

The Flame

January/February 2025

Charismatic Renewal in the Twentieth Century and Beyond

By David Peterman

Is God alive and active today? Are the Charismatic gifts real? Does God really want to give me these gifts?

As a young adult, I questioned my faith and the bible. I grew up in the Christian Community of God's Delight (CCGD), a Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community in Dallas where everyone around me was visibly living their faith. It was one thing to see faith lived out, but I had to decide for myself

One day I read an interesting verse in Paul's letter to the Romans (8:28): "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." I was trying to love God, felt called, was attending Community events, and praying...so I decided to put God to the test. If Paul's words were true, then presumably even bad events in my life would work for good. I thought of the worst thing that had ever happened to me, and this event was a great test since I concluded that nothing good had, nor possibly could, come from it.

Soon afterwards, in a conversation with my mother, I asked her how our family got our start with Community. As if the Lord was smiling on me, she explained the exact event that I had thought of and explained how it had led her and my dad to start attending prayer meetings and eventually to our family joining Community. I was shocked. See, my entire family was deeply involved in the Community, and it was life-changing for all of us.

What God showed me that day was that he could take what I characterized as the worst thing in my life and turn it into the best thing, not only for me, but also for my entire family. Not only did I conclude that Paul was correct, but on that day, I was further convinced that

God was alive, intervening in my life, and investing in a relationship of love. So it is with every single one of us, his children!

In the same way that I questioned my family's encounter with the Charismatic Renewal, I asked the broader question "Why now?" Why had God decided to pour forth his Holy Spirit, as in a second Pentecost, in my lifetime? Why not 200 years ago...or 200 years from now?

That led me to the stories of Blessed Elena Guerra, Pope Leo XIII, Topeka Kansas, Bethel Bible College, Charles Fox Parham, Stone's Folly, Azusa Street Revival, and the Duquesne weekend. This short article cannot do justice to those stories, but the more I read, the more it sounded like my own story. God wanted his people to know that he IS ALIVE, that he is very active today, and that he very much wants to impart his charismatic gifts to every one of us. His eternal hope is that we turn to him, surrender to him, and ask for the extraordinary charisms (1 Cor 12) with which he wants to empower us!

Proof is found in looking into the story of the emergence of the Charismatic Renewal in the twentieth century. It started with Blessed Elena Guerra writing letters to Pope Leo XIII, pleading for him to pray for a new Pentecost. Pope Leo did so on January 1, 1901, calling the whole Church to join him in praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit using the words of: Veni Creator Spiritus: Come Creator Spirit. God responded almost immediately by sending his Holy Spirit upon students at Bethel Bible College in Topeka, Kansas at a place known as Stone's Folly. This outbreak of spiritual gifts spread and grew at the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles, recognized as the start of the Pentecostal movement. Later, in a well-

(Continued on page 7)

Dear Readers of *The Flame*,

The Inauguration of President elect Donald Trump will take place on January 20, 2025. On election night, November 5, 2024, I was at my desk writing an article for the bulletin for the next Sunday. At that time the results of the election were still up in the air. This forced me to think beyond responding to the specific person who would become president. How ought Catholic Christians respond to election results in a democratic republic like the United States?

Bulletin articles tend to be short. I have expended those thoughts as we begin this year. I believe that these initial four points provide some basic responses and attitudes that can frame our approach to living our faith in the United States at this time.

PRAY. We are called to pray for our civil leaders. St. Paul put it this way in the first century:

First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

We know that the President and his administration will be faced with enormous challenges. We need to earnestly pray that God give them wisdom and prudence as they seek to serve the common good. This was St. Paul's instruction to Timothy and the early Church. This mandate is applicable in every age.

LOVE: During a daily Mass in the Fall our first reading was Ephesians 6:10-20, the classic text that gives us teaching on spiritual warfare. As I preached on this passage, I quoted verse 12:

For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. (Ephesians 6:12)

I reminded people that our enemy is the devil and his minions, not our neighbor who may have differing political views than we do. We may be tempted to "demonize" those people. We cannot do that. We must respect and love them, whether our good will is returned to us or not.

KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE: Yes, this was the most important election...until 2028. With all the media hype and rhetoric that precedes a presidential election, it is easy to get sucked into a hysteria that makes us overly anxious. We need to remember that Jesus Christ is still Lord of all that is visible and invisible, no matter who the president is. As Christian citizens of the United States, we must certainly participate in civil life on earth. And some Catholic Christians may become deeply involved in our political system. May it be God's path to holiness for them. However, in the end, we still need to remember that our lasting citizenship is in heaven. (Philippians 3:20) To paraphrase St. Thomas More: Faithful citizens of the United States, but God's citizens first.

NO PRESIDENT WILL TAKE AWAY OUR CROSSES: To be a disciple of Jesus means denying ourselves, taking up our cross each day and following the Lord. Our lives are filled with both blessings and sacrifices. In all these things, we give thanks, for this is the will of God for us in Christ Jesus. (see 1 Thessalonians 5:18) Promises made by candidates running for office are often unfulfilled. Even if

they were, Christ is still our true happiness. And he demands that we take up our cross.

As Catholics who have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been enlightened. We see a picture that is bigger than the political landscape. And we are part of a larger plan:

In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with the favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. (Ephesians 1:8b-10)

St. Paul prayed for:

May the eyes of [your] hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of the glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might...(Ephesians 1:18-19)

St. Paul offers these and similar prayers for the churches he writes to because he knows that they can easily become distracted by the day-to-day events of life (including politics) and forget the overarching plan of God. He knew that religion was not icing on the cake of Judeo-Romano culture. **The faith he proclaimed gave those early Christians a prophetic lens through which they would view all of life.**

St. Peter put it this way:

Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. (2 Peter 1:19)

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the shining lamp in a spiritually darkened world. It provides us with the light needed by which we see and interpret the events of the world.

These words of St. Peter follow a brief description of his experience on the Mount of Transfiguration. If you recall the event, God the Father has the final word. As cloud enveloped the heavenly visitors of Moses and Elijah, as well as Jesus, with Peter, James and John, a voice spoke from the cloud: *This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.* (Matthew 17:5b) It is when we are deeply tuned in the voice and person of Jesus, when we have his words and teachings resonating in our hearts and minds, it is then that we can properly interpret the events of our world.

As we enter this New Year 2025, let us make it our goal to know, love and serve Jesus more and more. Again, St. Paul:

And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. (Philippians 1:9-10)

God's blessings to you and your loved ones in 2025.

