

TSP Express

Habakkuk 2:2

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becoming all flame
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Abba Lot went to see Abba Joseph and said to him, “Abba as far as I can I say my little office, I fast a little, I pray and meditate, I live in peace and as far as I can, I purify my thoughts. What else can I do?” then the old man stood up and stretched his hands towards heaven. His fingers became like ten lamps of fire and he said to him, “If you will, you can become all flame.”
- From the Desert Fathers

(quoted from <http://simplyorthodox.tumblr.com/post/23343874347>)



Come into the flame of My love. The flickering of the fire draws you closer for its beauty and the mystery attracts you from within.

My presence waits for you here, observing your approach, rests in your recognition and begins to proceed with the unfolding.

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(for a visual aid, follow up with
<http://lateautumnnights.tumblr.com/post/100362096876>

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Come with me now to the shores of the Jordan River where John the Baptist is responding to questions about his true identity ...

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

Luke 3: 15-17 RSVCE

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (v. 16)

Jesus' public ministry is about to begin and His cousin John has been preparing the way for Him by preaching repentance to the people who flocked to hear him. Jesus "stands in the wings" waiting to assume His rightful place as bringer of the Kingdom of God on the earth. He descends from the hillsides and presents Himself to John for baptism according to His Father's plan. You know the rest of this part of the story ...

Let us ponder for a while the next three years while Jesus goes about "doing good" and moving the Father's plan forward, step by step, for the eventual founding of His Church that would extend that plan through the centuries until this day. As we read the Gospels let us watch Jesus in action, His compassion, His power and abilities, His piercing knowledge and the methods that He uses to affect the Father's plan, both with the multitudes and with individual persons. This is important because each one of us is an individual and we live in a time that is far removed from when Jesus actually walked the earth. No matter, because God the Omnipotent, the All Present, the All Knowing lives

outside of time and we are/I am as important to Him as was Peter, James and John, Herod, the woman at the well, Mary Magdalene, the woman who reached out to touch the hem of His garment, etc.

So, let's notice the chunks of time during those last three years that Jesus lived. We have periods of 1) three years, 2) forty days and 3) ten days all of which moved inexorably forward to bring certain culminations ordained by the Father.

Three years: After His baptism by John, Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for forty days (hmmm). He came out and moved among the people. He frequented mountains and solitary places to pray with His Father. One long night he prayed till dawn before He called to Himself the twelve men He had chosen to accompany Him during His ministry years. These men – a questionable group by some standards – came to be with him constantly. Dawn to dusk, through night to sunrise. They lived with Him wherever He went. They watched Him. They listened to Him. They were loved by Him and they loved Him with courage and admiration. He gave them both gigantic and small tasks. In methods and formations of the heart He trained them individually and as a group. They ministered to the crowds together. They rarely were separated from Him though they did not know the fullness of His inner depths. He prepared them for the future. As their months of privileged contact with Him were coming to an end they became frightened by warnings Jesus gave them as to what would happen to Him in Jerusalem. They could not imagine life without Him. But it happened.

I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished!

Luke 12:49-50 RSVCE



Pascal fire – Easter Vigil – Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Chattanooga, TN – Facebook 4-16-17

Eventual malice from the crowds and many of the religious people, the ridicule of the fearful and the unbelieving all rose to the fever pitch during Holy Week that we frantically remember. And then, the King of the Universe was impaled on a cross at the edge of town ... mocked, despised, stripped naked. Knowing all was now accomplished for redemption's song, Jesus yielded His spirit to His Father and the skies wailed while the veiled entrance to the Holy of Holies in the temple was ripped from top to bottom. When allowed, His loved ones removed His lifeless body from its post and slipped it to the ground

where it was loved upon, cleansed and taken away to a place befitting the dead. Sorrowing mightily, each devoted person returned to his or her dwelling place.

One task remained, however. A task of immense caring and extravagant loving for the One departed. After the Sabbath's close, devoted women arrived at the tomb before dawn to freshly perfume the body with the most precious ointments available.

But ... wait ... there was no body. No cadaver. No remains wrapped in linens in the tomb!

