A Message from Pastor Miguel……

I bring you words from Scripture that are on this little postcard that I found around the office: “Our God is a consuming fire” (Heb 12:29). He is, but the question is, do we let ourselves be consumed? I think that we fight with all the ‘fire equipment’ that we have in our heart and soul. We just don’t want to be consumed by God’s fire because to be consumed with God’s fire means to forget the word ‘I,’ and that’s a word that we live by. In ancient times pagan gods were worshiped, and for the domestic worship of those gods, people made little clay figurines of them and prostrated themselves before them. Well, we prostrate ourselves before the word ‘I’. “I want to do what I want to do, when I want to do it, as long as I want to do it.” “I will not allow myself to be manipulated.” “I don’t want to be in anything structured.” “I want to have freedom”— and you can go down the line, applied to any area in life, religion, and everything in between. You will see that the word ‘I’ is a very commonly used word. However, our God is a consuming fire; he wants to absorb that ‘I’; he wants to give us himself. He wants to teach us to say ‘‘he’; ‘she’; they, we, for that fits in with his commandment: “Love one another as I have loved you” (Jn 15:12). Now, he loved us until crucifixion. Do we love the other until crucifixion? Today we have no crosses to be crucified on with nails. But we have the cross of love, for love is a strange thing; it is both a pain and a joy—as was his crucifixion, suffered for love of us. When I surrender the ‘I’ in me for somebody else, I feel pain, which can feel like my skin is being torn away. But at the same time, after it’s all over and I have given up my ‘I’ for the other, I feel a joy incapable of being expressed in words. I enter that consuming fire by surrendering my ‘I’ for the other. “Our God is a consuming fire.” What does it mean? As we approach it, we are already afraid. God said to Moses: “Take off your shoes, the place is holy” (Ex 3:5). But when we reflect that ‘Our God is a consuming fire’, in our mind this fire is like a bonfire and it throws out an immense heat, and, although we know that the place is holy, we tie our shoes and run away from it. Our life can be spent in fighting that fire. Why? When deep down in our heart we know that our true happiness, our true delight, our true fulfillment, lies not in doing what we want, when we want, as we want, but in the will of God. And the will of God is very simple: he wants us to do unto others as we do unto ourselves. He told us: “Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me” (Mt 25:45). It’s as simple as that, but fearsome for us. We think we lose our liberty when we love others to the point of self-sacrifice, as he told us to. We’re afraid that we’re going to lose everything that we hold dear, not realizing that when we give up everything for God’s sake, we come to possess everything, in a different way. What you give, you receive. I am praying with my whole heart that soon there will be nothing in me that I haven’t given to God.

Yours in Christ , Pastor Miguel