



The Armor of Faith
Topic Summary: Flame of Love
Part III: Some History of the Flame of Love



***“Permission has hereby
been granted”***

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 as well as a wonderful 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 World Youth Day.

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

Eileen is the National Director for the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Movement in the United States. She is a lay Discalced Carmelite assisting with the formation of the aspirants and she leads two rosary cenacles in two different parishes. Eileen speaks on the Extraordinary Grace of the Flame of Love and shares her personal conversion testimony and stories.

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.

Of course, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions because they leave the simple things to me. I'm not sure if that is exactly how they put it, but we'll 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 all the blessings You bring and the many wonderful ways You work within our lives and provide for us.

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, 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:

When Did God Stop Performing Miracles?

Ok, spoiler alert, He hasn't. As Catholics, we know that because we get to witness a miracle every time we go to Mass. As Catholics we recognize miracles. So, you might ask, why did I ask that question? The reason is that in our modern day, too many have lost sight of that miracle. Perhaps we take it for granted or, we listen to the critics or public opinion polls.

If we know our faith, then, we know that God's miracles are part of that faith. No matter what miracle we witness, the power by which it is produced comes from God. So, as darkness seems to increase in the world, here comes the real question, why would we not have faith that God can work through us to extinguish that darkness?

As we lament the darkness of the world, we lift up prayers asking for deliverance from the tribulations, but do we lift up our willingness to help? If we pray, but do nothing to help, we of course, leave all the heavy lifting to God, which He can easily do; but I often wonder when we cry out and lament, that He might have a question for us, which is, "What have you done with the gifts I have given you?"

In honesty, I bring up this question because too often I have made the mistake of thinking God won't work through me. Now, if I recognize that God has worked through people He has sent across my path, why would He not use me to help another?

Of course, this is where the evil one begins to meddle. Who are you? What do you have to share? What do you know? You have no credentials. Why would anyone listen to you? What do you possibly have to offer? No one would want help from you. You are useless.

Yep, when those words swell up in me, I should immediately recognize they are the words of the one who plans his day to defeat me. Now, all those things are true about me only if I allow them to be, because if I believe in God's will, I must also believe He created me for a purpose. That purpose might only be fulfilled with His help, but if I believe it would take a miracle for anything good to come from me, why would I not turn to the one who started everything off with "*Let there be light?*" What I need to remember is to ask our Lord to help me see how I can help accomplish His will. If I trust in Him and listen carefully, He will lead me. He will lead all of us, no matter what failing we believe we may have.

In John 14:11-12, Jesus said, "*11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. 12 Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.*" If we allow the Son in us, can He not work through us?

If we believe His Holy Word, then, we must not doubt we are part of His plan. It is true, there are many endeavors where we cannot accomplish what must be done without the help of our Lord, but if we listen carefully for His light, silent sound; if we allow Him to guide us, He will work through us to accomplish His will. Let's ask ourselves, what will we allow Him to do through us today?

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

Catholic Definitions – Part IV:

Today I want to share with you something that I have been researching. That would be Catechisms. Let us take a look at what this word means and a bit of the history of Catholic Catechisms.

As we find quite often, the word Catechism comes to us from the Greek language. The word means, echo, because of it being repeated over and over and over again. It also means “a summary of doctrine.”

Since the days of the Apostles, Catechism was taught to all the generations. In the beginning, it was taught by one person telling others about Jesus, and all that He taught while here on Earth. It was someone telling the stories of the Old Testament so that others would learn of their history. Also with the telling of our history, there has been prophecies. So, plain and simple, the Catechism is the retelling of our past, our present, and our future as well.

Throughout all the ages, church leaders have been working to keep the faith, the history and the teachings, alive. From before Christ began to teach, to the year 33 and up to 1440, oral translation of Catechism was the norm. There were the scholarly folk who were able to write, so there was written transcripts of which people could learn, but these were laborious works and quite expensive, leaving the learning to the wealthy people of the time.

In 1440, Johannes Gutenberg, began making and remaking his printing machine. By 1450, he had found perfection in his printing and the world would find change like they had never known. With the invention of the printing press, it would now become affordable for more people to enjoy the fruits and treasures of their history and to learn the words of Jesus Himself.