Ah, maybe the gardner has an answer. The gardener? Oh, *the Gardner...*

Forty days: The new epoch begins. It all begins. Jesus appears, encourages, instructs His disciples in the strangest of ways, at unexpected times, with words from another realm. His wounds are present but they are beautiful, as is He ... with no trace of death about Him. Joy, intimacies restored, missions given. But wait, things are different now. Yes, He is alive and with them again but ... His appearances are now of His own choosing and cannot be taken for granted. No more of His *constant* presence with them. Still, this is better than nothing, they surmise though they would probably have liked it better if they could be with Him always. Some still struggle with the truth that He is really alive.

Even this time period draws to an end and Jesus calls His followers out to where He will at last leave them fully behind, returning to the Father from Whom He had come so many years before. They do not know that "this will be the last time" their physical eyes will rest upon him. But so it was.

How Jesus Is Glorified in Us

Having knelt down humbly in front of each disciple to wash their feet, having revealed their journey and the journey of the Church, through pain and joy into the heart and ecstasy of God, Jesus stops. All has been said. There is no more place for explanation or discussion. It is now a moment of contemplation. Jesus raises his eyes to heaven. He no longer looks at the earth and at his disciples, but towards the Father. He is *with* the Father and *in* the Father, contemplating the divine plan for creation and for humanity, a plan that appears to be fulfilled and becomes a song of thanksgiving. And yet the plan is not fulfilled. Jesus prays for its fulfillment: that people may be healed of their aggressiveness, hatred and fear and become one, one in God....

Some people did not want to walk the road that leads to the light. Jesus met fear and opposition. Many wanted to get rid of him. They clung to their security and power and refused change and openness. But even through this opposition, the plan of God is being fulfilled: Through his death, Jesus reveals his love to the very end.

Now, in this moment of contemplation, Jesus reveals that the cycle is complete. It is no longer God descending into flesh but the flesh of humanity ascending into God. It is no longer the Word who becomes a human being, but human beings transformed into God. All is complete. The Word of God came from God and now returns to God, with all his friends, brothers and sisters in humanity united together.

JEAN VANIER

Jean Vanier is the founder of L'Arche, an international network of communities for the developmentally disabled.

However, He had left them with an assignment, a charge to continue the mission for which He had originally come. In doing this, somehow it doesn't seem as though He will be "really that far away." Their mission is to utilize His own sacrifice to redeem mankind from original and personal sin and to transmit that same redemption to all who will receive Him. "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations." "But WAIT, for the promise of the Father Who will soon come upon you."

<https://www.spiritualdirection.com/2018/05/13/solemnity-of-the-ascension>

Ten days: After these days of prescribed praying together were completed -- in the same upper room Jesus had given Himself to His disciples in body and blood the night before His death, the same place in which they and other followers had been cowering in fear after His death, in this very place -- the long promised Holy Spirit descends! In wind and fire and power. (ref. Acts 1:1-14; 2)

Now the prophetic words of John the Baptist have come to pass.

"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."



<http://thegospelwriter.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Slide12.jpg>

The new day has begun. Nothing now will ever be the same. The Church of Jesus is born this very day, in this very place. The gospel of the kingdom will be preached and multitudes will begin streaming into it. And the greatest "story" of all time is told and retold down through the centuries until this very day and God is glorified.

By His Spirit the Trinity is among us. Jesus' promise to never leave us is fulfilled as we respond to His mercy and His grace, thriving in the sacraments of His Church and by His Spirit living within us - loving, guiding and enabling you and me to cooperate with His graces and follow His will always and everywhere.

