

## PASTOR'S CORNER



*I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! . . . Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.*

The fire that Jesus speaks of is the fire of the Holy Spirit. It is a fire of love, of zeal, and of purification that should be burning in our lives for Christ and his body, the Church. And that does not bring peace in the fallen world – it brings division. This may sound strange, but it's hard to be loved. It's hard to truly be loved. Everyone wants to be liked: if someone already likes me, it's not going to place very many demands on me. But love challenges. And to truly receive love, I have to return it, which is going to require me to change from my selfish ways. Love doesn't try to change who I am, but it does demand that I become the best possible version of myself.

Everyone loves the energy of zeal, but not when it's against the things I want to be doing. Everyone wants to be pure, at least on their own terms, but no one likes the processes of purification.

We have to choose between being servants of sin and being servants of God – between being rooted and grounded in love or rooted and grounded in me, me, me. Some will be willing to change and be purified; some will not. And there will be division.

But for those who are servants of God, it is not a division of us versus them, because as servants of God on fire with that divine love of the Holy Spirit, we are called to love those divided against us and against Christ and his Church. We are called to patiently and tirelessly pray for them and call them to that authentic love we have encountered and seek to exemplify. It will not be easy - *and how great is our anguish until it is accomplished!* But we, nevertheless, strive to win their hearts and to win them for Jesus Christ and his Church.

In Christ, through Mary,

*Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP*