4.

Empowered by the Spirit

SRL & BAGAMOYO GENERAL CHAPTER

- It is the Spirit of Christ who “comes to help us in our weakness” (Romans 8:26), who leads us along missionary paths and who prays in the depth of our hearts. We are genuine apostles to the extent that, in our daily living, we entrust ourselves entirely to him (SRL 85).
- We have received a spiritual heritage rooted in the “apostolic life” (SRL 3). Fidelity to prayer sustains and supports our “practical union”. We are becoming more aware of the call to a deeper interior life and a greater integration of our work and prayer (Bagamoyo 2.4).

PRAYER

Father of light, from whom every gift comes, empower us by your Holy Spirit.

May your Spirit stir us up and disturb us – for we are too content to let things go on as they are.
O Spirit of the living God, awaken us to a sense of urgency. Penetrate the closed gate of our hearts and make us live again with your power manifested in what we say and do.

Make us struggle with the problems around us, for in this way we will grow and develop and so continue the mission of Jesus and bring about the Kingdom of the Father in this place, at this time. This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE
(24: 45-49)

Then the Lord opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses to these things. And I myself will send upon you what my Father has promised. But you must wait in the city until the power from above comes down upon you.”
FRANCIS LIBERMANN

My very dear friend, how happy we are when we are under the power of the divine Spirit, under the complete influence of the Spirit of the love of Jesus! Everything becomes love in us. All our actions, even the slightest movements of our soul and for much more reason its movements, its intimate actions, all is love: love for our God before whom we are without ceasing prostrate and annihilated; love for people without bitterness, without judging anyone. Our spirit is calm, without getting into gear against those who afflict us, who contradict us, persecute us, or torment us in whatever manner. Good or bad, of our mind or not, no person can ever put our spirit outside its repose in God, nor trigger our discontent, whether he is right or wrong. I tell you all these things in order that you might be able to distinguish what in you comes from the divine Spirit and what comes from your natural activity that is so harmful to the life of Jesus in your soul.

Letter to a Seminarian, Dec 31, 1841.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, before returning to the Father, you promised to send your Holy Spirit to all who believe in you. We ask you to empower us with your

Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to what lasts forever;

The Spirit of Piety that we may find peace and fulfillment in serving God through serving others;

The Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our cross with you and with courage overcome all obstacles to that service;

The Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness;
The Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;

The Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing your will and so first seek your Kingdom;

The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord that we may be filled with loving reverence towards you.

Teach us to be your faithful disciples and empower us in every way with your Spirit. Amen.