



The Armor of Faith

Topic Summary: Flame of Love

Part I: Gathering An Army and Prayers Which Blind Satan



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Introduction

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican with a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I always mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. In addition to being my lovely wife and my blessing, Sharon is a youth and adult formation catechist. We are also blessed to have on our panel, Donna Mae, who is the artist who sculpted the statue of Our Lady of America which was carried by our youth and blessed by Saint John Paul II at the 1993 Word Youth Day.

We are also joined by special panel guests from the Flame of Love Movement; John Sullivan, Patti Schwartz, and Lori Brown.

John is the National Spokesperson for the Flame of Love Movement in the US. John left the Church in 1973 but returned to the Catholic Church in 1998 after a study of the Ante-Nicene Fathers. Since then, he has been involved in local catechesis and parochial and diocesan evangelization.

Patti is the National Hispanic director for La Llama de Amor, US. She taught in the New York public school system for 24 years and received the top model teacher award for New York State by an NBC affiliate. Patti is currently hosting a weekly radio show on The Flame of Love at Radio María Miami and evangelizes the Flame of Love movement to the cities in South Florida.

Lori is the Regional Leader for the Flame of Love Movement in the Midwest and Northern United States. In addition to homeschooling her six children, Lori's been involved in serving Our Lord and Our Lady in teaching and catechetical ministry for over 35 years and has been a speaker at various conferences, diocesan activities, and now is spreading the Flame of Love of Mary's Immaculate Heart wherever Our Lady calls her.

Of course, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions because he who asks the questions, asks the questions. I'm sure there is something philosophical in that thought, but we must move on. Anyway, to answer my questions, correct my pronunciation, and make sure I know which century I am talking about is why we have our panelists, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise as well as their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

We also lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for the safe delivery of Rachel Anne without complication to either mother or child. We pray You will guide this young life to the purpose for which You created her and enable her, as well as all her family, to help accomplish Your will, which Saint Faustina reminds us is love and mercy itself.

And dear Lord, we continue to pray that corruption will be exposed and truth revealed. Protect us, oh Lord, from all the deceptions, disruptions, and designs of the evil one.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, all you need to do is send us an email at armoroffaithradio@gmail.com. We ask that you include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and ensure we place it in our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during the course of our daily prayers.

We would like to remind you that we are available through a variety of on-demand services. In addition to wcatradio.com/armoroffaith, we are available through streaming services, such as iHeart Radio, Spreaker, iTunes, Apple PodCasts, Spotify, and CastBox, among a host of others. Simply search for “Armor of Faith Radio” and select the episode you desire. We will be happy to keep you company wherever you are and wherever you are waiting.

We would also like to ask you to assist us in our evangelization. By sharing the URL for our show, you can help us spread knowledge of our faith. All you need to do is share the URL, wcatradio.com/armoroffaith via email or social media and tell family and friends as well. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so we invite you to join the evangelization and help us spread the good news of the

Gospel and our trust in Jesus Christ. You can also help us by selecting the follow or subscribe option associated with the service through which you listen to our show.

Current Day Commentary:

Propaganda and Faith

We are all targets of propaganda and it comes at us in many forms. Some is benign, perhaps to get us to buy a certain product or support a specific name brand or organization. The consequences of buying into that propaganda is that we might lose our money or not get the product we expect, but with some items, if we make the wrong choice, it could have consequences to our safety or health. In such situation, we caution one another with, “Buyer beware.”

Political propaganda has similar objectives, but the stakes are much different, for political movements can have grave consequences for lives, especially political movements tied to ideologies in search of worldly power. These struggles for power are not about just and effective problem solving, but about what ideologies will be imposed upon the people and how the levers of power will be used to govern lives.

As I have pointed out before, our salvation is not about whether this political ideology or that is right or wrong, it is about our understanding and living what God asks of us. Towards this end, we must be wary of the ideologies of the world, for they are often about picking winners and losers rather than about the charitable service for the blessing of one another which God asks of us for the common good.

Some propaganda is designed to appeal to our sense of what God asks of us, such as caring for the less fortunate, but if we look under the surface, it is not sincere. Sometimes the propagandists virtue signal by demonizing political opponents for what has not been done. Of course, the propagandists do not really care for the less fortunate, it is simply their means to convince us to accept their will. We must recognize what we do when we offer support either through action or omission. We must ask ourselves, are we truly addressing the problems before us as God asks of us, or are we simply raising fists for political acceptance?

Propaganda often appeals to our emotion, because when emotions are elevated, our communication, analysis, problem solving, and decision making suffer. Propagandists do not deal with the hard work of reason and logic.

Propaganda also appeals to our desire for acceptance. We want to be part of the “in” crowd, meaning the “in power” crowd or the “celebrated” class. We should ask ourselves, though, what exactly does that acceptance mean if what we enable is not accepted by God? If political powers do not respect the sanctity of life, what just protection is there for any life?

Of course, some propaganda is easy to recognize and dismiss. It is more designed to rally the base of power and plant seeds by which opponents are demonized so hatred will end conversations and the hard work of reason and logic. It is designed to create stereotypes in our minds by which we may not fully engage the ideology, but the seeds planted may cause us to

believe the demonization of targets so we do not enable opponents to rise. Sometimes, it is designed to get us to sit out the fight so the path is easier for the ideologue.

The most effective propaganda, though, is not seen as propaganda. It might be viewed as marketing, education, entertainment, or news. Still, it influences what we will accept or enable. These messages flow to us every day through a variety of means, whether they are signs, slogans, articles or other forms of media. Our only defense to prevent such propaganda from swaying us away from what God asks of us is the understanding of our faith. Let us keep in mind, then, if we do not know our faith, we leave ourselves vulnerable to the one who endeavors for the ruin of souls.

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

Catholic Definitions – Part II:

Greetings All and welcome back to our discussion on definitions of Catholic words.

From what I am finding, St Ignatius of Antioch was the first person known to have used this word, “Catholic.” Now get this, St. Ignatius lived near the Apostles and it is believed that he was a member of the inner circle for prayer and worship. About the year 110, St. Ignatius himself was a preacher of The Word. He was ordained by Peter and he became the Bishop of Antioch, following St. Peter, who was the first one to hold this job. In his learning, St. Ignatius was taught how to grow the church and how to govern it. Seems this young man was well groomed.

In his Epistle to the Smyrnaeans, St. Ignatius wrote:

Where the bishop is present, there let the congregation gather, just as where Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.

This would be the document leading to the understanding that St. Ignatius was the first to use the term Catholic and it is clear evidence that this term was used during the very beginning of the growth of the Church.

The word Catholic was used rather frequently by authors of Greek classics and more importantly by the Apostles themselves. As they wrote their letters to followers, the letters were commonly called, “Catholic Epistles.” The letters were written to address specific teachings of the Church for a specific gathering of people who desired to follow Jesus. Today we find these writings in the Holy Bible and we read them during Mass.

It has been pointed out by others, that from the early days, the word “universal” presented itself as meaning, “all of one.” What does that mean? All of what? All of one is described as, all nations, all teachings, all generations, all of history. All of one. Jesus gave birth to the universal, the one church of all, the Catholic Church.

The Apostles used this term in the early days. The Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed make

clear the beliefs of the faithful. In these prayers of faith, Catholics, from the Apostles to these very days, declare that they are faithful to the “one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.”

In the early days, Catholics were just that, Catholic. Today, because of divisions between Christian people, we tend to spar over the use of this word with a capital C or a lower case c. The Catholic with the Capital C is the proper name of the church of Christ. The catholic with the lower case c still means universal. Universal still means one and therefore, the Church of Christ is still the one true church.

Now let us put together the words, Catholic and Church. Often times we speak of things Jesus said and then have to take a step back to remember that Jesus spoke in Aramaic and it is the translations of which we understand what was said, not the exact words. In Matthew, Jesus is said to have used the word church. In Matthew 16:18 He said, “*I will build my Church.*” Then in Matthew 18:17 Jesus told us that, “*If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.*” He clearly said church, not churches. He used the singular, not the plural; again, bringing us back to the concept of “one.”

By the fourth century, the term, “Catholic Church” was most common and everyone in the East and the West understood that this meant the church of Jesus Christ, taught by the Apostles. The early Catholics and non-Catholics as well, understood the meaning of Christ's words.

Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.

If you would like to learn more about the definition of “Catholic,” we invite you to follow the links in the reference section of the topic summary for this show. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and look for episode 173.

Discussion:

As we concluded our series on Spiritual Warfare, which if you missed it, you can find at episodes 157 – 162, I mentioned that we often use analogies to help us understand concepts. I also pointed out that analogies are not always perfect, but still, they can help us envision what we may not be able to physically observe. As I mentioned several times during the series, spiritual warfare is not about holding the ground of the world, it is about holding the ground of the soul. While the consequences of spiritual warfare may manifest themselves in the physical world in various ways, our greater concern are the consequences which we do not physically observe, especially the eternal consequences. I gave the example of Matthew 10:28, where Jesus tells us:

(Matthew 10:28)

*And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, **be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.***

When we do not see consequences in the physical world, we are tempted to believe we can let down our spiritual guard. Nothing can be further from the truth, for we must monitor all the avenues of attack which the evil one may use, for adversaries probe for the weakest point against which to mass their attack. We can expect no less of the evil one.

No successful army fights with only one weapon, nor should we. If we know the fullness of our faith, we shall see that our Lord has made many spiritual weapons available to us by which to protect our soul as well as the souls of others. Our ability to effectively use these weapons will depend on our education, training, and practice. If we take advantage of no other training, let us at least partake of the training offered to us during Mass as we receive the instruction of our Lord through the Liturgy of the Word. Let us allow God to guide our heart as we pray.

We should also notice the objectives of critics of our faith, which always seems to try and take away some element of the spiritual arsenal given to us by Jesus. I must ask, is this a means by which the evil one attempts to disarm us? Are we willing to allow ourselves to be disarmed?

Our Lord taught us how to pray. He sent us the Holy Spirit. He gives us His body and blood as our Spiritual Food. He gave us His blessed mother. He gave us the Angelic Psalter. He offers us His Divine Mercy. It is up to us to learn and correctly use all which God has given us.

So, let us diligently learn our faith. Let us make it a daily effort. Let us prepare ourselves and put on the whole armor of God; the armor of truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of the gospel. Let us take up the weapons of prayer which God has given us so we may stand firm against the tactics of the devil and resist on the evil day so we may hold the ground of our faith and the ground of our soul. Let us march courageously and energetically forth in ministry; and should we find ourselves spiritually wounded, even with the slightest scratch, let us flee to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; the ultimate hospital for the soul, the hospital of Our Lord's Divine Mercy; and what better nurse could we have there, but Our Blessed Mother?

Today we start a new series which will examine a devotion which comes to us through spiritual messages given by Jesus and Mary, beginning in the early 1960s, to a Hungarian woman by the name of Elizabeth Kindelmann.

Of course, any time we talk about private revelations, we must remind our listeners that the Catholic Church does not impose any obligation on the faithful to believe or follow them. We also mention that when the Church issues approval, she “declares only that there is nothing in them contrary faith or good morals, and that they may be read without danger or even with profit.” (Poulain)

We will talk a little more about the approval of the Church during our next episode as we begin to discuss some of the history of this devotion and the imprimaturs of various bishops. If you have not already listened to our series concerning Our Lady of America, we invite you to listen to episodes 148 and 149 to learn more about the Church's teaching about private revelation and devotion.

Before we get into that, though, I must share how this devotion came to the attention of Armor of Faith Radio. As usual, it's Sharon's fault. Back in August, Sharon attended a conference in

Colorado Springs sponsored by the Saint Thomas Aquinas Society. Of course, there were multiple talks scheduled and Sharon had made her selection of the ones she wanted to attend.

Now, of course, the old adage is, if you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans. As providence would have it, when Sharon went to the scheduled rooms, there was apparently a schedule change and she ended up listening to Father James Blount who is a priest of the Society of Our Lady of the Trinity, Georgia Mission, and a Flame of Love evangelist. This happened to Sharon twice, and both times she found herself listening to Father Blount.

Well, of course, Father Blount filled her with the spirit and Sharon came home energized about the Flame of Love. As Sharon began to share her experience, one conversation led to another and Sharon was placed in touch with a woman associated with the Flame of Love Movement who was coming to Denver. Sharon tried to seize on the opportunity to bring her to the West Slope to speak, but the logistics proved to be a bridge too far, especially as we faced COVID-19 restrictions.

