

Call to the Holy Spirit for Carefrontation Guidance

Come Holy Spirit; fill my heart with the compassion and acceptance that Jesus showed the woman at the well. Help me harness my frustration and hurt and convert that energy into thoughtful analysis of my concerns. Show me how to stretch for deeper understanding through prayer and introspect. Help me focus on what is truly my challenge at hand and not the side issues that cloud my judgement.

Open my eyes to the love and the good intentions that my spouse/friend has been trying to share with me. Remind me to respect the importance of their needs so that the setting will help facilitate their openness as well as mine. Teach me to select words that provide simple but clear direction of the concern that I feel must be addressed. Let me be open and patient to their surprise and/or reticence to my request.

Help me be humble for my ignorance of all the pressures and hurts that my loved one suffers with are not always on my mind because I am so focused on my own. Show me the compassion that Jesus possessed as he listened through the pain and brokenness to find the beauty and goodness in every sinner he met. O Dove of Life, hold my tongue so that I might listen; bury my thoughts for the good of truly hearing and understanding my partner.

Lead me to this encounter with no preconceived solutions but only the commitment for the outcome to serve us equally. When things seem the most confusing, reveal to us an approach to the resolution that only two committed loved ones could find that is far better than the solution of one. Let me provide my loved one with feedback that confirms our understanding to the agreed solution, so that we can both find the peace that you would have us share.

Soften both of our hearts as we enter into these moments of stressful sharing. Relax our fists and remind us to pull up an extra chair so that Christ may be at the center of this encounter just as he is in our joys.

Amen.

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