



The Armor of Faith
Topic Summary: Flame of Love
Part XII: Living and Spreading the Devotion



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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; 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, 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.

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 that's the easy part. The hard part we leave to our panelists, which is to answer my questions, correct my pronunciation, and make sure I know which century I am talking about, 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 Brenda's father as he faces cancer surgery. Dear Lord, may Your healing hand rest upon him, as well as Your hand of comfort. We pray You will guide the hearts and hands of his care givers, and that Your hand of comfort and blessings shall also rest on all who love and care for him.

We pray too, dear Lord, that You will protect, encourage, and guide all who work to end abortion as well as preserve the sanctity of life, marriage, and family.

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 let you know that WCAT Radio, the organization through which this and a variety of kindred Catholic radio shows are presented, is conducting a funding drive to help address the costs of operation and production. WCAT Radio presents two dozen hours of new, quality, Catholic programming each week and offers well over 5,000 hours of archived programming in history, theology, spirituality, and poetry for the purpose of promoting the Catholic spiritual journey — it is a virtual audio library of our Catholic faith. Please consider giving a tax deductible donation to WCAT Radio to enable them to continue to broadcast the Catholic message. You can donate online at <https://wcatradio.com/support>. Any amount you can contribute, helps.

We would also like to ask you to assist Armor of Faith Radio 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:

40 Days for Life

On 28 Jan 2021, the Biden administration restored the use of U.S. taxpayer money to fund foreign organizations which promote and provide abortions. (Biden) We are also observing signs the Biden administration intends to go further to reverse the efforts of those who work to protect the sanctity of life.

As social media giants move to silence pro-life voices and suppress the pro-life message (Stepman), it is becoming increasingly important that the faithful not be intimidated into silence, but we must increase our effort to be peacefully seen and heard in our efforts to protect the most defenseless among us, the child in the womb. One means by which we may accomplish this is through supporting the 40 Days for Life campaign.

The 40 Days for Life campaign is not just for sidewalk prayer warriors and counselors. Everyone can engage and contribute to the effort, even if we are unable to go to the sidewalk. Those who cannot go to the sidewalk can pray from home or engage other ministries in support of life, such as Pregnancy Resource Centers and Parenting Support Programs. Contributions to 40 Days for Life enables their support of peaceful presence in front of abortion centers to offer loving emotional support and assistance to mothers nurturing a new life within their womb.

According to the 40 Days for Life web site, “40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses.” (40 Days for Life) To accomplish this effort across the nation and internationally, a number of volunteers are required. This is an opportunity for us to use the gifts and talents God created within us to help save the lives of the unborn.

The battle for life continues to rage. I encourage our listeners to pray and reflect upon how they can put the gifts of God to support life. The Spring 40 Days for Life campaign begins on Ash Wednesday, 17 Feb 2021. Visit the 40 Days for Life web site to identify locations near you where you can join the effort of prayer, fasting, community outreach and peaceful vigil in front of abortion businesses. Let us let God know we care and let us also allow the world to witness our love for all the children of God's creation, born and unborn.

If you would like to learn more about means by which we may enable a culture of life, we invite you to listen to our series on the Culture of Life, which can be found at episodes 89 – 97. We invite you to listen with a friend and/or family members, discuss, discern, and act upon how God leads you.

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

Catholic Definitions – Part XIII: Worship

When someone says they “worship,” what does that mean? Does it mean that they really really really like something? Does it mean that they are fully aware of what it means to worship? Let us take a look at this word today.

Merriam-Webster tells us that worship means:

- 1 : reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power also : an act of expressing such reverence
- 2 : a form of religious practice with its creed and ritual

The definition here says that to worship means to have reverence for a divine being, that would be God. It also says we express worship by religious practices.

Article 1 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church spells it out in bold letters:

"YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND HIM ONLY SHALL YOU SERVE"

This is in reference to Matthew 4:10, where after Satan tries to tempt Jesus to worship him, Jesus tells Satan:

(Matthew 4:10)

“Get away, Satan! It is written: ***The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.***”

Of course, it also reflects what we are told in Exodus 20:2-5:

(Exodus 20:2-5)

*2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 **You shall not have other gods beside me.** 4 You shall not make for yourself an idol or a likeness of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; 5 **you shall not bow down before them or serve them...***

In other words, we are taught that worship is for God and God alone. When we say we worship, we express our honor and reverence for our Lord and Savior above all else. When we put our worship into practice, we demonstrate our desire to give back to God the love He gives to us.

As I looked around, I also found this definition at thesacredheart.com:

Worship means: Adoration and honor given to God, which is the first act of the virtue of religion. Public worship is given to God in the Church by the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ in the liturgy. (Dictionary of Catholic Terms)

Again, worship means to adore our loving God in both private and in public.

Then I decided to reach waay back to consult the Baltimore Catechism for this definition. Right at the very beginning of the question and answer catechism, number 9 to be exact, we read:

Q. What must we do to save our souls?

A. To save our souls, we must worship God by faith, hope, and charity; that is, we must believe in Him, hope in Him, and love Him with all our heart. (Baltimore Catechism)

We have been gifted with the treasures and traditions of the Church so that we may worship our Heavenly Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with all the love we can muster up. To worship God is to spend time with Him. We need to spend time in prayer and adoration. These are the ways we communicate with our Lord. In giving worship to our Creator, we can perform acts of charity toward and for other persons of His creation. After all, when we spend time with Him and do charity for His creation, we are fulfilling the two greatest commandments, to love God and to love our neighbors as we are told in Matthew 22:36-40.

Catholics are often criticized for worshipping Mary, the saints, or something else, but this is a falsehood. As we already established by the references above, we are taught to worship God and God alone. We should have respect, honor, and love for Mary as the Mother of God, but we do not worship her. We may ask for the intercession of saints, but we do not worship them, and we certainly do not bow down to or worship any material thing, for this is idolatry and contrary to our faith, scripture, and Catholic teaching.

The most powerful form of worship that we have is the Mass. When Jesus broke bread with the Apostles on that last night before He began His passion, He told them that this was the way to be one with Him. He told them that we are to remember that night and to hold tight in our hearts the events of our salvation. During the Mass, we pray, we read His Holy Word, it is explained to us, and we recall the Passion of the One who loves us best.

God not only created us, but He died to redeem us. Can we think of any greater reason for us to have such high regard and love for our Lord and give Him honor and reverence? Mass is the greatest prayer we have. We can worship outside of Mass and we should. God is our strong hold and we owe Him all of our love, honor, faith, hope, and charity.

So let us always remember, worship is for God and God alone.

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 “worship” 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 184.

Discussion:

As we concluded our last discussion, I mentioned the promise to light love in the family and to unite scattered families. Our Lady said to Elizabeth:

“With my Flame of Love, I want the home to come alive again with love. I want to unite scattered families. Help me! My flame of Love being lit depends on you.” (Kindelmann, 32)

Some families are full of faith, while others find it totally absent. If there is but one family member willing to listen to Jesus and Mary, they have the opportunity to help all within the family. Through prayer, fasting, penance, and the example of our personal life, we may influence others.

Again, I caution, the task for the conversion of family members is not just a one and done thought. From my personal experience, I discovered that Sharon prayed for me for many years before I made the turn to become Catholic. Even after that decision, there was a long journey ahead of me, nor is my path yet done. And had Sharon told me of her prayers, I'm sure I would have resisted. I was values groomed by the world and it has taken me some time to see the deep flaws of political ideologies and perceive the incredible design of God. Sharon can attest, to bring a heart to Jesus requires a lot of prayer. It also requires a lot of patience and love.

Elizabeth considers her own family's arguments and struggles and complains to Jesus that the family will need a miracle, to which Jesus replies, *“Can I not work a miracle?”* (Kindelmann, 32)

If we allow the Flame of Love to be lit within our hearts, if we pray with patience and persistence, our prayers may not be answered as we expect in the moment, but they will be answered. As love spreads from one family member to another, so shall its light be spread outside the family. Scattered families may not be united in the time frame we expect, but if our prayers help to save dying souls, we shall be united in heaven. Parents should also reflect on this; if we do not teach our children to pray for the souls in purgatory, who will pray for us?

Today, we are going to discuss living the devotion and how we may encourage those who surround us to help spread the Flame of Love.

(Question 1: As Jesus spoke to Elizabeth, He gave Elizabeth a weekly agenda through which the devotion may be lived. Mary gave instructions as well. **Lori, can you share with us the weekly agenda of which Jesus spoke?)**

- Monday, pray for Holy Souls
- Tuesday, pray for the family
- Wednesday, pray for priestly vocations
- Thursday, make reparation to the Blessed Sacrament
- Friday, immerse yourself in my Sacred Passion
- Saturday, venerate my Mother in a special way

- Sunday, the Redeemer gave no specific instructions
- Thursday and Friday, Mary asks for family holy hours in reparation to her Son.

