



Priestly People

SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE

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*Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;
Let us then feast with joy in the Lord.*

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Easter Celebration 2019

Listen to what St. Paul has to say about our destiny to be one with the Divinity:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with the power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:14-19).

“He has risen as he said, Alleluia, Alleluia.” Resurrection: Feast of fire, heat and light.

The Inauguration of a new Creation!

Jesus is the Christ, the eternal Word that continues to create, heal and redeem from the heart of the cosmos now come to consciousness in you and me, who embraced our sinfulness in order to show us the way through the darkness and into the light. Jesus did not “do it for us,” rather he became one like us even in our sinfulness, and opened the way for us to follow and become what he was while on earth. Jesus is the truth of our humanity, he is the pulse-beat, the breath of our life because he is the Word through whom we were spoken into existence. The Incarnation of the Son of God, sharing in the fullness of divinity is a statement that astounds and confounds the simple human mind. It means that humanity and divinity are compatible, capable of being joined as one. Jesus is saying to us that what he is, we are to become, i.e. united to the divine heart of the creator in love. Our hearts were created to be transmitters of the divine flame of love.

Logically we are words of the WORD. Jesus as the

Logos who is the heartbeat and breath of the cosmos, is the heart-beat and breath of our life. Jesus as the Logos is the well-spring of all creation, culminating in human creation. Only human Creation can claim a share in the divine essence that is love. Jesus came to show us what it means to be a human being, to have unfolded from the heart of the created world and brought it all to consciousness, to prayer and praise of the creator. We are creation come to consciousness, come to prayer and adoration, making our way through the clay, soil and dirt of creation finally becoming one mighty flame of divine love; living in the full glory of the fire, light and heat of divine love.

We have been designed to be the lamp of divine love. We are not fully human until we have been drawn into and transformed by the flame of divine love, blazing forth into the cosmos, binding all things together again in its rightful union with its source, the Word of the Father, Jesus, the definitive revelation of

the Father, but by virtue of that reality, he is also the full revelation of the truth of humanity.

This flaring forth from the infinite divine abundance leads ultimately to human creation with Jesus the Christ as the definitive revelation of what it means to be human according to the divine plan. This revelation of the true human impacts on our understanding of the overall creation story and our role in its fulfillment.

Our Salvation history begins thirteen and a half billion years ago when the first blazing forth of the cosmos emerged into time and place when God said: "...let there be light" (Gen. 1:3). Within this initial phrase God brought about the possibility for you and me to come forth from our mother the earth and become partners in the Divine enterprise of creation. Within this phrase there existed all at once the essence of the entire plan of creation. The Incarnation of the Word of God, the Logos, was already bringing about the eventual moment in which man and woman would be brought to the moment when they could be incorporated and empowered to take up their pre-designed role as co-creators, sacraments of redemption in their own right.

This new phase, this quantum leap, is imaged for us in the great mystery of the Annunciation to Mary by the Angel, announcing to her that the redeemer, the son of God was to be miraculously conceived in her womb by the Holy Spirit. In that mystery the entire future of the divine plan awaited her consent. In her humble, but incredibly bold and courageous surrender to this Word, all creation began a new phase of the evolutionary journey to its fullness; now to be guided, nourished and cared for by human hearts and minds conformed to the mind and heart of the Creator. It is not a new story, but the continuation of the story that began when God said: "let there be light, and so it was." God's first Word of Love, of self-giving, is creation. Everything that follows remains grounded in that primal Word that is the flaring forth of the Divine Logos, the wisdom, the light and the fire of Divine Love and Wisdom that is the at the heart of the Father Creator. From that point everything that follows is a "word" of the WORD. We are all emanations of the Divine Wisdom that is at the heart

of all creation to the farthest galaxy, to the farthest soul at the end of time into the Parousia. All of it joined as one in the one life of the Father Creator, which is Love.

Mary therefore is the model of what it means to be the birthing womb in which the ongoing task of creation is to be brought forth into historical reality, the Church, the community of Faithful people who follow her example and say "yes" to the divine plan. The Image of Mary at the Annunciation is in reality our story. It images for us what we are anointed and empowered to do. From this point on man and woman are to be the arena from which there flows into time and history the divine fire of Love as the driving energy of the evolutionary process. Evolution has come to a threshold and passed through to a new phase in which man and woman will be the drivers of the future unfolding of creation.

From the "yes" of Mary a door was opened through which we are all to walk to a new, enlightened way to be human in relationships with the self, other humans, creation and finally to God. We are called to surrender our flesh, our life to be the arena from which God guides creation to its end. From the virginal womb of Mary, a new creation broke through from eternity into time. A seed was implanted that would struggle through the darkness of the soil of sinful, broken, lost humanity into the fullness of the glory of the true human. Jesus entered into our sinful condition to open the way for us to follow. Follow into the baptism, the sojourn in the Wilderness, the Mt. of Beatitudes (the preview of a transformed humanity, now aligned to the divine will), and on to the path that would lead to Calvary, Resurrection, Ascension, and the climax of it all at Pentecost. And it all began thirteen and a half billion years ago when the eternal, infinite flame of Divine Love and compassion burst forth into creation. The entire movement of evolution was blazing toward this point like an arrow to a target. It is all one seamless fabric and you and I are the colorful threads, the images, the hues and taints that make up the complete fabric of the final truth of creation; the final unity of all creatures, every man and woman, with the divine heart of God which is the well-spring of Love. Love is the energy, the fire at the heart of creation and every human heart. We are created for love, for setting

a fire on earth that will dispel the darkness, bring living waters to the desert of human suffering and oppression. Clean air will wash the souls and minds of men and women, nourish love and compassion in our hearts that will free us from the tyranny of egotism, predatory greed, and fear, to love all others as we ourselves have been loved. Just as Mary had to give her consent, so too this plan awaits our individual consent; it is an awesome fact that the continuation of creation to its completion awaits our *“fiat.”*

On Good Friday the creative, life-giving fire that is at the heart of the universe was again poured forth on the earth to bring about a new creation from the old. Now however, the “Big Bang” was poured forth on the earth and into every human heart by a frail, fragile sigh of Divine love: “Father forgive them...” In that fragile sigh of a dying, tortured, humiliated and rejected man the earth and all creation were again enveloped in fire. Love is the breaking forth of the truth hidden, but coming to fullness in every man and woman, the new creation. It is our willingness to give our consent to be the agents of the completion of the divine plan that is the missing ingredient. The Resurrection is the triumph of Divine love over all sin and death, violence and hatred, jealousy and greed. The Resurrection is the breaking forth of the Love that was poured forth from the dying man and his fragile sigh of forgiveness for sinful humanity. Our sin that is tearing and fragmenting our human family and our earth home is vanquished. Love is now the energizing creative force of the universe.

Pentecost is the fulfillment of the triumph of the Cross. At Pentecost the eternal, infinite Spirit, the eternal fire of God, separated into tongues of living fire and took possession of the hearts of the first community of believers. They were possessed of a new force that, when released from their own hearts would set a fire on the earth. Now, two thousand and some years later the Divine Fire awaits our invitation to join the procession that steadfastly, courageously and boldly marches through time lighting fires, setting ablaze the dry kindling of the old consciousness, taking hearts of stone and returning hearts of flesh that can carry the fire of love and compassion to all (Acts 2:1-13).

In the Gospel of John we find another image which clearly signals the emergence of a new creation out of transformed and liberated human hearts.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” (Jn 20:19-23).

A clear and dramatic image proclaiming a new Creation brought about by the presence of the Logos living and creating, redeeming, healing through the Spirit living in human beings. It is a mirror image of the Genesis creation story of God breathing into the soil of the earth and bringing forth man and woman in the Divine Image. In that divine act all creation came to consciousness, a consciousness that held within it the capacity for being the tabernacle of Divine love. Now that consciousness, the Christ Consciousness, is resurrected, alive and active, creative, healing and forgiving in the new human creation. The truly human creation raised up through the Resurrection and Pentecost to be the genuine tabernacle of Divine Love.

Through the Holy Spirit now poured forth upon the earth, we are the tabernacle from which comes God’s Divine Love manifest in its fullness in the Incarnate Word, now handed on to us to continue the work that Mary gave flesh to and which we are now called to give flesh to by our surrender to that Word. The prayer of the Church, the Prayer embedded in the human heart, now breaking forth from our heart as we say with Mary: “Behold the Servant, May it be done to me according to your Word.” As each of us says that prayer from our heart, the work continues, the Word continues to find flesh, breath and action in and through our lives.



It is not finished, and will not be finished or accomplished until we make room in our hearts for the risen Christ who will bring with him the freedom to set our own hearts afire with divine love, the divine love that can recreate and transform our world by first transforming our hearts, giving us hearts of flesh that can beat with love, the love that Christ poured forth from the Cross. This is the continuation of the fire that leaped forth from the heart of God thirteen and a half billion years ago and has been burning ever since. Now the time has come for each of us to accept the full empowerment of our transformed heart to be the ongoing oblation of Christ in our world. In us the story must be continued, even to the death on the cross where, cleansed and freed from the tyranny of our own small, isolated ego, we can become the lamp that carries and releases the healing fire of love upon the earth. The New Heaven and the New Earth lies waiting within our hearts to relinquish the old, small ego-self and to open ourselves to be filled with the fullness of the Christ Self, to give Christ flesh in our time.

Grant to us O Lord a heart renewed; Recreate in us your own Spirit Lord. I will sprinkle clean water on you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will

give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees (Ezek 36:24-27).

And so a story that began thirteen and a half billion years ago comes to a new chapter, a chapter in which creation, man, woman, divinity enter into a covenant of love, singleness of heart and mind that joins the human heart, mind and spirit with the Triune God, Father Son and Spirit to bring about a new heaven and a new earth bonded in love and compassion that cleanses the World and creates a Kingdom that dissolves the separation between heaven and earth, matter and spirit, time and eternity, divinity and humanity. It dissolves for all time the divisions of race, economy, religion, politics and national boundaries. All that is lacking is our consent to “let it be done to us according to your word.” From out of the renewed and transformed human heart a new World Order emerges!

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Ray Gunzel sP



Servants of the Paraclete
 PO Box 9
 Cedar Hill, MO 63016

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 Newsletter

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**DEVELOPMENT
 OFFICE**

**Marian Wolaver • 636-274-5226 x303 • mwolaver@theservants.org
 PO Box 9 • Cedar Hill, MO 63016**