

Thursday of the Twenty-ninth Week in Ordinary Time

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! (...)."

Jesus Christ's "chariot of fire" (God calls man)

EDITORIAL TEAM evangelii.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we remember that our being in this world is not to live for nothing and toward nothing, but our life has been claimed from the outset by an infinite love: all this can be noticed in Jesus Christ's "chariot of fire". We discover His joy when we let ourselves be burnt by the message of the Lord.

The answer to God's call requires that we have the courage of being near the fire that has come to set the Earth on fire. In our "Yes" to this adherence the courage of being kindled by the fire of Jesus Christ's Passion, which is, at the same time, the saving fire of the Holy Spirit is also included. This is the core of the call: that we must be prepared to be kindled by He whose heart burns by the strength of his Word.

—Divine spirit; kindle in me the fire of your love so that I can also be fire on this earth, the fire of life, of hope and of love.