

The Flame

November/December 2026

Ten Areas of Spiritual Renewal

by Bishop David L. Toups

The Charismatic Renewal's impact on the Universal Church during the decades since the Second Vatican Council cannot be overestimated. Things that seemed like novelties or even oddities at the time have since been mainstreamed into the life of every parish. Allow me to point out a few areas of spiritual renewal brought about by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal following the Council with the following top 10 list:

1. If a Catholic were asked to say a prayer over someone before the Council, they might recite a prayer they knew by heart like the Lord's Prayer. Since then, we have learned how to pray spontaneously, moved by the Holy Spirit, for the particular needs of the person seeking prayer.
2. Along the same line would be the practice of the laying on of hands while invoking the Holy Spirit to deeply touch the heart, mind, and soul of the person being prayed over. We believe in the power of healing that comes from any of the baptized, praying in faith for the healing of a sick or struggling friend.
3. Before the Council, the reading of the Sacred Scriptures was often limited to listening at Mass and following along in a missal. Since then, the proliferation of bible studies in parishes and the personal reading of the Scriptures has been encouraged by the Church for all of the faithful.
4. While Catholics have historically been relatively reserved in our expressions of prayer, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has opened hearts and minds to lift one's hands in prayer and praise in public worship. Such expressions of faith are no longer stifled, and songs of praise and worship have become mainstream, especially amongst our youth. This is very evident in ties of Eucharistic Adoration and nights of praise.
5. A life of deep, intimate prayer has been fostered and many programs in the Church were started by people coming from the Charismatic Renewal: Steubenville programs for young people, the Institute for Priestly Formation, and parish-based prayer meetings, to name just a few.
6. Evangelization efforts have grown by teaching Catholics to offer their testimony and share their faith with others. Prior to the Renewal, this was seen as something particularly Protestant, but now we recognize how important it is to talk about our faith and invite others to share the joys of Gospel living.
7. Ecumenical openness has also defined the Renewal since the beginning. We no longer live in a "ghetto mentality" of not being in relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. There is a renewed openness to work together to build up the Kingdom of God and work together for the good of our communities as we recognize the commonalities of our faith in Jesus Christ. The Second Vatican Council called for this, and the Renewal has helped to implement great ecumenical endeavors.
8. I also believe that a deeper love for the Eucharist, the universal Church, the Petrine Office, the ministry of the priesthood, and Marian devotions have been enhanced by the men and women who have been involved in the Charismatic Renewal from the very start and still today, leading to a great spiritual renewal among the faithful.
9. Ultimately, we have grown as a Church in our love for Jesus, devotion to all three Persons of the Blessed Trinity, and a stronger devotion to the Blessed Mother. The Charismatic Renewal has influenced every fiber of our Church's renewal since the Council, and we can be proud and grateful for the Renewal's influence on everyday Christian life.
10. While we still have a long way to go, it is important to recognize, acknowledge, and celebrate what the Holy Spirit has done and is doing in our Church today! Cardinal Léon Joseph Suenens and the Malines Documents (See: <https://www.pentecosttodayusa.org/malines-documents/>) laid the foundation following Vatican II for a vibrant spiritual renewal of the Church. Having grown up in a home that was deeply impacted by the Renewal, I was raised in such

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Dear Readers of The Flame,

The beginning of the modern Catholic charismatic renewal is associated with the Duquesne retreat weekend February 17-19, 1967. Participants on that weekend experienced baptism in the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit like speaking in tongues and prophecy. They experienced the love and power of God in a profound way.

In the wake of the recently concluded Second Vatican Council, this renewed experience of the Holy Spirit rapidly spread to Catholics on many college campuses, in religious communities and into parish life. And though people were experiencing Baptism in the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit, they did not have a standard way of referring to this experience and movement. Some people called it “neo-Pentecostalism”, because of its association with the early church’s experience at Pentecost. Other Catholic leaders in the movement thought it made the renewal too closely associated with the Pentecostal and Assembly of God traditions. I know one Catholic priest who attended a prayer group because it was called a Catholic Pentecostal prayer group. In his mind, “Catholic” and “Pentecostal” were about as radically different as it gets. He thought, “I’ve got to see this! I can’t imagine how this would work.”

Eventually, leaders of the movement settled on the phrase “the charismatic renewal”. Charisms, the spiritual gifts referred to by St. Paul (I Corinthians 12 et al) and St. Peter (I Peter 4:11), present in the early Church (and at different times throughout the history of the Church), were now being experienced by a sovereign movement of the Holy Spirit. The movement grew through prayer groups and Life in the Spirit Seminars. Catholic charismatic communities were born. Diocesan structures were set up to pastor the movement on the parish level. As a result, millions of Catholics throughout the world were renewed by this wave of the Spirit.

The many fruits of the charismatic renewal are summarized in our lead article this month by Bishop David L. Touns. For many Catholics, baptism in the Spirit opened them up to spiritual treasures of the Church in a new way. Sacred Scripture, the Sacraments, personal prayer, the lives of the saints, Christian community, evangelization and works of mercy were embraced with fresh devotion. Unfortunately for some people, baptism in the Spirit and exposure to the non-Catholic Pentecostal tradition became a gateway out of the Church, which they believed to be overly encumbered by dead traditions.

