

The Flame

July/August 2021

Developing a LANGUAGE

by Fr. Michael Becker

At the heart of the church the Catholic Charismatic Renewal continue the process of developing a unified language by which the Church can instruct, and God can speak to, his chosen people. There are growth pains in this process. Uncertainty with terms can breed insecurity. For example, should one speak of “Baptism in the Holy Spirit,” or the “Release of the Holy Spirit,” or the “Outpouring of the Holy Spirit”? Should the prophet be said to have a “Ministry,” or an “Office,” or a “Service”? Is one “Slain in the Spirit” or “Resting in the Spirit”? Do certain individuals receive an “impartation” of grace for a special charismatic ministry, or an “anointing”?

The first of the Malines’ documents, entitled, “Theological and Pastoral Orientations on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal,” took up the question of “vocabulary,” especially with regards to “baptism in the Holy Spirit” (see IV.C.1-4). The authors recognized that terminology in other ecclesial communities does not always fit into the systematic and sacramental theology of the Catholic Church, and furthermore, Catholics of various nations have become accustomed to their own manner of speaking: e.g., in France, Catholics may speak of “l’effusion de l’Esprit.” What are we to make of the terminology, “baptism in the Holy Spirit?”

Referring to Scripture, the Vatican II document, *Dei Verbum*, states, “The study of the sacred page is, as it were, the soul of sacred theology” (24). Scripture provides then the necessary foundation and treasury from which all good theologians draw, for its terms are divinely written. Yet Scripture is not the only source of theology. The living Tradition of the Church also provides material through her celebration of the sacred Liturgy as well as ecumenical councils, and even contributions from philosophy. For example, the Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.) employed a non-biblical term, *homoousios*, meaning, “of one substance,” when defining the unity of the Son of God with the Father.

John the Baptist says in Luke 3:16, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming.... He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire.” While ‘baptism’ here is a verb, it is not inconsistent to make it a noun: “Baptism in the Holy Spirit.” This is the Scriptural way of speaking. The teaching office of the Church has not yet commonly used this terminology, though recent Pope’s have affirmed it: “I expect from you that you share with everyone in the Church the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit” (Pope Francis);

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Dear Readers of the Flame,

The Conference Committee of Catholic Renewal Ministries met in the fall of 2019 and chose ***Give New Signs, Work New Wonders*** as the theme for the 2020 Conference. It is taken from Sirach 36:6 and seemed appropriate for a charismatic conference. Signs and wonders are important ways that God reveals himself to our world that seems to want to run from God.

Little did we know that our 2020 conference would be cancelled by a pandemic. Little did we know that the whole world would be preoccupied with masks, physical distancing, working remotely, quarantining and vaccine development.

During this past winter we began to prepare for a conference like event this summer. We thought of a smaller event that would be mostly virtual. As winter progressed into spring and now summer, we adapted the upcoming conference to be a mostly in person event with livestreaming available from the Catholic Renewal Ministries website.

However, we kept the same theme: ***Give New Signs, Work New Wonders***. I believe it is more appropriate in 2021 than it would have been in 2020. The pandemic was one of those *new signs*. God has used it to get our attention. And this *new sign*, left many people *wondering*. *Is God trying to tell us something?* Here are some things I believe God is trying to tell us.

I am God and you are not! In the United States we have many safety nets. We have a relatively robust economy and a modicum of safety and security. Our enemies are in other parts of the world and not on our borders. These and other safety nets can leave us thinking that we are in control. The truth is that we have never really been in control. God is. And in spite of our safety nets, the pandemic helped us to see that we were really vulnerable. A robust economy, reliable safety services, freedom from intimidation by our enemies did not protect us from the microscopic Coronavirus. We are still vulnerable and ultimately dependent on God.

Trust Me! For many people, being out of control led them to become fearful and narrow in their thinking. Avoiding the coronavirus tested their faith and strengthened their fears. The pandemic revealed some of the fault lines of their faith. As Christians, we were reminded that we follow Jesus Christ.

Now since the children share in blood and flesh, he (Jesus) likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

Jesus went before us in death to free us from the fear of death. If we are genuinely following the Lord, death is a doorway to union with God and not our ultimate end. Of course, we do not throw all caution to the wind. However, we do live by faith, knowing that physical death is not the worst thing that can happen to us.

Rest! During the period of time when the world was quarantining, a number of things took place: air pollution

dropped, accidents rates fell and some families spent more quality time together. I remember taking care of an errand for an out of state family member at this time. I was waiting at the light at the intersection of Great Northern Blvd and Country Club Dr on a weekday midafternoon. This intersection is sandwiched between a large mall and an interstate highway. Large office buildings, hotels, restaurants and retail shopping galore are within a few hundred feet of this intersection. Normally there would be perhaps 75 cars there. That afternoon there was a total of four.

Though this period of rest was imposed on us, I believe it ought to remind of us of the Third Commandment. Beside the obligation to worship God on the Lord's Day by participating in Mass, we are to lay aside our consumer mentality and remember: *our primary relationships in this world is not with acquiring and selling stuff but with God and each other!*

I pray that as we return to our normal routines, we do not forget the lessons of this time. Ultimately, we are vulnerable. Our security is directly proportional, not to the economy or safety forces, but to Jesus Christ, the Rock of our Salvation. He it is who died and rose from the dead. We are to draw close to our Good Shepherd who *leads us by restful waters and restores our souls*. (Psalm 23:2) I pray that we can return to normal routines with above normal faith, unflagging hope and a love that impels us to proclaim Jesus Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:14).

Finally, I want to invite you to our conference. With Gov. DeWine's June 2nd protocol rollback, our seating capacity has been increased above the original 125. Our speakers, Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck, will be live and in person. Our fellowship will be a source of great encouragement. And I am sure that we will receive a perspective that will equip our minds and hearts with the gifts and graces we need to live for Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I am looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, July 10, at Twinhaven Hall (Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Twinsburg, Ohio). The quickest way to sign up is through the CRM website: www.crmweb.org. All are welcome and bring a friend.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob Franco

PS: Check out our *Festival of Praise* schedule. These will be monthly from June through September and, weather permitting, will be held outdoor. **We do have indoor venues onsite as a back up plan.**

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FR. ROBERT FRANCO LIASON TO CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES.

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P.O. BOX 360546

STRONGSVILLE, OHIO 44136

crmweb.org / (440)944-9445

Catholic Renewal Ministries Traveling Charismatic Mass



FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 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

**St. John of the Cross Parish
140 Richmond Road
Euclid, OH 44039**

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Sirach 36:6

SATURDAY JULY 10

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PRAISE & WORSHIP

DYNAMIC TEACHING
HEALING PRAYER
SATURDAY VIGIL

CONTEMPORARY
CHRISTIAN MUSIC
with Matt Fafrak

Attend onsite (*with limited capacity*) OR via online access
TWINHAVEN RECEPTION CENTER AT STS COSMOS & DAMIAN
10419 RAVENNA RD., TWINSBURG OHIO

ONSITE SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS WITH LIMITED SEATING



PETER HERBECK
is the Vice President and Director of Missions for Renewal Ministries. He has been actively involved in Catholic renewal throughout

the U.S., Canada, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. Peter is a co-host on *The Choices We Face*, and is featured in the new television program *Crossing the Goal*. He is the author of two books, a Board Member of the National Fellowship of Men, and a frequent conference speaker on various aspects of discipleship, evangelization and the spiritual journey.



RALPH MARTIN
is the president of Renewal Ministries, the sponsor of the popular weekly Catholic television program *The*

Choices We Face and of mission projects in over 30 countries. He is the Director of Graduate Theology Programs in Evangelization at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit. In 2011, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him as a Consultant to the Pontifical Council for New Evangelization. He is the author of a number of articles and books.



REV. MICHAEL STALLA
Has served missions in El Salvador, was parochial vicar of St. Mary Catholic

Church in Cleveland, and is currently the pastor of SS. Cosmas and Damian parish in Twinsburg, Ohio. Fr. Michael has offered conferences, prayer services and formation to several Charismatic groups in his parish, throughout the diocese, and internationally. His motto is: "Today, listen to the voice of the Lord!"



REV. ROBERT FRANCO
has been active in the Charismatic Renewal since he was 19 and states that his

vocation flowed from it. He has been the Bishop's Liaison for the Charismatic Renewal in the Cleveland Diocese since 1992. He served on the Fraternity of Priests Board of Directors as member, chairman, and editor of the Fraternity's Newsletter, *The Visitation*. He is currently the pastor of St. Peter Parish in North Ridgeville.

Check www.crmweb.org for registration details and online access

call: 440-610-6604 or e-mail: crmcleland@gmail.com

Catholic Renewal Ministries Events

All are invited to be a part of **Catholic Renewal Ministries' 38th Annual Summer Conference** to be held on **Saturday, July 10, 2021**, at SS. Cosmas & Damian Parish, Twinhaven Reception Center, in Twinsburg.

This year's theme is "Give New Signs Work New Wonders". The conference will run from 8:30 am to 3:45 p.m., and the Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 4:00. Our featured speakers will be Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck from Renewal Ministries in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Fr. Michael Stalla, and Fr. Bob Franco. Matt Fafrak will lead us in contemporary praise music throughout the day.

At Twinhaven, the capacity is limited, so register early! Online access is also planned. SS. Cosmas & Damian is located at 10419 Ravenna Rd., Twinsburg 44087.

The onsite registration is \$35 and includes a catered boxed lunch. The onsite registration form must be postmarked by **Saturday, July 3rd**, or your PayPal registration completed by that date. Due to the catered lunch, there will be **no** registration at the door.

Please check the CRM website, www.crmweb.org, for more information about the conference, all registration details and forms, and information about the online access when it is posted. The onsite registration form is also printed in this issue of the Flame. If you have questions, please call Tom at 440-610-6604 or email crmcleveand@gmail.com.

Come, experience the healing power and gifts of the Holy Spirit!

Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group continues to meet to praise our Lord. We meet in the parking lot (OR the cafeteria if the weather is inclement) of Our Lady of Angels Parish at **6:30 pm every Tuesday evening** for the recitation of the Holy Rosary and then continue with Praise and Worship until 8:00pm. All are welcome. Be sure to bring a folding chair! Please phone Don Lawrence at 1.740.424.4704 for more information (leave a message!) Thank you.

St Cosmas and Damian Charismatic Prayer Group is now meeting live every **Sunday 7 - 8:30**. Once a month Father Stalla comes and teaches and once a month Gerry Wroebel leads. Denny Carleton leads praise and worship and leads the prayer group the other weeks. Tony Masha plays guitar with Denny usually every Sunday. If you would like to be on our email list to know a more detailed schedule of who is leading when and special events send a request to dennycarleton@sbcglobal.net

St. Hilary's Prayer Group in Fairlawn is once again meeting face-to-face (masks and distancing optional) from **7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays** in the outdoor pavilion next to the playground. Parking is right in front of the pavilion. If weather is inclement, we'll meet in the lower level of the church. There is an elevator to that level. Questions? please call Jim at 330-612-5969. (Continued on Page 6)

(Please Print)

REGISTRATION CLOSES JULY 3RD OR WHEN CAPACITY IS MET. NO REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR.

Register online OR Send registration below with check or money order to: CRM

Mail to: Tom Fumich, 6740 Nicoll Drive, North Ridgeville, OH 44039

name:

email:

address:

city:

state:

zip:

phone:

List any Special Needs:

- Lunch Choice:** Choose one
- Turkey & Swiss with Cranberry Mayo Dressing
 - Ham & Cheddar with Honey Mustard Dressing
 - Italian (Ham, Salami, Pepperoni & Provolone) with Red Pepper Mayo Dressing
 - Veggie (Spinach, Cheese, Cucumbers, Tomatoes & Red Peppers) w/Red Pepper Humus Dressing

Catholic Renewal Ministries Events

The Holy Spirit Prayer Group of St. Mary Parish in Hudson is a Charismatic Holy Spirit led prayer groups that meets on the **first and third Saturdays** of the month year around. It meets from **10am to 11:30 am**. The main focus of the meeting is to praise and worship our 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 have a period of silent moments to seek and hear God's words and his messages to us. We share words of God, share stories and pray for intercessory prayers for hurting and suffering brothers and sisters.

The Holy Spirit group sponsors a yearly Life in the Spirit Seminar and a monthly healing prayer service.

For further information please contact us at HealingPrayers@stmaryhudson.cc

To attend the Zoom meeting:

Meeting ID 871 9120 1760

Pass code 462 172

The door will be opened at 9:45 for fellowship.

The Holy Spirit prayer group offers a **Healing Prayer Service** through Zoom on the **first Sunday** of each month from **2:30-4:00 pm**. We encourage you to join us to encounter our living God, his love and his healing power for you.

Join by entering the following meeting invitation for Zoom App/client Sr [HTTPS/Zoom.US](https://zoom.us).

Meeting ID 871 9120 1760

Pass code 462 172

Remember to enable your video and auto. The host will admit you into the main room. You will have an opportunity to go into a private break room with members of our prayer group who will pray with you and for you. For more information please email: HealingPrayers@stmaryhudson.cc

The Living Word Prayer Group at St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick is now meeting again face to face. Our meeting days have changed from what they were previously. We are now meeting on the **first and third Tuesdays** of every month from **7 pm to 8:30 pm** in our Chapel.

We allow the Winds of the Spirit to flow over us as we praise the Lord through music, instruction and group reflection. We allow time for God to open our hearts and our minds as we listen for 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!

For more information, please contact Cathy Clapper at c_clapper@hotmail.com.

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 7:30 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, 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 marriage 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: rudyfefontilla1975@yahoo.com.

Catholic Renewal Ministries' **The Faithful Discipleship Series** will not be meeting in July and August.

With the ease-up of restrictions due to covid, Peter's Shadow Healing Prayer Ministry is scheduled to conduct the following **Healing Services**:

Sunday afternoon, July 11, 2021, 2 pm to 4:30 pm

St. Mary Catholic Church

250 Kraft St

Berea, OH, 44017

Wednesday evening, July 28, 2021, 6:30 pm to 9 pm

St. Ambrose Catholic Church

929 Pearl Rd

Brunswick, OH 44212

Wednesday evening, August 11, 2021, 6:30 pm to 9 pm

St. Mary Catholic Church

250 Kraft St.

Berea, OH, 44017

Check our website www.PetersShadow.org or call 234 206 0263 or email at HealingPrayer@PetersShadow.org with questions and we will get back to you.

Sing and Praise God With Joy! Catholic Renewal Ministries' **Traveling Charismatic Mass** for August will be held at St. John of the Cross Parish on **Friday, August 20th**. Praise and worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. and Mass will start at 7:30 p.m. The parish is located at 140 Richmond Rd., Euclid 44143. The Mass will be celebrated at the outdoor shrine area, but if there is rain, we will move to the CRM Center in the parish school building. 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 or CRM at 440-944-9445.

Our Lady of Angels Prayer group will present a **Life in the Spirit Seminar** beginning **Tuesday, September 14 through November 2, 2021 from 7:30-9:15pm**. The theme for our Life in the Spirit Seminar is "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Corinthians 3:17). The seminar will take place at Our Lady of Angels Parish, 3644 Rocky River Drive, Cleveland OH 44111, in the Primary Building behind Linus Hall. Call Verna Drockton 216-251-3560 or Tom Stamper 216-536-6495 to register or for more information. Come Holy Spirit and Fill the Hearts of Your Faithful!



VISIT US ONLINE:
crmweb.org

Catholic Renewal Ministries would like to bring everyone together, outside with social distancing, to pray and praise God.



*All are invited to attend our **Festivals of Praise/ Prayer Meetings** scheduled in **June, July, August, and September from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.***

Here is the planned schedule:

At the CRM Center at St. John of the Cross Parish, 140 Richmond Rd., Euclid 44143.

We will gather at the outdoor shrine area on the following dates:

Friday, June 18th

Friday, July 16th

Friday, August 20th, Traveling Mass

Friday, September 17th.

If there is rain, we will move to the CRM Center in the parish school building.

At St. Peter Parish, 35777 Center Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville 44039. We will gather in the wooded area behind the parish office on the following dates:

Saturday, June 26th

Saturday, July 24th

Saturday, August 28th

Saturday, September 25th.

If there is rain, we will move to the church or gym. Come, be part of an amazing evening of praise and worship of God in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Note: The Festivals of Praise will be held rain or shine. If the weather is clear, be sure to bring your lawn chair. For any questions, please call CRM at 440-944-9445.

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“Let us rediscover, dear brothers and sisters, the beauty of being baptized in the Holy Spirit” (Pope Benedict).

One hesitation for using the language is the possible confusion brought about by comparison to the Sacrament of Baptism. Sacraments provide “sanctifying grace,” while the exercise of charisms, many of which flow from baptism in the Holy Spirit, are exercises of “gratuitous graces.” Both types of grace are unmerited, free, created, supernatural gifts. While gratuitous graces may help one to perform a supernatural act, they are not at first judged to sanctify the individual actor or recipient. Or do they? Exercising the charism of prophecy requires faith and courage. Receiving and believing in a true prophecy increases hope. Praying in Tongues is an expression of the virtue of religion. Thus, while virtue is primarily the fruition of sanctifying grace, it appears to be the case also with the exercise of charismatic gifts. Of even greater import are the experiences of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and being baptized in Fire. At their core, these experiences are in fact sanctifying. They empower an individual for a life of virtue and consume interior matter related to the disorder of the passions, thus increasing capacity for the Divine Presence to inhabit the soul. Therefore, far from being unhelpful, to speak of “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” is most appropriate, for it affirms the transmission of sanctifying grace!

In conclusion, the title, “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” is the most proper and precise terminology to use, for it is a sanctifying experience, wherein certain charisms are also poured out, as confirmed by the sacred Scriptures and elucidated in the living Tradition’s theology of grace, a precision of language benefitting all Christians.

Fr. Michael Becker is the Rector of St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He has a background in Theology and Economics, Youth and Campus Ministry, and experience as a Pastor. He is a member of the Companions of Christ.

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The Flame

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