

APPROVAL OF CARDINAL PÉTER ERDŐ, LOCAL ORDINARY

Pronouncements of His Eminence Cardinal Péter Erdő Primate of Hungary, Archbishop of Eszertom-Budapest, concerning the Association “Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Movement.”

1. Quotes taken from his homily given on June 1, 2009 at Mariaremete, on the Feast of Pentecost.

“... I personally believe that the completion in the spring of this year of the revision of the Spiritual Diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann and of the Rule of the Association of Prayer ‘Flame of Love’ is a sign of the life giving Holy Spirit. This Movement now functions in many dioceses of the world with the approval of the bishops and also prospers her in Hungary, the country of its origin. We have found that it brings an authentic Catholic spirituality and devotion toward the Virgin Mary that is in total conformity with the Catholic faith. May this recognition given in our diocese contribute to the spiritual renewal of our community of believers and of our people. This Saturday (June 6 at 11:00 a.m.) we will solemnly promulgate this approbation in the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Kispest.”

2. PRONOUNCEMENT OF CARDINAL Péter Erdő in the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Kispet (June 6, 2009) at the Tenth National Conference of the Flame of Love (of Hungary).

Cardinal: “Praise be Jesus Christ”

Faithful: “Let Him be eternally praised. Amen!”

“Thank you very much for the kind words of introduction given by your pastor and by the leaders of the ‘Flame of Love Movement’. Certainly the Holy Spirit will work in the Church until the end of time. Frequently, the entire

community of the Church accepts inspirations that originally came forth from the heart of a Christian person who was completely dedicated and deeply believing. After examining these impulses, the successors of the apostles eventually welcome them as gifts of God for the whole Church.

For many centuries, the Church institution and charismas were seen as two distinct realities, as if opposed to each other. On the contrary, the Church's history shows that truly authentic charismas (those special Divine Gifts given to the believing persons for the benefit of the Church) and the institutional structure established by Christ's Will, are in strict correlation with each other.

The most beautiful example of this is the history of religious orders. The great founder of an order is a truly charismatic person, as was St. Francis and St. Ignatius of Loyola. They were an extraordinary phenomenon in their own age. The Church rejoices so much in the value of their spirituality and of that form of life that it represents, that the Church shouts to the founder, 'Do not go away.' We want this form of life to remain and this charisma to last in the Church. In this way, the religious orders and their charisma become part of the institutional Church.

I will say even more. Christ Himself, His person and His mission, travels along the road of Church history. Jesus said to His disciples, "As the Father sends Me, so I also send you." (Jn.20:21) Therefore, the Church on earth, as a visible community, carries on the mission of Christ. It follows that the Church is not merely an external human organization. Rather, she lives within the world. Also, the Church is not just some invisible, mysterious reality of grace. The same Church is both an invisible reality and a visible society. These are not two distinct things. Sometimes human frailty and human history produce an obstacle. However, at a given moment of history, there appears in the Church something

beautiful, a new possibility for the Church. I believe that this is true of the “Flame of Love Movement”.

A believing woman, Elizabeth prays and hears voices in her soul. She perceives that these wonderful voices come from the Virgin Mary. No one asks – since this is not important – what is the nature of the experiences that she describes in her Spiritual Diary. This is not the task which the Church has undertaken in these years of judgment. It has not tried to discern some special happening or supernatural phenomenon. What we have deeply and seriously studied is the content of the message.

While we could not yet officially deal with this matter in Hungary, this spirituality spread to many countries throughout the world and has produced positive fruits. Before making this decision in Budapest, we have spoken with bishops, priests and people from other countries. We have also talked with pastors of souls in our own country. They have testified that the Flame of Love produces fruits in the lives of individual persons and of communities. These testimonies were very positive and we know that a good tree produces good fruits.

After this, we established a commission. Various priests examined the written documents, including the Spiritual Diary itself, the documentation from foundations outside of Hungary and the recognitions that local bishops in many parts of the world (from Brazil to Mexico) have given to this Movement as a private association of the faithful. Just a short time ago, this investigation was finished. As a conclusion, our Church recognizes as authentic, in accord with the Catholic faith, all of the material contained in the Spiritual Diary. Also, this archdiocese considers that the activity, life and rule of this community is in accord with all that characterizes movements of spirituality and authentic communities of the Catholic Church.

At this point, the entire Church receives this charisma as a gift from God. Instead of forgetting about this gift, we ought to place it on the lampstand so that it lights up everything in the house. Having already seen the effects of grace poured out in many other countries, we pray that this charisma shine upon the entire country of Hungary. For this reason, I have asked the senior director of the Archbishop's office to read this decree.”

Excerpts from the Official Decree

(Read by Canon László Süllei)

Our Lady of Hungary, pray for us!

With these words, I establish in the Archdiocese of Esztergom, Budapest the ‘Flame of love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Movement’ as an ecclesial association of the faithful in Christ. It is a private association enjoying a juridical personality.

At the same time, I also approve for this Archdiocese the Statutes of this Association as accepted in San Paulo, Brazil, on August 15, 2008 and as approved in the Archdiocese of Hermosillo, Mexico, on December 11, 2008.

I ask God to give His abundant blessings for the life and activities of this Association. May your activities save the spiritual renewal of our homeland!

Budapest, Palm Sunday, 2009

With my blessing as pastor,

Péter Erdő
Cardinal, Primate and Archbishop