



# “On Mars Hill - The Babblers & His Babble”

Pastor Greg Webster

“Acts: God’s Friends, His Power, & the Ends of the Earth,” pt 21

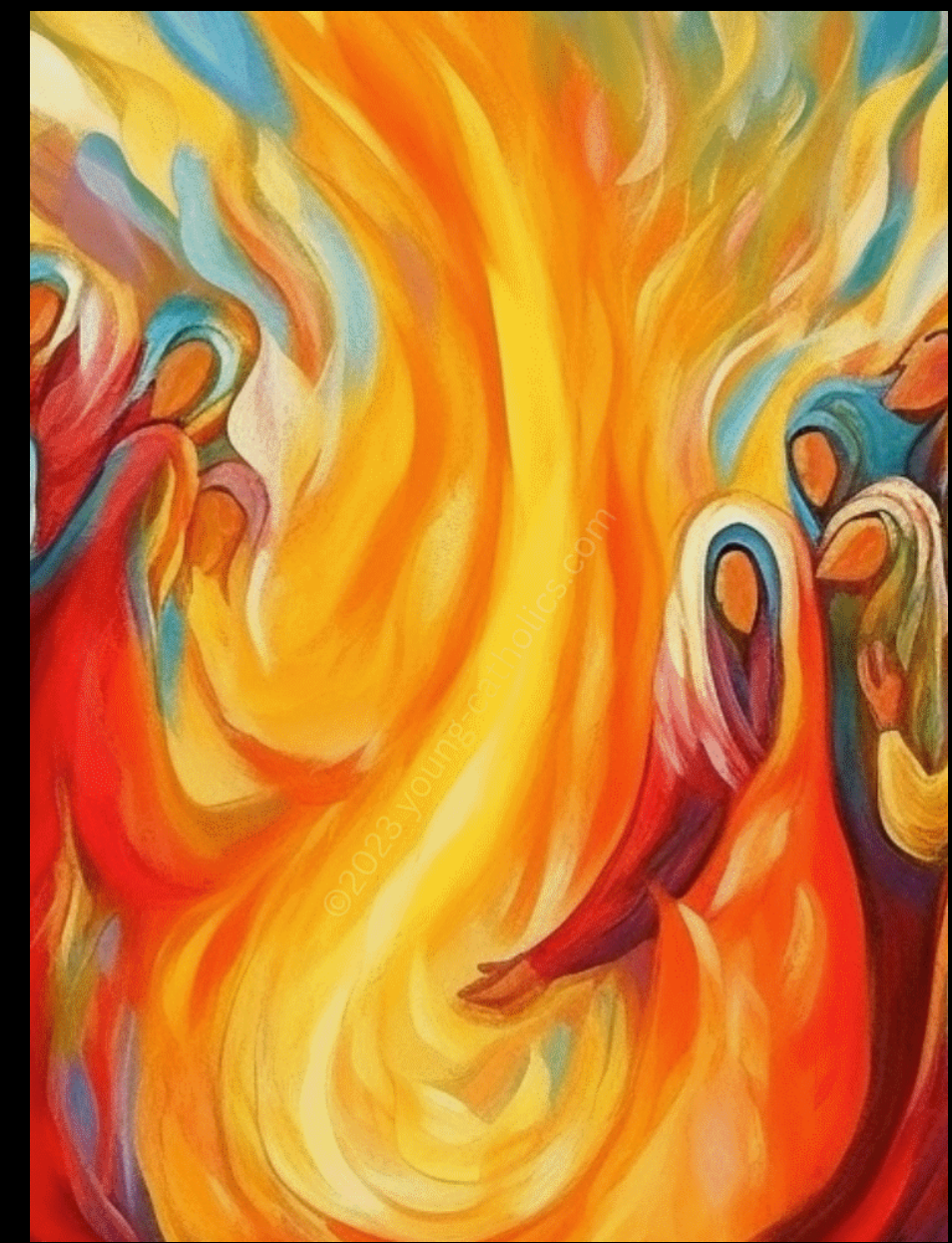


# Athens

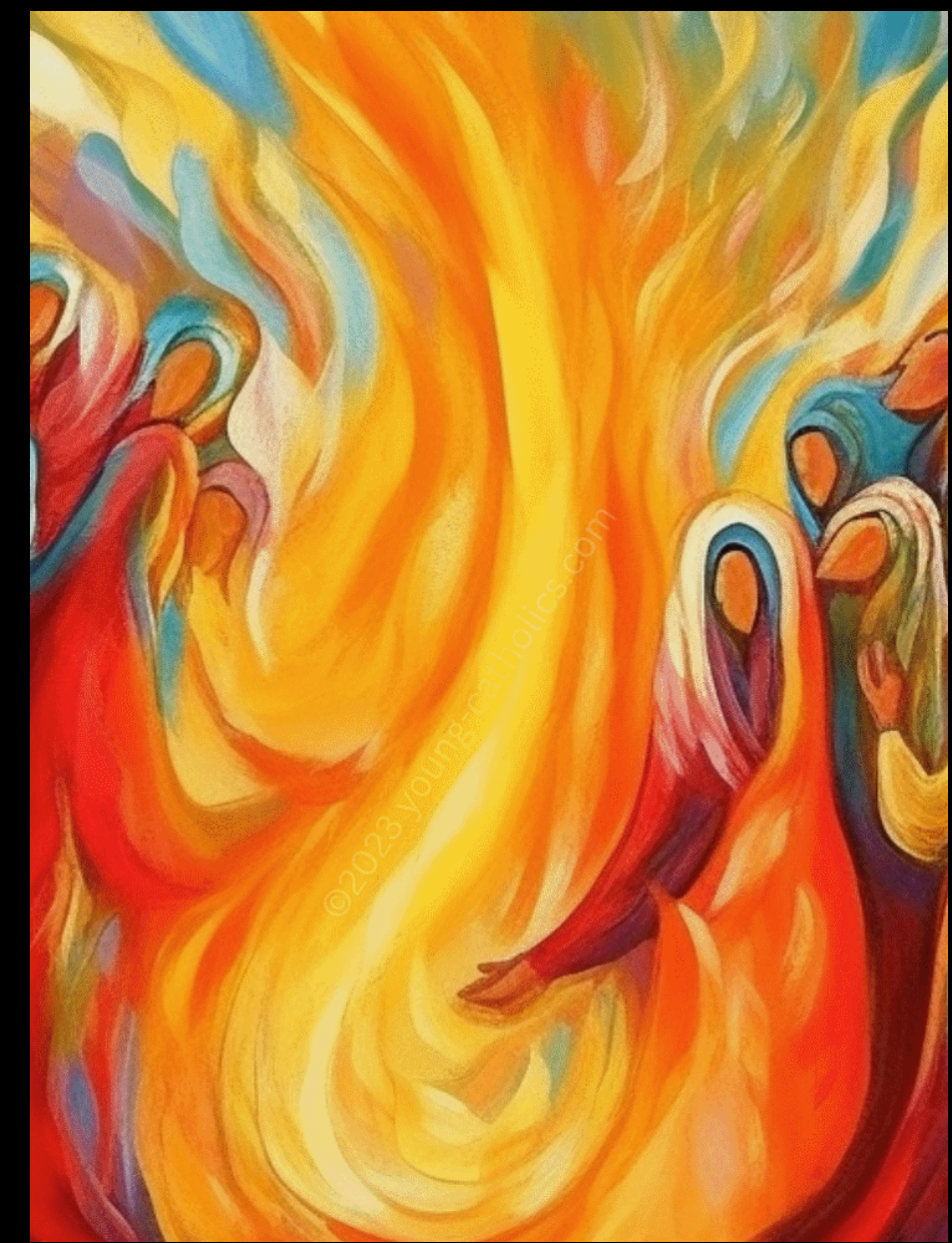
- Few Conversions
- No Church Planted
- A Huge Victory for Christian Mission?