I suggested to Sharon that we might be able to leverage technology and do a virtual retreat, and that we might want to bring this to our radio show as well. Again, conversations eventually led us to John and John brought us to Lori and Patti as well. So, here we are!

Keep in mind, Sharon was steered to Father Blount in the same time frame we began our series on Spiritual Warfare, which if you haven't listened to yet, you can find at episodes 157 to 172. Our series on Spiritual Warfare is a bit of a boot camp on the subject. As I began to look into the Flame of Love to develop a series concept, the first page I was drawn to was, "The Messages." The first message at the top was, "Gathering An Army;" (Flame of Love, Gathering An Army). It states:

[From Jesus to Elizabeth,] *"All are invited to join my special fighting force. The coming of my Kingdom must be your only purpose in life. My words will reach a multitude of souls. Trust!~ I will help all of you in a miraculous way." He continued, "Do not love comfort. Do not be cowards. Do not wait. Confront the storm to save souls. Give yourself to the work. If you do nothing, you abandon the earth to Satan and to sin. Open your eyes and see all the dangers that claim victims and threaten your own souls."*
(Kindelmann, 33)

As I have mentioned before, I am a military man, so it should not have surprised me that this is the first place to which I would be drawn, especially as we were in the middle of our Spiritual Warfare series. Now, some might chalk all this up to coincidence, but as I pay attention to threads of so called coincidence and begin to observe a pattern, I often see the fingerprints of God. I never know the hour, but from time to time, God slaps me up side the head to encourage me to pay attention. Of course, everyone knows I have a rather thick skull, so, it requires a lot of slapping, but in this case, it was just all too obvious.

I remember telling John as we were getting to know one another that this is literally the perfect segue from our Spiritual Warfare series. It is the call for us to join Our Lord's Army as His spiritual soldiers.

(Question 1: John, let me start with you. What is the purpose of this army which our Lord invites us all to join?)

- Confront the storm [of the evil one] to save souls
 - Defend the earth against the wages of sin
 - Aid in the rescue of souls from the victimhood of sin
 - Defend our own souls and those of our loved ones
 - Help release the souls in Purgatory so they may enter heaven
 - Help do the work to which God calls us
 - Oppose the disruptions, deceptions, and designs of the evil one
 - ➔ Through prayer
 - ➔ Through fasting
 - ➔ Through penance
 - ➔ Through sacrifice
 - ➔ Through ministries of love and mercy
 - Prepare for the coming of our Lord's kingdom (Kindelmann, 4 and 33)
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When we take up a cause, it is because we are drawn to it in some way. It speaks to us, we see a need, we see a blessing, we see a goal, we see an opportunity to help, we see an opportunity to share with others, we hear a calling.

(Question 2: Patti, I would like to start with you, because you are in a position with a special gift to transcend language and culture. How were you drawn to be a soldier in this army?)

An Army does not form by itself. The soldiers are called and recruited. They join to fight for a cause.

(Question 3: Lori, let me turn to you. As you evangelize, how do you encourage others to join this army of love?)

Through the Flame of Love, we have the opportunity to:

- Grow in wisdom and understanding of our faith
- Receive the blessings and grace of our Lord
- Join the fight for the conversion of souls
- Strengthen the faith of our families
- Strengthen the faith of our communities
- Extinguish, with this Flame, the darkness of the evil one
- Serve the will of the Lord
- Lift up our love to Jesus and Mary
- Help free souls from the ravages of evil
- Help free souls from Purgatory
- Blind Satan so he is unable to do the work of the ruin of souls

As I mentioned earlier, God has made available to us several spiritual weapons through which we may defend souls and defeat the designs of Satan. One important objective for soldiers as they maneuver on the battlefield is to avoid being seen by the enemy. It is a simple principle, if you can be seen, you can be hit; and if you can be hit, you can be killed. Using weapons which blind the vision of the enemy diminishes their ability to do us harm.

(Question 4: John, Jesus and Mary gave us prayers by which to blind Satan. Can you share those prayers with us and explain their power?)

