

# The Flame

November/December 2021

## RECONCILIATION: Seeing Eye to Eye

by Jim Murphy

The efforts of repentance and reconciliation are more important than ever before.

Sr. Nancy Kellar gave a great explanation of reconciliation. She pointed out the Latin roots of the three words that make up our modern word: re (again) con (with) cilia (eye lashes.) It literally means “again with eye lashes.” Once we are reconciled with someone, we can face them. We can understand and appreciate them, even if we cannot fully agree. You might say that we can once again see eye to eye.

Fr. John Hampsch observed that it was easier to be reconciled with people we like, with whom we want to be in relationship. Following that line of thought, we have to ask ourselves if we even want to be reconciled to another. Sometimes there are individuals or groups that we do not particularly like. There’s not much motivation for reconciliation. It’s easier to keep them at arm’s length, justifying the distance by attitudes and suspicions.

In ecumenical situations, I am amazed how many pre-conceived ideas we have about others. So many people don’t understand the Catholic faith and we don’t really understand them, either. It’s almost easier to simply accept the chasm of

misunderstanding but God wants more than that. He wants us to be reconciled.

The heart of a friend of God will be troubled by the same things that “trouble” God. Repentance and reconciliation are not always about winning the discussion. It’s about feeling sorrow for the brokenness among God’s people. It’s about entering into conversation and prayer, asking God to help us with what we cannot do on our own.

Some years ago, I carried a cross across the United States. The focus of the journey was prayer, evangelization, repentance and reconciliation. I remember walking through Cajun country in Louisiana. I had been asked to give a day of reflection for leaders at a Catholic parish. Others attended as well. As the day went on, there was one woman who seemed particularly agitated. Her facial expressions and body language broadcasted her displeasure with me.

On the lunch break, I sought her out. As calmly as I could, I asked her how the day was going for her. She launched into a tirade about the Catholic Church and how much wrong it had done. I just listened,

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Dear Readers of the Flame,

**I recently returned from a pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain and Lourdes.** Due to the pandemic, we had a few more hoops to jump through. There was extra paperwork, covid-19 tests before our plane rides to and from Europe, and the wearing of masks both indoors and outdoors. However, these inconveniences were minor compared with the opportunity to visit these religious sites and walk in the footsteps of the saints.

**The one-word summary of this pilgrimage is *Conversion*.** Our Lady and the saints we encountered during this pilgrimage were summoning all people everywhere to turn from sin and return to God. In Fatima, Portugal, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Lucia, Francisco and Jacintha with sobering messages: *pray, make sacrifice and be converted! Tell the whole world-BE CONVERTED!* During Our Lady's appearance in 1917, during World War I, she warned the world of a greater war that would ensue if people did not repent. She also warned that Russia would spread its errors throughout the world. As we know, despite these warnings, both the greater war and the spread of communism dominated the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Our travels in Spain primarily focused on three saints: St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross and St. Ignatius of Loyola.** All of these saints lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. St. Teresa and St. John (both from Avila-similar to St. Francis and St. Clare being from Assisi, Italy) reformed the Carmelite communities. This was especially challenging. Their job was telling religious people that they needed to be converted. It was not enough to be part of a religious community. Each member needed to sacrificially live for Jesus Christ. It was not enough to pray. Each member needed to pursue an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Their call to their fellow Carmelites was met with resistance. St. Teresa of Avila was able to bring the Carmelite sisters back to a cloistered, contemplative existence. St. John of the Cross ended up founding another branch of the Carmelites.

**For me, one of the highlights of this pilgrimage took place in Loyola, Spain.** We visited the house where the family of St. Ignatius lived. Ignatius was a soldier and knight at a royal court. However, when his leg was severely wounded by a cannonball, he returned to his family home to convalesce. He endured a number of surgeries and spent the better part of a year regaining his health at Loyola. There were only two books available to read in the Loyola house at this time. One was a book on the life of Jesus Christ and the other was a book on the lives of the saints.

**St. Ignatius' reading during this time of recovery led to his conversion in the year 1521.** *Since this year is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his conversion, Pope Francis declared 2021 a Jubilee Year for those who visit designated sites associated with the Jesuits.* Certainly, the bedroom where St. Ignatius was converted in Loyola (it is now a chapel) is one of those sites!

**Our final days of the pilgrimage were in Lourdes, France.** In 1858 a fourteen year old peasant girl named Bernadette (who was still preparing for her First Holy Communion) encountered a beautiful Lady dressed in white with a blue sash in the grotto called Massabielle, near the Gave River. This Lady appeared to her 18 times over a period of months. She told Bernadette a

number of things and finally revealed her name to her. She said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." When Bernadette told her unbelieving pastor Father Peyramale, he was stunned. After further questioning, he realized that Bernadette did not even know that this meant. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception had only been declared four years earlier.

