

The Flame

March/April 2025

Sharing Charisms with Confidence

By Gerry Mader

Recently when attending a small prayer group, I was disappointed by a lack of power in the utilization of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There was little freedom as the leader seemed to be operating off of a schedule and was quite concerned that things needed to be done by a certain time. The music played for a short period of time and then he called for the sharing of word gifts and there were two words, one from the scripture and one delivered by a woman. The prophecy was delivered as though it was just another nice thing to say.

Later we attended an area prayer meeting, where the praise and worship were extended and the words came forth after a powerful time of praying in tongues, and the word was delivered with confidence and with power. It became clear to me that it is so important to building up the body of Christ that all can see clearly that the Holy Spirit is in charge of the meeting and we can be confident that we are to praise, worship, sing with confidence, pray in tongues and prophesy with confidence, so that all will know that we believe that the Holy Spirit is leading us and wants to build up the people of God. As we continue to be confident the Lord will continue to add to our numbers.

“In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence” (Eph.3:12 NIV).

“...you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13 NIV).

God, our loving Father, asks us to come and approach him with confidence. If we have asked him and Jesus to send us the Holy Spirit, we need to be confident that God is faithful to his promises and that we have received the outpouring of his Holy Spirit. We are called to be

confident that we have the first gift which is the Holy Spirit and also are confident that he has given us gifts to build up the body of Christ that we are with. “So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church” (1 Corinthians 14:12 NIV).

We in the charismatic renewal have been extremely blessed to have experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the accompanied gifts (charisms) of this outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit. Paul challenged the early Christians to be bold and eager to have the gifts of the Spirit but he also said to use them wisely and in proper order. Paul saw how evangelistic the charisms could be if they were done in such a manner as to honor God. St. Paul never said don’t use them, but rather he encouraged their use as a means of drawing others to Christ. In 1 Corinthians 14, he especially encourages the gift of prophecy because he says that it builds up the body of Christ particularly for new people. He also says that tongues help to build up the individual believer.

Having said all this, what is our current situation as we look at prayer groups today? There are some groups who are saying we need to minimize the charisms or minimize their use so as not to offend anyone who might come into our group. In other cases, some groups are practicing various devotions and it is difficult to know if they are charismatic and what their purpose is.

The more charisms are present the more people will be challenged to seek them from the Lord. In 1 Corinthians 14:31, Paul speaks to the community about the order of prophecy and he suggests that the prophets should prophesy in order so that all may benefit. **“For you can all prophesy one by one so that all may learn and be encouraged”** (1 Cor 14:31).

(Continued on page 7)

Dear Readers of The Flame,

I came across this quote in a book by the historian David McCullough.

“When you’re at war you think about a better life; when you are at peace you think about a more comfortable one,” said a character in Thornton Wilder’s play The Skin of our Teeth. (in Brave Companions, page 215)

I have often pondered this quote. Most people in the United States live in peaceful areas. Our prosperity almost instinctively moves us to seek greater comfort and security.

However, are we really at peace? The truth is that while on earth we are engaged in spiritual warfare. Paragraph 409 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

This dramatic situation of “the whole world [which] is in the power of the evil one” (I John 5:19) makes man’s life a battle:

The whole of man’s history has been the story of our combat with the powers of evil, stretching, so our Lord tells us, from the very dawn of history until the last day. Finding himself in the midst of the battlefield man has to struggle to do what is right, and it is at great cost to himself, and aided by God’s grace, that he succeeds in achieving his own inner integrity. (Gaudium et Spes #37, par. 2)

The truth is that we are at battle. However, our prosperity almost blinds us to that fact. Our comforts anesthetize us, dulling us to the real drama of life. We forget why we have been created, to Whom we really belong and what our ultimate destiny is. **We can live for the things of the earth and neglect and even forget the things of heaven!**

This is why we need to welcome Lent! It truly is a wakeup call. Our first reading on Ash Wednesday shouts this:

Blow the trumpet in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call an assembly; gather the people, notify the congregation; assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber. Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep, and say, “Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach...” (Joel 2:15-17a)

Lent is the liturgical season that rouses us out of our spiritual stupor and awakens us to Jesus Christ and what He is about.

Based on the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 6, the Church proposes three primary ways of entering into the season of Lent: Almsgiving, Prayer and Fasting. Though these three practices are not quite as tight as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, they are connected and work in concert with each other.

I strongly encourage you to give to the needy and to pray. **However, I want to elaborate a bit on the third ascetical practice-fasting. How can we fast in our time?**

First, we fast by making better use of our time.

