Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Gospel text (*Lk* 12:49-53): Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! ..."

Faith is passed on from one person to another, just as one candle is lighted from another

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Pope Francis)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, those who have opened their hearts to God's love cannot keep this gift to themselves. The light of Christ shines, as in a mirror, upon the face of Christians; as it spreads, it comes down to us, so that we too can share in that vision and reflect that light to others. Faith is passed on, we might say, by contact, from one person to another, just as one candle is lighted from another.

Because faith is born of an encounter which takes place in history and lights up our journey through time, it must be passed on in every age. It is through an unbroken chain of witnesses that we come to see the face of Jesus. But how is this possible?

—Faith's past, that act of Jesus' love which brought new life to the world, comes down to us through the memory of others — witnesses — and is kept alive in that one remembering subject which is the Church. The Church is a Mother who teaches us to speak the language of faith.