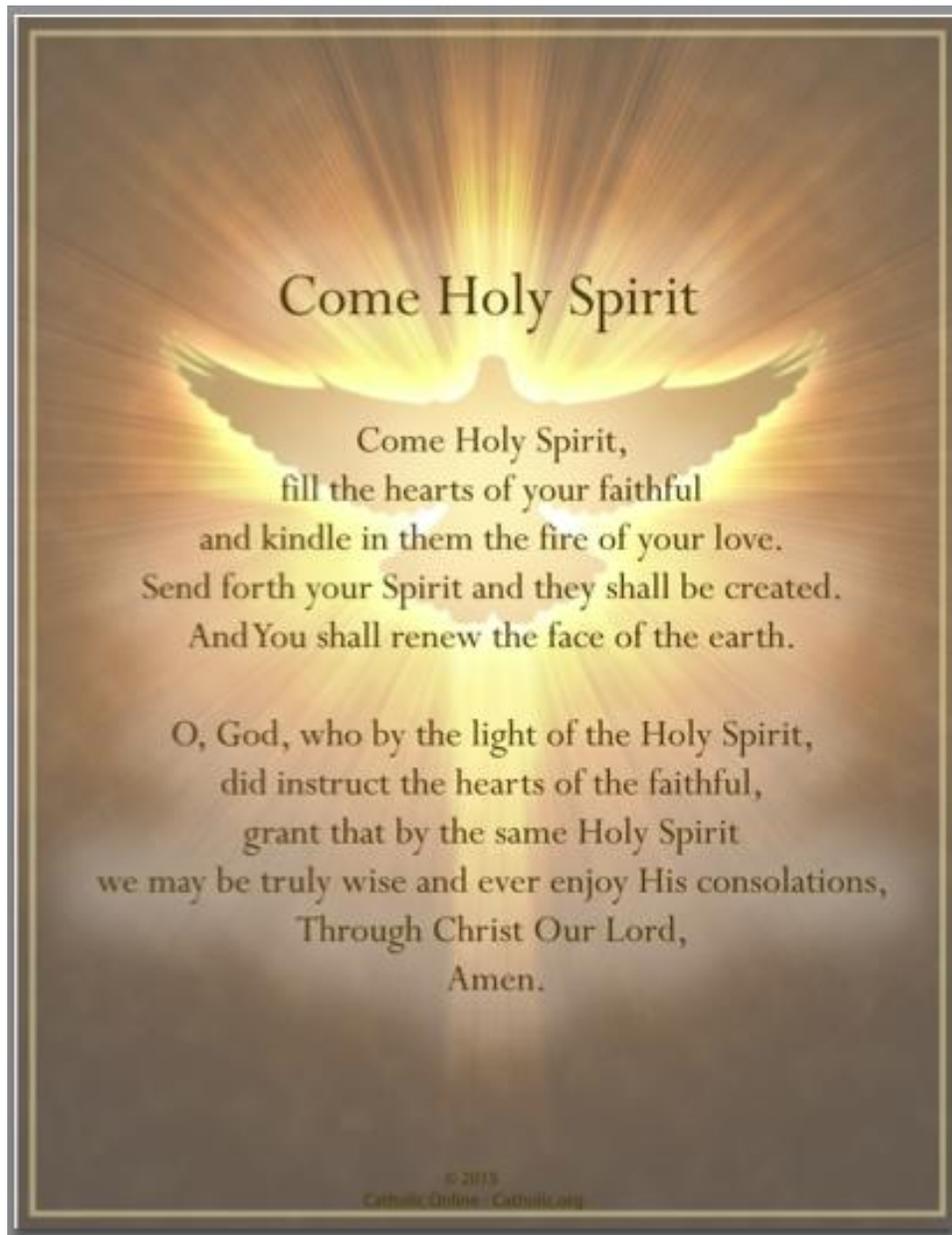
Glory and praise to our God!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iRqiS6fcqw>

So now, what about us?

“God is exalted in mystery and majesty, triune and one in glory, yet nearer to us than we are to ourselves through the divine indwelling. What can we offer but praise that dares to go beyond the small boundaries of our finite understanding into the realm of light inaccessible?”

p. 399, May 2018 *Magnificat* for the 27th, Sunday of The Most Holy Trinity



<https://catholiconline.shopping/products/prayers-come-holy-spirit>



<https://callingcouplestochrist.org/2018/05/20/family-prayer-to-the-holy-spirit/>

Receiving of the Flame

Revelation 1:12-16 Malachi 3:2-3

Ah, do not fear the flame, My beloved. Do not fear the effect of My fire upon you. It is a good fire. It is a cleansing fire and you shall come forth not only as gold (your faith) but with bronzed feet . . . as Mine, shining as bronzed in a furnace.

