but a union to be established, ordained and proclaimed throughout the Church.*

In my simplicity I call this union – which I always pray God to grant us – : a UNIVERSAL CENACLE.

But what matters the name? To obtain a winning renewal of the face of the earth, what matters are the essentials. And the essentials are that 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 under the shield of the Church.

Your Holiness has taken the first step by so warmly recommending recourse to the Holy Spirit; in imitation of St Peter who went forward ahead of the others, to prepare the Cenacle.

But that precious exhortation of May 5th 1895 has not yet been taken up by the faithful, and after the Pentecost Novena everything has come to an end.

However, after the Ascension, Peter went back to the Lord in the Upper Room; he went back with Mary, who was its Queen, and with the Apostles and many more of the Saviour's disciples, the fortunate ones – he went back and remained as Head and as Director.... They all prayed in unanimity and the Holy Spirit *came*. These were the lucky ones who were to carry His divine Light and divine Fire throughout the earth.

Oh how vital it is that the first to enter the Universal Cenacle be God's very Ministers!

But the *religious commitment to pray* to the Divine Paraclete must be carried out, in order for the faithful to know and understand that the Supreme Pontiff desires and wants us, in our great need for light and graces, to turn to the Source of the graces and the light.

But there needs to be a **Mind** who can arrange it, and this *Mind* must be that of the Vicar of Jesus Christ who, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, can not fail.

There needs to be a **Voce** to proclaim it: and it must be the Voice of the head of the Church, which is listened to and obeyed all over the world.

There needs to be a **Hand** to open it, and it must be the Hand of the Universal Shepherd, who leads his flock to safety under the wings of the heavenly Dove.

There needs to be a **Heart** to recommend it: and it must be the Heart of the Father of all the faithful, the Heart that so ardently yearns for the salvation of all.

Oh, Holy Father... what a great and life-giving work this will ever be!

The tiny Permanent Cenacle, which I am making so many efforts to propagate and upon which Your Holiness has bestowed his fatherly blessing, is but a shadow of this **Universal Cenacle**.

Then there is the matter of how to proceed, on a practical level, to achieve the success of this holy union, but this will be determined by scholarly and pious people.

I would also like to mention a few other little matters, but I don't want to tire Your Holiness by writing a very long letter.....

I might also say that there is no lack of proof of the fact that God wants this Universal Cenacle / Upper Room, to the greater glory of the adorable Trinity, which will not be properly acknowledged and honoured unless the Holy Spirit comes to renew the face of the earth.

But I think all this is enough to recommend itself; and besides, discussions like these would be beyond the reach of my simplicity and ignorance; I will simply remain available, if such is the will of the holy obedience.

Some prayerful souls foresee terrible plagues coming down from Divine Justice – and unfortunately we deserve them.

For pity's sake, Holy Father, for pity's sake let us turn to the Eternal Love, before the indignation of Divine Justice makes itself felt more keenly and subjects us to the punishment we deserve!

It is our beloved Heavenly Father, it is our sweet Redeemer, who want to lead us to salvation, in the arms of our dear eternal Love

But oh, to what lengths the devil goes to draw mankind far away from this safe haven!

Have pity, Holy Father, on the many good Christians who would suffer so much from the threatened plagues...

Have pity on the many corrupt souls who risk eternal ruin! Call them all to the safety of the Universal Cenacle/ Upper Room, whence to entreat the Holy Spirit to turn the deserved plagues into new outpourings of grace and love.

Oh, if only the Veni, that blessed *Veni*, which from the days of the Upper Room the H. Church has never ceased repeating, could become as popular as the Hail ...

Holy Father, just one more word: at the crack of dawn, always at the same time, there is a little squad of pious souls who join together in praying with all their hearts for Your Holiness, for your holy wishes and that you may be, like St. Peter, replete with the Holy Spirit.

A blessing on these souls who truly love the Holy Father and a blessing on the poor undersigned, who, kissing the holy foot, humbly signs her name, to Your Holiness

Elena Guerra

Letter to Leo XIII (August 6th 1897)

“HOLY FATHER, THE ONLY THING THAT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE IS TO OPEN THE CENACLE / UPPER ROOM..”

Most Holy Father,

You Holiness has already done so much to call the faithful to devotion to the Holy Spirit, and I, poor nun, being so happy about this, have been wanting to show my gratitude to my Father and the Father of all the Faithful. But I wanted to show it in a tangible way.