**One of our Lady's messages to Bernadette was that she was to pray for the *conversion of sinners*.** Bernadette asked her what that meant. Our Lady responded only by smiling. In due time Bernadette would learn what that meant. At the age of 24 Bernadette left Lourdes and joined the Sisters of Charity in Nevers, France. There she prayed for the conversion of sinners and did manual labor until her death at the age of 38. Her incorrupt body can still be viewed in Nevers, France.

**Conversion! It is what the world and many in the Church need.** We need to turn from our sins, our indifference, our distractions and return to the Lord!

**I believe the parable that best fits our times is the one entitled the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:1-10).** In this story the King gave a wedding feast for this son. Those invited first refused the invitation. At the second invitation they gave lame excuses about going to their business or farm. Other invitees mistreated and killed the King's messengers. The King then destroyed the murderers and filled the hall with whomever he could find.

In our times many people are indifferent to God and are absorbed in the things of the world. Others react violently to the message of Church. **Lord, wake us up! We need conversion.**

**As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, let us seek deeper conversion for ourselves, our relatives, neighbors and co-workers.** We usually make time for these feasts. May we make time for Jesus Christ. He gives the feast that lasts forever.

**As we approach the end of 2021, let me simply say thank you.** Your prayer, participation in CRM events and support of our labors is a source of gratitude for me and all who serve with CRM. I wish you a joy-filled celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas and blessed New Year.

In Christ,  
**Fr. Bob Franco**

PS: There has been an uptick in parish activities at St. Peter Parish that require my attention. Therefore, I need to suspend indefinitely the Faithful Discipleship Zoom series.

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

**CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES**  
P.O. BOX 360546  
STRONGSVILLE, OHIO 44136  
**crmweb.org / (440)944-9445**

All are invited to attend Catholic Renewal Ministries:

# Forgiveness Retreat



PRESENTED BY

**Deacon Dave Pecot**

*Saturday, October 30, 2021*

*St. Adalbert Church,  
Keller Center Hall, in Berea.*



**Did you ever wonder how the Prodigal Son responded to his father's forgiveness?** We know the father celebrated his return, but we have nothing recorded about how the prodigal responded to the forgiveness given him. Come and experience the power of God's forgiveness in your own life and how forgiveness changes how we interact with the Father.

**God promised us he will forgive every sin and forget every sin; then why do we struggle with the sins of our past?** What must we do in response to God's forgiveness and his forgetting our sins? What happens if we cannot forgive the sins people have inflicted upon us?

The woman at the well never asked for forgiveness nor did the woman caught in adultery, yet Jesus restores them. **Can we expect that kind of forgiveness if we stand before Jesus?**

**All these questions and more will be answered during this retreat on October 30th.**

**RETREAT REGISTRATION FEE IS \$20** (Per Person)

- Church located at 66 Adelbert St., Berea 44017
- Doors opening at 8:30 a.m.
- Retreat starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m.
- Optional 4:30 Vigil Mass at St. Adalbert Church
- PayPal registration is available through the CRM website [www.crmweb.org](http://www.crmweb.org)

Lunch will be on your own, and there are many restaurants in the Berea and Middleburg Hts. area. For any questions, please call CRM at **440-944-9445**.

Mail-in registration form is included below.

## FORGIVENESS RETREAT MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM

*Put name and \$20 fee for each person registering.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**SEND INFORMATION  
AND CHECK TO:**

CRM c/o Marge Zampino  
2747 Vincent Drive  
Seven Hills, OH 44131

# Catholic Renewal Ministries Events

## Prayer Group Information

**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.

**SS. Cosmas and Damian Charismatic Prayer Group** meets every **Sunday at 7:00 p.m.** in the church gathering area under the Holy Spirit Dove. The prayer meeting is also streamed live on SS. Cosmas and Damian Facebook page. Come and experience vibrant praise and worship, intercessory and healing prayer, and scripture sharing.

Do you want to know Jesus in a deeper way? Are you looking to go deeper in your faith? Come and check out our church community of believers. To contact us or be on the prayer group email list call 330-310-2595 or email [dennycarleton@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

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 the 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 monthly healing prayer service also. For further information, please contact us at [HealingPrayers@stmaryhudson.cc](mailto:HealingPrayers@stmaryhudson.cc).