One day, the Lord said, “On Monday, pray for the Holy Souls, offering a strict fast and prayer during the night. Each time you fast, you will free a priest’s soul from purgatory. Whoever practices this fast will themselves be freed within eight days after their death.

“On Tuesday, pray for the family and make spiritual communions for each member. My Mother will take each under her protection. Offer night prayer for them. Invoke St. Joseph every day. He will help you.

“On Wednesday, pray for priestly vocations. Many young men have these desires, but they do not meet anyone to help them to gain the goal. Your night vigil will gain abundant graces.

“On Thursday, make reparation to the Blessed Sacrament. Offer the strict fast and night prayer for the twelve priests.

“On Friday, immerse yourself in my Sacred Passion. During the day, meditate on the Way of the Cross. From noon to three, adore my sacred wounds.” (Note, this can be done even at work or school.)

“On Saturday, venerate my Mother in a special way. Seek the grace of a holy death for priests in their final agony. Priest souls in heaven will intercede for you.”

Concerning Sunday, the Redeemer gave no specific instructions. (Kindelmann, 19)

Our Lady also spoke of a family holy hour on Thursday and Friday as a special reparation to her Divine Son. (Kindlemann, 111)

(Question 2: Of course, the first step towards living a devotion is learning about it and its blessings. John, can you share with us some resources our listeners can turn to learn more about the devotion and what Jesus and Mary told Elizabeth?)

- flameoflove.us
- Elizabeth's Diary
- Relating scripture

(Question 3: Part of living a devotion is sharing its blessings with others. Patti, can you share with us some thoughts on ways we may encourage others to explore, learn, and join in spreading the Flame of Love?)

- Study and learn
- Conversation

- ➔ One on one
- ➔ During fellowship
- ➔ During parish activities and ministry
- Invitation to prayer
- Invitation to group learning and sharing
- Invitation to form or join a cenacle
- Polite persistence, prayer, and example
- Share words of inspiration and how the devotion is working in our lives

Quotes:

From the Diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann

Jesus said, “*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 yourselves 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)

Jesus spoke about the consecrated religious who were scattered by the Communist regime. “*Send this message to all who need to think about their vocation. Let them offer their sufferings to benefit souls. Those who cannot engage freely in apostolic activity should give themselves to a deep, spiritual life. This will produce abundant fruit. I count on their love.*”

In another message, he said, “*To you who are lukewarm. How can I gain your attention? You no longer come to me in confidence. You are content with the passing things of earth, when I want you to come to me.*” After this, Jesus said to me, “*Record my complaints. Perhaps, when they read it, their hard hearts will be inflamed. I wish I had to complain only about a few.*” (Kindelmann, 42)

December 2, 1963: Our Lady promised, “*Through a few people, a great outpouring of graces will change the world. No one must refuse my invitation.*” (Kindelmann, 124)

Final Thoughts:

I would like to thank everyone from the Flame of Love Movement who joined us during these past twelve episodes; Eileen Piergiovanni, John Sullivan, Patti Schwartz, Lori Brown, David Proctor, and Yvonne Duffy. Your insights were wonderful and you all shared not only some inspiring thoughts, but also blessings from your hearts and personal experiences.

As we reflect on what is captured in the diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann, we observe the passionate desire of Jesus and Mary to bring love and mercy to the world, but more importantly for us all to work together for the salvation of souls. Jesus told Elizabeth, “*I seek hearts in the loneliness of the night.*” (Kindelmann, 30) Will He find our heart open to Him? This is where

the spreading of the Flame of Love begins. It begins with our “Yes,” just as our Savior coming to all of us began with the “Yes” of Mary.

It is through our hearts by which the prayers which blind Satan are lifted up. It is through our hearts by which love may be ignited within our families. It is through our hearts by which the love within a family may be shared with those who surround the family as well as all who cross their path. It is through our hearts by which the prayers for the salvation of souls are lifted up. It is through our hearts by which prayers, fasting, and penance are offered through which to free souls from purgatory. It is through our hearts by which the blessings of love and mercy bring light to the world. It is through our hearts by which we perform the works of ministry which help accomplish the will of God, which Saint Faustina reminds us is love and mercy itself.

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 begin a new series concerning saints of inspiration.

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.

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.*

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

Thank you all and God bless.

Next Session: Saints of Inspiration – Part I: The Saint of the Little Way

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