

Ablaze

2016/17: Building God's Kingdom From the Fire Within Us
("Behold, the Kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:21)

- I. **Opening Prayer of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus (NB: Saint Joseph added)**
Merciful Father,
in the name of our lovable Jesus,
of the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph,
and of the Saints,
I ask you to set me on fire
with Your Spirit of Love
and grant me the grace
of making You deeply loved. Amen.
- II. **True Devotion: Hearts on Fire in the Flesh, Blood, and Holy Spirit**
 - A. **Current Cultural Battle:**
 1. **External—Culture of Life vs Culture of Death (Fallen World and the Devil)**
 2. **Internal—Each Human Heart (Fallen Flesh vs the Spirit):**
 - a. **"A battlefield between love and concupiscence"**
 - b. **"The innermost guiding thread of history"**
 - c. **"The history of good and evil" and "of salvation"**
 - B. **Our Response: Missionary Discipleship/Contemplatives in the World (Examples—Recent Saints: John Paul II and Teresa of Calcutta)**
 1. **Deep and Integrated SIMPLICITY**
 2. **Heavenly Standards and Concrete Applications (Holy Charity)**
 3. **Hearts Ablaze: Courage and Fortitude in Mercy**
 4. **Lived and extended *Communio*: God and Neighbor**
 5. **Intense Eucharistic and Marian Devotion**
- III. **Call: To Be Ablaze in All Dimensions of Mother Church:**
 - A. **Marian (Trinitarian/Charismatic)**
 - B. **Petrine (Apostolic/Hierarchical/Authoritative)**
 - C. **Pauline (Missionary)**
 - D. **Johannine (Contemplative)**
- IV. **Building God's Kingdom Within Us: Parish Theme for 2016/17 Catechetical Year**
 - A. **Preaching by Practicing First:**
 1. **On-going Conversion**
 2. **Re-evangelization: Self/Family/Parish**
 3. **Evangelization: Community/World**
 - B. **Gospel Prism for Discernment in the End Times:**
 1. **Scripture**
 2. **Tradition**
 3. **Magisterium**
 - C. **Special and Abundant Graces:**
 1. **Conclusion of the Year of Mercy**
 2. **Centennial of the Visions of Fatima**
- V. **Focus on "Radical" Devotion: A Holy Communion of Hearts—*Communio personarum***
 - A. **Trinitarian: Father/Son/Holy Spirit—Victory over Secularism and Death**
 - B. **The Holy Family—Victory of Chaste Lives (Purity of Heart)**
 - C. **Conversion to and Expression of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness**

Ablaze 9-11-16

QUESTIONS

- I. Since last year's ABLAZE, has the Fire of God's love grown in my heart, or has my heart become lukewarm or cold?
What contributed either 1) to increasing the flame, 2) to decreasing the flame, or 3) to snuffing out the flame?**
- II. Presently, can I confidently hope that Christ is at the center of my life—of my heart? If He seems to be at the center of my life, what about my life gives me confidence to possess this hope?
If He is evidently not at the center of my life, what are the obstacles I face and how might I overcome them?**

MISSION

- I. Morning: Prayer of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus**
- II. Mental Prayer: 5/5/5 (children) or 10/10/10 (teen/adult)**
 - A. Gospel of the Day or Any Passages from Scripture**
 - B. Stories or Writings of Saints**
 - C. Passages from Theological or Catechetical Writings**
 - D. Particular Decades of the Rosary**
 - E. Visual Images**
- III. Examination of Conscience followed by an Act of Contrition:
Did I Live According to the Practice of The Presence of God?**
 - A. When I arose this morning, was I aware of God and did I sincerely offer my day to Him? Did I entrust my greatest joys and fears to Him, inviting Him to join me in what I find enjoyable and to help me in what I find difficult or even dreadful?**
 - B. Did I practice being aware of the Presence of God in each activity of the day? In what places and during what activities do I tend to ignore Him or to fear that He is not available?**
 - D. When I fell in weakness or sin during the day, did I turn to God in my mind and heart, tell Him I was sorry, and re-dedicate myself to following Him and to remaining aware of His Presence and assistance?**
 - E. What must I ask to help me do better tomorrow?**