

## Thursday, Twenty Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

*Luke 12:49-53*

*How I wish it were blazing already!*

### REFLECTION

In today's gospel reading Luke gives us an insight into the torment within the heart and soul of Jesus. Jesus says that he came to bring fire to the earth and longed for this fire to be kindled. He knew that it was meant to be that way. This fire would have to be brought through his suffering, passion and death. This is probably a reference to the fire of the Holy Spirit. In the Acts of the Apostles Luke describes the Holy Spirit coming down on the disciples in forms like tongues of fire. But Jesus is aware that he cannot pour out the Holy Spirit until he has undergone his passion and death, what he calls a *'baptism that he must still receive'*. He is soon to be plunged into this fiery ordeal and he openly declares that his distress is great until this ordeal is over. Luke Jesus is desperately wanting to pass through this ordeal so that the fire of the Spirit can begin to blaze. How should we understand this all? By their very nature the Gospel messages are the cause of much division because they invite decisions. The most fundamental decisions are whether we are for or against Jesus and whether we are for or against the Holy Spirit. The fire that Jesus has come to bring is a fire of separation, a fire of decision. Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit call for decision and not compromise. They invite us to radical and lifechanging decisions. Something of the fire of Pentecost which descended upon the disciples and transformed the face of the earth is being called upon us. Something of the fire of the Spirit needs to take hold of our own lives. This fire of the Spirit was given to us at great cost, the cost of Jesus' passion and death. There is an onus on us, therefore, to keep that fire of the Spirit burning in our hearts. We need to keep praying, *'Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts, and kindle in us the fire of your love'*.