1. St. Josemaria Escriva said, ***“Conquer yourself each day from the very first moment, getting up on the dot, at a fixed time, without yielding a single minute to laziness. If, with God’s help, you conquer yourself, you will be well ahead for the rest of the day.”*** (The Way, #191)
2. Read instead of watching TV or viewing video content.
3. Get to bed on time.

Second, we can watch our intake of food and drink. From Catholic Gentleman.com (Spiritual Weapons: Fasting, posted April 29, 2014)

1. Skip one meal extra a week, like breakfast or lunch. In addition to

Fridays, Wednesdays are traditional days of fasting, so that might be a good day to start with.

2. Deny yourself dessert on set days. Most of us eat too much sugar anyway.
3. Skip salt on your food.
4. Fast from soda. It’s terrible for you!
5. Skip the beer or other alcoholic drinks when going out to eat.
6. Don’t eat between meals. This sounds easy but try it. You’ll find it’s quite hard since most of us snack frequently and don’t even realize it.
7. Include things besides food. For example, fast from all technology one day a week.
8. Fast (one main meal with two small snacks) one day a week.
9. Drink only water

Thirdly, we fast by guarding our senses and speech.

1. Unless you are really looking up something, do not surf the net.
2. Guard what you view. Jesus said, ***“The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be.”*** (Matthew 6:22-23)
3. Turn off the radio/streaming services while driving. Instead think good thoughts (Philippians 4:8) and pray.
4. Limit news input. A little goes a long way.
5. Listen to others more than share your opinion.
6. Change the topic when conversations become gossipy or are filled with detraction.
7. Replace any complaining with gratitude.

If these and any other ascetical practices are to be effective, they must be practiced with great humility. With humility, they can be transformative. Without humility, ascetical practices are deformative, leading us away from God and other people.

Lent is not only a wakeup call. It is a season of transformation. These words of St. Fulgentius (+527) of Ruspe (in modern Tunisia, northern Africa) capture this drift.

Here on earth, they are changed by the first resurrection, in which they are enlightened and converted, thus passing from death to life, sinfulness to holiness, unbelief to faith, and evil actions to holy life. For this reason, the second death has no power over them. It is of such men that the Book of Revelation says: Happy the man who shares in the first resurrection; over such as he the second death has no power. Elsewhere the same book says: He who overcomes shall not be harmed by the second death. As the first resurrection consists of the conversion of the heart, the second death consists of unending torment.

Let us embrace the “first resurrection” and flee from those things that lead us to the “second death”!

My prayer for you and me is that this special season makes us into “new wineskins”. If we are going to be ever-filled vessels of the Holy Spirit, the new wine promised by Jesus, then we need to be transformed into those new wineskins. May our Lenten practices keep us awake to Jesus Christ and his plan.

Happy Lent!

In Christ,
Fr. Bob Franco



The Joy of the LORD is my STRENGTH

- Nehemiah 8:10

EVENT DATE

Saturday
July 26, 2025

Doors Open at 7:45am, Close by 9pm

St. Albert the Great Parish Life Center
6667 Wallings Rd, North Royalton, OH 44133

\$40 REGISTRATION

plus Lunch & Dinner options for purchase



Conference begins at 8:30am
with Praise & Worship by Matt Fafrak

EVENT ACTIVITIES

- Praise & Worship
- Morning Prayer
- Dynamic Teaching
- Saturday Vigil at 4pm
- Healing Prayer

EVENT SPEAKERS



DR JACI SABOL

is a board certified neuropsychologist and former Director of Neuropsychology at the University of Texas and Texas A&M, and a former assistant professor of neurology and neurosurgery

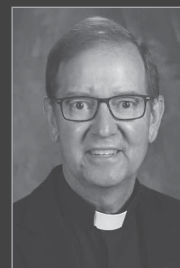
at these institutions. She has authored or contributed to several scientific and medical research articles. In addition, Dr. Sabol is a longtime worship leader and speaker on matters of faith, especially where faith and science meet. She is currently Director of the Center For Spiritual Care in her diocese, which assists with spiritual issues, including deliverance and exorcism. She is on the executive board of directors for *Faith On Fire!*



DAVE VANVICKLE

fell in love with the Lord at the age of 14 and has dedicated his life to bringing others into a radical relationship with Christ. He is a popular speaker and retreat leader who presents on topics related to spiritual warfare, the universal call to holiness, and authentic Catholic spirituality. He is a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville and has years of experience assisting priests with their ministries of deliverance and exorcism. He is also co-host of the popular Ascension podcast "Every Knee Shall Bow." Dave resides in Pittsburgh with his five children: Sam, Max, Judah, Josie, and Louisa.

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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 and St. Julie Billiart parishes in North Ridgeville.