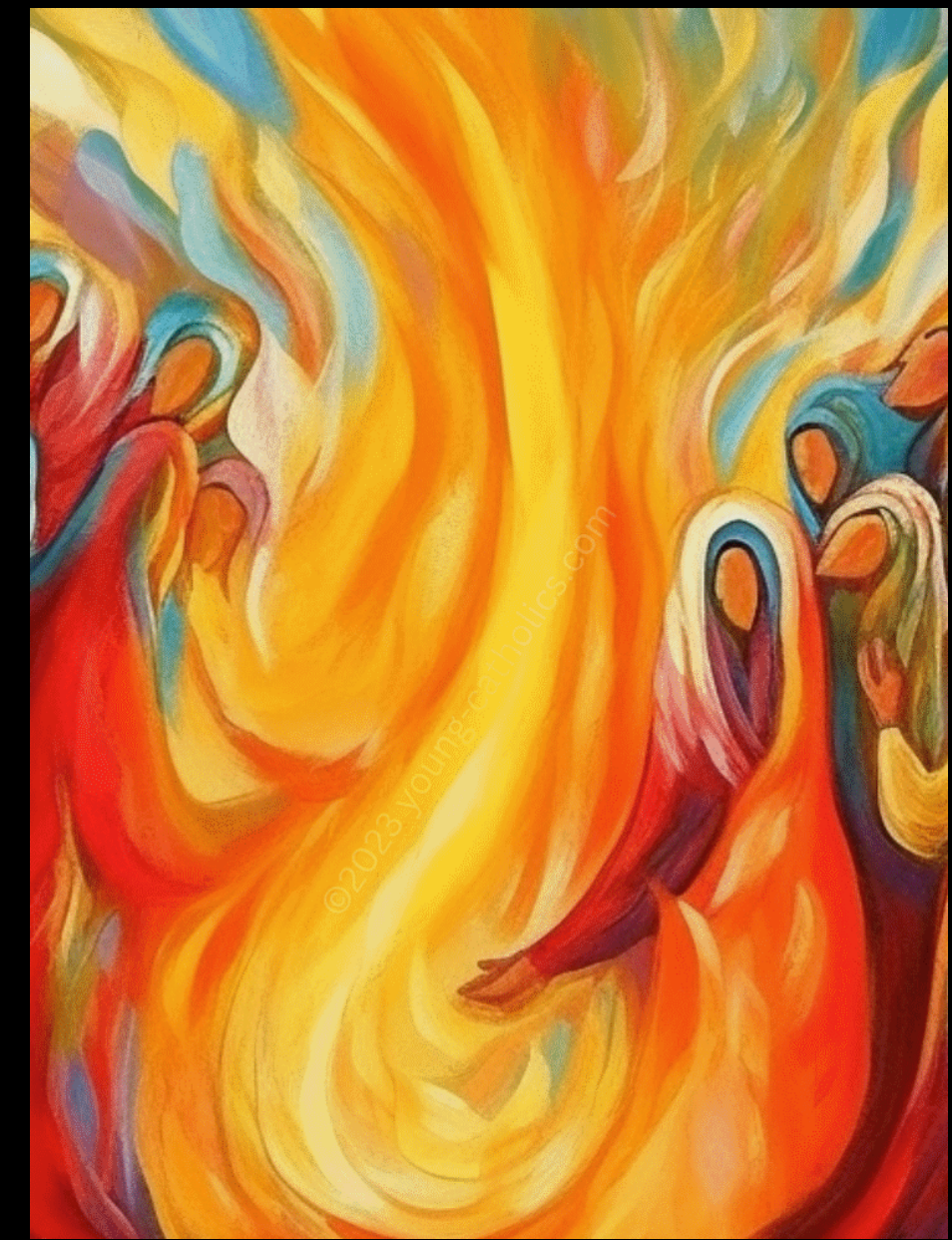
Acts 17:16 ¶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols.



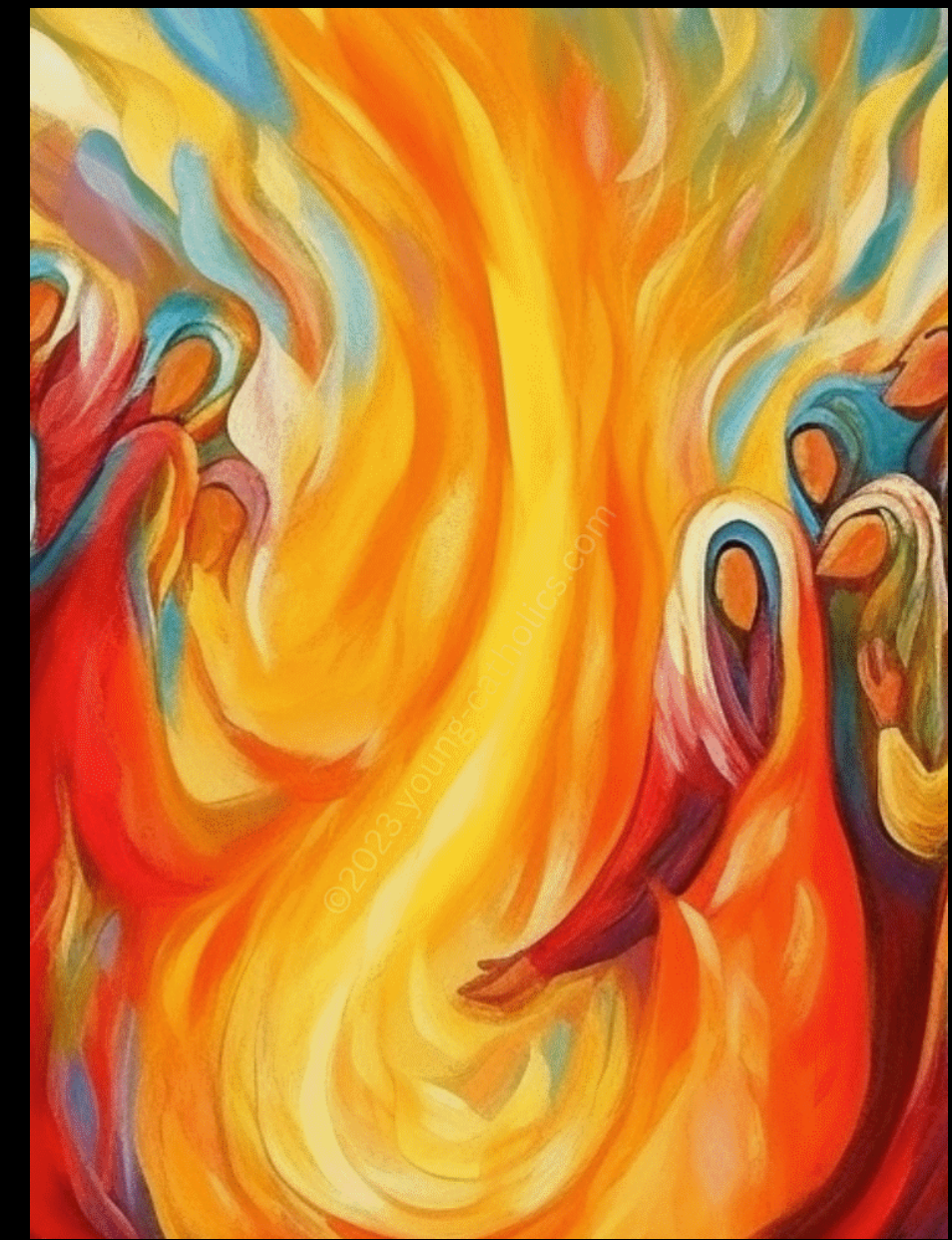
Acts 17:17 So he argued in the  
synagogue with the Jews and  
the devout persons and also  
in the marketplace every day  
with those who happened to  
be there.



Acts 17:18 Also some  
Epicurean and Stoic  
philosophers  
debated with him...