They will be shining feet, beloved, to carry My words to the ends of the earth. They will be strong feet, love, able to leap mountains of difficulty that would desire to hinder your moving in the pathway of My purposes for you. They will be happy feet though they will pass through many valleys of Baca (Ps. 84:5-7). They will make such into blessing for you will bring the living waters with you to touch and heal those bitter and grieved in spirit and they shall be Mine and they shall rejoice, saith the Lord, because your feet have been obedient to walk in My ways and upon the ground I designate to you and you, nor they, will ever be the same.

It is not a fearful thing for you to submit yourself to the fire of My passion. It is not a distasteful thing to be consumed in the outer man what is a distraction from My flowing freely within and from you. It is a lovely and a loving process this refining work and, though it continues, it shall not need to last forever.

You are not alone in these hours of burning. You are not left desolate to work out the "trouble spots" on your own. You do not need to be the one to figure out "all the details" of your shortcomings, your sin. I will show you the offending things. They will be plain to you as they rise to the surface. I shall remove them for you and they shall be gone.

You will melt with Me. You will burn with Me and the desires of your heart that I have placed deep within you will shine in their purity and I will be glorified in the

translucence of the liquid of your heart . . . and your heart will have the ascendancy of your being and you will no longer be divided within yourself. You will no longer need to work out all things in the mind of reasonings but you will look up to Me, your "Ishi," your Husband, and you will joy in our companioning together in all My purposes for you. You shall rejoice in our pleasure for you have taken Me, the burning Fire, to your bosom and you shall surely be consumed with Me.

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The Burning Sacrifice

Exodus 29:38-46 Numbers 28:1-8

Consume me, Lord, as fire upon Your altar consumes the yielded sacrifice. As the lamb and grain and oil and wine together mingled in the burnt and grain offerings twice daily for your desired continual pleasing aroma . . . so accept the sacrifice of all I am, now given fresh today to You. In ashes let my own plans, desires reside.

Let us clean the grate for this day's offerings for to this flesh I will not cling. Purge me ever with your sacrifice for me and together we will lie upon Your altar to rise in fragrant spirals to Your throne.

Sweetly sit in majesty, O King, and may I also . . . as -- by Your side upon Your throne in the place You've prepared for me -- I look to You and, as pure is pure, watch You see Yourself in me.

Burn out the world in me, my God. Purify me to the core. Take from my heart the seeds of sin. Construct me with Your precious skill. Fill me with Your fire until I burn and glow with unmistakable light, drawing cold and lukewarm ones unto the heat to look upon the Son within.

Stoke the fire, my God. Raise the threshold of burnings so all that remains of me is You. I scarce can tolerate no other element but You, my God, in me. Oh, take me, take me to Yourself and there in Your most holy flame and melt and fuse me to Yourself and there let me reside. In Your presence is the fullness of all I long for . . . yea, the fullness of what I ever shall be. I stretch forward to that goal.

Despair, you have no hold on me. Satan, be gone! I'm ablaze with heaven's love and power and you're unwelcome here. Take your wiles. Take your plays. Take your trinkets,

all your toys. They disgust and weary me. My heart is gone with the King. I am His and His alone.

Consume Your servant, Lord . . . with Yourself.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 RSVCE

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Within the flame

- <https://www.spiritualdirection.com/2018/05/16/th-holy-spirit-is-gods-gift-to-you>
- <https://thewildgooseisloose.com/>
<https://thewildgooseisloose.com/why-wild-goose>
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- www.spiritualdirection.com/2018/05/19/the-unquenchable-fire-of-love-part-1-mini-course-on-prayer
- <https://beginningtopray.blogspot.com/search/label/Holy%20Trinity>
(reading from the bottom upward will keep Dr. Lilles' series in order)
- <https://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/resources/other-recommended-resources/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYmMRDxl8mA>
- *Sounds of Wonder: 20 Centuries of Praying in Tongues and Lively Worship in the Catholic Tradition* by Deacon Eddie Ensley, Ph.D. available at http://scrc.org/OnlineStore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=345&products_id=2434)