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The Flame

November/December 2025

Jubilation.

by Deacon Eddie Ensley

There's an excellent study by John Poirier that came out a couple of years ago called "The Tongues of Angels" reflecting on the concept of angelic language in classical Jewish texts. It traces jubilation, the continuation of praying or singing in tongues, to the second century BC Jewish, and later Christian, practice of singing in tongues of angels. The language of the angels is called angelglossay, very similar to glossolalia, praying in tongues. His research was about the jubilation tradition of the Church Fathers.

Speaking in tongues, singing in tongues, praying in tongues, comes from the concept of people praying in angelic languages in the early Church and also in later Judaism. Augustine would point out that the word jubilation referred to a vocal expression used to express a joy or happiness too immense or too deep for words. And this jubilation, this praise, was central to the Church.

"The exultation continued, and the wordless praise to God was shouted so loud that my ears could barely stand the din."

As part of my research, I read the early Church Fathers and Mothers and the original lives of the saints. The description of thousands of people praying in jubilation and the genuinely felt emotion in their worship was far richer, in a few instances at least, than what I had seen in modern charismatic Masses and prayer groups. When people prayed this way, miracles and healing happened.

Those maintaining and continuing the patristic practice among the Fathers and later figures include Augustine, Ambrose, and Teresa of Avila. Nor is it limited to holy people such as these. Shocking new research shows that whole congregations prayed this way for centuries. In the generation immediately after the apostles, we have original writings telling a story that is so spiritually explosive that it could transfigure Christianity as surely as Christ was transfigured on the Mount of Transfiguration. Not only would it help root us in our heritage; it can lead us into a new and undreamed-of future.

One of the great things about the literature I found on jubilation is the fact that there are so many passages of vividly described events, so many quotes. Among other things, we could look at a description of jubilation, as found in early Christian worship. This is our history. Charismatic activity, including glossolalia, was not something that just came into the church in 1967. It has very deep roots, the deepest roots.

Let's drop in on a Mass presided over by Saint Augustine. In the fourth century, he pastored a large parish in the town of Hippo in North Africa. In the 22nd book of his famous masterpiece *The City of God*, Augustine describes many of the miracles and healings he witnessed among ordinary people in his parish. Let's move into one particular scene that Augustine describes. Augustine tells this particular story: *As crowds swarmed the Basilica of St. Stephen in Hippo, two young people, a brother Paulus and sister Palladia, suffered from a neurological disorder in which they trembled and were thrown into convulsions. Through a vivid dream, they felt a calling to go to the church in Hippo, where they were told they would be healed. At the beginning of the Mass, the young man Paulus prayed for a cure. Unexpectedly, he fell prostrate as though in a trance; his usual convulsions and trembling ceased completely. Augustine describes this scene this way: "Just as suddenly, he arose. The trembling had stopped. The whole church soon rang with the clamor of rejoicing. Nearly everyone broke into loud prayers of thanksgiving," Augustine says. To paraphrase Augustine, People rushed up*

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Dear Readers of The Flame,

One of my favorite Christmas hymns is *O Holy Night*. The original lyricist was a Frenchman named Placide Cappeau. A friend of a friend created the music (Adolphe Adam). It was first sung on Christmas Eve in 1847. It was translated and adapted for the English-speaking world by John Sullivan Dwight in 1855.

The first stanza begins with:

> *O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.*
>
> *Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.*

The soul felt its worth because the Son of God became a human being. He was born with, and will forever have, a human soul. Talk about infusing someone with value! We are so valuable to God that He became one of us, body and soul. We need to remember this: on those days when we feel worthless, we are worth much in the sight of God.

The early Church had a saying, *What He assumed, He could save*. And what did the Son of God *assume* when was conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary and born into time? He assumed everything that makes us human, except sin. Think of your human faculties. For example, you have an imagination. Is it weak and almost non-functional? Or is it overly functional and you are constantly distracted by fears, vanity or impure thoughts? We need to remember that Jesus Christ has a human imagination. Because He has a human imagination, Jesus can revive and heal our imaginations. This is true with every part of our soul and body. Jesus, our redeemer, affirms the worth of our human soul and by His Spirit cleanses, heals and renews each part of our soul.

From the third stanza of *O Holy Night*:

> *Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace.*
>
> *Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother; and in His name all oppression shall cease.*

I wonder if these words caused controversy in the 1850's, when John Sullivan Dwight made his English translation of Cappeau's work. Slavery and the abolitionist movement were at odds. Declaring that the slave was "our brother" may have raised a few eyebrows.

Whether they raised eyebrows or not, these first two lines emphasized the heart of the moral teaching of Jesus Christ: LOVE. This love was his teaching. Love was his command (John13:34-35). Love is our vocation.