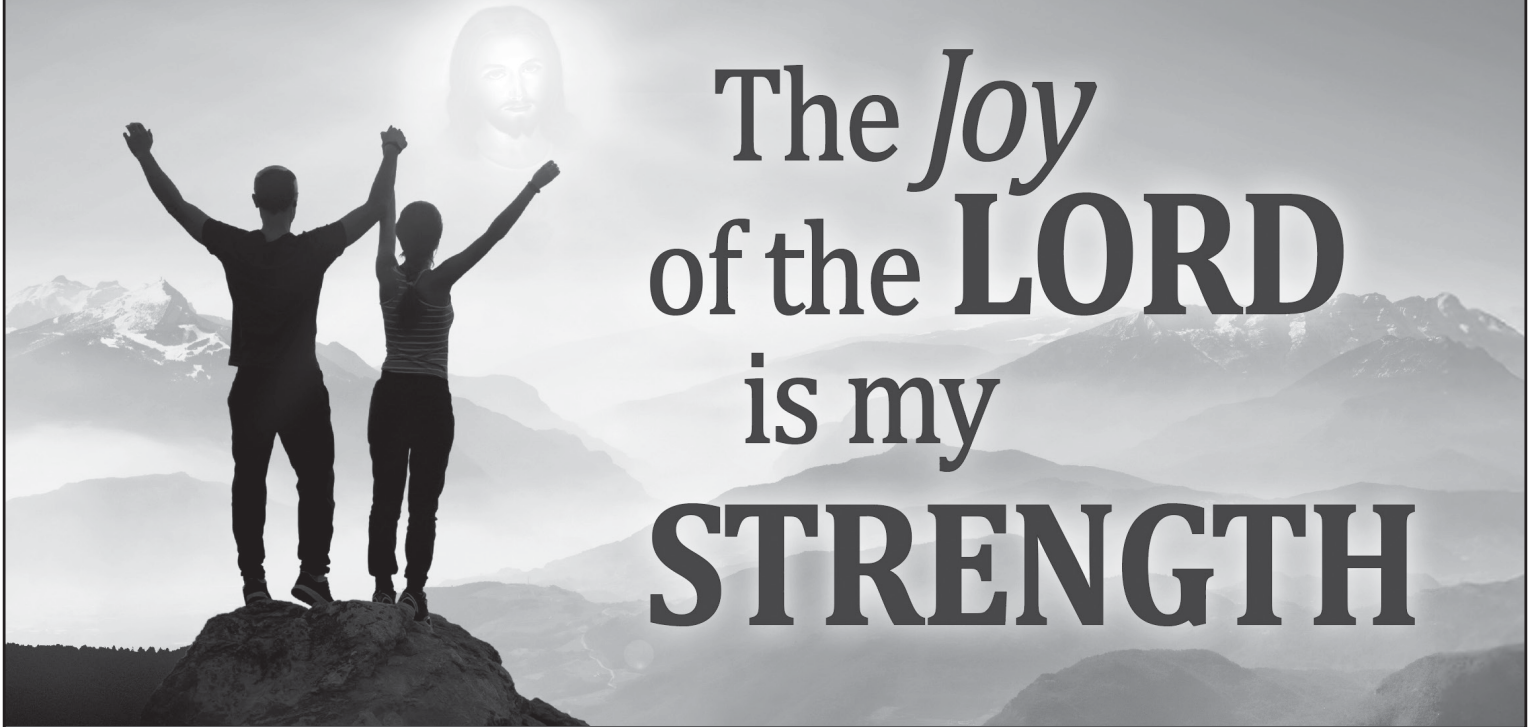
In Christ,
Fr. Bob Franco



PS: I encourage you to participate in the upcoming CRM events. More information is found in this issue of the Flame as well as: www.crmweb.org.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday July 26, 2025

CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES PRESENTS:

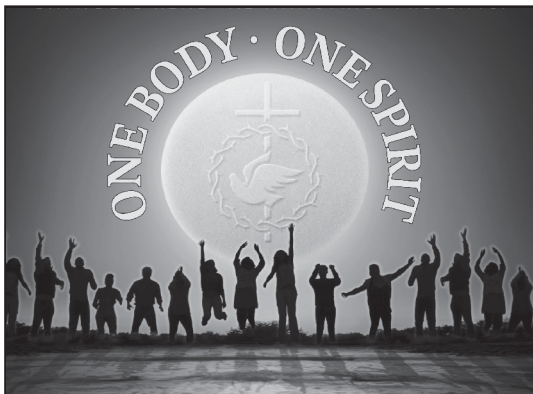


The Joy of the LORD is my STRENGTH

All are invited to attend Catholic Renewal Ministries' 42nd Annual Conference to be held on Saturday July 26, 2025, at St. Albert the Great Parish Life Center, 6667 Wallings Rd., North Royalton 44133. This year's theme is ***"The Joy of the Lord is My Strength"***.

Visit the CRM website: **crmweb.org** for more information as it comes available.

Please save the date and get the word out to your friends and family.



Order a Thumbdrive of 2024 Conference Talks

All talks are included on thumbdrive in mp4 video and mp3 audio formats

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OR You can order directly on our website: crmweb.org

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Catholic Renewal Ministries Traveling Healing Mass

Friday, January 17th 2025

Julie Billiart Parish

Fr. Bob Franco, Celebrant

Julie Billiart Parish

5500 Lear Nagle Rd.,
North Ridgeville , OH 44039

Friday, February 28th 2025

St. John Vianney Parish

7575 Bellflower Rd.,
Mentor , OH 44060

Both Masses: Praise & worship begins at 7:00 Liturgy begins at 7:30 p.m.

All are Welcome!

Healing prayer teams will be available after mass for individual prayer,
and there will also be a social after mass.

Come, Sing and Praise God with Joy!

Contact CRM: 440-944-9445



*Healing Prayer teams will be available after
Mass for individual prayer.*

crmweb.org

Prayer Group Information

Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group meets on **Tuesday Evenings from 7:30 – 9:00pm** in the Primary Building of Our Lady of Angles School (behind Linus Hall) 3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland 44111. We recently offered the Life in the Spirit Seminar and brought it to completion with much praise and thanks to God.

Now we continue to meet every Tuesday evening. Praise and worship, silence and Word gifts, a teaching or witness, with our prayers for personal intentions round out our time together these evenings. Afterwards, we enjoy Fellowship and offer healing prayer. Everyone is most welcome. Please phone Tom Stamper at 216-536-6495 with any questions.

SS. Cosmas and Damian Charismatic Prayer Group meets every other Sunday at 7:00 p.m. in the church gathering area under the Holy Spirit Dove. Come and experience vibrant praise and worship, intercessory and healing prayer, and scripture sharing. To find out when the next prayer meeting is or to contact us, or be on the prayer group email list call 330-310-2595 or email dennycarleton@sbcglobal.net. We play music highlights, prophecies, and teachings from the prayer group on <https://arkandoasis.net/>.

The **Holy Spirit Prayer Group** of St. Mary Church in Hudson is a Charismatic Holy Spirit led prayer group that meets the **first and third Saturdays** of each month year around. We meet from **10am to 11:30 am** in the Chapel. The main focus of our meeting is to praise and worship the living God. We ask the Holy Spirit to minister to us and take us to the heart of the Father. We not only offer praise and worship but also periods of silent prayer to seek and hear God's words and His messages to us. We share words of God, share stories, and offer intercessory prayers for hurting and suffering brothers and sisters.

Our prayer group offers a Healing Prayer Service also on the 1st Sunday of each month from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. For further information, please contact us at HealingPrayers@stmaryhudson.cc or call Robert Rodriguez at 440-804-6358.

The **Living Word Healing Prayer Ministry** at St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick meets face to face on the **first and third Tuesdays** of every month from **7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** in our Chapel. We allow the Winds of the Spirit to flow over us as we praise the Lord through music, sharing,

and group reflection. We allow time for God to open our hearts and minds as we listen to His Word both through Scripture and Word of Knowledge. Every meeting ends with healing prayer as we ask Jesus to come to us in a special way to heal our brokenness and touch us with His Love. All are invited to join us as we praise and worship the Living God!

The **Bukas Loob sa Diyos** (BLD) or in English - **Open in Spirit to God** (OSG), is a Filipino Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community. While the majority of BLD members are from the Philippines, it also includes other brothers and sisters of many nationalities and heritage backgrounds. We meet every **Thursday, at 7:00 pm** at the Mary Queen of Peace Chapel, 4423 Pearl Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109. We hold weekly praise and worship service in-person. Also, on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., we celebrate a mass followed by a healing service.

We are a communion of families and a community of persons called together as one people through the moment of encounter and a process of renewal to a relationship of faith, hope, and love with God. We conduct mar-

riage encounter programs, solo person encounters, single encounters, family encounters and life in the spirit seminars.

For more information, please contact Rudy and Fe Fontilla at (440) 403-5719 or email: rudyfontilla1975@yahoo.com.

The **Community of Praise Prayer Group** meets at St. Paul Catholic Church, 241 South Main St., North Canton, OH 44720. Their prayer meetings start at **6:30 pm** on the **second Monday** of each month. The 2025 meetings will be January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12 and June 9. They meet inside the main church in the area of the "old Sanctuary". Parking is behind the Church, and there is an elevator to the upper level where the Main Church is located. For more information contact Don and Rosemary Pfiffner at 330-499-9371 or email: pfiffner67@gmail.com.

From Don and Rosemary: "We held a Eucharistic Healing Service on November 11. Approximately 35 people attended and there were reports of emotional and spiritual healings. We are seeking His will for future healing services."

CRM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you enjoy posting to Facebook and other social media apps?

CRM is seeking a new team member to help expand our social media presence.

Young adults and college students are encouraged to apply. This is a minor commitment with roughly 4 to 5 hours per month to be completed at your convenience. Please contact Ken at 440-319-9646 or Jim at 440-429-3905 for more info.

WANTED - GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Catholic Renewal Ministries is looking for a few new members for the General Service Committee.

We meet once a month, usually the third Monday of the month, to discuss plans and events for the Renewal. Members are encouraged to provide ideas for the growth of the Renewal in the Cleveland Diocese, and to provide help as needed. Current committees are: Conference, Prayer Groups, Healing, Hispanic, Program, Music and Word Gifts.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Ken Posavad at 440.319.9646 or kposa@sbcglobal.net

CRM and Prayer Group Events

FIRST SUNDAYS

The **Holy Spirit Prayer Group** of St. Mary Church hosts an in-person **Healing Prayer Service** on the **first Sunday** of each month. The service will be held in the chapel from **12:30-1:30 pm**.

We encourage you to submit your prayer requests to healingprayers@stmaryhudson.cc. St. Mary Church is located at 340 N. Main St., Hudson 44236, Tel: 330-653-8118.

Our prayer teams will be available to pray for the healings of your body and spirit. Fr. Larry will, depending on his availability, offer an anointing for those seriously ill, preparing for surgery, or weak with aging.

SECOND WEEKEND OF THE MONTH

Holy Family Healing Prayer Group (Stow) offers **Healing Prayer** after all masses the second weekend of the month (**Saturday 5:00 PM, Sunday 7:30, 9:00 and 11:30 AM masses**) and after **Tuesday and Friday 8:00 AM daily masses**. Prayer teams will meet you in the back of the church. If you are unable to attend one of the masses, we offer homebound private prayer. Private prayer for physical, inner healing and Unbound can be scheduled by calling 330-686-0017. Jesus is Alive! Come experience His healing power.

MONDAYS, SEPT 9TH - MAY 19TH

Holy Family Healing Prayer Ministry - Classes Starting. When someone approached Jesus for healing, He only asked, "What do you want Me to do for you" (Mk 10:51)? If He can calm the sea and make a path, He can heal you. You are His beloved child with a plan just for you! Learn more about your Identity as a child of God, praying for Healing and Inner Healing, Prophecy and developing an Intimate Relationship with God. Classes for the 2024-2025 year are starting soon - no charge/no free will offering. Join us **Mondays, Sept 9th - May 19th, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM or 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM** at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3179 Kent Rd., Stow, 330-687-8843.

TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS

See **Holy Family Healing Prayer Group (Stow)** under SECOND WEEKEND OF THE MONTH.

THIRD SATURDAYS

The **Living Word Healing Prayer Ministry** at St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick offers a monthly **Healing Prayer** event which takes place in the Church **after the 4:30 p.m. Mass** on the **third Saturday** of every month. Healing prayer ministers are available to offer prayer for spiritual, emotional, or physical healing. Please join us so that the Spirit of God can touch you with healing love!

JANUARY 3

Families in Christ Jesus invites all to their upcoming event. On **January 3 at 7:30 p.m.**, Fr Alex Clark will give a talk on his trip to France this past Summer. This event will be at St John of the Cross Church, 140 Richmond Rd., Euclid 44143. For more information contact Ross Federico at 216-312-4733 or federir@ccf.org.

JANUARY 17 & FEBRUARY 28

Catholic Renewal Ministries' **Traveling Healing Mass** for January will be held at St. Julie Billiart Parish on **Friday, January 17th at 7:00 pm**. Fr. Bob Franco will be the celebrant. The church is located at 5500 Lear Nagle Rd., North Ridgeville 44039.

Also, the **Traveling Healing Mass** for February will be held at St. John Vianney Parish on **Friday, February 28th at 7:00 pm**. The church is located at 7575 Bellflower Rd., Mentor 44060.

For both Healing Masses, praise and worship will begin at 7:00 and the liturgy will start at 7:30. Healing prayer teams will be available after the masses for individual prayer, and there will also be a social after each mass.

For more information, please contact CRM at 440-944-9445. All are Welcome. Come, Sing and Praise God with Joy!

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See ad in this Flame.

CRM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



The Catholic Renewal Ministries Service Committee is looking for volunteers who would be willing to serve as ushers and greeters at the various events during the year including Charismatic Masses (usually on Friday nights), Healing Services, special events, and the annual Conference. You would not be required to serve at every GSC event during the year, but would be called upon to serve as an usher or greeter for various events at your convenience. Prayer groups please ask and encourage your members if they would help out in this ministry of service. If you are willing to usher or greet, please send your name, e-mail address, and/or phone number and what prayer group you are associated with. Even if you are not currently attending a prayer group, please consider helping out with ushering or greeting. Thank you!

Carolee and Rich Zentkovich
Prayer Group Coordinators
Usher/Greeter Ministry

440-221-8169 | cjzentkovich@gmail.com

(Continued from page 1)

chronicled event, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon college students and professors at a retreat in Duquesne at the Ark and the Dove retreat center (now home of Pentecost Today USA) who were attending a retreat there in 1967. This event sparked the spread of the Charismatic Renewal to the Catholic Church, where it is now estimated that over 100 million people have been baptized in the Spirit and are living transformed lives.

If we read the details about the people in this story (one source is Lee Defendorf's *It's All in God's Plan*) we learn that Blessed Elena Guerra and all the others were normal people like you and me living out their faith. It was God, who is so in love with his children, who is intervening, answering prayers, pouring out his Holy Spirit and investing in relationships of love with everyone who will engage him.

What is our response to this proof that God is alive and active today, pouring out his charismatic gifts on everyone? Our Holy Father Pope Francis provides the answer. His top priority for the Renewal is that we share baptism in the Holy Spirit with the entire Church (6/8/2019). He was quoted in a morning meditation (5/9/16) as saying, "To many unaware Christians, the Holy Spirit is a perfect stranger." Our Holy Father is asking us to be active in introducing the Holy Spirit and

his powerful spiritual gifts to our family and neighbors. To specifically bring our friends and loved ones with us to Mass, prayer meetings, bible studies, healing services... give them our personal testimony and demonstrate the charismatic gifts. This is our personal charge...to demonstrate that God is alive and active today and empowering us with his charismatic gifts!

Reprint from Pentecost Today Magazine 2023, Issue 1, National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the US @ www.PentecostTodayUSA.org.

David Peterman (Jr.), SFO, is married, father of five daughters, and serves as the overall coordinator of the Christian Community of God's Delight in Dallas Texas. David also serves as the President of the Board for Mount St. Michael Catholic School in Dallas, on the council of Pentecost Today USA, and is a leader of the North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities.

THE FLAME IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES FOR THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND
FR. ROBERT FRANCO LIAISON TO CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES.
FR. ROBERT FRANCO PUBLISHER AND GARY CIRINO EDITOR.

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Visit us online for other Prayer Group Information and CRM Events www.crmweb.org



Life/Growth in the Spirit Seminars*

Catholic Renewal Ministries would like to help bring new life to your prayer group by offering the Life in the Spirit Seminar and Growth in the Spirit Seminars.

They will help us continue to grow in the gifts and mature spiritually.

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware"

1 Corinthians 12:1, New American Standard Bible

If you are interested in hosting the Life in the Spirit Seminar or a Growth in the Spirit Seminar for members of your parish or prayer group who have gone through the Life in the Spirit Seminars, please call Catholic Renewal Ministries 440-944-9445 or Tom Jansen 440-539-0318.



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