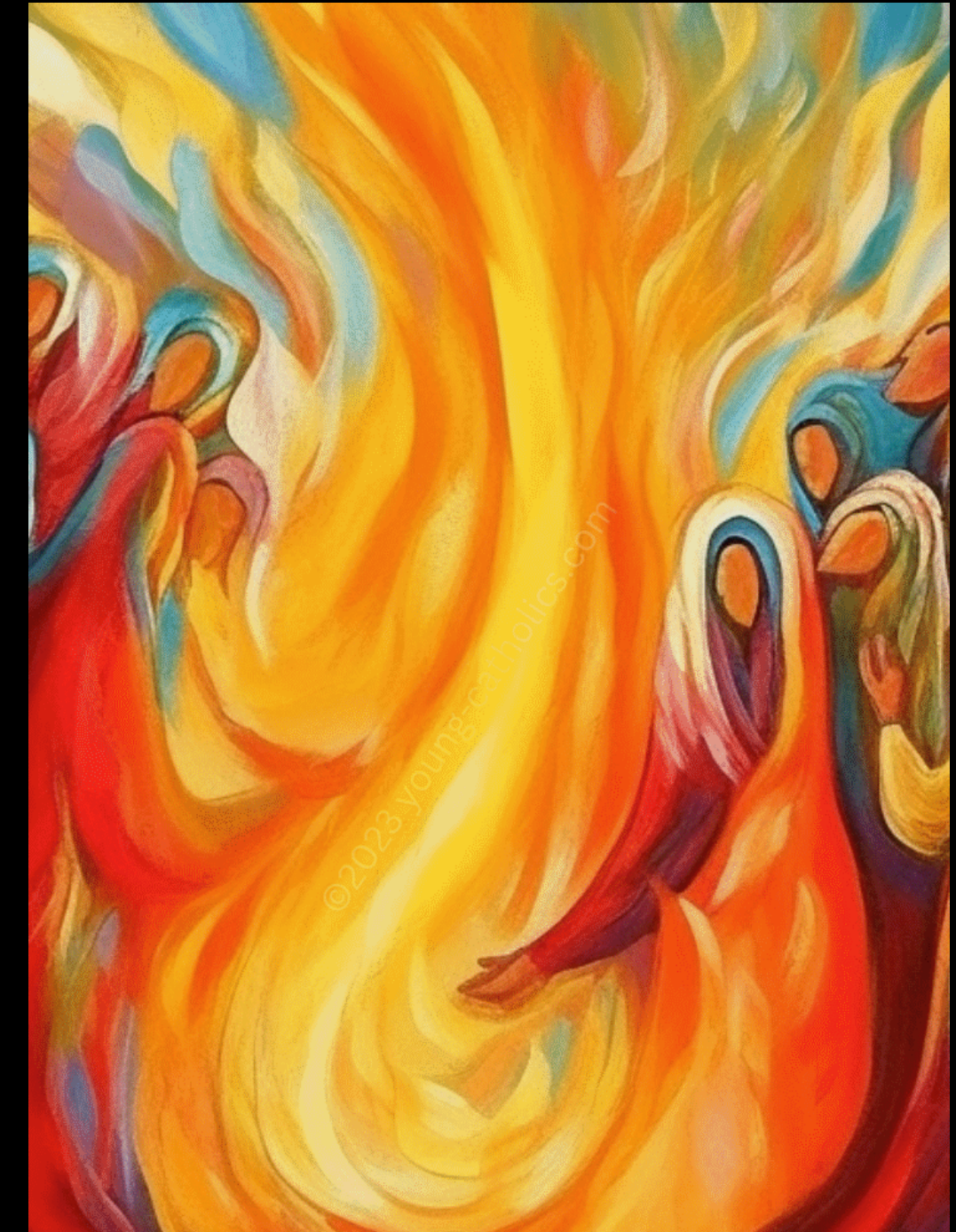
Acts 17:18 Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this pretentious babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.)



# Athens

Acts 17:19 So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"

Acts 17:20 It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means."



Rom. 5:6 ¶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

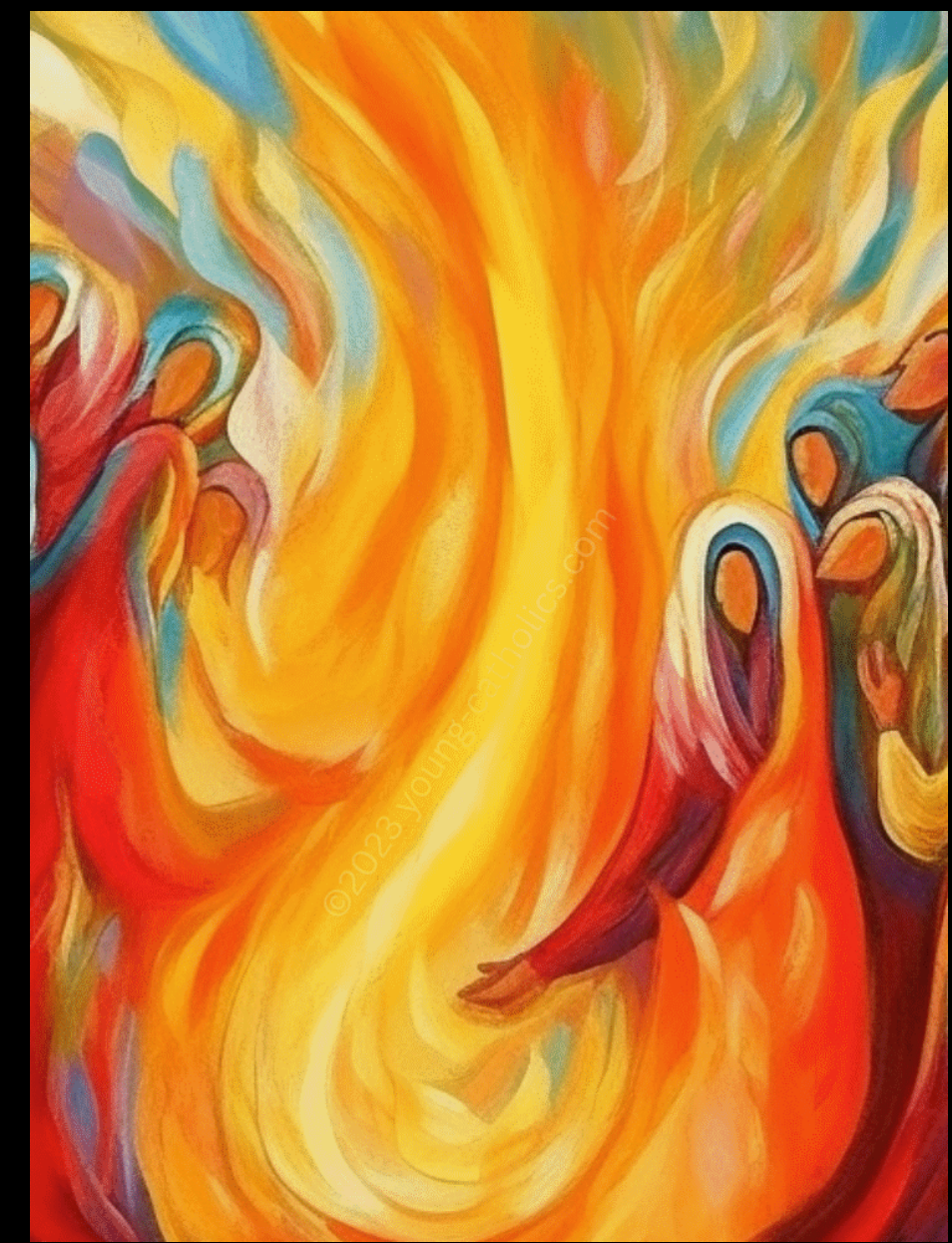
Rom. 5:7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