St. Therese of Lisieux had a strong desire for martyrdom. Yet, given her vocation as a Carmelite nun, she knew that it would probably never happen. As she pondered this, she read chapters 12-14 in St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Not finding her niche in any of the gifts and roles in chapter 12, St. Therese pressed on to chapter 13. After reflecting on love, she wrote:

> *I knew that one love drove the members of the Church to action, that if this love were extinguished, the apostles would have proclaimed the Gospel no longer, the martyrs would have shed their blood no more. I saw and realized that love sets off the bounds of all vocations, that love is everything, that this same love embraces every time and every place. In a word, that love is everlasting. Then nearly ecstatic with the supreme joy in my soul, I proclaimed: O Jesus, my love, at last I have found my calling: my call is love. Certainly, I have found my proper place in the Church, and you gave me that very place, my God. In the heart of the Church, my mother, I will be love, and thus I will be all things, as my desire finds its direction.* (Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. 4, page 1451)

St. Therese's desire to love was costly. She made it a point to love each member of her community. There was one nun that the rest of the community struggled with. St. Therese did too. However, when St. Therese died, this nun felt she had lost her best friend.

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, let us ask God to grant us the grace to love in humble and even costly ways. The divisiveness that has infected our nation and communities most likely is present in our families too. Like St. Therese, let us pray to be love and to act lovingly during our family gatherings. We may not always be understood. That is part of the cross. With St. Francis we pray that we can understand more than be understood.

We rejoice that our souls have found their worth in Christ. Many people have yet to discover the love of God in Jesus Christ. They may still be in "in sin and error pining." May our love of those God brings into our lives help them know that they are valuable and worthwhile to Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Fr. Bob Franco

I wish each of you a Thanksgiving filled with gladness and a Christmas that abounds with the joy of the Lord.
Blessings to you in the New Year.

Catholic Renewal Ministries Traveling Healing Mass

Friday, November 21st 2025

Ss. Robert & William Parish

Fr. Michael Stalla, Celebrant

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

Ss. Robert & William Parish
367 East 260th St.
Euclid, OH 44132

All are Welcome!

Healing prayer teams will be available after mass for individual prayer.

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

SS. Cosmas and Damian Charismatic Prayer Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month 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 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 **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 up-coming meetings will be on September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8 and January 12, 2026. 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.

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!

Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group. We are happy to report a beautiful end to the Life in the Spirit Seminar our Prayer Group presented for the past eight weeks. We welcomed almost 20 participants who received a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit for their life journey. God is SO good!

Our prayer meetings continue now on Tuesday evenings every week from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Primary Building of Our Lady of Angels School (behind Linus Hall) – 3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH 44111. Prayer, praise and healing are all part of these evening meetings. Phone Tom Stamper for information 216-536-6495.

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: rudyfefontilla1975@yahoo.com.

The Families in Christ Jesus small household-based groups meet in private homes on Thursday evenings (contact Susan Federico for details /cell 216-312-3978 /smfederico78@gmail.com). All of the households meet together on the **first Thursday of the month** at St. John of the Cross Church at 7:45 pm. Below is the schedule for the first Thursday of the month gatherings for November and December.

The Families in Christ Jesus Community is having a Holy Hour at St John of the Cross Church on **Thursday November 6 at 7:45 pm**. All are welcome.

We will be having our annual Christmas party on **Friday, December 5**. Please contact Susan for more information and to make a reservation.

The **Holy Spirit Prayer Group** of St. Mary Church in Hudson is a Charismatic Holy Spirt 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 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.

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

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

Catholic Renewal Ministries Traveling Healing Mass

January 16th 2026

St. Julie Billiart Parish

Fr. Bob Franco, Celebrant

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

St. Julie Billiart Parish
5500 Lear Nagel Rd.
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

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

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

On the SECOND WEEKEND OF THE MONTH, **Holy Family Healing Prayer Ministry** (Stow) offers Healing Prayer after all masses (**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

MONDAYS, SEPT 15TH - MAY 18TH, Holy Family Healing Prayer Ministry. 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 2025-2026 year are starting! No charge/no free will offering. Join us **Mondays, Sept 15th - May 18th, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM or 7:00 PM – 9:00 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.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

The Encounter School, Akron Campus, is presenting the program Kingdom Medicine with Dr. Kerry McMahon, MD. The Transformation Night, Holding onto Hope, will be on Thursday, **November 13th starting at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Falls** Parish, 25615 Bagley Rd., Olmsted Falls, OH. The evening includes praise and worship, a presentation, and prayer ministry.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21ST

Catholic Renewal Ministries' Traveling Healing Mass for November will be held at **Ss. Robert & William Parish** on Friday, November 21st, 7:00 pm. Fr. Michael Stalla will be the celebrant. Praise and worship will begin at 7:00, and the liturgy will start at 7:30. Healing prayer teams will be available after Mass for individual prayer. The church is located at 367 East 260th St. in Euclid 44132. For more information, please contact CRM at 440-944-9445. All are Welcome. Come, Sing and Praise God with Joy!

