

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE: MAY 7, 2017

DECADE PRAYER

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins,
save us from the fires of Hell.
Lead all souls to Heaven,
especially those most in need of Your mercy.
(Our Lady of Fatima, July 13, 1917)

ENDNOTE: THE EVANGELIZING KINGDOM—CASTING FIRE WITH CHRIST

I. The Beginning of the End by the Power of the Beginning and the End (Rev. 21:6)

A. Jesus: "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled." (Luke 12:49)

1. "Fed" by Fire—Blood from the Eucharistic Sacred Heart
2. Fire fanned into flame by the Power of the Holy Spirit
3. Blood and Fire from the Upper Room
 - a. Last Supper (Christ)
 - b. Pentecost (Holy Spirit)

B. The End According to Peter and Paul

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire! But according to His promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him." (2 Pet 3:10-15/1 Thess 5:1-11)

C. Present = Time of God's Fire of Mercy before the Fire of Justice and Judgment

1. Those who accept: Refined, Re-ordered, Radiant
2. Those who reject: Disintegrated, Disordered, Darkened

II. Fire of God's Love Fanned into Flames of Mercy

A. Cross of Suffering—Wood for the Fire of Love (Baptism/Reconciliation/Eucharist)
— Christ Accepted: Dimension of Christ

B. Cross of Desire—Fire Flaming into Works of Evangelical Mercy (Confirmation)—
Christ Made Manifest: Dimensions of Mary and Holy Spirit

C. Attitude toward the Fire of God's Love, Mercy, and Justice

1. Fear if outside us (Moses—Burning Bush)
2. Fearless if inside us
 - a. Mary = Burning Bush of the New Covenant
 - b. Jesus = The Greater Than Moses

III. Saint Catherine of Siena (Office of Readings, April 29)

“I can never be satisfied; what I receive will ever leave me desiring more. When You fill my soul I have an ever greater hunger, and I grow more famished for Your light.

Eternal Trinity, Godhead, mystery deep as the sea, You could give me no greater gift than the gift of Yourself. For You are a fire ever burning and never consumed, which itself consumes all the selfish love that fills my being. Yes, You are fire that takes away the coldness, illuminates the mind with its light and causes me to know the truth. By this light, reflected as it were in a mirror, I recognize that You are the highest good, one we can neither comprehend nor fathom. And I know that You are beauty and wisdom itself. The food of angels, you gave Yourself to man in the fire of Your love.”

QUESTIONS

- I. On earth, can a holy person simultaneously possess “fear of the Lord” (a gift of the Holy Spirit) and the “perfect love [that] casts out all fear” (1 John 4:18)?
- II. Why is it difficult to fear sin more than suffering or death? Do I sincerely desire to hasten the Second Coming of Christ?

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer of Resolution
- II. Mental Prayer: 5/5/5 (children) or 10/10/10 (teen/adult)
 - A. Gospel of the Day or Any Passages from Scripture
 - B. Stories or Writings of Saints
 - C. Passages from Theological or Catechetical Writings
 - D. Particular Decades of the Rosary
 - E. Visual Images
- III. Examination of Conscience followed by an Act of Contrition
 - A. Was the greatest pain I endured today the holy desire to love God and neighbor perfectly, or the pain of preoccupation with my own sorrows and sufferings?
 - B. Did my sufferings and sorrows today help to purify my mind, heart, and affections or serve to pervert, harden, and pollute them?
 - C. Did I allow suffering and sorrow to promote anxiety and discouragement or to perfect peace and increase trust in God?
 - D. Did my suffering and sorrow this day open my heart to give myself more generously in loving communion to God and to others, or close my heart to keep myself alienated from God and from others?