Check website **www.crmweb.org** for more details

call CRM: 440 944-9445 e-mail: **crmcleveand@gmail.com**

CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES PRESENTS



**PRESENTER
BARBARA HEIL**
FROM HIS HEART MINISTRIES



CHECK WEBSITE
WWW.CRMWEB.ORG
FOR DETAILS

BELOVED IS WHERE WE BEGIN



A LENTEN THEME

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

AT

QUEEN OF HEAVEN PARISH,
PARISH LIFE CENTER

1800 STEESE RD, UNIONTOWN 44685

DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM

THE CLEVELAND DIOCESE HAS DESIGNATED
QUEEN OF HEAVEN PARISH A SACRED SITE
FOR THE 2025 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

*** COME FOR THE DAY AND MAKE A PILGRIMAGE ***

Optional: 8:30 am Mass, Confession, Adoration, Saturday Vigil 4:30 Mass

\$35 Registration with lunch ENDS February 22

WALK-INS - \$35- NO LUNCH

Call 330-687-8843 for more info

PRAISE & WORSHIP
DYNAMIC TEACHING
HEALING PRAYER

Catholic Renewal Ministries will host Barbara Heil, on Saturday, March 1st, at Queen of Heaven Parish (Parish Life Center), 1800 Steese Rd., Uniontown. Barbara's presentation is a Lenten theme, Beloved Is Where We Begin.

A former Protestant Missionary and Evangelist, Barbara came home to the Roman Catholic Church in April of 2014, and formed From His Heart Ministries, with a desire to see this generation experience the deep love of our Heavenly Father.

She has spoken at the International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest, appeared on numerous television and radio programs, traveled throughout the U.S. and the world conducting Parish missions, revivals, retreats, conferences, and ministers in foreign missions. Her life goal is to live out her "yes", bringing people into an encounter with Jesus and that changes everything!

Doors open for Registration at 9:30 AM, followed by Praise & Worship, Teaching and an opportunity for Healing Prayer.

Visit the CRM website: www.crmweb.org or call 330-687-8843 for more information. Advance registration postmarked by Friday, February 22nd, is \$35, lunch included. At the door is \$35 with NO lunch.

*The Diocese has designated Queen of Heaven Parish a sacred site for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.
Come – and make a pilgrimage during this Holy Jubilee Year.*

REGISTRATION by Mail or with PayPal on our website: www.crmweb.org

In Advance \$35 per person includes lunch

At The door \$35 per person – NO lunch

First Name _____ Last _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check to CRM. Mail to: Mary Cusack

268 Northmoreland Ave

Munroe Falls, OH 44262

Register with PayPal on www.crmweb.org (online or postmarked by February 22nd)

Prayer Group Information

Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group meets every **Tuesday evening from 7:30-9:00pm** in the Primary Building of Our Lady of Angels School (behind Linus Hall), 3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland 44111. Our meetings consist of Praise and Worship, then quiet time to allow for the Word gifts to be manifested. We generally have a teaching or sharing each week and then everyone brings their prayer intentions so that we may lift our needs to our Loving God. Afterward, we enjoy snacks and fellowship. A healing team is available for personal prayer after every meeting too. Phone Tom Stamper 216-536-6495 for more information.

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@sbc-global.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 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: 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."

The **ICC Prayer Ministry** meets on the **1st and 3rd Saturday Mornings from 10:00am – Noon** in the Parish Center Bldg., Goebel Hall, (behind Immaculate Conception Church, 2846 Lake Street, Madison, Ohio 44057). The meetings are open to Catholic Church members in the area. Mary Cusack of Holy Family Church in Stow, OH, has agreed to teach this Saturday program. These meetings will contain praise, worship, light refreshments, healing, prophecies, scriptures and other prayer teachings.

For your information, Immaculate Conception Church has been chosen to be one of the sacred shrine sites during the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope. The faithful may want to take this time to visit, pray and receive the special graces associated with the Jubilee Year. A Jubilee cross is displayed in the Sanctuary.

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 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.



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!

MARCH 1

Catholic Renewal Ministries will host **Barbara Heil, on Saturday, March 1st**, at Queen of Heaven Parish (Parish Life Center), 1800 Steese Rd., Uniontown. Barbara's presentation is a Lenten theme, *Beloved Is Where We Begin*. A former Protestant Missionary and Evangelist, Barbara came home to the Roman Catholic Church in April of 2014, and formed From His Heart Ministries, with a desire to see this generation experience the deep love of our Heavenly Father.

Doors open for Registration at 9:30 AM, followed by Praise & Worship, Teaching and an opportunity for Healing Prayer. Visit the CRM website: www.crmweb.org or call 330-687-8843 for more information. Advance registration postmarked by Friday, February 22nd, is \$35, lunch included. At the door is \$35 with NO lunch. PayPal registration is available on the website.