FRIDAY JANUARY 16TH

Catholic Renewal Ministries' Traveling Healing Mass for January will be held at **St. Julie Billiart Parish** on Friday, January 16th, 7:00 pm. Fr. Bob Franco will be the celebrant. Praise and worship will begin at 7:00, and the liturgy will start at 7:30. Healing prayer teams will be available after Mass for individual prayer and there will also be a social after Mass. The Church is located at 5500 Lear Nagel Rd. in North Ridgeville 44039. For more information, please contact CRM at 440-944-9445. All are Welcome. Come, Sing and Praise God with Joy!!

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!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15TH

On Saturday, **November 15th, at 6:00 p.m**., a **Healing Service** presented by **The Encounter School,** is open to all and will be held at **St. John Bosco Parish**, 6480 Pearl Rd., Parma Heights, OH.

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For other Prayer Group Information and CRM Events

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to where Augustine was sitting to tell him the whole story. As the procession was about to begin, Paulus, accompanied by a crowd, stood in front of Augustine. Augustine raised him up to receive the kiss of peace. Augustine describes the rejoicing and jubilating crowd. "Cries of joy rose up everywhere. No tongue was silent." The third day of Easter, Augustine had the brother and sister stand in front of the congregation. Someone read the account of the miracle that had happened to Paulus three days earlier. The contrast was clear. The young man stood soundly without trembling.

While his sister was obviously still trembling and going into convulsions, they could see the difference in the two. He dismissed the pair. The congregation prayed fervently for the healing of Palladia, the sister. Suddenly, a new joyful song emerged from people in the area of the shrine railing. Palladia had gone to the shrine in the basilica, immediately after Augustine dismissed the two. She fell prostrate, as though in a deep sleep, and arose cured. The congregation, seeing this, broke out into loud, spontaneous praise of God. Augustine himself describes the jubilation. "The exultation continued, and the wordless praise to God was shouted so loud that my ears could barely stand the din."

But of course, the main point, Augustine said, "was that in the hearts of this clamoring crowd burned that faith in Christ for which the martyr Saint Stephen had shed his blood." This is one of scores of scenes in Church history where jubilation and miracles happened together.

Deacon Eddie Ensley is a Catholic Deacon and is a mission member of the Alleluia Covenant Community in Georgia. Deacon Eddie based this article on a chapter from his book Sounds of Wonder, a book on tongues in the spiritual tradition of the Church. This article originally appeared in Pentecost Today 2023 Issue 1 and can be found under resources at www.pentecosttodayusa.org.

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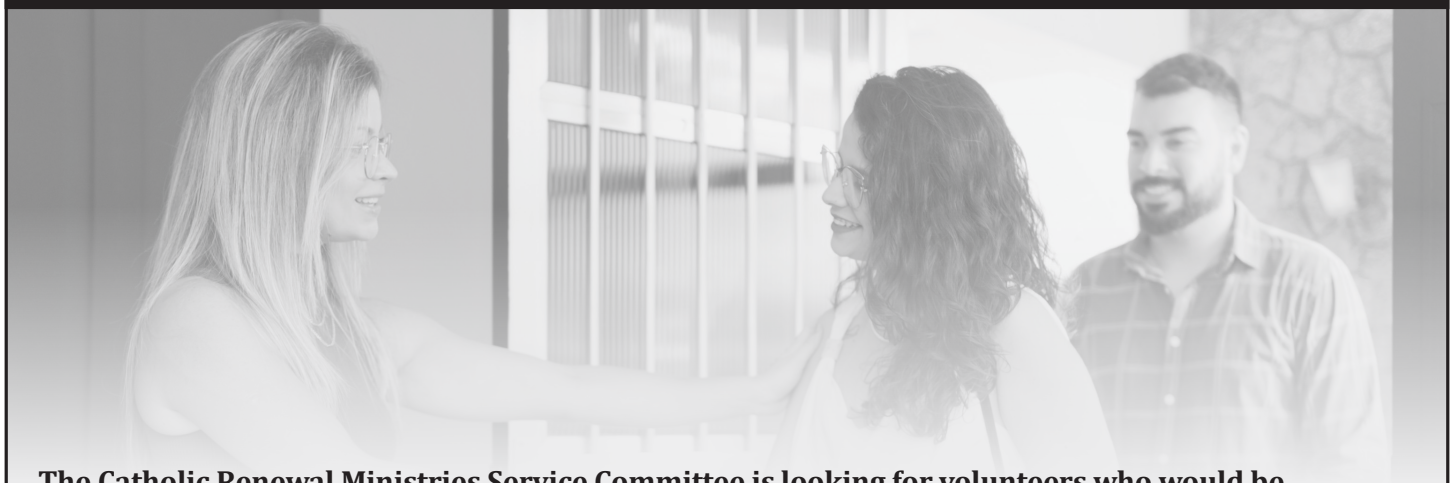
WANTED - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



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 | 440-221-8169 | cjzentkovich@gmail.com
Prayer Group Coordinators Usher/Greeter Ministry

The Flame

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