

WHY DID THE HOLY SPIRIT, Who is Co-eternal with the Father and the Son, appear [*at Pentecost*] in the form of fire? The Spirit that is Co-eternal with the Father and the Son is shown under the form of fire because God is invisible, ineffable, and incorporeal fire, as Heb. 12:29 Paul testifies: *For our God is a consuming fire.* God is called fire because by Him the rust of sin is consumed. It is of this fire that Truth has said: *I am come to cast fire on the earth; and what will I but that it be kindled.* And by *the earth* is meant earthly hearts, which as they at all times heap up evil thoughts within them, are trodden on by the spirits of evil. But the Lord sends fire on earth when, by the breath of His Holy Spirit, He sets fire to the hearts of unspiritual men. And the earth catches fire when the heart of flesh, indifferent to its own evil pleasures, puts away the lusts of the present life, and becomes inflamed with the love of God. Fittingly then did the Spirit appear in fire; because in every heart that He enters into, He drives out the torpor of coldness, and kindles there the desire of His own Eternity.

St Gregory the Great, Pope of Rome
Homily On Pentecost, §5

Toal, *The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, Vol. III, p. 51

ABROTHER ASKED AN OLD MAN, saying, “What shall I do? For the love of praise is killing me.” The old man said unto him, “Thou doest well, for behold, thou hast made the heavens and the earth.” Then the brother was sorry because of what the old man had said unto him, and he expressed contrition, and said, “Father, forgive me, but I have done nothing of the kind.” The old man said unto him, “If now He Who did make them came into this world in humility, why dost thou who art mud boast thyself?”

The Paradise of the Holy Fathers,
Vol. ii, p. 110, #467

PEARLS

FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

Week of Pentecost, 2012

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