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"Opus Dei is with you at Pentecost," an article published on the occasion of a meeting of representatives of Church movements convened by the Pope on the Solemnity of Pentecost.

Liturgical feasts are much more than pious memorials. Each time that we celebrate a feast, the Church invites the faithful to relive the original experience of the protagonists in that event. For Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (cf. *Heb* 13:8).

The solemnity of Pentecost is drawing near. The scene narrated by the Acts of the Apostles is always relevant to us. Each of us understands the news of salvation in our own language. We feel united to all Christians with bonds that are stronger than any possible divisions. The power that impelled the apostles to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth is still active in the Church. If we strive to listen to and follow the voice of the Holy Spirit, the impetuous wind of Pentecost will never cease to breathe through the people of God.

Next Saturday, on the vigil of the feast of Pentecost, the Holy Father will preside over a meeting that will be a tangible sign of the Holy Spirit's presence in the Church. Around the Pope will gather representatives from many Church movements, raised up during recent years by the Spirit as a confirmation of the

inexhaustible fruitfulness of the Spouse of Christ. These movements are a sign of hope for the present and the future. Their devotion to the work of evangelization nourishes our hope, as does their capacity to spread the faith in the most varied environments, the integral Christianity that they foster, the joy of so many men and women who rediscover the radical nature of their baptismal promises thanks to their witness. As has happened right from the beginning and in all stages of the Church's life, these movements are today a living expression of the Holy Spirit's action in the world. Their presence is beneficial for everyone, since all find consolation and encouragement in the good example offered to us by these sisters and brothers of ours who take their Christian vocation seriously.

On Saturday afternoon, in St. Peter's Square, the Church will offer a new sign of its own vitality. In the presence of the Pope, in union with the pastors and all the faithful, the supernatural impulse of the One who is Lord and giver of life will be shown clearly.

The Prelature of Opus Dei, as such, does not structurally form part of these movements. Therefore it has not participated in the congress nor will it be represented in the final meeting. Nevertheless, all the Prelature's faithful feel themselves, together with the whole Church, very close to these movements. Some of them have also had the opportunity to collaborate in organizing this congress. Others are present in the celebration for various reasons. And all of us are praying for its

spiritual and apostolic fruit, remembering Blessed Josemaría's invitation: "Pray to God that in the Holy Church, our Mother, the hearts of all may be one heart, as they were in the earliest times of Christianity, so that the words of Scripture may be truly fulfilled until

the end of time: *Multitudinis autem credentium erat cor unum et anima una*—"the company of the faithful were of one heart and one soul" (*The Forge*, no. 632). Unity of prayer, unity of intentions, unity of hearts: the hope of Pentecost.

Pastoral Trips

The Prelate of Opus Dei, Bishop Javier Echevarría, arrived in Pamplona, Spain, on January 30.

On the following day, as Chancellor of the University of Navarre, he presided at the solemn academic convocation to confer honorary doctorates on Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Dutch pharmacologist Douwe Breimer, and the American economist Julian Simon.¹ The joy proper to an event of this kind was clouded, a week later, by the sudden death of Professor Simon in the United States.

On Sunday, February 1, Bishop Echevarría ordained to the diaconate 14 students of the University of Navarre's School of Theology. The new deacons were sent to Navarre by bishops of nine different countries. They resided at the Bidasoa International Ecclesiastical College, now celebrating its tenth anniversary.

In his homily, Bishop Echevarría reminded the ordinands of some of the characteristics of their ministry: "With the diaconate, the Church

confers on you its greatest treasure, the Body of Christ, to distribute as sacred ministers." At the same time he told them that holiness requires a constant effort of formation and study. "Having assimilated doctrine and living it, with the help of God's grace," he pointed out, "you will become capable of enlightening the consciences of mankind."²

As is customary, the Prelate took advantage of his stay in Navarre to have get-togethers with faithful of the Prelature, members of the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross and many other people. In a get-together with students he referred to unity with the Pope. "Be upright," he said, "and help the Pope whose only aim is to spread the kingdom and the peace of Christ throughout the whole world." To a student suffering from leukemia, he said, "By offering your suffering and pain to God, you are building up the Church and becoming a saint."

The Prelate of Opus Dei also went to Bilbao, where he spent time

1. The News section of this issue of *Romana* contains an article on the academic convocation. The address of the Chancellor is found in the section entitled *From the Prelate*.

2. The homily given by the Prelate of Opus Dei can be found on page 67.