

SAINT ANTONINEWS

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JESUS IS LORD TO THE GLORY OF THE FATHER



HE ROSE, HE ASCENDED TO THE FATHER & NOW HE SENDS FORTH HIS SPIRIT.

He is always sending forth His Spirit just like the sun keeps shining on a rainy day. It's the reception that is the key. Are we properly disposed to receive Him? What are the umbrellas of blockage we consciously or unconsciously put up between our hearts & His Holy Spirit? Hopefully that is what all this down time has enabled us to discern so that we may take the steps to remove them, hand them over to Him or repent of them through the sacrament of reconciliation. We have been blessed to have this time to ponder, examine ourselves, come to a deeper realization of how awesome & majestic this God of ours is & humble ourselves before His exaltedness. Hopefully, having been deprived of the pearl of great price, the Eucharist, our souls have experienced a greater yearning & appreciation for this medicine of immortality. We have had time & we need to continue to make time to plunge more deeply into what is the Source & Summit of our faith. St. Alphonsus Liguori caught it when he wrote:

A single Mass gives more honor to God than can ever be given to Him by all the prayers & austerities of the saints, all the labors & fatigues of the apostles, all the torments of the martyrs & all the adorations of the Seraphim & even of the Mother of God. (St. Alphonsus Liguori, "Discourses on the Mass & the Office")

Yes we have been deprived of this greatest gift perhaps so that we may come to better appreciate, value, esteem, long for & wonder at what He has done for us & what He has left us so as to not leave us orphans...such is His love for us.



THERE IS FIRE

We all know we, as Catholics, have been under growing attack. There is nothing new in that. The Old Testament is full of it as well. Sirach cried out in frustration to the Lord: *Rouse Your anger, pour out Your wrath, humble the enemy, scatter the foe, hasten the day, bring on the time, crush the head of the hostile rulers, let raging fire consume the fugitives & Your people's oppressors meet destruction.* Does that resonate a bit?

He beseeches the Lord: *As You have used us to show them Your holiness. So now use them to show us Your glory. Thus, they will know, as You know that there is no God but YOU.* Can you hear the heartfelt plea as he struggles with what is going on inside & outside? How often do we also find ourselves in this dilemma of contradiction?

He pushes through it pleading for those struggling to follow...not for retribution but for God's glory. *Reward those who have hoped in You. Hear the prayer of Your servants for You are ever gracious to Your people. Thus it will be known to the ends of the earth that YOU ARE THE ETERNAL GOD.* (Sirach 36:3-17)

Pray for the gift of "Fear of the Lord" to begin to come close to knowing WHO HE IS.

...AND THEN THERE IS FIRE

June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Heart from which flowed the water & the blood & as that great Heart stopped beating, He breathed out His last breath & released the Holy Spirit into a world that had been lost. His heart is a furnace of FIRE & it is His very Heart that He gives us in the Eucharist. The King of the Universe gives us His heart.



Lord Jesus Christ. You are the King of the universe. You are the Creator of the universe. We are all Your creatures.

You sent Your Holy Spirit to bring ORDER & LOVE into Your universe & into Your creatures. May the Mass be for us a furnace of Your love. IGNITE US! EN-FLAME US! ENGULF US IN YOUR LOVE! Remove any obstacles blocking the FIRE OF YOUR LOVE. We ask to be consumed by the FLAMES of Your Heart. Help us to become what we consume at this Holy Sacrifice. Set us on FIRE!

THE ULTIMATE "FIREMAN": HE IGNITES & HE DOUSES.

The Holy Spirit renews us in baptism through His godhead He shares with the Father & the Son. Finding us in a state of deformity, the Spirit restores our original beauty & fills us with His grace, leaving no room for anything unworthy of our love. He frees us from sin & death & changes us from the earthly men we were, men of dust & ashes, into spiritual men, sharers in the divine glory, sons & heirs of God destined to reign with Him & share His glory. In place of earth, the Spirit reopens heaven to us & gladly admits us into paradise, giving us even now GREATER HONOR THAN THE ANGELS & by the holy waters of baptism extinguishing the unquenchable fires of hell.

Visibly through the ministry of priests, the font gives symbolic birth to our visible bodies. Invisibly, through the ministry of angels, the Spirit of God, Whom even the mind's eye cannot see, baptizes into Himself both our souls & bodies, giving them a new birth. As John the Baptist says: *He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit & with FIRE. Since we are only vessels of clay, we must first be cleansed in water & then hardened by spiritual FIRE, for God is a consuming FIRE. We need the Holy Spirit to perfect & renew us, for a spiritual FIRE can cleanse us & spiritual water can recast us as in a furnace & make us into new men.* (Treatise on the Trinity, Didymous of Alexandria)

LET HIM.



This is the will of God, your holiness: that you refrain from immorality. For God did not call us to impurity but to holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not a human being but God, Who also gives His Holy Spirit to you. (1 Thess.:4:3, 7-8)

THEY RAN THE RACE...& CROSSED THE FINISH LINE.

Two irrepressible smiles that flowed from hearts aflame with love. Who could not respond to that smile & the incantation: "God loves you & so do I." That was Myron's holy mantra that reminded us all what it is all about...LOVE.



And Lucy's ubiquitous smile that reflected the song in her heart & so often on her lips. Her indomitable war cry proclaimed: "God is in charge!" whenever confronted with confusion, upsetment, trials & hurts.



These are two more of the finest fruits that the tree of faith, St. A's, has yielded. Along with Rosa Williams, Flora Goins & Fr. Jim Carroll, they have recently graduated to the cloud of witnesses that is giving glory to God & are cheering us on to do our very best to join them. This is one invitation none of us want to miss!

Fr. Carroll ministered to many among us serving as spiritual director to many future saints of St. A's. He was a regular member of the Saturday Morning Men's Prayer Group that hosted a whole bevy of saintly men around the table, most of whom have now gone home to the eternal banquet. A more faithful, fervent soul would be hard to find. His greatest virtue was the queen of virtues...humility.

They allowed themselves to be consumed by what they consumed at Holy Mass.

HOPEFULLY WE CAN SOON WORSHIP & PRAY TOGETHER IN PERSON.

In the meantime, stay connected to the Life in the Spirit Seminar that is being featured on-line & all the videos presented there for edification, instruction & inspiration. Send your email address to saintantoninuschurch@gmail.com to cash in on holy offerings to help us all grow in holiness. Tune out of the world & tune into the Spirit...for He is the One Who will show the Way home. Evangelize! There are captive audiences in all the homes in the country where there is lockdown. Send out the notifications to everyone on your email list. Cast your "net" wide & get ready for the harvest.

ALL GRACES COME THROUGH OUR MOTHER, MARY. THE STAR OF HEAVEN



The Star of heaven that nourished the Lord drove away the plague of death which the first parents of man brought into the world. May this bright star now vouchsafe to extinguish that foul constellation whose battles have slain the people with the wound of death. O most pious Star of the Sea, preserve us from the pestilence; hear us, O Lady, for Thy Son honors Thee by denying Thee nothing. Save us, O Jesus, for whom Thy Virgin Mother supplicates Thee. (Stella Coeli)

WE THE GRAFTONS.....

....let us pray for the tap root from whence we came. Let us pray for the people who are the apple of His eye that their eyes might be finally opened to be able to perceive that the miracle worker that moved among them 2000 years ago is truly the Messiah they have been hoping & praying for. They had their role to play, even to the point of not recognizing Him among them for Scripture needed to be fulfilled that He would be crucified. What a difficult role for that nation to have to play in the economy of salvation. But it is time now. Open their eyes, Lord, that they might finally be able to rejoice in the fulfillment of all their expectant prophecies...YOU. May they, too, be consumed by the consuming FIRE of Your Sacred Heart.

