



*“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.”
Song of Solomon 8:6-7*

Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace be with you! It is my hope and prayer that this letter finds you well, basking in the radiant light of God’s deep, steadfast, and abiding love for you. Let me just say at the outset, what an honor, privilege, and joy it is to share in this ministry of faith, hope, and love with you as your new Dean. Indeed, I give thanks to God for this opportunity and blessing given us, as *together* we herald good news and strive to build for God’s Kingdom in Cincinnati and beyond.

Throughout Holy Scripture, fire has been a symbol of God’s divine presence and spirit. From the burning bush in Exodus through which God spoke to Moses as the great “I AM,” to the pillar of fire that guided the Israelites out of bondage to the Land of Promise. From the tongues of the apostles that were aflame with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, to the author of the epistle to the Hebrews with the description of God as “a consuming fire,” we have seen fire and the God therein as that which fills, illuminates, guides, liberates, inspires, comforts, enlightens, forges, creates, and revives.

No doubt, we have all heard the phrase “going through the fire” when talking about and experiencing times of trial and tribulation. It is safe to say that over the past few years we have *all* been through the proverbial fire. As your new Dean, I have been privy to the stories of struggle during these challenging and uncertain times. I have heard stories of how members of this community stepped up in varying ways to support each other and our ongoing life, mission, and witness. I want to commend all of you who have remained steadfast in your faithful commitment to God, to each other, and to those whom we have been called and chosen to serve. Indeed, the people of Christ Church Cathedral have truly been a “light to the nations.”

As we begin this new season and chapter in our life together, I believe that the Holy Spirit is moving in and throughout this place: refining, filling, guiding, and reviving us. For 200+ years, the Cathedral has faithfully responded to the many challenges and needs in this community and beyond, and God is not done with us yet! Therefore, it is my hope and prayer that we will welcome and allow the Holy Spirit to fill and rekindle the fire of faith, hope, and love within our hearts as we undertake our **2022 Revive the Fire Annual Appeal Campaign** to raise funds for and increase and encourage participation in the life and work of the Cathedral.

For the 2022 fiscal year, the Campaign Committee’s goal is to raise \$500,000 from pledges like yours which will fund our outreach ministries such as the 5000 Club, the Jubilee debt forgiveness program, gun violence prevention initiatives, and the Interfaith Hospitality Network (to name a few). These funds will also allow us to create and explore new ministry opportunities and possibilities (You can learn more about these vital programs and their impact at: cincinnati.cathedral.com/cc/outreach)! As I said, God is not done with us yet!



Therefore, I pray that you will join us in our efforts to continue our legacy of caring for and providing for the needs of God's people. Learn how you can make your pledge to the **2022 Revive the Fire Annual Appeal Campaign** by going to our website at cincinnati.cathedral.com/donate. Or simply complete the enclosed pledge card.

May the fire of God's Holy Spirit continue to guide, comfort, sustain, fill, and revive you now and always!

Your Brother in Christ Jesus,



The Very Reverend Owen C. Thompson+
Dean, Christ Church Cathedral



REFINE US



GUIDE US



FILL US