



Leader:

The Church, in the last few weeks, celebrated the feast of Pentecost, a feast which provides Christians with a time to reflect on the presence of God's energy source - the Holy Spirit- in our lives.

As we gather as members of Kildare Ministries we recognise that ministering to God's people through sponsored institutions requires courage, generosity, fidelity and a vision of the Church's mission.

The times demand a more radical stance: a stance of community of persons united to bring about the continued transformation of society, to bring about the reign of God. We are companions on the journey – we travel, women and men, religious and laity, graced by a God whose frequent message is “Be not afraid”.

Reader 1



Reader 2

Pope Francis has stated:

The same Spirit that led religious to begin new works, to establish new facilities, and to launch new ministries flourishes in the church today. The charism of each religious congregation is from the one Spirit, a gift to be given, to be used, to be spent. It is an evolving gifting to and for the Church.

Ultimately, this post-Vatican II age is witnessing the emergence of new spiritual endowments, of new corporate forms, with potentially stronger, more vital and viable ministries.

From After we're gone: Creating Sustainable Sponsorship

“In educating, a balance must be maintained; your steps must be well-balanced, one step on the cornice of safety but the other into the zone of risk. And when the risk becomes safe, the next step must venture into another area of risk. Education cannot be confined to the safety zone.

Leader.

Reflection: What is a past risk that we faced as a College and managed to come through? What is the next step that may have to be taken?

Leader: *Let us pray*

1. Come, Spirit, to the communities of the faith and service around the world: to those who are beleaguered and bereft by wars, violence and evil around them; bring them hope and wholeness, protection and healing. To those gatherings where the future seems to be in the balance, bring them deep trust in the faithfulness of your Presence and Power to do all that seem impossible but is so needful. To those who are well-established but want to be your presence more tellingly in the changing, evolving world of this time, give them imagination to be compassionate, effective and transformative in the communities in which they live.

Lord hear us.....

2. Come. Spirit, to the people of this world who with the power of money and status, make decisions that could bring life and well-being to so many who have no power. Invade their protective bubbles of self-interest, acquisitiveness, blindness and deafness to the needs of the world. Change their consciousness to include all those whom Jesus loves - the poor, the broken, the broken-hearted and the difficult to love. Shape the will of the powerful to sense and make happen the things that make for the common good.

.....Lord hear us.....



3. Come, Holy Spirit, to the women of the world - who are so often the vulnerable, the unprotected and victimised. Come to the ones who are in jeopardy, by virtue of their gender. Fill them with your life-giving Self that allows them to see and to know in their bones that they are made in the image of God, and as such are precious and valuable. Come to those who live in cultures of life, work and worship where they are denigrated, excluded or berated. Empower them to be and to do all that you have created them to be and to do.

.....Lord hear us.....

4. Come, Holy Spirit, to our fragile earth - home for countless species including humans. Breathe on its parched places, its barren places, its despoiled places, its diminishing places, and bring new life through the tender loving care of care-givers and restorers. Let all of our creation bloom and grow the way you intended. Stir us to be mindful, careful, open-hearted and willing to share responsibility with what earth provides.

.....Lord hear us.....

All. Come, Spirit, come to our flagging spirits; fill us with energy, shape us with compassion, heal our wounds, empower us to live and work with hope and love in this time which is "our graced moment".

Amen