

A month or so ago, Leona was playing before Mass on the organ, and I recognized the song. It was an oldie from my youth titled "Pass it On." I remember my sister learning how to play it on the guitar when I was a kid. It was a sort of Christian campfire song.

The lyrics to the song are:

*It only takes a spark / to get a fire going.*

*And soon all those around / are warmed up in its glowing.*

*That's how it is with God's love / once you've experienced it.*

*You spread His love / to those around. / You want to pass it on.*

In today's Gospel, Jesus says:

*I have come to set the earth on fire,*

*and how I wish it were already blazing!*

Jesus isn't talking about some pyromaniacal thoughts He's having. Rather, He is speaking about His desire ... and God's desire for everyone to experience God's love and to receive salvation.

Throughout 2,000 years of Christianity, St. Paul's observation that God desires to save everyone, has been misunderstood to mean that God will automatically save everyone - no matter what.

Yet, our response to God's love demands a choice - and not an easy choice. Jesus also speaks about this in the Gospel when He talks about how the choices we make to follow Him will result in division and difficulties - even in our families.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us pray for the gift of discernment; so that we may know the call of Christ, and choose to follow Him ... regardless of the cost.