So here is what I did. As the feast day of St. Peter in Vincoli was approaching, I had a Tridual Prayer to this Saint reprinted and sent hundreds of copies of it throughout Italy accompanied by appropriate circular letters of exhortation in which I promised to ask for an Apostolic Blessing on all those who would, for Your Holiness, do those three days of prayer.

My proposal has been well received by good Catholics, so I hope that Your Holiness may see the consoling fruits of all this prayer. On our behalf, Msgr. Volpi, the Spiritual Adviser of our Family of the Sisters of St Zita, who today is also our Bishop, will present to Your Holiness the names of those who implore your Apostolic Blessing on them. Likewise, the blessing is implored of you by the faithful who are committed to a pious Union of prayer led by the Holy Spirit and called *The Permanent Cenacle*. They are quite a few and are also sending their names to Your Holiness through Msgr. Volpi.

Most Holy Father, the Encyclical of May 9th was a ray of sunlight that shone down from Paradise.... The Faithful are now ready.... The only thing that remains to be done is to open the Upper Room; call them, multiply the prayers, and the Holy Spirit will come... He will come and He will destroy that empire of Satan, which goes by the name of Freemasonry He will come, convert sinners, sanctify the faithful, and the face of the earth will be happily renewed.

Holy Father, for the love of God and of souls, one more step needs to be done, and that is to open up the Universal Cenacle.

The family of the Sisters of St. Zita is about to split into two, because our worthy Archbishop wants us to be entrusted with the religious education of the young girls of a big country town.

But we need a huge favour, which only You Holiness can grant us: the right to keep the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist in the Oratory of our new house, so as to have Jesus always in our midst. I do hope that on his return Msgr Volpi will be bearing the reassuring news that Your Holiness will have granted our humble prayer.

Holy Father, as my fellow Sisters and I bow to kiss your sacred foot and implore a fatherly Blessing, I have the high honour of signing my name as Your Holiness's

Devoted and Obedient Daughter,
Sr. Elena

(NOVEMBER 6TH 1896)

“HOLY FATHER, MAKE HASTE TO CALL THE FAITHFUL TO THE NEW UPPER ROOM”

Encouraged by the fatherly benevolence with which you allow the most unworthy of your daughters to bare her heart to you in all sincerity, I humbly prostrate myself at your feet and first of all, confessing my ignorance, will say that I do not know how to speak to the Pope in a befitting manner. But in the knowledge that you are God’s Vicar here on earth, I will speak in all simplicity, the same way I speak to God Himself in prayer.

... I dare tell the Holy Father that the Lord wants him to bring about a universal reawakening of many tepid Christians, and the conversion of many who have gone astray; and in the same way that the devil – God’s eternal enemy – by means of wicked societies has spread throughout the world a hellish cult to the purpose of preying upon souls, so now may the Pope – who is God’s real friend – widen St Peter’s net and, for the salvation of souls, open to the faithful a NEW UPPER ROOM /CENACLE, so that, clothed with supreme virtue, they be enabled to oppose the torrent of evil which is spewed by the dark laws of Freemasonry.

This universal revival of what is good will be the product of a **universal prayer**. And it is exactly this, Holy Father, exactly this that I dared say was **what the Lord wanted**.

Meanwhile, the Letter dated May 5th of last year was a very appropriate beginning of a universal prayer.

Your Holiness addressed all of the Faithful, exhorting them to resort to the Holy Spirit with a devout Novena. That Letter was a true blessing because in some places, during the Novena to the Holy Spirit, many who had gone astray were converted and in many of the faithful the devotion to the Divine Spirit was reawakened. Since Your Holiness has indicated this way to salvation, there is nothing left for you to do but go ahead and open up, in the Church permanently, the true house of prayer, a UNIVERSAL CENACLE / UPPER ROOM, where the Faithful, united to their Divine Mother who prayed so hard with the Apostles in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, may implore the Holy Spirit, by means of an incessant VENI, to bestow this much longed for and sought-after renewal of the face of the earth.

The devil will oppose this with all his might, or actually, with all his lures, and will suggest to everyone how *inappropriate*, etc... .. this holy work is.

