

Lectio for Mass  
October 25 2018

I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!

Reference to Baptism and then to peace and division.

“If he were to keep his soul's extravagance to himself, or if, for that matter, he were to make redemption flare high one glorious time before the ecstatic eyes of spectators in the performance of a fireworks of love, no one would have any objections. We could then indulge our applause, "insistent, roaring applause," as the critics say, in gratitude for this unexpected and solemn occasion which has thus (and wholly free of charge!) come to enrich creation. We would then justly be proud that the circus of the human heart, already so rich in extraordinary acrobats, should find its crowning climax in God's *salto mortale*.

But he (Jesus) does not let matters rest there. He sets his death jump up as a model; he lures men from their limits out into the same inevitably deadly adventure. His fire is to burn on in others.” (Balthasar)

You and I have been called to this same inevitably adventure. His death is our model. Being called to priesthood to transform other's life; to imitate him.

We have not been called to be ecstatic spectators of his drama. We are part of his drama. We have not been called as Christians to be part in the circus of the human heart, we have been called to be imitators of his divine heart which loves in a very different way. We need to live different. We need to overcome paganism. Pagan attitudes vs Christian attitudes. Right now, and here.

Questions for every one of us:

- 1- Are we convinced that Jesus wants us to assume/assimilate his Paschal Mystery (His crucifixion – His sufferings) and as a part of that we have to identify ourselves with the sufferings of his people?
- 2- Do you think that the way in which we are living our daily life is an expression of that divine adventure of giving our life for the good of others?
- 3- The way in which we make judgments “24/7” about the life of others without giving them any hope is this the way to response to God's call to priesthood?

Certainly every one of us has to be convinced that Christian life is a pre-requisite for priestly life and even more we have to be simply human beings for whom compassion and good for one another is the priority of our life. This is the drama of our existence to spend our life for others. This is the drama of Jesus life: Being for others.

The other one is the reason of my existence.

At the end of every day here at the Seminary we examine our conscience to see if we live for others or we live for ourselves or for our own stubbornness?

Let us move out from the meanness of our hearts. Let us move out from the circus in which we spend our life worshiping/adoring ourselves like the kings or considering ourselves the stars of the movie and allow Jesus crucified to transform us in partakers of the cross and resurrection, the only true drama that changes humanity.