The Holy Spirit Prayer Group of St. Mary Church hosts an in person **Healing Prayer Service** on the first Sunday of each month,

except in July and September of this year. For those months the service will be held on the second Sundays. The service will be held in the chapel from **12:30-1:30 pm**.

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

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

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](mailto: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: [rudyfontilla1975@yahoo.com](mailto:rudyfontilla1975@yahoo.com).

# Catholic Renewal Ministries Events

## CRM and Prayer Group Events

Catholic Renewal Ministries invites all to a **Forgiveness Retreat** presented by Deacon Dave Pecot on **Saturday, October 30, 2021** at St. Adalbert Church, Keller Center Hall, in Berea.

**Did you ever wonder how the Prodigal Son responded to his father's forgiveness?** We know the father celebrated his return, but we have nothing recorded about how the prodigal responded to the forgiveness given him. Come and experience the power of God's forgiveness in your own life and how forgiveness changes how we interact with the Father.

God promised us he will forgive every sin and forget every sin; then why do we struggle with the sins of our past? What must we do in response to God's forgiveness and his forgetting our sins? **What happens if we cannot forgive the sins people have inflicted upon us?**

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All these questions and more will be answered during this retreat on October 30th.

The retreat will run from **9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, with the doors opening at 8:30 a.m. There is a 4:30 Vigil Mass at St. Adalbert Church that you could attend. The church is located at 66 Adelbert St., Berea 44017.

The retreat registration fee is \$20. Lunch will be on your own, and there are many restaurants in the Berea and Middleburg Hts. area. PayPal registration is available through the CRM website, [www.crmweb.org](http://www.crmweb.org) and a mail-in registration form is also included in this issue of the Flame. A list of local restaurants will be available at the retreat and is posted on our website.

For any questions, please call CRM at 440-944-9445.

The Forgiveness Retreat has been life changing for so many as Deacon Dave has presented it at churches and other groups over the years. We hope you will be able to attend. Before the busyness of November and December, this retreat will be a great preparation for receiving Jesus into your heart at Christmas.

Please let others know about this transformative day of teaching and discussion.



**VISIT US ONLINE:**  
**[crmweb.org](http://crmweb.org)**

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Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth Chapter of Magnificat, a women's ministry modeled after the Visitation, invites you to a **Breakfast** on **Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** at Walsh University, Barrette Center, 2020 East Maple Street, North Canton, Ohio. Join us in a special time of fellowship and sharing. Fr. Jim Cosgrove will be the guest speaker.

Option 1: \$22 Mail-in - Go to [magnificatstark.weebly.com/mail-in-reservation](http://magnificatstark.weebly.com/mail-in-reservation)

Option 2: \$23 Online - Go to [magnificatstark.weebly.com/online-reservation](http://magnificatstark.weebly.com/online-reservation)  
**RESERVATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER NOVEMBER 27th.**

Open seating. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. There will be an optional Mass at 8:00 a.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel at Walsh University. For further information call Joan Spieth at 330-933-8778.

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\$22 Mail-in - Go to [magnificatstark.weebly.com/mail-in-reservation](http://magnificatstark.weebly.com/mail-in-reservation)

**Option 2:**

\$23 Online - Go to [magnificatstark.weebly.com/online-reservation](http://magnificatstark.weebly.com/online-reservation)

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(Continued from Page 1)

letting her talk. Her family had been in the area for centuries. She was of mixed ancestry; French, African slave, and Native American. Her anger turned to sorrow as she described the generations of poverty and suffering her family endured. "Why didn't the Church protect us? Why didn't the Church help us? How could they look the other way, while all these things were happening to my people?"

This was not a moment for a debate. I asked a simple question; "What do you need?" She was silent for a moment, her eyes filling with tears. She looked intently at me. "I just want someone to say 'I'm sorry'" she whispered. "I want the Church to say it's sorry."

We both stood in pained silence. I was holding the cross that I was carrying through Louisiana. I hesitantly whispered to her. "I am so very sorry for what

happened to your family, and how you have suffered. As a member of the Catholic Church, I sincerely ask your forgiveness for all that has happened." She looked at me carefully, to see if this was authentic. I continued, "Jesus gave his life on a cross, knowing that we would hurt one another. He asked the Father to forgive us for all the wrong we did. He knows that we hurt, and are hurt by one another. It was on the cross, that Jesus made a way for reconciliation, and for us to finally find peace." Her eyes were hungry with hope. I handed her the cross. She took it into her arms, sobbing. We began to pray. A transformation was taking place. She no longer saw me as one of the bad guys. I no longer saw her as a hostile critic. We were two broken people, holding on to a cross, asking healing from God...for both of us. We could once again see eye to eye.

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# The Flame

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