In prayer we are purified and we are changed by the Holy Spirit. It is his gifts and the fruits of his indwelling that become in us a source of both human and spiritual maturity and that make our life fruitful in every way (SRL 86).

The General Chapter recognizes the vital importance of formation. Formation is a life-long process leading to transformation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit who is the true agent of formation and works through our lives to bring them to maturity in Christ, in order to allow them to fulfil the universal mission received from the Father (Bagamoyo 3.1).

PRAYER

O Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with noble desires to make our lives wise with knowledge, beautiful with love, and useful with service.
Enlighten the scriptures for us. Teach us what we ought to pray for to purify our lives with the fire of your love so that we may always choose what is good and reject all that is evil.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

(2:1-4)

When the day of Pentecost came, they [about 120 believers] were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

FRANCIS LIBERMANN

“I have come to set the earth on fire” (Luke 12:49). Wanting to produce fire, the Lord will necessarily put flaming torches in the hands of those that he charges with setting the world ablaze. Why are there so few of his followers to start holy fires in the world? It is because few are saints, few united to God in their every-day living; their torches are therefore doomed to remain put out, they produce at most the fire of a match, not the blaze of a fire.
They remain lovers of themselves, worldly people, following their own pride, their senses, weaknesses, and faults. The sanctifying grace received in the sacraments does not develop in them. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are necessarily denied them, the designs of God remain unfulfilled. The world remains in darkness and slavery; the demons rejoice! Our Lord and his church are in mourning.

Ecrits Spirituels 494-5.

**PRAYER**

Son of the Eternal Father,

You came to set the earth on fire and wished it to be already kindled.

Kindle in us your Spirit that we may seek and follow your desires and cease making our pursuit of freedom an opportunity for self-indulgence. Empower us to make loving choices, to respect all life and to live up to our dignity as your disciples, redeemed in your blood and emboldened to make your way of love and mercy known through the witness of our lives. We ask this of you who are Lord, Amen.