On the one hand today’s Catholic charismatic renewal is different than the movement that was spawned almost 60 years ago. Demographically, the classic charismatic renewal is older. There are fewer prayer groups. There are not as many *Life in the Spirit* seminars taking place.

Yet, this experience of baptism in the Spirit is still being passed on to younger generations by different means. FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) and St. Paul Outreach evangelize Catholic college students and bring them to experience Baptism in the Holy Spirit. *Seek Conferences* (again for college age Catholics) and Encounter Ministries (open to anyone) help people to experience baptism in the Holy Spirit and openness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The important thing is that people continue to experience the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Though this is not the most important part of our Christian heritage (in fact, Jesus said in Matthew 7:21ff that we can exercise these gifts and be cut off from him!), baptism in the Holy Spirit is often a life-changing experience. This encounter with the Lord sets people on a new trajectory. Though the gifts of the Spirit are not the focus of the Christian life, they are vital tools that

help people encounter Jesus and be converted. These gifts, active in the ministry of Jesus and in the early Church, were important methods of evangelization. Today, they still are effective in proclaiming Christ to other people.

I sometimes ask myself, *Why don’t we see these powerful spiritual gifts more often?* One reason, I believe, is that spiritual gifts take us out of our comfort zone. Though we “exercise” these gifts, we know that we are not in control. We can also be a bit self-conscious. We need to make the effort to exercise these gifts for the good of others, not caring what other people think about us.

Bob Roach, who headed up the Word gift ministry at this summer’s conference, recently told the story of his first prophecy.

When I was 19, I gave my first prophecy at a college prayer meeting. It was: “My children, say hello to everyone you pass on the street or I will be unhappy”. Father Ken Sommer came up to me after the meeting and said, “Bob, that was not a prophecy. But do not stop prophesying”.

Bob Roach made a mistake. However, he was humble enough to continue to seek the Lord. He continued to seek the gift of prophecy. Over time, the Lord deepened in him the gift of prophecy. Now Bob’s words are truly prophetic. They encourage and direct people in a powerful way.

In I Corinthians 12-14, St. Paul gives us three chapters on spiritual gifts. The most well known of these chapters is the middle chapter, which focuses on love. However, that chapter is framed by these two verses:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts... (I Corinthians 12:31a)
Pursue love, but strive eagerly for the spiritual gifts, above all that you may prophesy. (I Corinthians 14:1)

We need to “strive eagerly”, knowing that these gifts may meet someone’s pressing need or unlock their heart to the Lord. With prayer, study, faith and love, we need to seek these gifts. And if we sense a leading by the Holy Spirit, we need to step out and exercise the gift. As Mother Angelica once said, “We need to do the ridiculous for God to do the miraculous.”

Let us thank God for the charismatic renewal. We pray that this move of the Spirit renews the lives of millions of Catholics and that the gifts of the Holy Spirit, tools that can convert the hard of heart, be evident in every place in the Church! Come Holy Spirit!

In Christ,
Fr. Bob Franco



PS: I wish each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed and joyful Christmas!

PPS: CRM’s office was at the Seminary in Wickliffe for many years, and more recently, we have been housed at several parishes. To avoid more moves, our service committee has decided to close the office. Our “office” was really a landing place for the things that we use at our conference. We have distributed those things among members of the committee. Though we do not have a “landing place”, Catholic Renewal Ministries will continue to put on quality programing, publish *The Flame* and hold its annual conference. Members of our service team are available to assist prayer groups and parishes. Please call us at 440-944-9445 or email crmcleland@gmail.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/>. Also, please call in advance to verify that the prayer group will be meeting.

The Community of Praise Prayer Group meets at St. Paul Catholic Church, 241 South Main St., North Canton, OH 44720. Our meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. We 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.

Dates for the up-coming meetings are:

September 14, October 12, November 9, and December 14, 2026.

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. The Life in the Spirit Seminar that was held for the past eight weeks was truly beautiful. We had more than 20 participants who learned more about God's love, God's salvation and how to continue to live in the Holy Spirit every day. God blessed us all so greatly.

We continue to meet each **Tuesday evening** in the Primary building of Our Lady of Angels school (behind Linus Hall) **from 7:30-9:00pm** – 3644 Rocky River Blvd., Cleveland 44111. Healing prayer and fellowship follow each meeting. For more information, please contact Tom Stamper at 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) 902-1500 or email: rudyfontilla1975@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, email: smfederico78@gmail.com). All of the households meet together on the first Thursday of the month at St. John of the Cross Church, 140 Richmond Rd., Euclid 44143, at 7:45 pm.

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 10 am 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 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.