Not because the DREADFUL creature doesn’t know that *the doors of hell will not prevail*; the wicked one knows well that his Kingdom will sooner or later fall, and therefore he will do his utmost to prolong it, so as to steal from God the highest number of souls. But oh, what a loss for the Church is this dallying, which for the enemy is gain, because, so many children are torn away from the bosom of the Church.

But the sooner it is possible to carry out a general holy union of Catholics who, with our divine Mother Mary and the Holy Apostles gathered together spiritually in a new and permanent Upper Room, ceaselessly implore the father of Mercies to send His Spirit: *Emitte Spiritum tuum* – the sooner the many insults against God, the many persecutions of the Church and the great damnation of souls will cease.

I have no words to express this in the way I have it in my heart. All I dare exclaim is: Holy Father, for love’s sake, 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.

Holy Father, the hearts of all good people are in your hands. All you need to do is say a word and we will all unite, we will all pray, and the Father of Mercies, instead of the punishment we deserve, will give us His Holy Spirit.

After the Messiah had been killed, the Apostles prayed, and instead of the deserved punishments, God sent the Holy Spirit.

Holy Father, what a great reward there will be then in Heaven, what glory for the Pontiff who will have summoned mankind back to live within the Eternal Love, and the Eternal Love to live within mankind?

Holy Father, this glory and this reward are for You.... and I beg this of the Holy Spirit every day.

Forgive, oh Holy Father, the simplicity and frankness with which I have dared speak out.... I wish you could read my heart, and see how much I venerate and love the Holy See and how hard I pray for the Pope, whose only concern is for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Your Holiness, please bless Your humble and devoted Daughter.⁴

⁴ Archivio delle Oblate dello Spirito Santo, 589-592 - Lucca

Sr AGNESE GRANUCCI (+1897)
“Victim of Eternal Love”

The fatherly blessing that Your Holiness imparted to me so benevolently, on the 18th of the current month of October, increased the fervour of my heart in wishing to strive to accomplish the holy work towards which I have always felt an irresistible attraction. But I was unable to speak up, on that lucky day, since my heart was so overflowing with emotion at the presence of he who represents God on earth. So I asked Your Holiness's permission to tell you all by letter..... The reason I am somewhat late is because on the 20th here in Lucca I found an excellent nun, caught up in the throes of agony. She was a true gift from God to my family, and God has already taken her back. So my poor heart had to make one of those intensely painful sacrifices [this delay]. Since I have mentioned this most pious nun, who is now dead at the age of 28, I will add that as the fateful date of September 20th of this year was approaching, she had offered herself up to God as a Victim for the reparation of the outrages that were being planned against God and His Vicar, especially here in Lucca.

Indeed, on that very day I saw her reduced almost unexpectedly to a state of agony, and it was decided to administer the sacrament of Extreme Unction to her. When the intensity of her pain was allayed enough to permit her to pronounce a word or two, she would repeat: “All for the 20th of September”, by which she meant that she was undergoing all this in reparation from the outrages that were being perpetrated against God and the Pope.

She was on the brink of death for a few days, and always in the same disposition. When I came to Rome we were almost hoping that she might recover, but God had accepted the sacrifice of this dear victim, which was fulfilled on the 22nd of this month. A blessing and an intercessory prayer for this beautiful soul.

And now here I am to open my whole heart, as promised, to my Father.

I repeat: I have always longed for the Holy Spirit to be honoured and invoked by all. This longing in me had been accompanied for many years by the idea of addressing the Supreme Pontiff in writing. Considering this a sign of how naïve I was, I would succeed in chasing the idea away, as I would a temptation to pride, only to have it come back again. For years my poor heart would keep harping on that same note... .. a *letter to the Pope*... but I did not dare; and finally, the Lord sent me his consolation. It came through a poor girl named *Erminia* who, without knowing a thing about all the above, revealed to me that the Lord in a clear and tangible way had ordered her to convey His will to me. This was: that I write to the Pope and implore him to revive the devotion to the Holy Spirit among the faithful, and open in the Church an Cenacle/ Upper Room, or house of prayer. By this means, the Divine Spirit would carry out a heartening renewal of this sad world. This was exactly what I had been longing to ask the Holy Father for, for a long time.

So I spoke to Msgr. Volpi and entrusted everything to his prudence. He examined and tested Erminia at length, and said that since the girl was led by a good Spirit, what she says on behalf of God can be considered true.

