

FIRE, ANGUISH, DIVISION

Do you believe that Jesus came to set the Earth on FIRE, to be in ANGUISH until the Baptism in the Spirit is accomplished, or to establish DIVISION? When proclaiming Luke's GOSPEL last Sunday (Luke 12:9-53), THESE THREE WORDS TOUCHED MY HEART: FIRE, ANGUISH, and DIVISION. Seen in a different context than Luke's Good News, such as the secularized world that surrounds us, THESE THREE WORDS may take away our SENSE OF PEACE AND COMFORT!

Whether or not we recognize it, most of us, including myself, are afraid to go out of our "Comfort Zone". We are afraid of Change. We do not want to take any major risk. The "status quo" means we keep the same position without any changes and, leads us to a "MAINTENANCE MODE". We are afraid of conflicts, divisions, the "status quo" or maintenance mode is seen as a way to find peace.. But we can find peace only in Jesus Christ. HE is the Prince of Peace. To find that peace, we must accept the "pains and DIVISIONS" that are the consequences of following Jesus.

What is that FIRE that Jesus talks about? What is that FIRE that "JESUS wish it would be already blazing" (Luke 12:49). Why is Jesus so IMPATIENT? This is not the fire that destroys; this is the fire that transforms the hearts. Jesus loves us so much that he wants to help us change, help us to be transformed. The Apostles at that time could not understand. They had no idea of the yet-to-come Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord, which will change the world once for all, as the Son of God dies for all our sins and rises to save us and lead us to be with GOD in HEAVEN. The ANGUISH Jesus refers to is His imminent PASSION.

With hindsight, we now know that Jesus talks about the FIRE of the HOLY SPIRIT, the FIRE that will descend upon the APOSTLES at PENTECOST (the Acts of the Apostles describe the descending of Tongues of Fire). This is the FIRE that we

receive at BAPTISM, the "Baptism with which I must be baptized" says Jesus (Luke 12:50). Pope Benedict XVI commented that "this FIRE is Jesus' own PASSION OF LOVE, a FIRE that is to be handed on. Whoever comes close to Jesus must be prepared to be burned. This is a FIRE makes things bright, pure, and free. Being a Christian then, is daring to entrust oneself to this burning fire. Because the Holy Spirit is so powerful, we are all afraid to let the Holy Spirit "invade us".

Last week, I wrote to you about " HAVE FAITH : LOOK UP" and concluded with my own experience of Faith in the power of healing through the spring waters at LOURDES. I am grateful to God that I was able to receive so much of the Holy Spirit and was healed physically and spiritually. Four weeks later, I still feel this strong presence of the Holy Spirit and am prepared to let the Holy Spirit to lead me wherever HE wants. I feel free and totally at peace. Let us pray together:

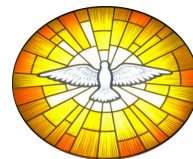
Come Holy Spirit
Beloved of my soul
I adore You.

Enlighten me, guide me, Strengthen me, and console me. Tell me what I must do. Inspire me with what I must say, Give me Your orders.

I promise to submit myself to You in all that

You ask of me
and to accept all
that you permit
to happen to me.

Let me only
know Your will,
And do Your will.
Amen



*One in Christ,
Father Alain*