Catholic Renewal Ministries Traveling Healing Mass

Friday, November 20th 2026

St. Monica Church

Fr. Chris Stein

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

St. Monica Church

13623 Rockside Rd.,
Garfield Heights, OH 44125

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



Sponsored by Families in Christ Jesus & Men of Praise

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT *Retreat*

SPEND A DAY ENCOUNTERING THE HOLY SPIRIT

- *Powerful Teachings*
- *Inspiring Testimonies*
- *Live Praise & Worship*
- *Mass or Prayer Service*
- *Time for Personal Prayer*

✦ **NOVEMBER 14 | 9 AM-8:30PM** ✦

**THE CENTER FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP, FOUNDERS HALL
28700 EUCLID AVE. WICKLIFFE, OH**

*Meals Include Catered Lunch & Dinner. Fruit & Snacks
Throughout the Day.*

***\$40 PER PERSON, Payable by check to Men of Praise or
Zelle: michael.kacsala.jr@gmail.com
Mail checks to 4390 Magnolia Ave
Perry, OH 44081***

***REGISTER by 11/09: Form on back or fill out the
form by visiting <https://bit.ly/3SijlR9> OR***



SCAN ME

Sponsored by Families in Christ Jesus & Men of Praise

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT *Retreat*

Registration Form

First & Last Name: _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Age: ☐ 18-29 ☐ 30-45 ☐ 46-59 ☐ 60+

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number: _____

Food or Medical Allergies: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list: _____

How did you hear about the retreat? _____

Registration Fee: \$40 per person, payable by mail to Mike Kacsala at
4390 Magnolia Ave. Perry, OH 44081

Payment Method:

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Check (Payable to Men of Praise)
- ☐ Zelle: michael.kacsala.jr@gmail.com

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.

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!

NOVEMBER 14 LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Join Families in Christ Jesus and Men of Praise for a full day of spiritual renewal on **Saturday, November 14, from 9:00 am to 8:30 pm** at the Center for Pastoral Leadership, Founders Hall, 28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe. The day includes powerful teachings, inspiring testimonies, live praise and worship, Mass or prayer service, and catered meals with snacks. The cost is \$40 per person. Register by November 9th by visiting <https://bit.ly/3SijlR9> or contacting Ken Skilton at 440-796-8689 or via email at kensilton@gmail.com. Come and encounter the Holy Spirit!

NOVEMBER 20 TRAVELING MASS

Catholic Renewal Ministries' **Traveling Healing Mass** for November will be held at St. Monica

Church on Friday, **November 20th, 7:00 pm**. Fr. Chris Stein 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 needs. The Church is located at 13623 Rockside Rd., Garfield Heights 44125. For more information, please contact CRM at 440-944-9445. All are Welcome. Come, Sing and Praise God with Joy!

JANUARY 15 2027 TRAVELING MASS

Catholic Renewal Ministries' **Traveling Healing Mass** for January will be held at St. Julie Billiart Parish on Friday, **January 15, 2027, 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. This will be a special time to come together in the New Year to praise and worship God through song and prayer.

JANUARY 16 2027 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Families in Christ Jesus invite you to their annual **Women's Retreat: Rooted & Radiant** on **Saturday, January 16, 2027** at Lake Catholic High School in Mentor, Ohio. Come immerse yourself in a full day of inspiring talks by Brooke Taylor and Michelle Raddell, praise & worship by Collective Grace, Eucharistic adoration, Mass, fellowship, prayer and reflection. Breakfast, lunch & dinner is included in the \$80 retreat fee. For more information, please contact: fcjcwomen@gmail.com or Chris Roach: 216-905-0147.



Catholic Renewal Ministries Traveling Healing Mass

Friday, January 15th 2027

St. Julie Billiart Parish

Fr. Bob Franco
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.

This will be a special time to come together in the New Year to praise and worship God through song and prayer.

Contact CRM: 440-944-9445



crmweb.org

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a way that the charisms and an openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit seemed natural.

Thus, no one in the Renewal should ever feel like it is fading away when in fact it has shaped the way for the future of how every Catholic can strive to live the “universal call to holiness” of the Second Vatican Council.

Bishop David L. Toups is Bishop of the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas. He builds up the local community in Southeast Texas through his daily broadcast called “For the Good,” based on his episcopal motto, Romans 8:28, “For those who love God, all things work out for the good.” This article originally appeared in Pentecost Today 2026 Issue 1 and can be found under resources at www.pentecosttodayusa.org.



ROOTED
AND
Radiant



FCJ WOMEN'S RETREAT

2027

So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him, rooted in him and built upon him and established in the faith as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

You are Invited To the annual Families in Christ Jesus Women's Retreat

January 16, 2027 Lake Catholic High School

6733 Reynolds Rd, Mentor, OH 44060

Registration 8:00 AM | Introductions 8:45 AM

Cost: \$80.00 per person



Brooke Taylor



Michelle Raddell

What to Expect

- Breakfast & coffee from Heartwood Roasters
- Presenting: Brooke Taylor, Michelle Raddell
- Worship, Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, & Mass
- Fellowship, prayer, & reflection
- Lunch & dinner included

How to Register

Mail

Send registration form and check payable to FCJC to:

Nicole Costello
4527 Grantwood Dr,
Parma, OH 44134

Scan QR code



Pay via Venmo

@Nicole-Costello2023

Questions?

Chris Roach-216-905-0147
fcjcwomen@gmail.com

Registration Deadline: January 4, 2027.



The Flame

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PO BOX 24077, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44124

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.

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