

The Flame

January/February 2021

Living Water, Mighty Wind

“For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ” (1 Cor 10:1-4).

Moses foreshadows the living water of Christ. The Catechism identifies the crossing of the Red Sea as a type of Baptism, “...literally the liberation of Israel from the slavery of Egypt, announces the liberation wrought by Baptism” (1221). We see water bring forth death, for those who brought about slavery; and life, for those who were in slavery. St. Paul teaches, “...our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea” (1 Cor 10:1-2). Origen says, “That which the Jews consider to be the crossing of the Sea, St. Paul calls Baptism. That which they believed to be a cloud proves to be the Holy Spirit.” We all thirst, whether we are conscious of it or not, for peace, joy, happiness and love. We realize that this thirst cannot be quenched by

By Jane Guenther

anything in our everyday life. We have an infinitely deep well that can only be filled by he who is infinite and eternal love. Jesus says to the Samaritan women, “...whoever drinks this water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (Jn 4:14).

The Holy Spirit has become truly the current of grace in the whole Church. I have found more and more that this current of grace, this wellspring, can be found through the many gifts and charisms that individuals have received through their Baptism. Let’s take the dynamic 2nd grade teacher whose passion to prepare her students to receive the sacraments is operating through her charism of teaching to not only inspire her students but also their parents. She began “Spark” evenings with the parents. Her teachings are supernaturally inspired teachings on the Holy Spirit’s presence in the sacraments, which enticed these parents to engage evermore in their own faith.

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4).

(Continued on Page 6)

Dear Readers of the Flame,

Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons, but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:15-16)

By the reports available as I write this article, vaccines for the coronavirus should be available in the early part of this year.

The hope is that a vaccine will bring a greater sense of normalcy to the world. **And that will be none too soon.** The surge in coronavirus cases has forced us to again be very mindful of wearing masks, keeping socially distant and washing our hands. The surge changed the way many people celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas. People long for the freer interaction with family and friends again.

The human tendency during this pandemic is to become anxious, impatient and complain. St. Paul wrote to those in Ephesus during days he said were “evil” and exhorted them to wisely make “the most of the opportunity.” Opportunity? Where did St. Paul see opportunity? We know that there was a persecution of Christians in Ephesus (see Acts 19). Perhaps the opportunity was simply boldly living the faith amid those kinds of trials. I do believe we need to see the opportunities during our own evil days. **What are the opportunities that we can seize upon during these final months (we pray) of this pandemic?**

Two things happened to me when the pandemic hit in late winter of 2020. First, I became a bit more anxious. I found myself sifting through a variety of financial advisements, human resource regulations and safety protocols issued by the Diocese of Cleveland. On the flip side, I also found that I had some additional time to pray. And so I did pray and even added some study time to the schedule. Though this was not a perfect cure for anxiety, connecting more deeply with the Lord certainly helped me grow in peace. I also found myself getting to bed earlier. This too was a healthy thing. I have been able to maintain some of these practices even as some parts of our society moved toward a sense of normalcy.

I also found new opportunities to appreciate nature. I began a twenty minute Rosary walk after my morning prayer time. On most days I would walk through my parish cemetery for 20 minutes praying the Rosary. I was able to see the budding forth of spring, the maturation of summer and the slow dormancy of fall in the trees and flowers of our parish property. I listened to the birds chirping and the rooster crowing across the street announcing the rising day. I watched the shifting of sunrise and sunset through the seasons. As Louis Armstrong so beautifully sang, *What a Wonderful World.*

I have also tried to grow in my appreciation of other people. There were many of my employees at the parish who worked through the pandemic. Teachers had to learn to run a virtual classroom in a matter of days and now (as of the time of this writing) face the threat of coronavirus on a daily basis by teaching in a live format. (Thank God no one on our school staff has yet to catch covid-19.) My parish secretary and maintenance team have soldiered on, serving God’s people with cheerfulness.

I have also explored new ways to proclaim the gospel. I have run a number of livestream bible studies. Our parish mission

was both live and livestreamed. (Deacon Poyo was a great blessing to St. Peter Parish!) Many parish meetings have been conducted through the Zoom online meeting platform.

Which brings me to this final point. The General Service Committee and I have longed to find ways to minister amid this pandemic. Though our conference was cancelled, we were able to host six outdoor Festival of Praise events this summer and early fall. However, with the weather as it is in northern Ohio during winter months, outdoor ministry events are pretty much out of the picture.