On this reassurance I dared, and sent a letter to Your Holiness for the first time. You sent me a precious answer in the shape of the wonderful Encyclical of May 5th 1895.

For a year my good daughter repeated to me over and over again that it was God's will that I write once more to the Holy father. I hedged around for a while, then I did write and a few months later I was gratified by the publication of the wonderful Encyclical of May 9th 1897, which also provided great consolation to all good souls. Indeed, here is what a saintly and scholarly Jesuit wrote to me: “the road has been opened and since, in order to counter such a great invasion by the Evil Spirit, there is such a great need for the Holy Spirit, we have reason to hope that the Holy Spirit Himself may lead the Pope to establish this devotion in a better way. It must become common and universal, and be an effective cure for this corrupt society. “

Yet although the venerable words of Your Holiness have increased the fervour of the Bishops and the Clergy, although the mandated Pentecost Novena has considerably increased the devotion to the Divine Paraclete in the faithful, my good companion *does not think the work has been carried out completely*, and she keeps telling me that God wants more. She also added that I would go to Rome and would have the chance to speak to the Holy Father, something that I gave no credence to, yet it came true.

The fact that the Lord wants more and that the longed for renewal of the face of the earth will not come about until something else is accomplished, can also be gleaned from a few words that Your Holiness inserted into the praised Encyclical:

“We Ourselves shall never in the future fail to labour towards so important an end; and it is even Our intention, in whatever ways may appear suitable, to further cultivate and extend this admirable work of piety” (the devotion to the Holy Spirit) .

I will list here what my companion says about these ways (since Your Holiness deigned to ask me about them on the 18th of October - such a wonderful day for me).

The Lord, she says, let me know that the Holy Father is to do as He himself did when, in order to reform the world, he began by ordering the Apostles to go back to the Upper Room and wait, in prayer, for the promised Holy Spirit, who was to equip them for their mission.

So now that the world needs a general renewal, those who are called to the holy apostolate, that is, Bishops, Pastors, Rectors, Confessors, Preachers, should gather in devout prayer to the Holy Spirit and wait in expectation of a wholesome renewal of their lives, since only a holy shepherd can make a flock holy.

Our Lord says that the indifference of so many souls that have been consecrated to him and the worldly way of life of so many priests is extremely nauseating to him ...⁵

FIFTH LETTER: Dec 18th 1897

“THE GOOD SHOULD PRAY HARD”

Most Holy Father,

The spokesman tells me that the Freemasonry is preparing for Christmas the most abominable outrages against the Divine Infant and the Immaculate Virgin, and that in retaliation for the pious atonement that the Catholics did last year, this year the wicked sect *wants to do more*.

Holy Father, urge and command the good to pray hard, that God may not be so terribly abused! And as to the Holy Spirit? – Why, please do everything in your power to make it so that he may come to renew the face of the earth!.....

Most Holy Father, pretend I am actually at Your feet, because I am indeed there with my heart, and bless me.

Here we always pray for Your Holiness and for Your holy wishes.

Devotedly,
Sr Elena Guerra

SIXTH LETTER (September 6th 1898)

“DEPLORING THE FACT THAT THE POPE WAS NOT OBEYED”

Holy Father,

This delay sorely afflicts the Heart of Jesus.

It is true that right after the publication of that Encyclical, which I believe was dictated by the Holy Spirit, many bishops thanked Your Holiness, offering a perfect participation in the will and the desires of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, and this was good.

But wouldn't it have been *better to obey it* and get the Clergy to lead the people to graze on the vital pasture of that instruction, which is so dear to the heart of the Holy Father?

Wouldn't it have been better to give life to some pious works according to the wishes of the Pope and give him the consolation of gathering the fruit to which He alluded with the following words:

“Here, my dear brethren, are our warnings and exhortations as to the devotion to the Holy Spirit and we have no doubt that they are to bear abundant fruit for the Christian people, especially by means of your zeal and earnestness”?

My knowledge is too narrow for me to know whether the solicitude and the diligence of the bishops have produced among the Christians the good fruit that Your Holiness has every reason to expect, but I think that if that fruit had indeed ripened, somehow it would have been visible and some Catholic newspaper would have spoken of it.

My good sister again says that the terrible punishments are at hand, that the Church's enemies are preparing a fierce attack and that therefore a defence should be prepared for. So she urges the Clergy to

⁵ Mss. VI, 312°-318. Su Suor Agnese Granucci, cfr. Mss VI. 309-11; IV, 37.

take up the weapons of adoration, and with their indifference to earthly possessions and the ardour of holy zeal, prepare to preach to the people a true return to God.

This holy union of the Clergy in a unanimous prayer, is what my sister calls PERMANENT CENACLE/ UPPER ROOM, and she says it is similar to the devotion to the same name that the Sisters of St. Zita of Lucca endeavour to spread as far as they can. From this PERMANENT CENACLE/ UPPER ROOM, the ministers of God will come forth filled with the Holy Spirit, and then Your Holiness will be able to see the fruit you so wish to see.

Here now is a consolation for my Father and the Father of all the Faithful:

“My enlightened fellow sister says that it seems to her that the Lord rests pleasantly upon the heart of his Vicar, to whose voice he will give great strength and to whose works such great effectiveness, that he will at last be able to succeed in the most holy purpose of a total renewal of the Christian people and of a return of the dissident Churches, particularly in the Orient, who have sinned against the Eternal Love.

Furthermore, she adds that it seems to her that the Holy Father has already decided to take appropriate steps

Holy Father, also on behalf of some pious Priests, I repeat now a prayer which I had already humbly placed at your feet on November 17th 1896, and it is that Your Holiness may deign to enrich with Indulgences some devoted prayers in honor of the Holy Spirit which are contained in a booklet that was published under the care of Msgr. Bishop Volpi....

Holy Father, grant a blessing to this religious Family of the Sisters of St Zita (who pray so fervently according to the wishes of Your Holiness) and a special one for your poor but very devoted

Daughter
Sr Elena Guerra

SEVENTH LETTER (March 9th 1899)

“TIME TO ACCOMPLISH THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...”

Most Blessed Father,

During the days of your illness, Your Holiness, the humble undersigned, in great distress for you, did nothing but keep silent and pray for your recovery, together with her fellow Sisters.

But now I can no longer be silent, convinced as I am that the great Pontiff Leo XIII, who has so admirably been spared for us from this great danger, must be destined by Heaven to accomplish some great action for the benefit of the Church and the world. I am not alone in thinking so, God be praised; many other good Catholics expect from your Holiness one of those great acts which your Pontificate has already abounded in; among these people is a devoted writer (the anonymous author of a work called “*The Holy Spirit makes us bear fruit, gives us life...*”) who said that by means of the work of our untiring Pontiff, who deserves to be characterized as *Lumen in coelo*, the light of the Holy Spirit will shine ever brighter over the world, for the salvation of souls. Further on he adds that the successor of the Pontiff of the Immaculate Conception is to be the Pontiff of the Holy Spirit, and this will be fulfilled best if Your Holiness does the things which I beg of you, together with that daughter of mine (the one who, at times, while in prayer, hears a voice that speaks to her of Your Holiness).

She has asked me to convey this to you: that the time is ripe to accomplish the work of the Holy Spirit; that this time, the time allotted to the precious life of your Holiness, has been prolonged precisely in order to complete this work which, again according to the above daughter of mine, consists in

1. – as I mentioned to your Holiness in my other letter of October 30th 1897 - a holy reformation of the priesthood. Priests must be set on fire, by means of an incessant prayer for the Church to the Divine Spirit, a prayer which should be the object of zealous promotion by the bishops and the generals of the religious orders. As to the laity, it may suffice to rely on the work of the Pious Union of the Permanent Upper Room, which has already received Your Holiness’s paternal blessing and been spread throughout the diocese of Lucca.

2. announcing the Divine Word to the people in preparation for the Holy Year, while multiplying, as much as possible, sacred Missions and Spiritual exercises. To these must be added the Pentecost Novena, accompanied by an appropriate teaching, at least in the Cities. By means of the precious admonition contained in the Encyclical *Divinum Illud Munus*, etc of May 9th 1897, Your Holiness has already called upon Preachers and Pastors to reflect on their duty to educate the faithful as to Catholic doctrine with regard to the Holy

Spirit. As to the faithful, oh how eager they would be to graze on this choice pasture! But they will do so, says my daughter, at the accomplishment of the great act that many are now fervently expecting from our Supreme Pastor and which, consists in carrying out the reformation and organizing the incessant prayer mentioned above in Paragraph No.1, from which will spring something akin to a New Cenacle/ Upper Room. From this will be born, as if resurrected to a new life – (to fight against the Freemasonry)- the Militia of the Holy Spirit, which already flourished in the Church in centuries gone by. And since this idea of reviving this Militia of the Holy Spirit was also presented at the anti-Masonic Congress in Trent, I will add an analogous text, which I will write on its own.

