

## Controlled Burn

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 / Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 / Rev 21:10-14, 22-23 / Jn 14:23-29



Happy Easter! Occasionally, our faith will be challenged and our peace disturbed by something we witness or hear. Have you ever experienced a “controlled burn”? Here in Kansas, it is a common occurrence. It could be a pile of wood, an acre, or hundreds of acres. It is a sight to see, and the heat it produces can be overwhelming. It is just so powerful! Then, it happens. A flame or ember gets away. The next thing you know it isn’t a controlled burn. Peace quickly escapes with the rogue fire. In today’s first reading, the early Church was confronted with a one of those rogue fires—“unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved.” What resulted was the Council of Jerusalem. Sometimes, it is necessary to fight fire with fire. The fire of the Holy Spirit can move quickly, too, and did back then, as it does in our time. Discussion ensued and blossomed into Church teaching. When the peace of Christ escapes you, remember what our Lord said, “do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” God is always in control, even when the fire gets away.