Beginning in January of 2021 I will be hosting a program through the Zoom format called *The Faithful Discipleship series.* This will be a 75 minute online meeting twice a month with the goal of deepen our walk with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. I have broken down the topics into four meeting modules. The first of these modules, entitled *Discipleship: The Mandate and Models*, will focus on the basics of discipleship. Future modules will include: *Internal Liberty*, *The Fruit of the Holy Spirit*, *Spiritual Gifts*, and *Movements and Church Structure*.

Each session will begin with a time of praise and worship. I have been a part of these Zoom worship sessions and they can “work” if everyone follows the same rules. After the praise time, there will be a teaching on the topic of the evening. This will be followed by a time of discussion in small groups. (Zoom allows “breakout rooms” within a larger meeting.) Each session will then conclude with some announcements to the large group and a time of closing prayer.

We will meet twice a month (the second and fourth Wednesday) at 7:00 PM beginning January 13th. You will need a computer with video and audio capabilities. Some of the logistics will be worked out at our first meeting. **If you are interested in being part of *Faithful Discipleship series*, please email me at frbobfranco@gmail.com. I will send you login instructions and the link, and we will begin this adventure.**

In the Book of Esther we hear the often quoted words of Mordecai to Queen Esther, *Who knows but that it was for a time like this...?* (Esther 4:14b) Perhaps it is only through a pandemic that we could learn certain things: about ourselves, God, others, our world and how to minister to others in new ways. Please join me in *The Faithful Discipleship Series*. We want to be more “for the Lord” at the end of this pandemic than when we began it.

In Christ,
Fr. Bob Franco

**THE FLAME IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES FOR THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND.
FR. ROBERT FRANCO LIASON TO CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES.
DENISE CALABRESE, PUBLISHER AND EDITOR.**

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Catholic Renewal Ministries Traveling Charismatic Mass



FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021

**Praise & Worship 7:00 p.m.
Liturgy Begins at 7:30 p.m.**

**Fr. Bob Franco
Celebrant**

**Healing Prayers
Following Mass**

**Contact Fr. Bob Franco
440-327-2201
or
CRM at 440-944-9445**

crmweb.org



**SAINT PETER PARISH
35777 Center Ridge Road
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Invite a Friend to the Joining of Heaven & Earth!

Catholic Renewal Ministries Events

For information on traveling Masses and other events, please refer to the CRM website (crmweb.org). All Masses and events are subject to change due to the coronavirus policies of the State of Ohio and the Diocese of Cleveland. We will try our best to keep the CRM website updated. If you are unsure that a Mass or event will take place, please call the appropriate contact number. Thank you!

OUR LADY OF ANGELS PRAYER GROUP

Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group has not let the Covid-19 virus stop our prayer! Under the leadership of Don Lawrence, we began a ZOOM rosary meeting early in the Spring, then when the weather warmed, we moved our rosary to the parking lot of Our Lady of Angels Parish. We involved all members of our group in the recitation of the rosary, wearing our masks and maintaining a 6 foot safe distance with our lawn chairs! We were happy to welcome some OLA parishioners to the 'parking lot' rosary as well. We even attempted prayer meetings – complete with music and song sheets – still, in the parking lot, for several weeks until the weather got too cool. All to say – we will not stop praying and praising God, our Lord, our King, our Rock!

As the numbers of Covid-19 cases has increased, we have decided to return to ZOOM meetings. We pray the rosary and then use the remainder of our time to praise, (along with music), move in the gifts of the Spirit, and pray intercessory petitions. If anyone would like to join our ZOOM group – Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm - please contact Don Lawrence at 740-424-4707, for the information needed. Praise and thanks be to God!

The Ss Cosmas and Damian prayer group is meeting every week on Sunday evening at 7 pm at the church. The meeting also streams live and is then recorded and available for viewing on the Ss. Cosmas and Damian Facebook Page.

Every week, Denny Carleton will be leading worship with a Fr. Michael Stalla teaching. SS. Cosmas & Damian Church is located at 10439 Ravenna Rd., in Twinsburg 44087. For more information, please contact Brenda or Denny Carleton at 216-392-8749.

Join Peter's Shadow Healing Prayer Ministry on Zoom.us on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. To enter the meeting use ID: 848 4900 3670 and Password: behealed.

Catholic Renewal Ministries will host a **Charismatic Mass** on **Friday, January 15th, at 7:00 p.m.**, at St. Peter Parish, 35777 Center Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville 44039. Fr. Bob Franco will be the celebrant. Praise and worship will begin at 7:00 and the liturgy will start at 7:30. Socially distant healing prayer will be available after Mass. Masks are required. For more information, please contact Fr. Franco at 440-327-2201 or CRM at 440-944-9445. Come and bring a friend! This will be a time to truly encounter the Lord.

