

# *The Flame*

January February 2014 Publication of The Charismatic Renewal Cleveland, Ohio

*Since Christ is Lord of Heav'n and Earth...*

## *How Can I Keep From Singing? By Tom Mangan*

If after reading this article you are not encouraged or you are not excited by our salvation, then I have not done my job. I want you to be astonished with what we possess. I mean to say, we are, among all people, so richly blessed!

In my ignorance I thought that God first and foremost wanted to deal with my sin. In reality, before all else, he wanted me. When the Father sent Jesus, he sent everything he had. Love compelled him. I, for all my faults, have been found to be worth dying for. And so I feel sometimes as though the earth is ablaze with the fire of God and I need to tell my story. How can I keep from singing? (Robert Lowry, 1860).

I had an extraordinary experience forty-four years ago that I will never forget. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and called deeper into the life of Christ. I have not been the same since. To this day, I'm excited. Today the Holy Spirit is still unfolding Christ-likeness into my life.

"God has set eternity before the days of our lives. Christ is uniquely excellent; he deserves continual celebration. Jesus embodies the promise of the Father who will go to any length to bring us into his eternal family—important—we matter to him. My story captures the heart of God. My tale of finding him in the midst of my normal Catholic life somehow blesses him. My sharing it with others delights him. I am undone and overwhelmed! How can I keep from singing?"

I was playing on the surface of my faith most of the time and not plunging into the depths. I was splashing about in the shallow waters, when I needed to be scuba diving. What is the proper response to someone who gives you himself? I have been crowned with glory and honor. I can only respond by giving glory and honor to the Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" (Ps 8:1).

For me, the issue today is no longer a question of "Do I have the Holy Spirit?" It is, "How does the Holy Spirit use me?"

January & February, 2014  
Dear Readers of the Flame,

On January 22, 2014, I explained that the Church does not have a particular focus for each year. The Year of Faith was a special season for the whole Church to focus on knowing, living and sharing the faith. However, for the Christian, each year is marked by AD (an abbreviation for the Latin *Annus Domini*) for the next year.

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Though there is no particular thing for Catholics to focus on in 2014, Pope Francis did end the Year of Faith by publishing an Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). This document, written by the Pope, summarizes the recent synod (fall, 2012), where bishops from around the world gathered in Rome to discuss *The New Evangelization*. This

Pope Francis has a knack for getting to the heart of the matter on in the letter he summarizes one of the problems of our culture:

& "Consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor; the longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. This is a very real danger for believers too. Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry and listless. That is no way to live a dignified life. The year 2014 is the Year of our Lord. Pope Francis gives us a challenge: *Make known the joy of the gospel*. Let us strive to be radically open to the movement of the Holy Spirit, who equips us to bring this joy to the world today. And please pray for CRM. We want to have a service group to equip the people of God to joyfully proclaim without hesitation that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Pope Francis immediately extends this invitation:  
3. I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not directed at them. Sincerely in Christ,  
point those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already

there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to renew my covenant with you. I need you once more, Lord, take me once more into your arms. I am spending at least ten minutes a day and expect to finish in two months.

Though this document is a bit on the longish side, I encourage all of you to go to [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/evangelii_gaudium/evangelii-gaudium_en.html) and download *Evangelii Gaudium* and read it. I am spending at least ten minutes a day and expect to finish in two months.

One final quote:  
259. Spirit-filled evangelizers means evangelizers fearlessly open to the working of the Holy Spirit. At the cost, the Spirit made the apostles go forth from their own language. The Holy Spirit also grants the courage to proclaim the newness of the Gospel with boldness in every time and place, even when met with opposition. Let us call upon him today, rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activities will be fruitless and our message empty. Jesus was the first evangelizer who proclaimed the good news not only in his own language but in the languages of all peoples.

If any group of people is to be those evangelizers, they must be THE CHARISMATIC CATHOLICS. We are the Spirit-filled evangelizers Pope Francis is referring to!  
The year 2014 is the Year of our Lord. Pope Francis gives us a challenge: *Make known the joy of the gospel*. Let us strive to be radically open to the movement of the Holy Spirit, who equips us to bring this joy to the world today. And please pray for CRM. We want to have a service group to equip the people of God to joyfully proclaim without hesitation that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Sincerely in Christ,  
Fr. Bob Franco

**CRM WORD GIFT CONFERENCE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2014 830AM-830PM**

# SPEAK

## DATE, TIME & LOCATION

**Saturday, February 15, 2014, 830am-830pm**  
**St. Hilary Catholic Church Lower Level**  
**2750 W. Market St., Fairlawn, OH 44333 Use Back Parking Lot**

## CONTACT & REGISTRATION

**For information call Ken Posavad at 440-319-9646.**  
**Enjoy lunch & dinner at a variety of nearby restaurants.**  
**Preregistration, strongly encouraged, is \$15 till February 5th!**  
**Send check payable to Catholic Renewal Ministries**  
**Mail to CRM, Attention: Word of God Speak,**  
**28706 Euclid Ave. Box4, Wickliffe, OH 44092**  
**Walk-ins are welcome, but preregistration strongly encouraged!**

## INQUIRING MINDS WELCOME

**There have been many questions over the years as to what exactly the word gift charisms are, how to receive them and how to use them.**  
**This conference will answer those questions and more!**  
**Our speaker, Donald Turbitt comes highly recommended by Renewal Ministries in Ann Arbor, Michigan.**  
**Come and let the Holy Spirit fill you in a new way and learn how these charisms can change your life!**

## WORD GIFT SPEAKER

Donald Turbitt resides in Glocester, RI. He and his wife, Pat are members of St. An-

dence, RI. He comes highly recommended by Renewal Ministries in Ann Arbor, MI. has been diverse. For 20 years he was coordinator of the Peo-

community. He has led parish missions and conferences throughout New England, Eastern Europe, and Africa. Don is an ambassador to Promise Keepers and to the Men of St. Joseph, Rhode Island, and vice-chairman to the New England Men of St. Joseph. He continues his work overseas as Country Coordinator for Renewal Ministries in Poland and the Ukraine.

Name	Please Print	
Address		
Phone	Email	One Person Per Form

# Renewal Ministries Events

## *\*\*Prophetic Word 2013 - 2014*

*My children come to Me.  
Come deep into my heart. Sit  
at my feet where I will teach  
you and equip you with my  
Holy Spirit. I am the Light of  
the world. I call you, chil-  
dren, to radiate the light of my  
love and joy to the broken*

*hearted, those in darkness and those who are  
lost. Bring them to me. I want them to experi-  
ence the depth of my love. Know that I am with  
you until the end of the age.*

*\*Banner version Page 1 \*\*Distilled Prophetic  
Word Proclaimed at The 2013 Catholic Charis-  
matic Conference*

CRM will host a **Charismatic Mass on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 7pm and the liturgy will start at 7:30. Healing prayer teams will be available after mass for individual prayer. For more information contact Fr. Franco at 440-327-2201 or CRM at 440-944-9445.

**7 F A Ð g ` H f U j Y ` ] b [ ` 7 for Uan] g a S** **January** will be held at St. Martin of Tours Church on **Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** The church is located at 1800 Station Rd. in Valley City, 44280. Fr. Bob Franco will be the celebrant. Healing prayer teams will be available after mass for individual prayer. For more information, please contact Fr. Bob Franco at 440-327-2201, CRM at 440-944-9445, or Rose Austin at S t . M a r t i n 4 8 3 - 3 8 0 8 . a t 3 3 0

Mark your calendars for CRM's Catholic Charismatic Conference! Friday July 18<sup>th</sup> & Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup> 2014. This year's conference speakers include Patti Mansfield, Deacon Ralph Poyo and Michelle TePas Harrison.

## Catholic Renewal Ministries Mini-Conference

CRM will host a one-day mini-conference with the theme, "Word of God S been many questions over the years as to what exactly the word gift charisms are, how to receive them and how to use them. This mini-conference will answer those questions and more! Our presenter, Donald Turbitt is an international speaker who comes highly recommended by Renewal Ministries in Ann Arbor, MI. This program will be held on **Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Registration is \$15, and the preregistration form (strongly encouraged), due February 5<sup>th</sup>, is available in this issue of *The Flame* and on our website: [www.crmweb.org](http://www.crmweb.org). Enjoy lunch and dinner at a variety of nearby restaurants. This mini-conference will be held at St. Hilary Parish Lower Level, 2750 West Market in Fairlawn 44333. Use the back parking lot. For more information, please call Ken Posavad at 440-319-9646. Come and let the Holy Spirit fill you in a new way and learn how these charisms can change your life forever!

Attention Prayer Group & Ministry Leaders: Don Turbitt will be available on Friday evening, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Location and times to be announced!

**Sacred Heart Church** in Oberlin is sponsoring a **Lenten Mission** led by Peter Herbeck on the theme, "Call t **March 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>**. Peter is an internationally known charismatic speaker and lay evangelist. He is an author, TV and radio host, and Vice President and Director of Missions for Renewal Ministries in Ann Arbor. Mission sessions will be Sunday afternoon, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 2:00 to 3:30, and Monday and Tuesday evenings, March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 8:30. Admission is free, but there will be a love offering. All are invited!

THE FLAME IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC  
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FR. ROBERT J. FRANCO DIOCESAN LIAISON

THERESA VIRKLER PUBLISHER & EDITOR

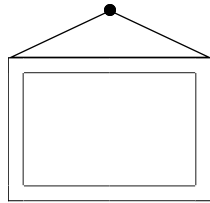
CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES, 28706 EUCLID AVENUE, BOX 4

WICKLIFFE, OH 44092 -944-9445

# CRM's Traveling Charismatic Mass

St. Peter Church  
35777 Center Ridge Rd.  
North Ridgeville 44039  
Friday, January 3rd, 7PM

St. Martin of Tours  
1800 Station Road  
Valley City, 44280  
Friday, January 31st, 7PM



- ★ *The Flame is searching for a well-organized volunteer who has experience in maintaining data and printing address labels. Knowledge of bulk mailing software would be very helpful.*
  
- ★ *The Flame is seeking an energetic volunteer interested in folding, labeling and preparing The Flame Newsletter for mailing .*
  
- ★ *To be a part of sharing the good news, please call Theresa at 330-722-1522.*

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my personal relationship with the Lord to become dispassionate. I the great privilege of knowing Christ better.

I read the Gospels often to discover more of Jesus. His story still keeps me on the edge of my seat. I read it as though I read it in every version I can so it can remain fresh to me. In this way I often see things I never saw before. The Gospels excite and energize me. I find his grace to be unrelenting; his mercy, unfathomable. In his parables I see shades of me and I am moved alternatively from repentance to a deeper love of him. How can I keep from singing?

My own story finds me in the human condition. My salvation isn't a hills and valleys and is my intention to stay the course and enjoy him along the way. I want to manifest godliness. I believe the Holy Spirit to be indispensable to that end. I was serving in the Peace Corps in 1967 in Turkey as a teacher when I invited the Holy Spirit into my life. Even though I knew that I had already received the Spirit at baptism, I thought a personal invitation was in order. I knew he was in my life, but I needed to acknowledge his presence.

Let me explain it this way: a visitor comes to my door and from an upstairs window I tell the person to enter and I'll He is in my house, but As you can see, the Spirit was within me but not really fully acknowledged Holy Spirit!" But when became afraid, lifted my hands as if to say, "Stop!" and I called him

It wasn't until I returned was leading a high school retreat with my brother David that the Holy Spirit came upon me and I began to speak in tongues. We were standing in a circle singing when, one-by-one

we started to put our touched me I knew I was filled with the Holy Spirit. I excused myself from the group and went to my room to worship the Lord in tongues and with praise.

When I started to question the authenticity of this new language, I realized it was a temptation from the devil. I recalled a passage from *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis that the enemy couldn't stand laughed at the suggestion and felt an overwhelming sense of holy joy as I continued worshipping.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the most exciting experience of my life because it expanded my faith. I was a good Catholic, but I was playing on the surface of my faith most of the time and not plunging to the depths. With the Spirit now active I set out for the ocean floor! It is not heaven I court; it is not the streets of gold I long to see, but a father the face of God! My fascination for him grows daily. I am thrilled to think that, "I will dwell in ever" (Psalm 23:6).



My story is still being written. Like a good recipe it can't be by-ribs my redemption is being built into his spiritual house. It is a story with a "to be continued" ending. I will be down shortly to see him. How can I keep from singing?

**Tom Mangan is the former senior coordinator of the People of God Community in Pittsburgh, PA. He and his wife, Patty, have been married for 39 years. He is a member of the National Service Committee.**

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**SPEAK**

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