

Fire in Our Hearts

Feast of the Sacred Heart 2016

Call to Prayer

The great secret, the great mystery, is this:

there is a heart of the world...

and this heart is the heart of Christ. *Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*



Opening: Choose an appropriate song

One: Reading

A long time ago at the first crack of pink on a young morning, the woman that Christians know as St. Brigid was born. As the myth surrounding her birth goes, young Brigid, as soon as she came out of the womb, she reached both of her hands into the crackling fire, grabbed a piece of flame, put it in her mouth and swallowed it. The flame went straight to her heart. Warmed with the fire licking up inside of her heart, Brigid was enflamed from the inside out with an energy that compelled her to reach out to others. She became widely known across the land for her compassion, for her wisdom, for her kindness, especially for those who were old or infirm or lacking strength.

One of the earliest legends surrounding her tells that she built a stone house with a chimney in which she kept her fires. People would go there and be warmed and healed by Brigid's compassion and wisdom. Her hearth became a gathering place where no one was turned away. Once, as the legend says, two men with the sores of leprosy came to Brigid. As she prayed for the men, she boiled water and washed the first man until his skin turned whole. "Now go and bathe your friend," said Brigid. The man was repulsed. "I can't touch him," he said. "Then, you are not truly healed," said Brigid. So, she gave the first man back his leprosy and healed the second. "Return to me when your heart is inflamed with enough compassion that you might touch your brother. When you can touch his sores with tenderness, you will know that you have found true healing." Now the people were awed by Brigid's great wisdom and by the woman who kept the sacred fire.

Silence: *How do you keep the sacred fire alive in your heart?*

Reading: Luke 12: 49 “I’ve come to start a **fire** on this earth—how I wish it were blazing right now! I’ve come to change everything, turn everything right side up—how I long for it to be finished!

Sharing: Share the story of a person you know whose heart beat with the fire of God.

Litany

One: We live in relation to all things, all things live within us.

All: **Sacred Heart, may the fire of your heart burn in our hearts.**

One: We live by the sun, we move with the stars.

All: **Sacred Heart, may the fire of your heart burn in our hearts.**

One: We eat from Earth, we drink from the rain, we breathe from the air.

All: **Sacred Heart, may the fire of your heart burn in our hearts.**

One: We share with all other creatures, we have strength through their gifts.

All: **Sacred Heart, may the fire of your heart burn in our hearts.**

One: We depend on the forests and the rivers, we have knowledge through their secrets.

All: **Sacred Heart, may the fire of your heart burn in our hearts.**

One: We have the privilege of seeing and understanding, we have the responsibility of caring and protecting, we have the joy of celebrating.

All: **Sacred Heart, may the fire of your heart burn in our hearts.**

One: We are full of the grace of creation.
We are grateful, we are grateful. We rejoice in all life.

— *“We Live in Relation to All Things” edited*

Silence: *How do you keep the sacred fire alive in your heart?*

Reading: Luke 12: 49 “I’ve come to start a **fire** on this earth—how I wish it were blazing right now! I’ve come to change everything, turn everything right side up—how I long for it to be finished!

Sharing: What has creation revealed to you about the sacred fire of God?

One: Scripture

This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them—write it on their hearts!—and be their God. And they will be my people.
Jeremiah 31:33

One: Blessing

May the sacred fire of love that burned in Nano’s heart open our hearts to be attentive to the broken of our world. Sacred Heart, heal us for service.

Closing: Choose an appropriate song