Rom. 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

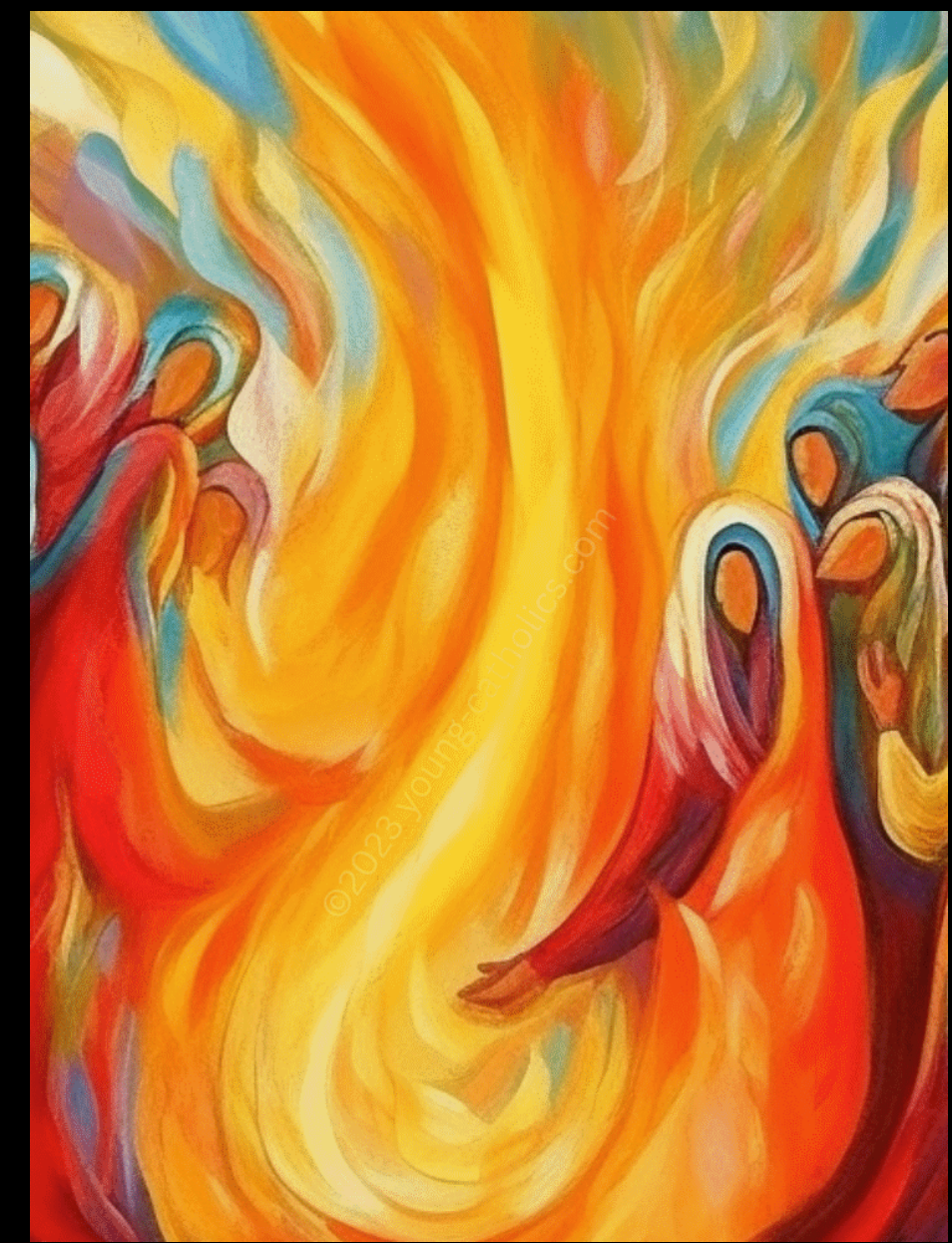




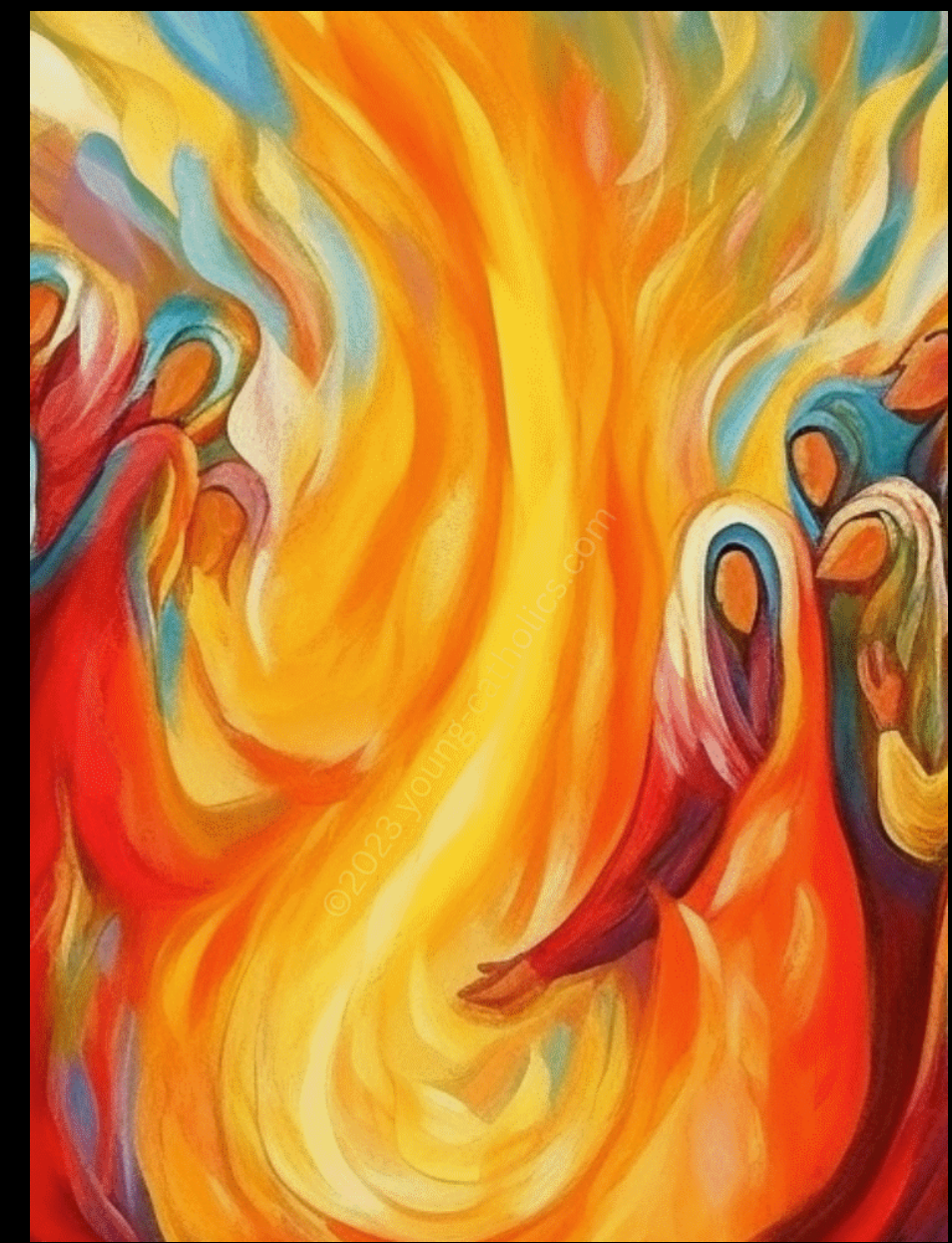
Acts 17:21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.



Acts 17:22 ¶ Then Paul stood  
in front of the Areopagus  
and said, “Athenians, I see  
how extremely spiritual you  
are in every way.

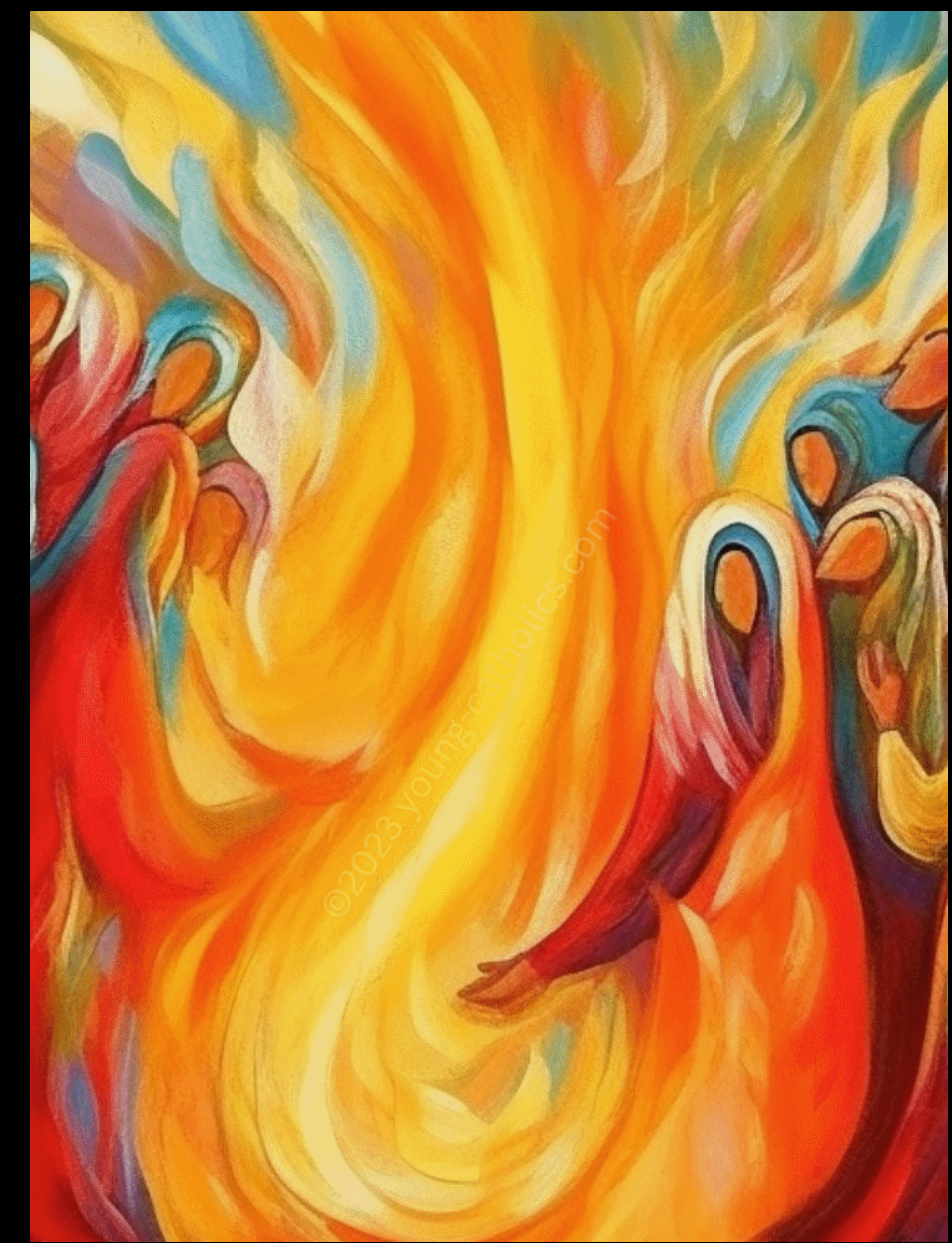


Acts 17:23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.