MARCH 15

Magnificat Of Stark County, invites all women to a **Breakfast at 9:00am on Saturday, March 15th**, at the Holiday Inn Canton, 4520 Everhard Road NW, Canton. Doors open at 8:30am.

Our guest speaker, Carolyn Cannizzaro, grew up in San Diego, CA, where she served in her

community and taught elementary school for 23 years. She now resides on a farm in south-west Pennsylvania with her husband. Carolyn has experienced many trials in life including marital strife, the loss of both parents and the tragic loss of her first husband and daughter. Through these many difficulties, she surrendered and found her trust and joy in the Lord. Carolyn is the Chairwoman for the 2024 Diocese of Greensburg "Spirited" Women's Conference and recently retired as the Director of Prolife Advocacy. Carolyn also serves as a Catechist, Worship Leader, Cantor, and Eucharistic Minister in her home Parish of The Church of St. Anne in Rostraver, PA. She especially loves singing God's praises as a member of the Living Praise Worship Team. Carolyn is a graduate of Encounter Ministries and a founding member of "*Hem of His Garment*" healing ministry in Greensburg, PA.

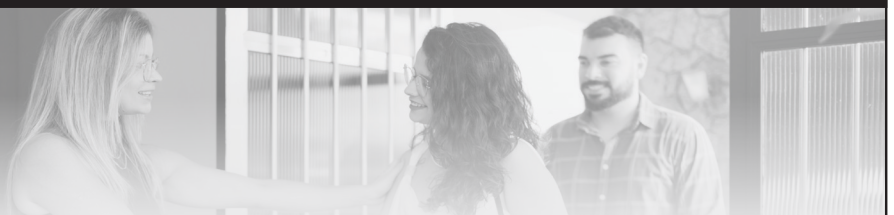
Cost: \$25 Mail-in/\$26 Online. For more information about our speaker and to make your reservation visit magnificatstark.weebly.com or call Sally Kohring at 330-484-1623. Reservation deadline is March 9th.

SAVE THE DATE

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: www.crmweb.org for more information as it comes available. Please save the date and get the word out to your friends and family.

See poster 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)

So it is with tongues, even though Paul is correcting some behaviors, he is also exhorting the church to use this gift. Prophecy is for the believers who are there and tongues is for unbelievers who may be new to the meeting. "Now I should like all of you to speak in tongues (1 Cor 14:5)... I give thanks to God that I speak in tongues more than any of you" (1 Cor 14:18). Paul clearly encourages the use of these charisms.

We also see how healing plays such a prominent role in the early chapters of Acts. Peter and John are imprisoned for healing the crippled beggar at "the Beautiful Gate." Their response is "to evangelize" the Sanhedrin by proclaiming what they had just accomplished in the name of Jesus. The people praised God for what had happened and gave glory to God. All through the Acts of the Apostles we hear about the people praising God for what God is doing through the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:29-31).

The Holy Spirit gave men and women the power to preach and teach, even those who had no formal training but who had an encounter with the Holy Spirit. Among them Peter, Stephen, Phillip, and of course Paul stand out. These are men who became leaders, teachers, preachers, evangelists, deacons, prophets and healers. People who witnessed by their life and testimony with charisms that testified to the presence of the Holy Spirit did so with the confidence that the charisms they were utilizing were

from the Spirit of God. So it is with us today. The more confidently we use the charisms the more winsome we will be and the more others will be drawn to use the charisms to build the body of Christ.

We in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal believe that the charisms experienced in the early church are for today. One of the roles of the Holy Spirit delineated in the recently released NSC mission statement says that the action of the Holy Spirit leads us to ministry empowered by the charisms for evangelization and service. If we are empowered with the charisms by the Holy Spirit, we certainly need to use them with confidence so as to give the glory to the God who gave them to us.

Gerry Mader served on the National Service Committee for many years. The Lord called him home in 2014. This article originally appeared in Pentecost Today 2010 Volume 1 and can be found under resources at www.pentecosttodayusa.org under resources (formation).

THE FLAME IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES FOR THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND
FR. ROBERT FRANCO LIAISON TO CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES.
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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.



The Flame

CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES

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P.O. BOX 360546, STRONGSVILLE, OH 44136**

MISSION STATEMENT: Catholic Renewal Ministries is the officially designated office for charismatic renewal activity in the Diocese of Cleveland that unites all prayer groups under the authority of the Diocesan Bishop and his appointed delegate to the renewal. Catholic Renewal Ministries, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in the power of Pentecost, fulfills the command of Jesus to evangelize all people, to make disciples of everyone, to accept the challenge of the gospel and to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives.