

20th Sunday of the Year

Fire on the earth!

What happened to Jesus' theme of peace.

- **Angels announcing glory to God in the Highest and PEACE**
- **Garden of Gethsemane (Peter cutting off the ear of the high priest. Put away your sword!**
- **Practically no resistance to his passion and crucifixion.**
- **First words after his resurrection: Peace be with you**

I have come to spread fire on the earth and how I wish it were already ablaze!

There is a fire in Jesus' belly and he cannot hold back from proclaiming it.

It is the fire of proclaiming the Kingdom

- **The kingdom is more than Jesus' wonderful sermons and sayings**
- **It embraces much more than expelling demons and healing the sick**
- **It is more powerful than calming the seas**
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It is a fire that overcomes suffering and depression and death itself.

It is the fire of the Kingdom of God which was in their midst.

Question: Do you have that fire in your belly?

Do you know anyone who has that kind of fire?

Gangster movies: the Godfather. They are totally into what they do!

However, that kind of fire most often leads to their destruction.

Drug dealers face the same fate. The life lived in the fast lane.

The source of Jesus' fire in his belly is not from the desire for power or wealth or the easy life, NO, it is a fire of Jesus is the fire of the Spirit poured forth from his Father to set the world ablaze.

It is the fire of the Kingdom of God which Jesus came to establish on this earth.

And that fire will divide; It will divide father from son (blood relatives)

That fire will divide mother in law from daughter in law (extended families)

How strong is the fire in your belly for the work of the kingdom?

Is the fire Jesus is talking about in our parish? Are we totally committed to bring about the kingdom of God?

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Let's take a look at the activities here at Corpus Christi Parish. There are three ways to judge at to what a parish is really about. What takes up most of its energy and resources.

Is our parish mostly focused on Maintenance? : take care of property, pay bills, soft seats, air conditioning (example: an ethnic Church in east side of Detroit where I had a wedding).

While parish maintenance may be necessary, it is not what Jesus means when he speaks about spreading the fire of the kingdom.

Is our parish mostly focused on Ministry: training liturgical ministers, faith formation volunteers, choir, people In Christian service ministry. (We have well over 100 people trained in different ministries on Sunday morning.) .But the training of ministers to serve is itself NOT what Jesus had in mind when he talked about fire in his belly.

The third way of looking at our parish is whether our parish is mostly focused on Mission: Our mission is the same as Jesus' mission. We are called to have the same burning desire to spread the good news in word and deed as Jesus did. It calls us to ask questions like: what is the depth of our prayer? How committed are we to sharing Good news with others, do we consider it a priority for our children and ourselves to learn well what our mission really is and then to live it out in our daily lives? Are we committed to the poor in body and spirit as Jesus was?

(Example of Pope Francis into the crowds)

(Example of block club captain)

Three ways at looking at church: maintenance, ministry and mission: it is quite clear that Jesus' focus was on the mission he had from his Father.

St. Paul said, "Your minds must be that of Christ."

I have come to spread FIRE. And how I wish it were already ablaze!