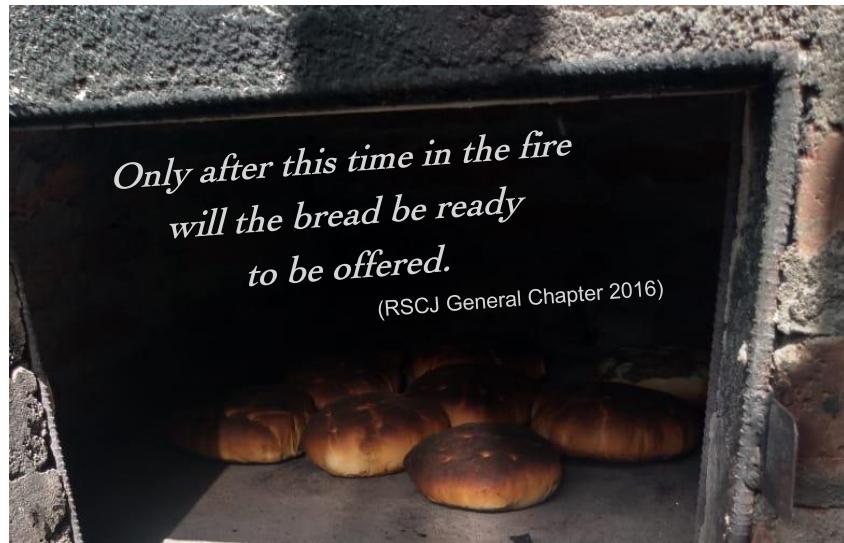




Preparation for Pentecost 2021

Come! We need you!



As we approach the Feast of Pentecost, and as we are living this Easter season in an uncertain and difficult time, I have the feeling that many personal and community, cultural and religious processes are taking place in the depths of humanity. I remembered this passage from the 2016 Chapter:

The Society is also like bread, patiently made. Yeast is mixed with the other ingredients and transforms the whole dough through a hidden process of fermentation. Then it is necessary to knead the dough and to let it rest until it is ready to pass through the fire. Only after this time in the fire will the bread be ready to be offered.

Our lives are built up patiently, through a process of fermentation, more often than not, hidden. For much of our journey we are kneading the dough with great effort, sometimes to the point of exhaustion. We get impatient with the times of resting, even when we know that they are necessary and indispensable. However, this is not the end of our process of maturing and fermentation. Transformation needs fire:

“It happens just as when dry or green wood, bushes or weeds are thrown on a bonfire, everything is enkindled and all is changed as a result of the effect of the blazing fire. In the same way Jesus works in our souls if we abandon ourselves completely to Him....” (Letter of St. M. Sophie, 1852)

“The Creator Spirit... continues transforming the world.” (*Being Artisans of Hope*, p.3)

“Each time that we realise that transformation is ultimately the work of the spirit, that power is a share in the Spirit’s energy, and that hope is a gift that we receive from the Spirit.” (*Being Artisans of Hope*, p.9)

What transformations have I experienced in myself and in my surroundings in recent times?

What has disturbed my inertia? What has shaken me out of my comfort zone?

How have I dealt with it? What feelings has this provoked? What has changed in me?

“I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!”

Luke 12:49



God is moved to pity to see us in such need. Jesus is eager to respond to the cries of humanity.

The Spirit involves us in this burning desire of Jesus, the deepest desire that moves God and flows from his Heart – the Centre of compassion:

To understand JPIC as the work of God’s Spirit comes through our experience of personal transformation that previously seemed impossible...

(Being Artisans of Hope, p.11)

Such awareness of our personal, communal, congregational, institutional complicity in unjust systems humbles us. It invites us to be more open to the transforming work of the Spirit in us and in the world.

(Being Artisans of Hope, p.13)

Often, changes in our surroundings are imposed on us, and, sooner or later, we adapt to them, by following the course of developments. However, contributing to transformation is more than that. It requires our desire so that the fire keeps on burning.

"There are few who yield themselves wholly to the Holy Spirit, and yet it is much more difficult to remain in mediocrity than to yield yourself wholly. Instead of swimming between two different waters, which is dangerous, enter quickly into the flow of the water and, once you are in the current, the Spirit will push you and you will arrive more safely in the harbour."

(Letter of St. M. Sophie, 1839)

How much do I need to change? How much do I want to change? What could I lose? What could I gain?

What resistances do I discover in myself when faced with what is new, different, or unexpected?

How much do I want humanity to be transformed?

What would be the consequences for me? How would these changes affect the RSCJ? The Sacred Heart Family?

Come, Spirit of Jesus, come, we need you!

Let us pray for the grace to open ourselves to the action of the Spirit,

Let us ask for it with sincerity and confidence,

Let us ask to accept it with courage and to embrace it with humility.

Come, Spirit, come

Let us pray for the grace that the Spirit to rekindle the Gospel in our lives, that he may gather us into his movement for a new beginning.

Come, Spirit, come

Let us pray for the grace to open our ears, our mind and our heart to hear the voice of the Spirit today, and to believe it and follow it without asking where it comes from or where it is going.

Come, Spirit, come

Come, Spirit of Jesus, come, we need you!

Sofía Baranda rscj
Province of Chile