

## Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time — Year C

Jesus tells his disciples something that it's not easy for guys to do.  
He shares his feelings with the apostles.

***I came to cast fire on the earth and how I wish it were already kindled!***

I am eager to throw the fire of God's love into human hearts.

The word he uses is very intense: I am **constrained** until it is accomplished!  
Jesus is a lover, and that love motivates his life.

It's pushing him forward... and we know what that love will look like.  
He's going to hang from a tree, crucified, for all to see... he's going to look like a miserable failure, a prophet who gets taken out.

But the letter of the Hebrews tells us today that CROSS is our victory, he endured the PASSION, the humiliation, to show us what LOVE means.

So, today's Gospel Jesus shares his feelings, his desire to change the world, redeem people...

This is something very human... we should want to make a difference... to blaze a trail...

For example, a good son can't wait to get off work to visit his elderly mom, to get her flowers, help her around the house...  
Like Jesus, he can't wait to do it, he's burning inside to light up his mom's day...

Or when we are kids.. going to the cottage and see our cousins there...  
We can't wait, we are yearning to spend time with them, sit around the campfire, make s'mores, grill sausages, sing songs...  
There's a **yearning** to be with family and friends!

And what about Jesus... I really want to save people from their sins, I really want to give people freedom... I am constrained until it happens...

And this is why we love Jesus so much, honestly... no one else speaks with such clarity and selflessness... sacrificial love.

I want to die for you... so that you can be with me forever in heaven.

My dear friends, Jesus wants to fire us up, so leaving church, we should have that same zeal... that same urge... to love our families, to look after our elderly, to fight against the sins we sometimes succumb to...

OK, good... so the Gospel takes a bit of a dark turn... fighting within families, division... mother against daughter...

Why does the PRINCE OF PEACE throw a sword into his message?

The message of Jesus is a challenge... a call to a new life. Repent and follow me, believe. Choose me or go back to your current way of life.

The FIRE that Jesus brings to us... it's a purifying fire, it's transformative. And some people don't want change... they love their sins, or remain in self-sufficiency...

And not some people, all of us... we all have this inner battle, conflict... that Jesus started!

Jesus doesn't want us to remain as we are... stuck in sin, like stuck in mud. Slowly sinking.

And that's why Jesus causes division, not just in family, some people believe others couldn't care less... but Jesus causes division within our own hearts...

We know how much sin remains in us... we know that our hearts give into pride, worries, evil... and that can really make us sad. Discouraged. Even possibly not like who we are. Self-abuse.

It's Jesus alone who can purify us, make us beautiful and holy.

And we're going to fail, fall back, still divided! But Jesus persevered and he will help me persevere too.

We need his fire to become saints. And his fire is good. Effective. Amazing.

I know fire gets a bad rep these days...with these forest fires.... It's powerful.  
But fire is also good.

To make glass, you need fire, you have to heat it up, and shape it...

To make gold shine, same thing... the goldsmith can't do much unless he has fire.

And to make creme brûlée... we all love creme brûlée... we need fire, a torch to melt that sugar, get it perfectly caramelized... but not too much, then it gets bitter.

And there's even a sushi that is torched... **aburi sushi**... gives the sushi a unique flavour....

OK so!... Jesus wants to fire us up... change us. Not leave us as we are, sinful as we are. But fired up disciples, fired up to share GOD with everyone.

Let's finish with a real life example... St Maximilian Kolbe... who had that fire. We know his story how 10 prisoners were chosen at random... to be killed in Auschwitz because one man escaped.

And one of the 10, started crying, I have a wife, I have kids. Please don't let me die.

St Maximilian Kolbe... a man of faith, with eyes of fire, walks up and says: I will take his place. I'll die to save him, and save his family.

This is what Jesus does to us... choose God or choose the world, burn with God's love, or get burned by the world and become nothing, a heap of ashes.

Let's choose Jesus and ask him: Lord help me to leave church with a burning desire to love you and all peoples — and to never give up.