



LUKEWARMNESS

Consider before God what I said! And those of you who by God's grace share in the Holy Spirit, so full of eagerness – ah be on guard against the lukewarm.

[Father Jordan, *Jordan Talks*, 1897/12/17]

***“So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold –
I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”***

[Revelation 3: 16]

To be tepid is something dreadful because reviving is so difficult. Yes, the Holy Spirit says: “Because you are lukewarm I shall begin to spit you out of my mouth.” Dreadful words indeed, and it is rare that one who falls into tepidness rises up again and begins anew. Truth will no longer make an impression on him. One who commits a serious sin rises more easily than one who is lukewarm. It is easier to convert a great sinner than one who is lukewarm. Being lukewarm is something dreadful. Therefore, if you fear you are on the way to mediocrity, use these days to escape it.

[Father Jordan, *Jordan Talks*, 1901/10/18]

A Salvatorian who permits himself to be led by the Spirit is a fire that lights other fires. For that reason, I invite you to intensify your lives, to live a present full of Salvatorian passion, because only a present marked by this passion has a future.

[Fr. Milton Zonta, SDS, “Salvatorian Signs of the Presence of the Holy Spirit in the Society of the Divine Savior,” National Assembly, June 2016.]

Closely connected to both community unity and apostolic effectiveness was Fr. Jordan’s conviction that openness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit enable us to overcome the temptation to “lose zest” in our apostolic endeavors. “We all need the Holy Spirit, each one of us in our temptations, in doubts, in darkness, in weakness. We have so many needs, so many occasions to ask the Holy Spirit to stand by us! Oh come, ... Best Consoler, Light, Paraclete! ... Furthermore, we ask the Holy Spirit especially for those members who might be somewhat lukewarm. May he descend, ignite us with holy fire, ignite all, that they imitate the holy zeal of the apostles in striving for holiness, that they hold out – perseverance.” (*Jordan Talks*, 1899/05/12) Fr. Jordan acknowledged that times of temptation, darkness and weakness come to all of us. This, he says, is when we especially need the Holy Spirit.

[Sr. Carol Thresher, SDS. “The Holy Spirit in Early Salvatorian History,” National Assembly, June 2016. Available in the Online SDS Library.]

Reflection Starters

- How would I describe the temptation toward lukewarmness in my own life? What have I done to move toward a renewal of my spiritual energies?
- What are some signs of lukewarmness in our community? How do I respond to this phenomenon? How can we move toward a positive engagement of everyone’s energies in overcoming it?

For further reading and reflection:

Fr. Milton Zonta, SDS. “Salvatorian Signs of the Presence of the Holy Spirit in the Society of the Divine Savior,” National Assembly, June 2016. Available in Salvatorian Online Library.