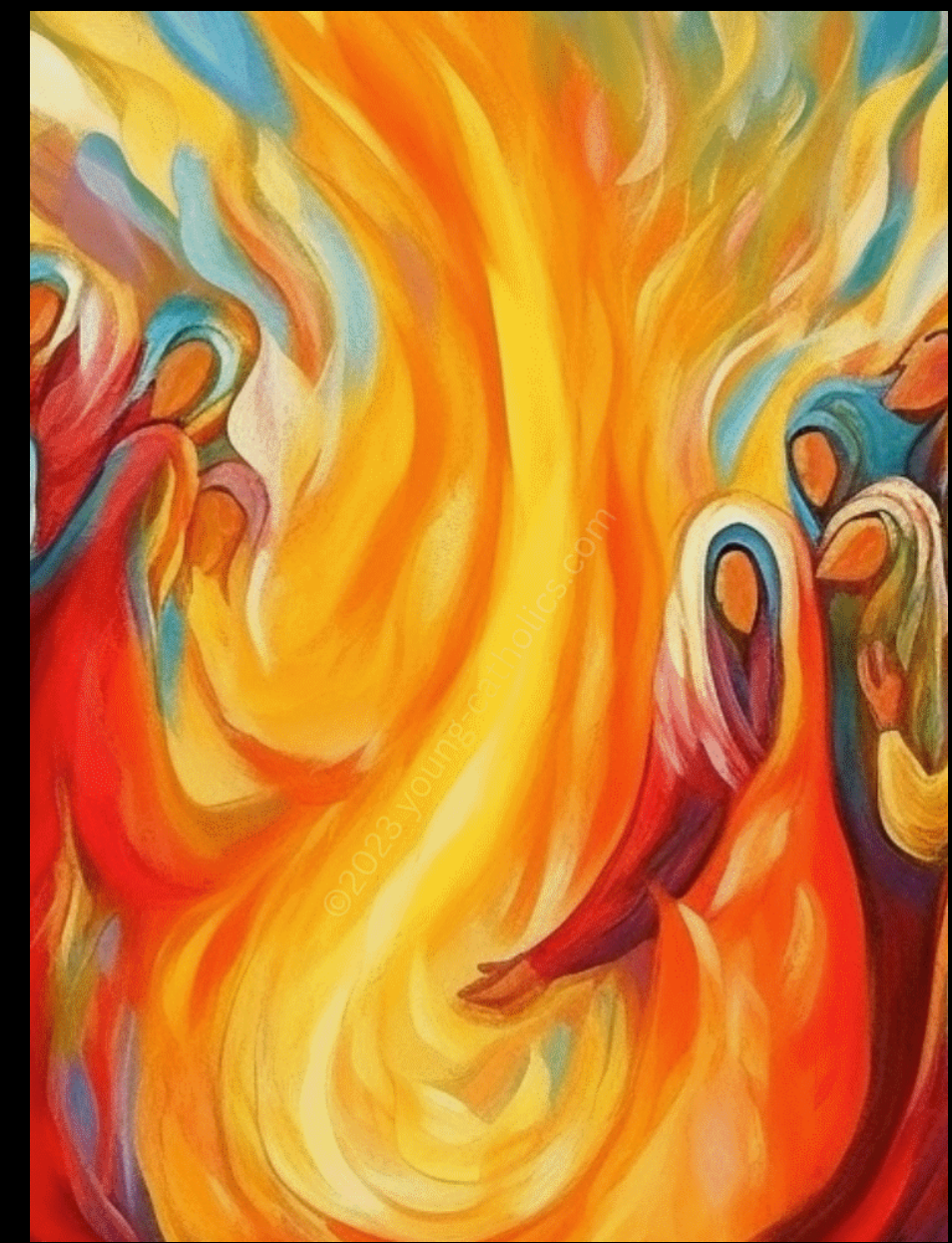
Acts 17:24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,

Acts 17:25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.



Acts 17:26 From one ancestor<sup>r</sup> he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,

Acts 17:27 so that they would search for God<sup>s</sup> and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.



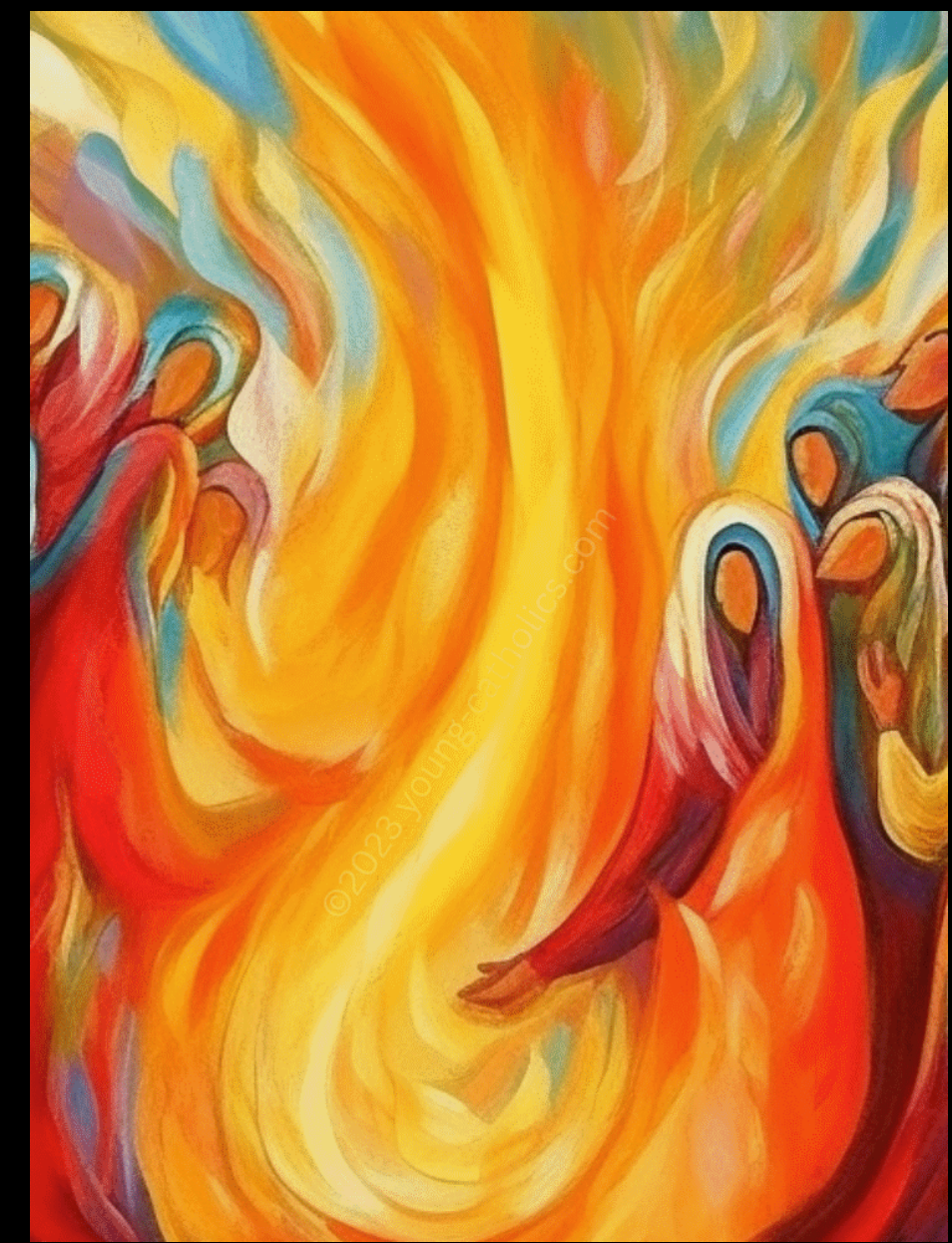
Acts 17:28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, ¶'For we, too, are his offspring.'



