

Pentecost C 2016
Frazee/Callaway
May 14-15

Homily

Mary, our Mother, we give ourselves totally to you as your possession and property. Please make of us, of all that we are and have, whatever most pleases you. Let us be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for bringing the greatest possible glory to God. Amen

Fire is an image of the Holy Spirit that the Catechism of the Catholic Church unpacks.

Fire is a powerful image of the presence of the Holy Spirit. "While water signifies birth and the fruitfulness of life given in the Holy Spirit, fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions. The prayer of the prophet Elijah, who "arose like fire" and whose "word burned like a torch," brought down fire from heaven on the sacrifice on Mount Carmel. This event was a "figure" of the fire of the Holy Spirit, who transforms what he touches. John the Baptist, who goes "before [the Lord] in the spirit and power of Elijah," proclaims Christ as the one who "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Jesus will say of the Spirit: "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!" In the form of tongues "as of fire," the Holy Spirit rests on the disciples on the morning of Pentecost and fills them with himself..."Do not quench the Spirit." (Catechism, 696)

The Holy Spirit transforms what he touches—including you! The Holy Spirit can transform hurt into forgiveness, fear into faith, judgement into mercy and sin into repentance. Our lives can be one big mess, and the Holy Spirit can shape us and slowly we crawl out

of the darkness and discover the light of hope, and eventually pure light.

Touched by the Holy Spirit and transformed, the life that is now within you will overflow with charity. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the doors to the people who need your sacrifice. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the courage to console the broken-hearted and to bring hope to the broken.

The Holy Spirit appeared to the disciples as tongues of fire! This is not a subtle sign of God's enduring presence. It is a sign that compels us to rejoice, to love, to sacrifice and to unite.

When the disciples reflected on their encounter with the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus, they realized, "...were not our hearts burning within us?" This burning foreshadowed the firestorm of love that was to come.

As you renew your baptismal promises today, be confident that the promise of Jesus has been fulfilled—he has sent us another Advocate. We have all that we need to live well and to love with holy passion.
