

# The Flame

September/October 2022

## SURRENDERING TO JESUS

“O Jesus, I Surrender Myself to you, Take Care of Everything!”

by Bishop Peter Smith

Some of us remember the words of an old Charismatic Renewal song, “All to Jesus I surrender, All to thee I freely give” and its chorus “I surrender all, all to thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all”. So, what does it mean to surrender to Jesus?

When we hear the word surrender, many of us have images in our minds of defeated soldiers and people, waving white flags, hands up, dejected. They are all clearly overpowered, overwhelmed, crushed, and subjugated. Surrender is the result of a defeat.

However, the Christian notion of surrender is different. It focuses on seeing, acknowledging, and giving ourselves to that which is far greater than ourselves. It may come about through defeat in some form, but it may also come about through realizing that no matter how good or successful we may be, Jesus Christ is better, the best. So, we freely give ourselves over to Christ who is so much greater.

This Christian understanding of surrender is something we see more of than we may at first realize. Think of marriage when a man and a woman freely surrender and give themselves to each other. Real freedom and surrender only occurs when we are all in. It is only when we are all in that we are completely free. That is when we can love, serve, and give to the utmost. This is also true of religious community life.

At first, we do this in principle and work out the details going forward. It is as though these commitments and surrender have brought us to the Olympic finals. Now we have to live this out in the practicalities of our ordinary lives.

Scripture gives us plenty of examples. In Matthew’s Gospel we have the parable of the Prodigal Son who is thoroughly defeated by rejecting his father and going his own way.

When he returns and surrenders he is welcomed back. The mercy of the father shows forth. The older son responds in anger showing that despite external obedience he is just as rebellious in his heart. He did not see the father as greater than himself. Despite being told by his father that all he has was his, we are not told whether he too surrendered to the mercy of the father and joined the celebration.



Another series of examples involve the call of the disciples. Jesus, passing by, challenges them to leave everything and follow him. Clearly their encounters with Jesus led them to seeing someone far greater than themselves and they respond by leaving everything to follow him. They went all in. That radical response allows them to travel with Jesus for three years and then, after being baptized in the Holy Spirit, to continue as coworkers of Jesus in building his kingdom.

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Dear Readers of the Flame,

**The phrase *sea change* comes from Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*.** It actually refers to the change that happened to Fernando's body when he drowned. However, over time this phrase has taken on a different meaning.

**Today *sea change* refers to a complete change of environment.** Perhaps this meaning of the phrase was inspired by the places in the world where the sea changes in a radical way. The difference between high and low tide in Canada's Bay of Fundy can be over 50 feet. That's quite a change in the sea!

**In many ways our culture has experienced a *sea change*. For much of the second millennium of Christianity our culture was called *Christendom*.** This means that the accepted world view was influenced by Christ. For the most part people believed in God, heaven, hell, Jesus (Lord, Savior, Judge) and a way of life that was framed by the moral teachings of Jesus Christ. For sure, people were not always fervent in their faith. Many people sought to do the minimum. Their faith was more like fire insurance. They would do what we need to do to avoid the fires of hell.

**Last Christmas, Bishop Malesic gave the priests of the Diocese of Cleveland the book *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*.** In this book **Msgr. James Shea describes this *sea change* from Christendom to Apostolic Mission.** He makes clear what many have sensed in their heart. The assumptions upon which Christendom was built are no longer the assumptions of our culture. Belief in God has been replaced by atheism, agnosticism or, what Pope Benedict XVI called, practical atheism - affirming faith in God but acting like there is no God. Without God, people do not think they have a destiny. Without God people do not have a defined way of living.

**If Christendom is no longer the basis for society and culture, how does the Church fit in?** In Christendom, the Church supported institutions that perpetuated the Christian way of life. It maintained the schools, hospitals, parishes and other institutions that formed culture so that people lived in the framework of a Christian worldview. In parts of Europe, the Church had great political clout. If the Church no longer has that kind of influence for the Lord, what is the Church to be about?

**As the title of Msgr. Shea's book indicates, the Church must shift into an *Apostolic Mission* mode.** Since faith is no longer the cultural air we breathe, the Church must proclaim Jesus Christ in new and fresh ways. **Obviously, this new proclamation of Christ takes boldness and divine inspiration.** If the great temptation during Christendom was becoming lukewarm with regard to faith, the great temptation in an era of Apostolic Mission is cowardice. People find it easy, convenient and even advantageous to adopt the current culture. To resist compromising our faith, to resist adopting the values and morals of the worldview of our current culture, we need courage and commitment.

**And perhaps this was the whole reason for the modern charismatic renewal!** Think about the works of the Holy Spirit from apostolic times until now. It was the Holy Spirit who gave the apostles the holy boldness to leave the Upper Room and proclaim Jesus as Lord to the nations gathered to celebrate Pentecost. It was the Holy Spirit who gave the early Church the charisms it needed to witness to the gospel with signs and wonders and thus confirm its truth. It was the Holy Spirit who united Jew and Gentile, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free in Christ.

**And the Holy Spirit is about doing these same things in our day!** Without the Christendom framework, the Church needs a new toolbox to communicate the truth of the faith. **When St. Paul addressed the intellectuals in Athens (Acts 17), he sought common ground.** He spoke of a shrine to an Unknown God. Beginning there, and quoting Greek poets twice, he proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many scoffed. Some wanted to invite him back. A few believed.

**St. