

**OPENING RITUAL
OF THE
PRESENTATION BROTHERS
29TH CONGREGATION CHAPTER**



*"The will of God be done in this and everything
we undertake."*

April 18th 2023

The Dominican Retreat Centre, Dublin

Opening prayer:

Triune God, we gather before You together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; radiate our being with the presence of Christ. Teach us the way we must go and the path to follow.

Do not let what is not of your truth lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to your promise and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

May Mary of the Presentation and Blessed Edmund, and all who have gone before us, inspire us to continue to walk the path of faith, justice and peace, and light the path for others by the way we live.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. **Amen.** *(Adapted from the prayer of invocation to the Holy Spirit for the Synodal Process).*

Hymn/Song to the Holy Spirit:

*Come, Holy Spirit, I need you
Come, Holy Spirit, I pray
Come with your strength and your power
Come in your own special way*

Come like a spring in the desert
Come to the withered of soul
Lord, let your sweet healing power
Touch me and make me whole



Reflection:

In the New Testament, there are many verses about the difference between worldly wisdom and true discernment, warning Christians to lean on the Spirit for guidance rather than what the world says is right and wrong. The apostle Paul focuses on it when speaking to fellow Christians, and emphasizes it when addressing his peers or disciples, such as Timothy and Titus.

(Proverbs 8:5) - "O simple ones, learn prudence; O fools, learn sense."

(Deuteronomy 4:6) - "Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'"

True discernment starts with prayer. Just like Solomon requested wisdom, the believer should ask the Spirit for guidance and discernment. God smiles on those who ask for it. "The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God" (Psalm 14:2).

It is also a willingness to learn from those who are older and wiser. The book of Proverbs is structured as a father teaching his son what true wisdom looks like. Consulting God in prayer, asking wise believers for their input, and reading the Scripture helps cultivate a spirit of discernment. Applying this wisdom is where the life of a believer makes the difference.

All:

Lord, we forever give you thanks and praise, and we trust in your providence.

Reflective Music:

Formal Procedures at the Opening of Chapter:

Rollcall of Delegates:

Response: PRESENT

Formal Convocation/Opening
of the 29th Congregation Chapter
by the Congregation Leader.

Chapter Oath: (All)

“I, Brother_N_____ N_____, do call on God to witness, that I will not at any time associate the identity of any member with the opinions expressed at this Chapter, nor reveal the number of votes cast in favour of the election of any Brother; neither will I reveal any information which has been formally classified by this Chapter as confidential.”



Election of Deputy President of the Chapter, election of Chapter Secretary and election of two Scrutineers.

Proposal and acceptance of the Steering Committee, as set out in the Chapter Directory.

Acceptance of the Chapter Directory.

Acceptance of the Chapter Facilitator.

Acceptance of the Spiritual Companion.

Acceptance of the Recording Secretary.



Candle Light Ritual:

Fr. Donagh

"You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead it is put on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew: 5: 14-16).

The Chapter President, Br Francis, lights the Chapter Candle.

Response: *Br Francis*

Come Spirit of wisdom and light upon our
Chapter community.

Come Spirit of discernment.

Come Spirit of strength and peace.

Come Spirit, make us one, come Holy Spirit come.



All: Make of us one, come Holy Spirit come. *Amen*

*Delegates and invited guests are invited to light and
place their candle, in turns, at the centrepiece.:*

Delegates and invited guests from the Anglo-Irish
Province.

Delegates and invited guests from the West Africa
Province.

Delegate from the West Indies Unit.



Blessing: *Fr. Donagh*

Let us pray,

O God, source and origin of all light,
who on this day showed to the just man Simeon,
the Light for revelation to the Gentiles,
we humbly ask that,
in answer to your people's prayers,
you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing +
these candles,
which we are eager to carry in praise of your name,
so that, treading the path of virtue,
we may reach that light which never fails.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. *Amen.*



Reflection: *Sr. Louise Swanston, Spiritual Companion*

Presentation of Symbols:

Each Province/Unit presents a symbol, with a few words, that symbolises their part of the Congregation.

Concluding Hymn/Song:

Holy Spirit Holy spirit
Come with your fire (2)
Holy Spirit, come with your fire
Holy Spirit, come with your fire



Come, Holy Spirit, let your fire fall
Come, Holy Spirit, let your fire fall
Let the fire fall! Let your fire fall (2)

Holy Spirit, holy spirit Purify my heart
Holy Spirit, holy spirit Purify my heart
Holy Spirit, Purify my heart
Holy Spirit, Purify my heart

Holy Spirit, holy spirit, Set my life on fire
Holy Spirit, holy spirit, Set my life on fire
Holy Spirit, Set my life on fire
Holy Spirit, Set my life on fire



All Move to the Chapel for Eucharist