Unity Prayer:

Elizabeth Kindelmann wrote: “My Redeemer asked me to say this prayer, which expresses his longings:

*May our feet journey together.
May our hands gather in unity.
May our hearts beat in unison.
May our souls be in harmony.
May our thoughts be as one.
May our ears listen to the silence together.
May our glances profoundly penetrate each other.
May our lips pray together to gain mercy from the Eternal Father.*

I made this prayer completely my own. Jesus said, ‘*Through this prayer, Satan will be blind, and souls will not be led into sin.*’” (Kindelmann, 115)

The Flame of Love Prayer:

Elizabeth Kindelmann said: “I am going to record what the Blessed Virgin told me in [October of] this year, 1962. I kept it inside for a long time without daring to write it down. It is a petition of the Blessed Virgin: ‘*When you say the prayer that honors me, the Hail Mary, include this petition in the following manner:*

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
spread the effect of grace of thy Flame of Love over all of humanity,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

The bishop asked Elizabeth: “Why should the very old Hail Mary be recited differently?”

“On February 2, 1982, Our Lord explained, ‘*Because of the Holy Virgin’s efficacious pleas, the Most Blessed Trinity granted the outpouring of the Flame*

of Love. For her sake, you must place this prayer in the Hail Mary so that, by its effect, humanity is converted.

Our Lady also said, *'I want to awaken humanity by this petition. This is not a new formula but a constant supplication. If at any moment, someone prays three Hail Mary's in my honor, while referring to the Flame of Love, they will free a soul from purgatory. During November, one Hail Mary will free ten souls.'*

Quotes:

– Elizabeth Kindelmann (Diary, pg 104)

On January 1, 1981, Our Lord said, *“Go beyond your limits. Look at the three Wise Men who made superhuman efforts. Especially priests must act this way. Others should do likewise. We must intensify prayer. We must sacrifice for world peace and for the salvation of souls. We must go to the limit. Every parish must urgently form communities of prayer. Bless each other with the Sign of the Cross.”*

– Elizabeth Kindelmann (Diary, pg 104)

Our Lady said that the Sign of the Cross expels Satan, as does the ejaculatory prayer, *“Spread the effect of the grace of thy Flame of love over all of humanity.”*

– Elizabeth Kindelmann (Diary, pg 104)

On April 12, she repeated her words, *“All who delay this outpouring of grace have a grave responsibility.”* These words weighed heavily upon me. The Lord spoke, *“Do not fear. We are with you. Just do not delay.”*

Then, both spoke together: *“Through you, we ask for a great mobilization of the whole world. Multitudes in every part of the world should petition the Holy Father (Pope John Paul II) for an official declaration of the effusion of the Flame of Love of Our Hearts for the whole world. We do not ask the Holy Father to examine this. That will take too long. Everyone just needs to experience this in his or her own heart. Our petition is urgent. No time for delays. Let priests and their people gather in spiritual oneness. This outpouring will reach even the souls of the non-baptized.”*

Final Thoughts:

As everyone knows, I am a military man. I was trained in military ways and I think in military terms. I gained my military training in the world, and I am versed in the mental and physical means of war. The physical wars of the world are fierce and deadly, with grave consequences; but there is a greater war in progress with even greater consequences, eternal consequences, and that is the war for souls. As I mentioned, the nature of that war is different, so now my training comes from a different place, and that is the Church Militant.

Our Lord does not want to lose any of the children of His creation. He has given us very powerful means by which to defend ourselves, but we must recognize that our weakness is our freewill. God gave us freewill to give meaning to our choices. It is what makes us different from

the puppets Satan seeks to make of us, but it is a precious gift which can only be exercised properly if we understand what God asks of us.

As we pointed out at the beginning of our discussion, Jesus invites us all to join His “special fighting force.” We all have the opportunity to join His army and fight for the salvation of souls, including our own. No soldier enlists with all the skills and knowledge necessary to engage the fight. The first step towards being a soldier of Christ and The Flame of Love is to say, “Yes!” A whole training cadre awaits us to prepare and arm us.

There is so much more for us to share, so we hope you will continue to join us as we explore The Flame of Love. Next time, we will discuss some of the history of the movement and select Imprimaturs of ecclesial authorities.

Wrap Up: Well, our time has once more come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next time as we discuss some history of the Flame of Love Movement.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to share the blessings of our trust and faith in You. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation,** and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

And let us pray together:

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
spread the effect of grace of thy Flame of Love over all of humanity,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Thank you all and God bless.

Next Session: Flame of Love – Part II: Some History of the Flame of Love

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