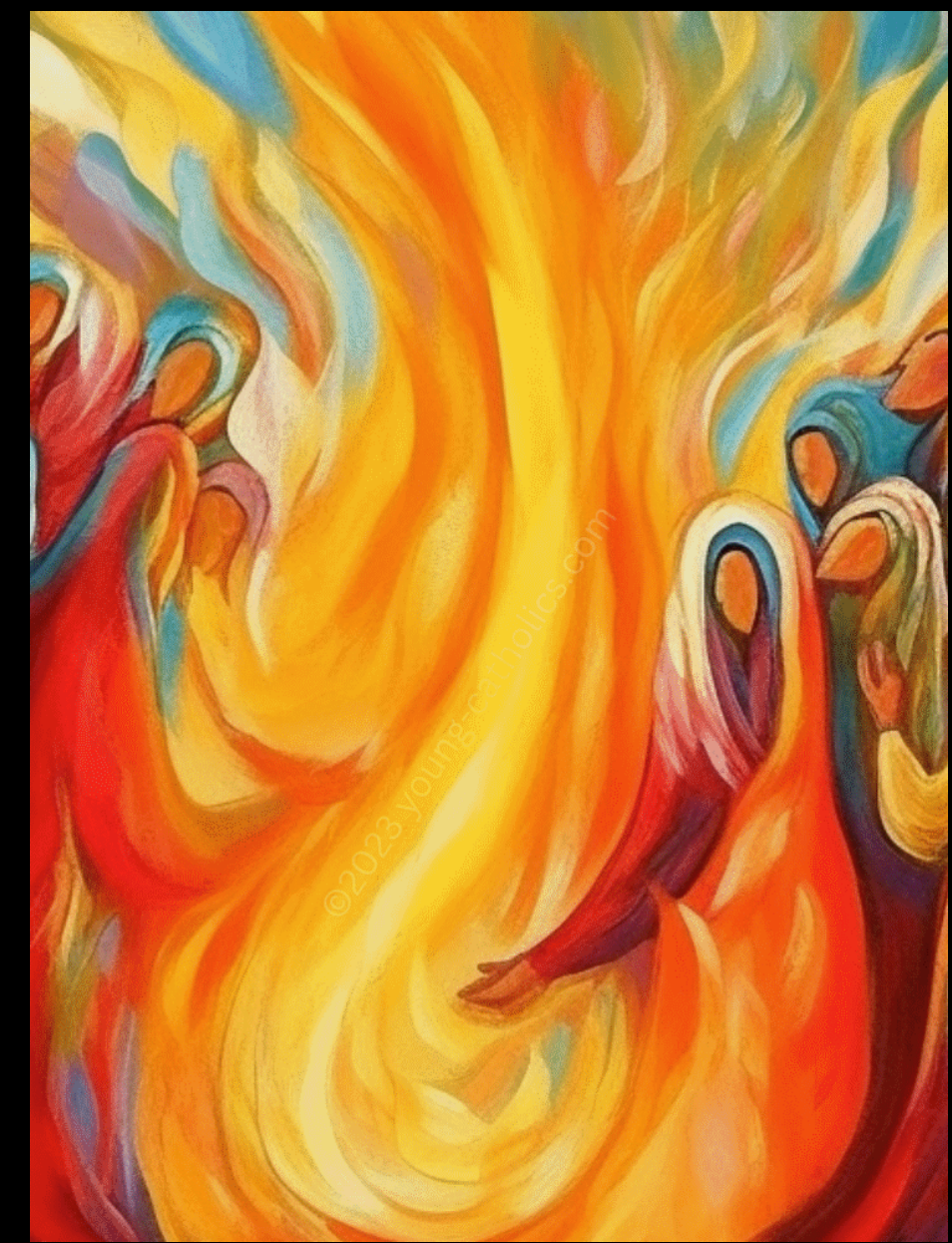
Acts 17:29 ¶ "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.



