



*Go set the world  
alight*

The souls of people, on their way to Earth-life, pass through a room full of lights; each takes a taper—often only a spark—to guide it in the dim country of this world. But some souls, by rare fortune, are detained a little longer—have time to grasp a handful of tapers, which they weave into a torch.

These are the torch-bearers of humanity—its poets, seers and saints, who lead and lift the race out of darkness, towards the light. They are the law-givers and saviours, the light bringers, way showers and truth tellers, and without them, humanity would lose its way in the dark.

Plato

*Go Set the World  
Alight*



**CLC Prayer Day  
Sunday 22 November 2009  
Faber Centre of Ignatian Spirituality  
10.00 am—2.00 pm**



Bless the Lord O my soul, O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honour and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers. [Ps104:1-4]

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. [Songs 8: 6-7]



I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptised, and what stress I am under until it is completed! [Lk 12: 49—50]

When Ignatius sent Saint Francis Xavier to the East, he told him: “go, set the world alight.” With the birth of the Society of Jesus, a new fire was lit in a changing world. A novel form of religious life came about, not through human enterprise but as a divine initiative. The fire that was set alight then continues to burn in our Jesuit life today, acting as “a fire that kindles other fires” (St Hurtado). With it, we are called to set all things alight with the love of God. [GC35: Identity]



Our deep love of God and our passion for his world should set us on fire—a fire that starts other fires! For ultimately, there is no reality that is only profane for those who know how to look. We must communicate this look and provide a pedagogy, inspired by the Spiritual Exercises, that carries people—especially the young—into it. [GC35: Identity]