Holy Father,

My daughter says she has seen the wickedness of the world in the shape of an overwhelming flood bearing with it dreadful ruin and the loss of innumerable souls. An effective revival of the devotion to the Holy Spirit would provide a bulwark against this flood of iniquity.

She also says that God is highly indignant not only with sinners but also with many of His own Ministers, who do not set a good example and who do not do what they ought to do to prevent evil and promote good; and she adds that our Holy Mother Mary makes every effort to, in a certain sense, hold back the arm of God's punishing Justice, in order to allow Your Holiness to carry out the work of the Holy Spirit so that wherever crime abounds, Grace may always abound more greatly.

Lastly, please allow me, Your Holiness, to repeat after Priest and Professor La Scala of Turin that: "if we want God to reign in our hearts and in the world, we must resort to the Holy Spirit, revive the people's devotion to Him and ask for a new outpouring of the Divine Paraclete, so that the face of the earth may be renewed.

Cardinal Manning recommends a personal, constant, daily devotion to the divine Spirit.

The bishop of Albi, in his approval and commentary of the booklet "*La dévotion au St Esprit etc....*" writes that in times of unbelief and selfishness it is more urgent than ever to carry out a special devotion to the Holy Spirit.

And the accomplishment of the revival of this special devotion, oh Holy Father, is the great act that is the expectation on earth, the will of Heaven and the promise of Your Holiness in person, in the words of the above-praised Encyclical:

"We Ourselves shall never in the future fail to labour towards so important an end; and it is even Our intention, in whatever ways may appear suitable, to further cultivate and extend this admirable work of piety.

Here, Holy Father, I am keeping the promise I made on that wonderful day in which Your Holiness gave me such a paternal welcome. At your feet, I promised to always let you know whatever this good daughter were to tell me.

Now, as we wait for the divine Paraclete to come and renew the face of the earth, by means of Your Holiness's prompt and thorough action, I will return to my humble tasks as a nun: silence and prayer. And I can truthfully attest that in this pious house our prayer for the Holy Father and for the works of the Holy Spirit is unceasing.

Bowing down to kiss the sacred foot, I implore your Apostolic blessing on myself, on my brother the Canon, who is ill, on the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Zita, etc.....

Your Humble and Devoted,
Sister Elena Guera

Eighth Letter to the Holy Father Leo XIII (May 10th 1900)

THE MILITIA OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Most Blessed Father,

I make bold to enclose in this brief letter the humble offering of a tiny book of mine, whose purpose is to divulge in a greater way among the faithful the precious words with which Your Holiness in the Encyclical *Divinum illud munus* clearly explained the benefits that we receive from the Holy Spirit and warmly recommended that He be worshipped.

Out of those blessed words, I have composed and inserted into this tiny book, which is entitled “Let Us Have Recourse, o Ye Faithful, to the Holy Spirit”, the Pentecost Novena, so that those who have read the above-said beautiful Encyclical may take to heart the words of our Father and shepherd, which are truly a vital grazing field. In this way, poor little Sister Elena has somehow managed to turn herself into a spokesman for her beloved and venerated Father, Leo XIII.

Now, for her greater consolation, I will mention that the Pentecost Novena was preached here in Lucca last year, according to the wishes expressed by Your Holiness in the Encyclical with regard to the instruction of the Faithful on the doctrines regarding the Holy Spirit. This was done in our town’s major temple, drawing huge crowds. But this year too we will make every effort to once again have a splendid preaching of the Pentecost Novena.

The pious and zealous preacher we had last year urged us very earnestly to revive a Catholic Society which did a great deal of good in the Middle Ages and which now would be very suitable in the task of opposing the bullying of the Freemasonry. This Society is called the *Militia of the Holy Spirit*. But because Freemasonry is unfortunately a universal society, the Militia of the Holy Spirit should also become universal. This could be brought about if the Supreme Pontiff were to promote it and if it were erected in Rome. In my tiny little Lucca, the above-said Militia exists only in the wishes of a few people who have already drawn up a rough draft of the Statutes, which I am sending to Your Holiness, but it has not yet been set up. Permission from Providence, that it may be established in Rome instead, from where it can proliferate and extend elsewhere more easily.