Acts 17:30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

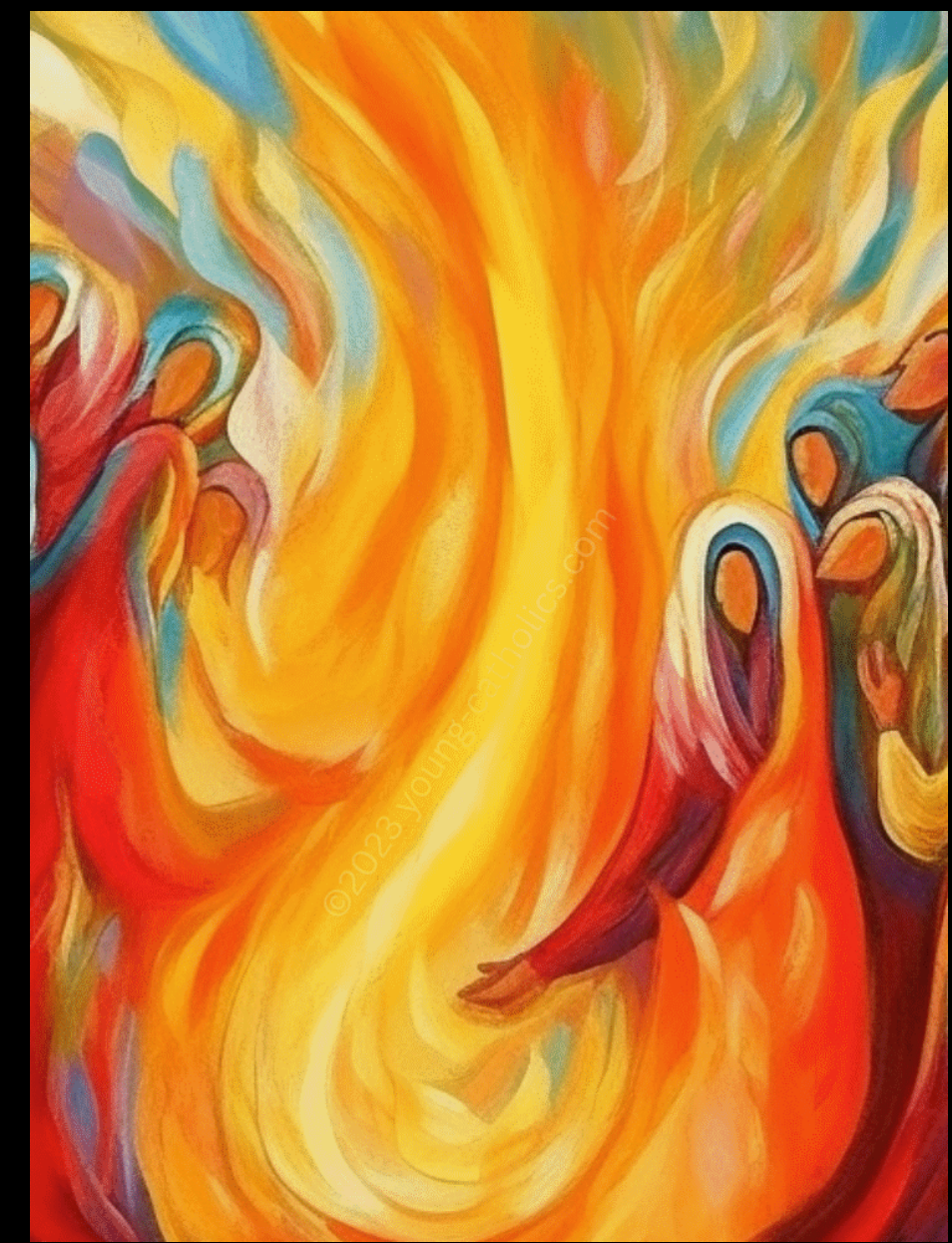


Acts 17:31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

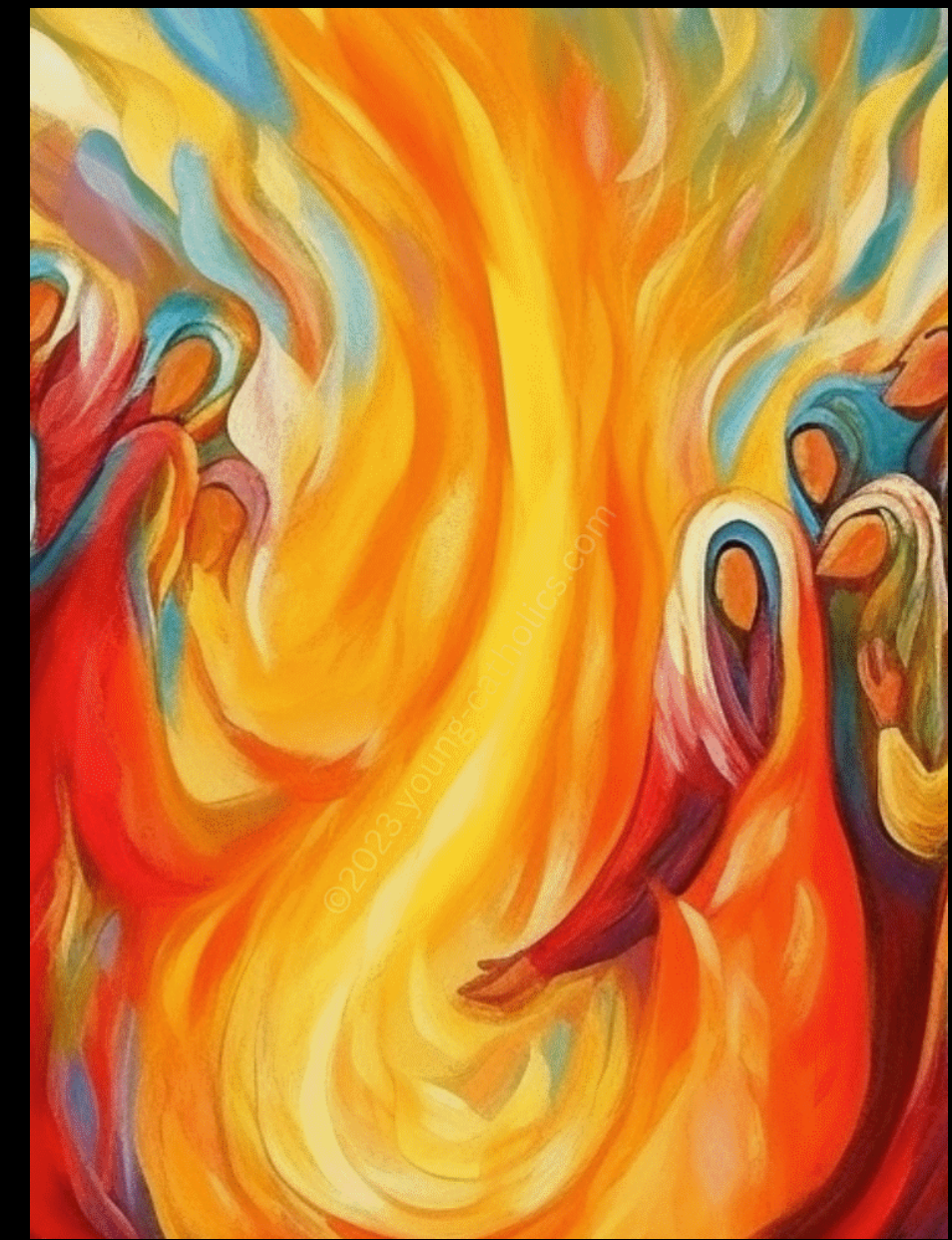




Acts 17:32 ¶ When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed, but others said, “We will hear you again about this.”



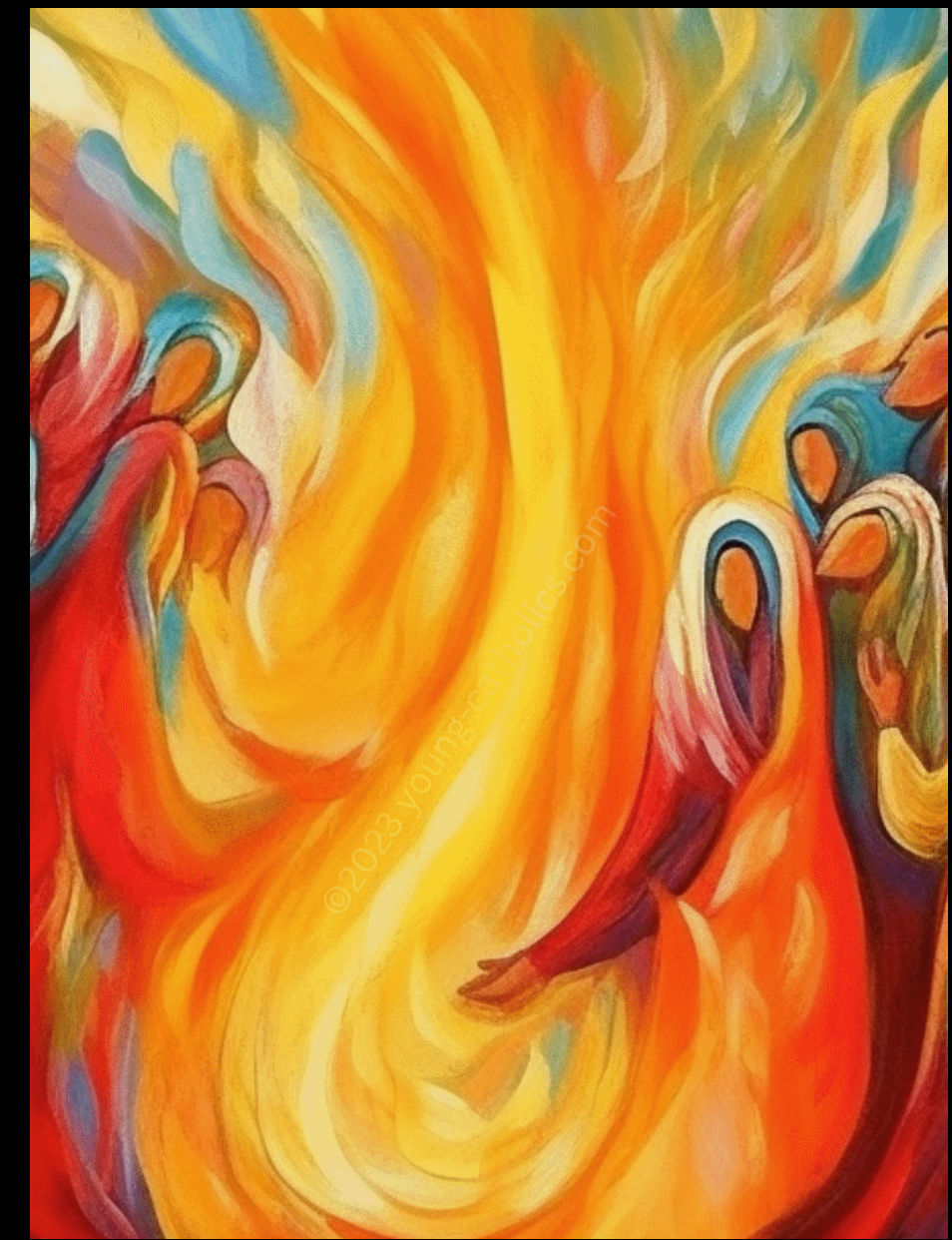
Acts 17:33 At that point  
Paul left them.



# Do We Care?

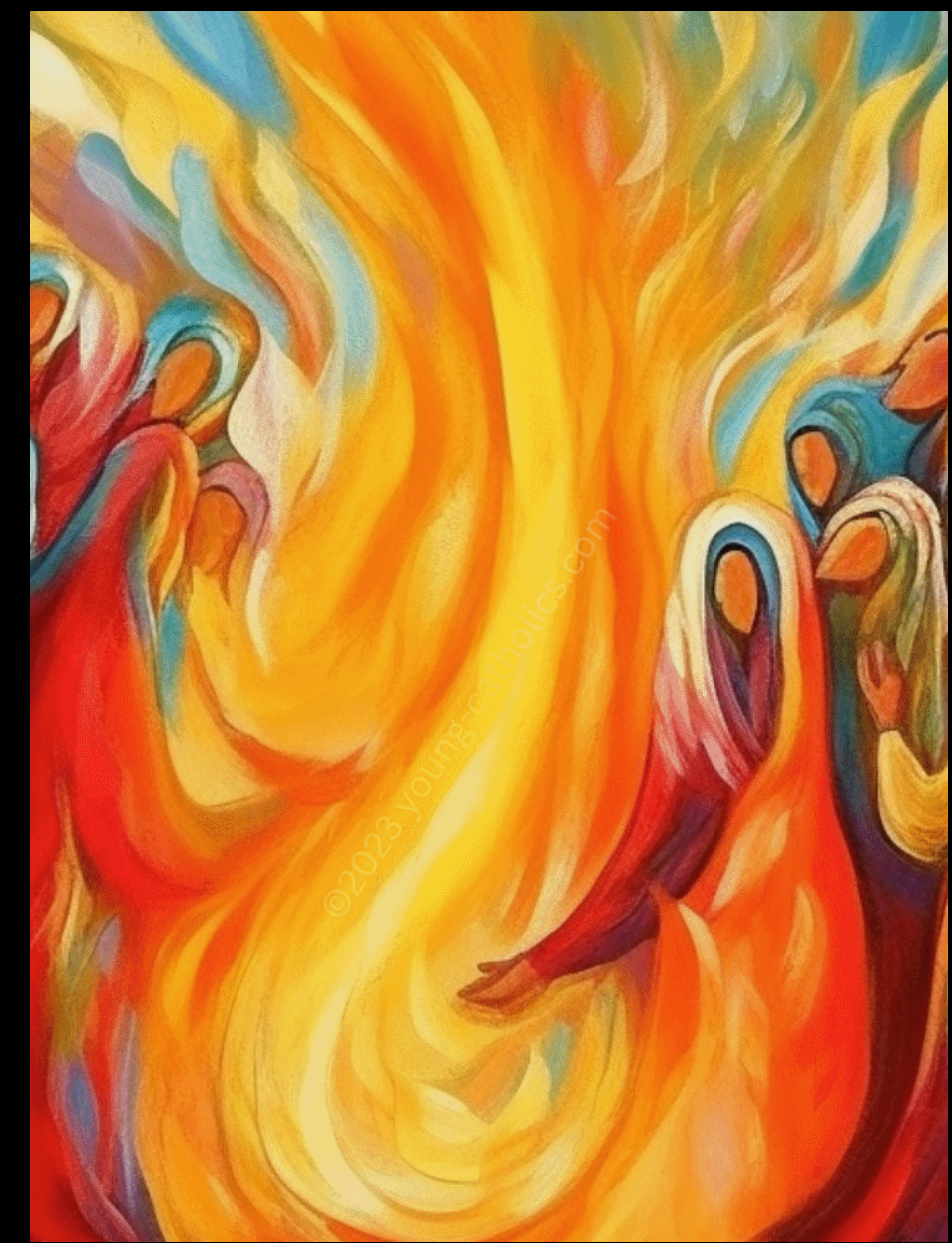
Christians who believe we come  
across as genuine - 64%

