



***The Armor of Faith***  
**Topic Summary: Flame of Love**  
***Part VI: The Vision***



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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 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 Word 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, United States. 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 what is an answer without a question, but like a carriage without a horse? I'm not sure what that really means, so, we'll just move on here. 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 pray especially today for the faithful with fallen away loved ones. We pray, dear Lord, You will comfort them and guide them in how they may pray for and encourage family members to see all the blessings You offer through living the fullness of our faith.

Dear Lord, we also continue to pray that in this time of turmoil, corruption is exposed and truth revealed so the children of Your creation are not deceived by the designs of evil.

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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:

### *Living Christmas*

Some will say, “What do you mean, living Christmas? We live Christmas every year. Ya know, we do the shopping, put up the tree, string the lights, watch the Santa movies, and maybe even sing a Christmas Carol or two – oh, and don't forget the football game.” Certainly, we all have traditions of holiday merriment and fun, but is that truly living Christmas?

I think I have mentioned this before, but it bears repeating; Saint Faustina reminded us that the will of God is love and mercy itself. Indeed, when the Christ child was born, the world was sent the ultimate gift of love and mercy, our Lord and Savior. It is natural we should celebrate this birthday and wonderful gift from our Heavenly Father, but we should take a moment to reflect on exactly what we are celebrating and how we celebrate it.

I remember one year, I heard the term, “The reason for the season.” Over the years, families have developed many traditions, but the secular world celebrates a material day, and despite all the glitz and decorations, we are often hard pressed to see in all the lights and festivities the true reason for the season. That reason is the gift of our salvation; and certainly, that is cause for celebration.

There is nothing wrong with parties, merriment, and gift giving; but during the season, we should take time to examine this gift from God, this Child who would grow to teach us about love and mercy, then give us the ultimate example of love by laying His life down so that we might be saved.

Yes, we should celebrate, for the gift offered to us, none of us deserve. Without this gift, we would not have hope. The reason for the season is what God gave us through His unconditional and unmatched love. When we recognize the enormity of this gift, a season to celebrate is not enough.

As we go about our merriment and prepare for our traditional festivities, let us also consider time for adoration and prayer. Let us gather as family and friends, but let us also gather to hear the story of the Christ Child. Let us allow it to simmer in our hearts. Let us share it with our children and let us encourage them to join us in our prayers.

Yes, we should allow our children to open their presents and play with their toys, but let us also sit with them and share the story of Christmas and the real reason for the season. Consider at some point, gathering as a family and reading the portions of Luke 1 and 2 which tell us of the nativity, as well as other scripture which may inspire our celebration. Let the children of reading age read portions and let them tell us what it means to them.

Let us pray with our family and friends. Let us share blessings of love, not just with friends and family, but let us consider what we can do for those we have never met to help them feel the love of our Lord. As we celebrate, let us ask ourselves, how will this celebration prepare us for the hard work of love for the year to come? Let us savor the joy of the blessings we may share.

## Why Catholics Do What We Do:

### *Catholic Definitions – Part VII: More on Christmas*

Well, here we are at the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent 2020. Christmas is almost here. Are we all ready? Oh well...it is coming ready or not. This year is surely going to be different in how we are accustomed to celebrating. If you are able to be with family and friends, make the very best of the time. And if for some reason you are unable to be with family and friends, make some phone calls, do some skyping. Are you old enough to recall the old Ma Bell commercial, “reach out and touch someone?”

This is truly a time to celebrate. We are celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. This is a birthday that we honor, so enjoy a meal, have some cake, sing some songs, make a toast. Cheers to Jesus!!

I searched everywhere for something that would inspire us this Christmas. I found lots of explanations of the history of Christmas and found that it took many centuries to come to where we are today. I found songs that, like the 12 Days of Christmas, have meanings that don't always link up with the actual words. I found out how Christmas is celebrated in different countries around the world. I found traditions of decorating, baking, card writing. I found out how to have a party.

I found explanations of how the Catholic Church has responded to the celebration of His birth. Did you know that the Church's very first written word about this awesome birth was some 200 years after Christ's crucifixion? The Church has grown in tradition and it has developed glorious Masses to celebrate this time. We have the traditional Children's Mass on Christmas Eve, the Mid-night Mass and the equally beautiful Masses on Christmas Day.

And then I found this gorgeous Christmas prayer on My Catholic Life's web page. They gave permission to use their work, so I would like to share this with you, my friends.

*Glory to God in the highest!*

My precious Lord, Jesus,  
I adore You with profound love and rejoice in the celebration of Your birth.  
Your love for us is unfathomable,  
it is glorious  
transforming,  
awe-inspiring,  
and deeply personal.  
You chose to come and dwell among us,  
being born into poverty, rejection and humility.  
Yet Your mother knew whom she bore,  
Her heart was filled with the tenderest love  
as she adored her Child and her God.

Help me, dear Lord.  
to come to love You with the heart of Your mother.  
Invite me to adore You with St. Joseph and the poor shepherds.  
Reveal to me the glorious power of Your birth  
and change my life on account of this perfect gift of Yourself.  
I love You, dear Lord Jesus.  
Help me to love You with all my heart.  
Newborn Savior of the World,  
I trust in You.  
Mother Mary and St. Joseph,  
Pray for me and for all.  
Amen.

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Merry Christmas everyone.

*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 meaning of Christmas, 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 178.

## **Discussion:**

Last time, we discussed that the “Cause” of the Flame of Love is simply to spread the love to which we are called. The Flame of Love, just like a flame may be spread from candle to candle, was given by Our Lady to Elizabeth so it may be passed from heart to heart. Of course, if someone receives the flame, but does not pass it to another heart, it does not spread. Then again, when someone receives the Flame of Love, why would they not want to share it and spread it?

Through the tradition of Easter Vigil Mass, we see the example of passing the flame from the Paschal candle to the candle each person holds. The room begins in darkness, except for one flame, but as the flame is passed from candle to candle, the darkness of the room is extinguished by the growing light of the many lit candles. This is what is possible for us if we choose to help spread the Flame of Love, but the effect will be the spreading grace of God's Love.

Of course, should we make that choice, we will become a target of Satan. He will do all within his power, like an ill wind, to dissuade us from this decision. When we consider the means of one person and the magnitude of endeavors, we might be tempted to ask, how could a poor Hungarian woman spread a devotion world wide? The answer is found as each heart says, “Yes” to Our Lady's Cause, which is really the Cause of her Son, whose will Saint Faustina reminds us is Love and Mercy itself.

As we reflect on the meaning of the Flame of Love, let us consider 1 Corinthians 13:4.

(1 Corinthians 13:4

*4 Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, 5 it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, 6 it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*8 Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. 9 For we know partially and we prophesy partially, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. 12 At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. 13 So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

The Flame of Love encompasses many things, but most importantly, it reflects what Christ desires to burn within us and what we are called to share as embodied within the commandments of love. When Jesus speaks, He often uses figurative or analogical means by which to help us understand what is not seen by what is seen. We should not be surprised, then, at the reference by Jesus and Mary to a flame and the qualities of a flame as a means to help us visualize how we may help spread the Flame of Love.

Elizabeth writes in her diary that on 15 Apr 1962, Our Lady gave these instructions:

*“Take two little candles. Light your candle first, and then the other. After this, give it to my Son. He will spread the Flame among my twelve chosen priests. They will not be all Carmelite priests.*

*“After these priests have come together, let this devotion begin in twelve churches dedicated to me. In this ceremony, they will pass the lighted candle from one to another. Let each person take the candle home and begin family prayer in the same way.”*

(Kindelmann, 21)

**(Question 1:** Eileen, I mentioned during my opening the tradition of spreading a flame from candle to candle at Easter Vigil Mass. As we think of this experience, what happens to the room and how might this help us envision what Jesus and Mary ask of us?)

- We must light our candle first
- Our candle is either lit by the Paschal candle or the candle of someone next to us
- What was dark is extinguished with light
- The room glows ever brighter as more and more candles are lit
- Not every candle is easily lit, some require patience
- We spread the light as we help light the candles of others

On 4 May, Our Lady gave these instructions to Elizabeth:

*“You must spread my Cause. Do not be afraid. The Flame is gentle and will arouse no suspicions. The miracle will come forth in your hearts. On Candlemas (February 2), my chosen workers will hand each other a candle. In this way, the Flame of Love will be a living fire in their hearts. Prepare everything so that it will spread like wildfire.”*

The Candlemas is a tradition rooted in Mosaic law where a woman who has given birth to a male child is separated from the temple for a period of 40 days, after which she comes to the temple to be prayed over and declared cleansed.

In Luke 2:22-38, it is written:

(Luke 2:22-38)

*22 When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, 23 just as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,” 24 and to offer the sacrifice of “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.*

*25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. 27 He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, 28 he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:*

*29 “Now, Master, you may let your servant go  
in peace, according to your word,  
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
31 which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,  
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and glory for your people Israel.”*

*33 The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; 34 and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted 35 (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” 36 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. 38 And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.*

**(Question 2:** We celebrate Candlemas every year on 2 February, which is also known as the

“Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.” John, can you comment as to the significance of this celebration in relation to the Flame of Love? To what might Our Blessed Mother be drawing our attention?)

- The presentation of the Lord is a presentation of His Light to the world (cf. John 1:1-9)
- Simeon spoke of what his eyes witnessed as salvation and the light of revelation
- Our Blessed Mother constantly points the world to her Son and His Sacred Heart
- Jesus taught us the commandments of love
- Jesus gave us a new commandment, not just to love, but to love one another as He loves us (cf. John 13:34-35)
- Jesus gave the ultimate example of love as He laid down His life so we might receive salvation and eternal life
- What Jesus shares with us, He calls us to share with one another

(John 1:1-9)

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. 4 What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; 5 the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*6 A man named John was sent from God. 7 He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

(John 13:34-35)

*34 “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. 35 This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

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When we talk of vision, we are looking to what is beyond us. Organizations often produce what we call a “vision statement” by which to focus their attention as to where they want the organization to be at some point in the future. Because a vision of a future state is often not the current case, they must imagine this future state. It is from this vision statement that the organization plans their resources and operations such that they may achieve this vision.

**(Question 3:** From the vision Jesus and Mary present of a Flame of Love, we are being called to a future state. Patti, what is this future state the vision of the Flame of Love inspires within us?)

- Lift up our love to our Lord
- Live the commandments of love
  - Worship

- Adoration
- Prayer
- Charity
- Ministry
- Share the commandments of love
  - Through what we encourage
  - Through what we do for others
- Spread the commandments of love → Encourage one another
- Enable the salvation of souls
- As we help spread the Flame, we help blind Satan

## Quotes:

– *Saint Therese of Lisieux*

You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them.

Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.

Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.

– *St. Augustine of Hippo*

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.

– *St. Francis de Sales*

You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves."

– *Saint John Paul II*

There is no place for selfishness—and no place for fear! Do not be afraid, then, when love makes demands. Do not be afraid when love requires sacrifice.

## Final Thoughts:

As we consider what we discussed, the vision of the Flame of Love is simple; Our Lady wants the Flame of Love, of which the ultimate Flame is the Sacred Heart of her Son, to spread like a wildfire among the children of God's creation for the salvation of souls. Of course, freewill requires that it spread by our choice, for God gave us freewill so that our choices would have meaning.

As we imagine this Flame, we must first ask ourselves, how will we allow it to ignite the flame of love within our heart? For some, the flame will be ignited by the ultimate Paschal candle,

Jesus. If it is to be spread like a wildfire, though, the flame must spread from heart to heart in the same fashion as it is spread from candle to candle.

It is no mistake that Our Lady selected Candlemas to be the day of the feast of the Flame of Love, for on Candlemas, 2 February, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This is the celebration of the moment where Mary presented Jesus at the temple. Now, she endeavors to present her Son to the world and spread His Flame of Love for the blessings and salvation of all the children of God's creation. The vision of Our Lady is that as we receive the Flame, we shall spread it to those who surround us such that it grows like a wildfire.

Of course, we all know the challenges of keeping a candle lit in the wind. To keep it from blowing out, we must protect it in some fashion. As we receive the Flame, we must ask ourselves, how will we keep it lit within our hearts? If our trust is in the world, it will be a difficult task, but as we learn the fullness of our faith, we begin to observe the many ways the Lord has given us through the Church He built upon Peter by which we may not only protect the Flame, but fan it so that it will truly spread from heart to heart like wildfire.

As we continue our discussion of the Flame of Love, we will talk about the means by which we may keep the Flame lit within our hearts so it may provide the Light for our choices. We will also talk about how we may help spread the Flame of Love so that it becomes a wildfire of Love by which the world shall see the path to the Love and Mercy of the Sacred Heart of our Lord.

**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 of the foundational messages of Jesus and Mary as they asked Elizabeth to light this Flame, first within her own heart, so she could begin the spread of the wildfire the world so desperately needs.

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 VII: The Messages

### **Why Catholics Do What We Do References:**

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