

## Installation Homily

Dear Bishop Gregory M. Aymond,  
Fr. Harry Dean,  
Brothers and sisters:

I am sure that all of us are surprised with these Jesus' words:

He says:

→ I have come to set the earth on fire

→ and how I wish it were already blazing.

And it is not enough, he said:

→ Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.

What is Jesus talking about?

Where is that sweet Jesus who came to tell us about the love of God, our Father?

We know Jesus as a Prince of Peace, and he gave to his disciples a new commandment: to love each other as he has loved us. And we can find, in the four Gospels, a lot of examples about how Jesus talked to the people about forgiveness, peace, self-control. But today it seems to be completely the opposite.

Brothers and sisters, today Jesus is showing us His passion. Life is passion! Passion for life! He has a great passion for you, for me, for all of us. When he says, "I have come to set the earth on fire," he is talking about the Holy Spirit. The day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in form of fire, and all of them were filled with that fire, with the Holy Spirit. Before they received the Holy Spirit in form of fire, they were afraid of the people, of the Jews. They were afraid of what might happen to them, to their lives. But after they received the Holy Spirit they were able to proclaim the Gospel, the good news; they were able to proclaim the love of God. In other words, they received the courage, the power to walk as community to holiness, to work for the Kingdom of God.

Today we need to receive that fire; we need to ask for it. To walk as a community, as a church, we need that passion—passion for life, for the life of this community, our community. If we want to walk to the Kingdom of Heaven, if we want to work together in unity for our church, to build the kingdom of God, we must receive that fire, the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Brothers and sisters, it is not so easy. Some times we have to make decisions in our life. That's what Jesus is talking about when he asked to his disciples, "Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." To live a Christian life we need to make decisions that change our lives forever. Following Jesus with passion, with all our heart, needs the grace of God which comes from that fire.

Dear Bishop:

You have given me the care of this wonderful community. Thank you. I am not a super priest. I am just a weak man, a poor Franciscan Friar, but I assure you that I will work with passion, with all my heart for this community, in unity with the Pastoral Council, Staff and Ministers of Our Lady Of Guadalupe.

Please pray for us and bless us.