In 1555, St. Peter Canisius took on the task of writing and printing the very first book of Catholic doctrine. This work was called the “Catechism of St. Peter Canisius.” To this very day, some still study that catechism. I read a story from a priest who had been a student of the once Cardinal Ratzinger. He stated that when they were in class, Fr. Ratzinger was so thorough about his teaching and that he was so loving in his delivery of the St. Peter Canisius Catechism, that he and his fellow classmates always referred to this class as the Canisius instead of Catechism.

A few years later, in 1566, during the Council of Trent, it was decided that a new and more formal Catechism should be produced. St. Charles Borromeo was tasked with over seeing this project. This was done under the guide of Pope, St Pius V. Today it remains the most authoritative catechism in print. It has been known by several different names, “Roman Catechism”, the “Catechism of St. Pius V” and “Catechism of the Council of Trent”.

Since the printing of the Catechism of the Council of Trent, there have been many many catechisms produced and printed. Some were written by groups of people and some were done by individuals.

The Bishops of the United States, in 1885, put together a new catechism at the Third Council of Baltimore. This was a production of major undertaking by the Council. The Bishops broke down the catechism into 4 levels so that they were able to now teach on levels of which all generations could learn. Perhaps you recall learning the questions and answers format of the Baltimore Catechism. As a child, I only had this for one year of my formation years, but when we began to homeschool our children, we found all four books and that was the beginning of our faith formation classes.

In 1917, when Our Lady appeared to the children of Fatima, she told them that they must learn to read. This was so they could read the catechism and the Bible. They needed to know for themselves what the Church teaches.

The next big venture into printing a catechism was not to come about until 1992 when Pope St. John Paul II ordered this done. Today we are all familiar with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, as it was named. This is a large book and popular everywhere. I encourage everyone to explore the catechism to learn and embrace the richness of our faith more fully.

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 Catholic definition of “catechism,” 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 175.

Discussion:

As we concluded our discussion concerning the prayers which blind Satan, I referred to Matthew 6:9-13 where the disciples of our Lord asked Him to teach them how to pray. He taught them what we refer to as “The Lord's Prayer.” Three years ago, as we began our series, “Prayer and the Holy Spirit,” episodes 16 – 21, which you can listen to on-demand, we outlined what Jesus taught us through this prayer. With similar analysis, we can learn from the prayers which Jesus and Mary gave us to blind Satan.

Of course, our guests today from the Flame of Love Movement will tell you, there is so much more we can discuss about these prayers and, no doubt, we will continue to refer back to them as we begin to walk through some of the history of the Flame of Love devotion as well as the experiences of Elizabeth Kindelmann.

We must remember, prayer is not a one way conversation. Certainly, we lift up to God our adoration, praise, thanksgiving, intercessions, and petitions; but as we do, we must also reflect from what base we are doing so. Is our spirit hopeful? Is it wounded? Is it selfish? Is it seeking blessings for others beyond ourselves? Is it in search of love and mercy? Is it lifting up our love? Is it giving thanks and praise? Is it seeking the wisdom, courage, and strength to do the

will of God, which if I haven't mentioned before, Saint Faustina reminds us is love and mercy itself?

As we lift up the prayers which blind Satan, as well as all our prayers, let us remember to reflect on their meaning. Let us reflect on what we are lifting up as well as what Jesus and Mary are teaching us and asking of us through them. Let us also remember what Jesus taught in Luke 18:1-8, to pray with persistence, for as we do; Satan is blinded, his power over us is diminished, we receive the grace granted by the Most Holy Trinity to Our Blessed Mother to spread over all of humanity, and we draw ever closer to our Lord so that we may live in unity with Christ.

Today, we are going to turn our discussion to the Imprimaturs concerning the Flame of Love. When we encounter what is reportedly of heaven, we look to the Church to investigate and assess. This is an important role, for the Church must also be careful that in our zeal to experience what is of heaven, we do not allow ourselves to be deceived.

When Sharon came home from the conference where she learned about the Flame of Love, she was filled with excitement. Of course, she immediately received from me my standard question, which she knew she was going to get, which was, “What is the position of the church?”

If you listened to our series, “Miracles and Faith,” episodes 47 – 56, you might notice a common trend when Our Lady Speaks, the clergy seem to be slow to listen. Keep in mind, though, we hear these stories through hindsight. We are looking through the lens of history, not the lens of those in the moment. Of course, for the person who hears the voice of Our Lord or that of Our Blessed Mother, I'm certain this can be quite frustrating, but the care which the Church takes in its assessment should give us comfort.