Catholic Renewal Ministries invites you be a part of the **Faithful Discipleship Series** that will be hosted by Fr. Bob Franco using the Zoom online meeting platform. **We will meet twice a month (the 2nd and 4th Wednesday) from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm beginning on January 13th.** The goal of the series is to deepen our walk with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

You will need a computer with video and audio capabilities, and some of the logistics will be worked out at our first meeting. If you are interested in being part of The Faithful Discipleship Series, please email Fr. Bob at frbobfranco@gmail.com. He will send you login instructions and the link to be a part of the sessions.

Each session will begin with a time of praise and worship, followed by a teaching on the topic of the evening. Since Zoom allows "breakout rooms" within a larger meeting, we will then break into small groups for a time of discussion. At the end of the evening, everyone will come back together for any announcements and closing prayer.

For the first meetings in January and February, our study and discussion will begin with the basics of discipleship. This module is entitled *Discipleship: The Mandate and Model*. Future meeting modules will include: *Internal Liberty, The Fruit of the Holy Spirit, Spiritual Gifts, and Movements and Church Structure*.



VISIT US ONLINE:
crmweb.org

All are invited to attend Catholic Renewal Ministries'
Zoom Mini-Conference Series:

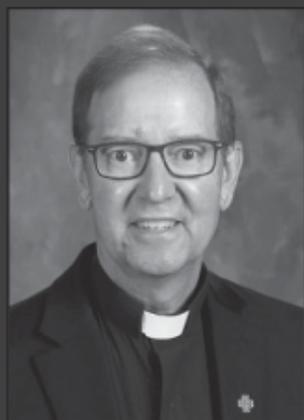
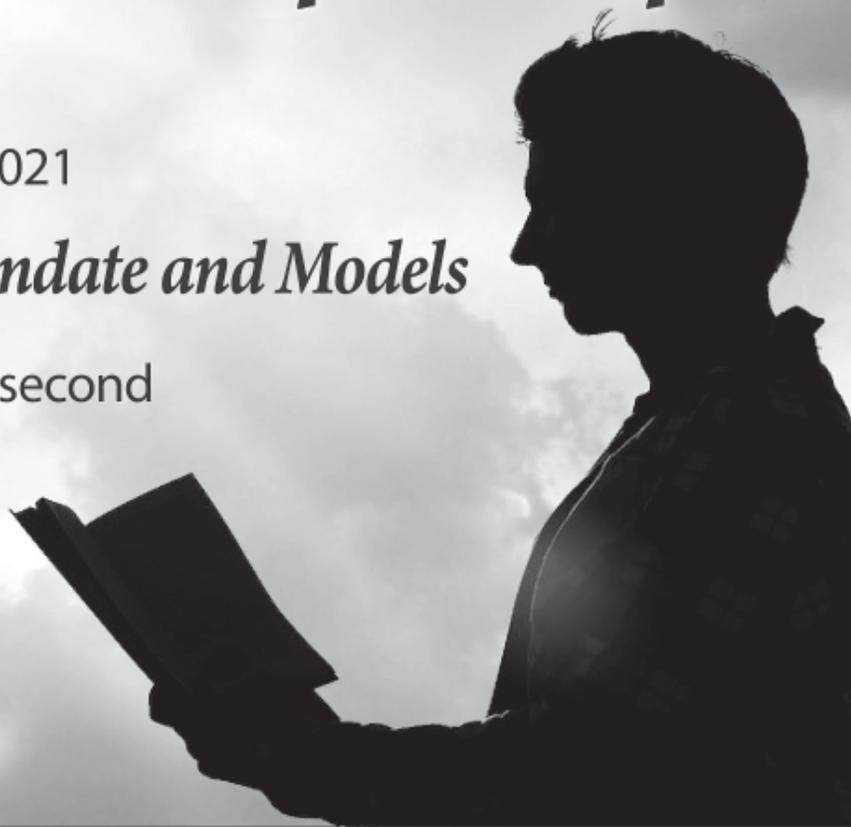
“Faithful Discipleship”

Zoom Module 1
beginning January 13th, 2021

Discipleship: The Mandate and Models

Zoom series will meet the second
and fourth Wednesdays
7:00pm to 8:15pm

Contact Father Bob
for login instructions:
frbobfranco@gmail.com



Speaker: Father Bob Franco

This will be a 75 minute online meeting twice a month with the goal of deepen our walk with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. For the first series in January and February, our study and discussion will begin with the basics of discipleship. This module is entitled *Discipleship: The Mandate and Model*. **Future modules will include:** *Internal Liberty, The Fruit of the Holy Spirit, Spiritual Gifts, Movements and Church Structure* and other topics.

Each session will begin with a time of praise and worship followed by a teaching on the topic of the evening. Since Zoom allows “break-out rooms” within a larger meeting, we will then break into small groups for a time of discussion. At the end of the evening, everyone will come back together for any announcements and closing prayer.



(Continued from Page 1)

The mighty wind blowing round the house and the tongues as of fire were signs of the Spirit of God, powerful and ardent, bringing strength and blessing to the whole of Creation and particularly to the Church. A sudden change came over the Apostles. They who had fled and been full of doubts and fears when Christ was arrested now became strong and bold as lions. They were now ready and eager to preach the gospel, to proclaim the good news of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The city at that time was full of people coming from many countries for the religious celebrations: attracted by 'the sound of a mighty wind' they began to gather around the Apostles. They were amazed to hear the Apostles speaking the languages of the various nationalities present. Recently, at a Life in the Spirit Seminar at a local parish, I was presenting baptism in the Holy Spirit and we offered prayer over the groups. I began praying over a man: I could tell the tongue consistently coming through was a language but just continued in the Spirit to pray. After the whole evening was over he came to me and said, "Do you know what you said to me?" I replied, "I got the sense the Lord was encouraging you to say yes to his invitation." He said. "No, do you know what you said to me?" I repeated what I said. He went on to tell me that he had been working in Saudi Arabia the last ten years and that I was speaking perfect Arabic. I told him in Arabic, that the Lord was calling him to be a deacon and that now was the time to answer that call. He had, for the last three years, been contemplating the diaconate but with his job abroad didn't see how it was possible. This particular year however, his job there was coming to an end and so with tears running down his face he said it was pretty clear what the Lord was asking him to do. A mighty wind blew over us that night.

This Holy Spirit is a mystery far beyond the grasp of the human mind, but the Bible tells us much about the Spirit, a divine breath that gives life to the world and wisdom to the minds of men and women. "Spirit" is

from a Latin word, meaning air in motion, such as breath or the wind. Ruah is the Hebrew word for breath or spirit or it can mean the Holy Spirit. If someone breathes, it is a sure sign of life, and when death comes it is said we have "breathed our last." The death of Christ on the cross is thus described in the Gospel. "Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit!' and having said this he breathed his last" (Lk 23:46).

The first words of the Bible tell how the Spirit of God brought design and life into the universe, brought order out of chaos and developed plant and animal life. When the time was ripe God created the human race through a special action of the Spirit. Humanity received a unique gift of the breath of life. The Spirit who gave life to all creatures in the beginning continues to support that life. In our Archdiocese of St. Louis, Archbishop Carlson recently had a mobile health clinic built that a religious sister who is a medical doctor drives and from which she serves in the poor rural areas of the Archdiocese. She is so filled with the charism of service that she has found others like her who donate all their professional services so as to keep the cost to the poor as minimal as can be. She is so full of joy as she brings her gifts to the poor, so much so that her joy has become contagious. Now a mobile dental unit is being built and will be staffed by volunteers donating their time. This deep gift of service to others is shining in the Church, a true breath of life that flows from the current of grace. May the Church live its mission.

Jane Guenther is a member of CNSC, representing a national ministry. She is the Director of the Catholic Renewal Center for the Archdiocese of St. Louis and serves on the Association of Diocesan Liaisons Steering Committee and also as a Director on the Seminary Formation Council: all of these ministries work to bring alive the presence of the Holy Spirit.

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PLEASE NOTE:

Our next Charismatic Mass (masks and social distancing) is scheduled at St. Peter Parish in North Ridgeville on Friday, January 15th at 7:00 PM.

If this is postponed, we will notify people through the CRM website and St. Peter websites and Facebook pages: www.crmweb.org and www.stpeternr.org.

Heavenly Father,

*You are God. You love us. You gave Your Son for us.
You have the hairs of our heads numbered.
Hear us during this COVID-19 worldwide pandemic.*

Heal the sick.

*Protect nurses, doctors, caregivers and all who provide
supportive services in the medical field.*

Guide policy makers and leaders.

Enlighten researchers.

*Provide for the unemployed,
underemployed and the needy.*

Encourage the homebound.

Comfort the grieving.

Receive the deceased into Your glory.

Strengthen us all to do Your will and trust You always.

*We pray through Jesus Christ, our Healer, Hope,
Peace and Mercy. Amen.*





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