The good soul of which I spoke at the particular Audience which you were so good as to grant me in October of 1897, wants me to beseech the Shepherd of Christianity to revive the Militia of the Holy Spirit and, with regard to the devotion to the same Divine Paraclete, to do what you gave us reason to hope for when you wrote: “To be sure He will not fail us, etc...” And here, Holy Father, in this pious House, we pray incessantly to the Holy Spirit, that he may come soon to renew the face of the earth and further prolong the life and increase the vigor of that Holy Pontiff who is to contribute to this great work, in the way that will be suggested to him by the Divine Spirit.

And now I bow down to kiss the sacred foot with profound veneration and in the firm conviction that my plea will be granted, to Your Holiness I humbly sign my name.

Elena Guerra

CLVII. Ninth Letter (October 15th, 1900)

“THE XX CENTURY IN THE SIGN OF THE SPIRIT”

Most Holy Father,

The undersigned humbly but confidently presents two petitions to the heart of Your Holiness:

1. That the new century may begin with a *Veni Creator Spiritus*, etc..... sung either at the beginning of the Midnight Mass, or before the first Mass to be celebrated in every Church on the first day of the year.

That if a new college is set up, with the aim of beginning a beneficial reform in the seminaries and in the Clergy, may the devotion to the Holy Spirit be cultivated in that college and may it be like a new Cenacle / Upper Room in which the Divine Spirit prepares new Apostles, capable of renewing the face of the earth.

I dare to humbly place at Your Holiness's feet one of my latest little works, called *The Fire that Jesus brought to the earth*. I have written it to induce pious readers to bestow a large share of their prayers and alms on the holy Association of the "Propagation of Faith."

If my old age and many activities will allow it, I hope to return to Rome next year to seek out the opportunity to once again kiss the feet of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, and make a present to you of my Universal clock, which indicates with precision what time it is in every region of the earth. Meanwhile, I am sending a small scale blueprint of it, which I pray Your Holiness will deign to accept.

I implore, Holy Father, from your truly paternal heart the most abundant blessings on me for the religious family and the School that the Lord has entrusted to me, for my brother who has been ill for two years now, and with the utmost filial devotion I sign my name as

Your humble daughter in Christ
Sr Elena Guerra of the Holy Spirit

CLXVIII. Tenth Letter (April 9th, 1903)

THE LITANIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are approaching the anniversary of the great day on which, under the serene gaze of God and His Angels, Your Holiness began life on this earth, which is blessed at having such a great Pontiff.

On this day and on whatever other occasion reminds us of the events of Your Holiness's Pontificate, the Sisters of St. Zita celebrate by multiplying their prayers for their beloved Shepherd.

On the 19th of this current month of June we shall begin a solemn Novena to the Holy Spirit for Your Holiness, on the 21st we shall double that prayer, imploring the Best Comforter to be ever more munificent with His graces and gifts to the Pontiff who has done so much to revive faith and love for Him in the Faithful.

And now, to the greater glory of that same divine Paraclete, I dare ask you for a grace, which is that those who are devoted to Him may soon be granted the consolation of hearing that the Holy See has bestowed its approval on certain Litanies of the Holy Spirit which were extracted from an antique handbook of Piety, published in Malines with due approval of that Curia. These litanies were presented to the Holy Congregation of Rites last year.

Meanwhile, with Your Holiness's permission, we will proceed to recite these lauds and supplications to the divine Paraclete privately, awaiting and hoping that permission to recite them in church in public may reach us before the solemn feastday of Pentecost, so that the Holy Spirit too may have those brief liturgical praises commonly known as Litanies dedicated to him, as do Mary and the Sacred Heart.

I do hope Your Holiness will take my request to heart, as I eagerly and hopefully wait for Mons Angeli and Mons Tarozzi to bring me a comforting reply on your behalf.

And as I once again assure my heartfelt respect and filial affection, I implore on myself and on my religious family a fatherly blessing.

Holy Father, I am Your devoted daughter
Sister Elena Guerra of the Holy Spirit