(Question 1: Of course, we know the Flame of Love Movement began in Hungary, but I noted in the timeline, Father Gabriel Rona, S.J., seemed to play a rather significant role towards bringing the devotion to the Americas. Patti, can you tell us a little about Father Rona and how he helped to spread the Flame of Love in Ecuador?)

Father Rona was:

- A Hungarian priest
- A missionary to Latin America
- Translated the diary to Spanish
- Appointed as the Spiritual Director of the Movement for many years (flameoflove.us)

Cardinal Echeverria Ruiz (Archdiocese of Guayaquil, Ecuador)

- Approved Fr. Rona's translation in 1989
- In 1996, approved the statutes of the Flame of Love Movement for his archdiocese and asked the Holy Father to approve the Movement for the whole world (flameoflove.us)

(Question 2: While the events we just mentioned progressed in Ecuador, study was also in progress in Hungary. John, can you tell us about the ecclesial approval by Cardinal Peter Erdo, Archbishop of Elizabeth's Archdiocese of Budapest, and what doors were opened by Cardinal Erdo's Imprimatur?)

- On 6 Jun 2009, Cardinal Erdo gave his Imprimatur to the original diary
- This authorized publication of the diary
- The Cardinal also appointed Mrs. Irene Tolvaj as National Coordinator of the Movement for Hungary
- Established The Flame of Love Movement as a Private Association of the Faithful with Juridic Personality
- The approval is for the Universal Church
- Other Hungarian dioceses have done the same, as have other dioceses around the world (flameoflove.us)

So, this brings us to the Flame of Love Movement in the United States. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is the center for the United States Movement of the Flame of Love.

(Question 3: Archbishop Chaput (Philadelphia) gave his imprimatur to the English translation from the Spanish of the Flame of Love Book. (flameoflove.us) Eileen, can you tell us a little about how the Flame of Love Movement has spread across the United States and the ecclesial support for this movement?)

- 2013 Diary was translated to English
- First National Director established
- Many parish and home cenacles have been formed
- Conferences and gatherings spreading the devotion
- <https://flameoflove.us/welcome/>

Quotes:

(Isaiah 6:5-8)

5 Then I said, "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding an ember which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 He touched my mouth with it. "See," he said, "now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!"

(Jeremiah 1:4-7)

The word of the LORD came to me: 5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. 6 "Ah, Lord GOD!" I said, "I do not know how to speak. I am too young!" 7 But the LORD answered me, Do not say, "I am too young." To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak.

(John 20:21-22)

21 [Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit.

(Matthew 28:16-20)

16 The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. 18 Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

– Cardinal Peter Erdo, Archbishop of Esztergom, Budapest, Hungary

As a conclusion, our Church recognizes as authentic, in accord with the Catholic faith, all of the material contained in the Spiritual Diary. Also, this archdiocese considers that the activity, life and rule of this community is in accord with all that characterizes movements of spirituality and authentic communities of the Catholic Church. At this point, the entire Church receives this charisma as a gift from God. Instead of forgetting about this gift, we ought to place it on the lampstand so that it lights up everything in the house.

Final Thoughts:

We all walk the journey of faith at a different pace. Some are just beginning to chip away at trying to comprehend what God asks of us while others have known Him for many of their years. Some are blessed to hear His voice while others are blessed to feel Him in their heart. Still others know Him because they recognize His fingerprints on their lives or observe the footprints which walk beside them.

Some can point to a specific moment they were brought to believe. Others, such as myself, stumbled onto His path, but moments became years before the meaning of prayer and devotion began to take an appropriate root. The question for all of us, though, no matter where we are on this life long journey, is how we may help one another to know our Lord. Of course, to know Him requires we open our hearts to learn from Him and those He sends to teach us.

We look to history to teach us lessons. We stand on the shoulders of the generations which came before us and their experiences. Sometimes we learn from their successes. Sometimes we learn from their mistakes. Sometimes we learn from their relationships, especially the relationships they may have with Jesus and Mary. When we learn of such relationships, we may find our own personal benefit by examining what was shared.

Next time, we shall take some time to look at the life and experience of Elizabeth Kindelmann and ask the question, "Who is Elizabeth Kindelmann?"

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 continue to continue to discuss the blessings of the Flame of Love.

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 share the Flame of Love Prayer:

*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 IV: Who Is Elizabeth Kindelmann?

Why Catholics Do What We Do References:

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