Athenians who believe we do - 34%



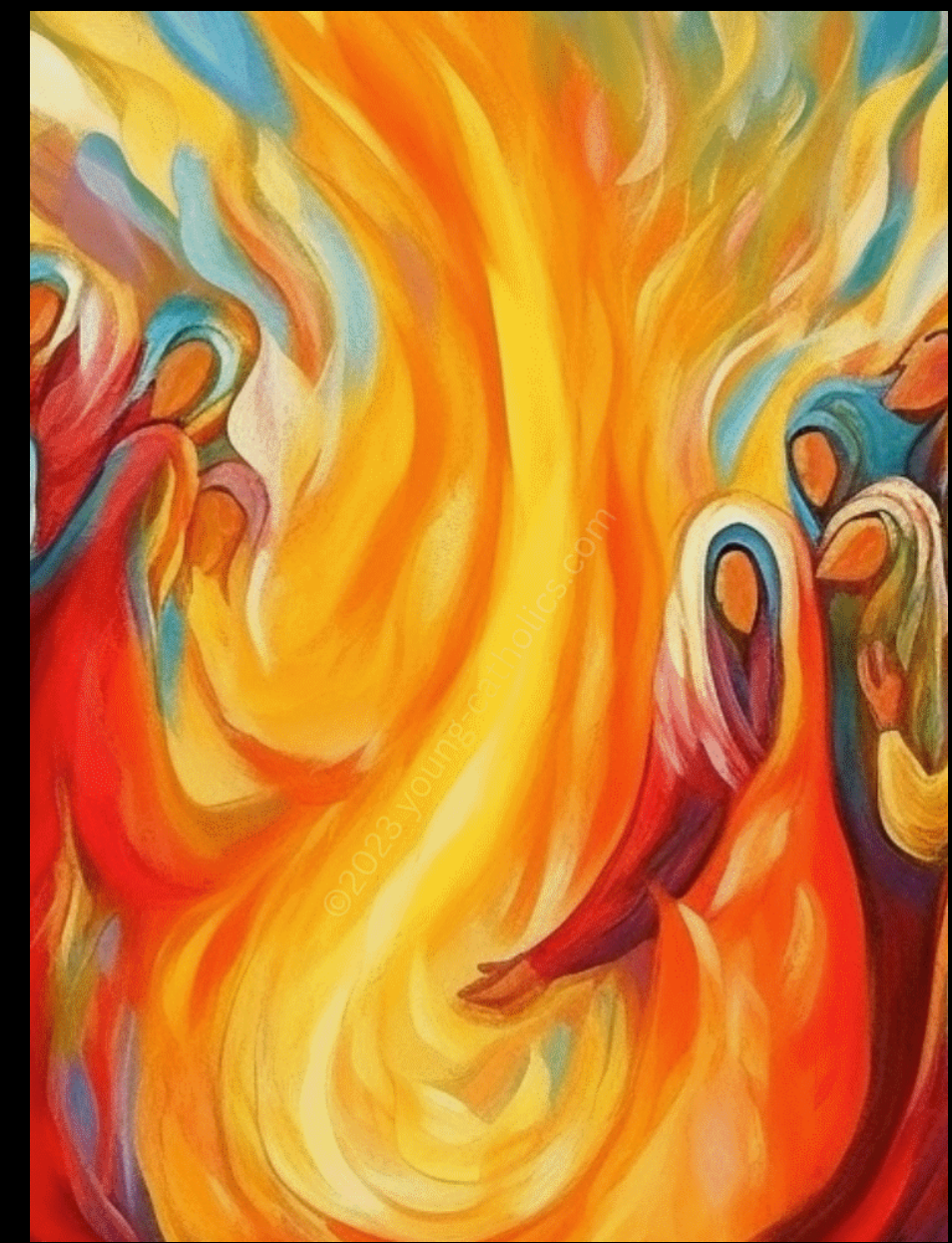
# How Adventists Came to the Church:

Walk in	3-4%
Special Need	2-3%
Pastor	0-3%
Visitation	.25-1%
Sabbath School	3-5%
Program	3-4%
?????	80-92%



# How Adventists Came to the Church:

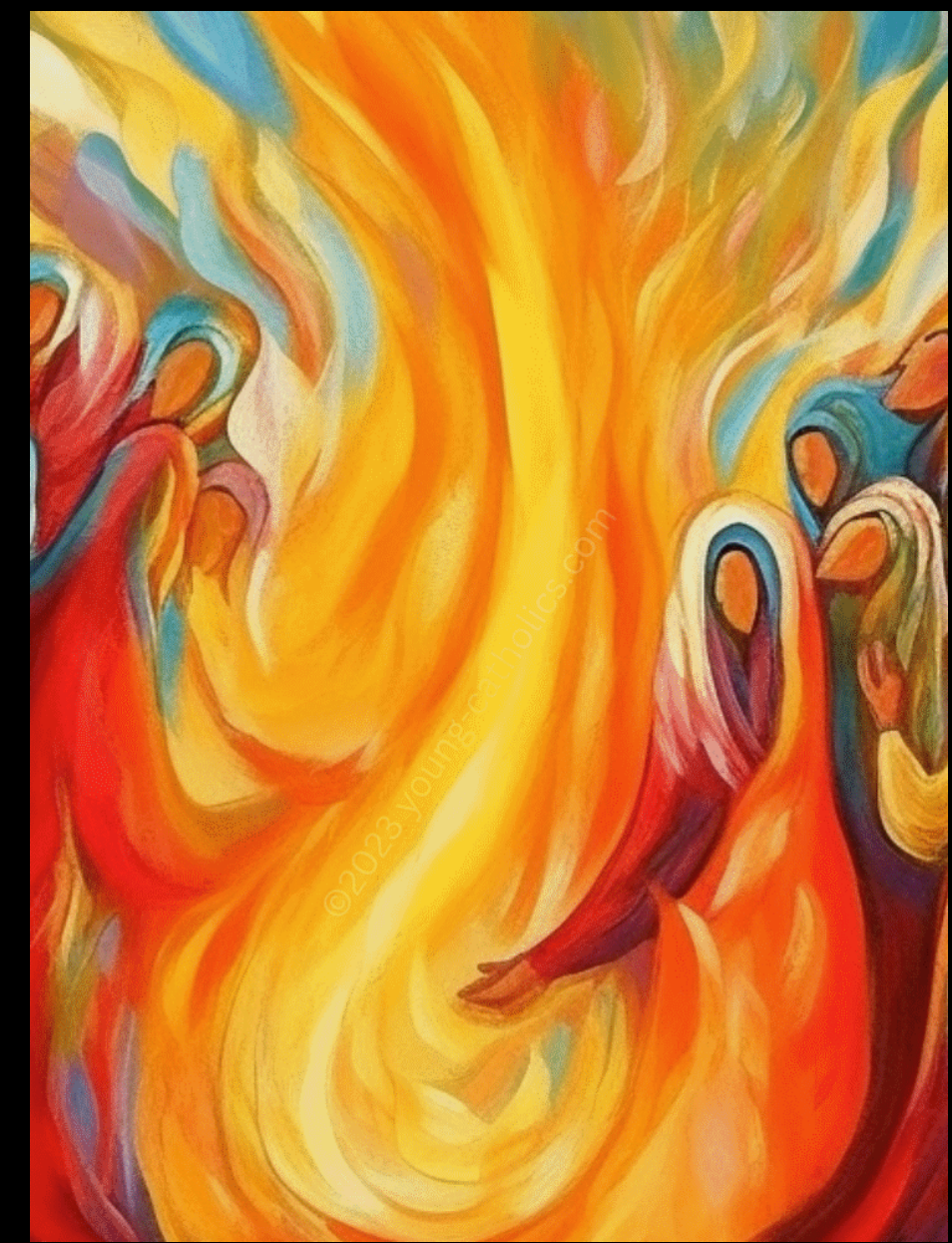
Walk in	3-4%
Special Need	2-3%
Pastor	0-3%
Visitation	.25-1%
Sabbath School	3-5%
Program	3-4%
Family & Friends	80-92%



Matt. 24:12 And  
because of the increase  
of lawlessness, the love  
of many will grow cold.



Acts 17:34 But some of them  
joined him and became  
believers, including Dionysius  
the Areopagite and a woman  
named Damaris and others  
with them.





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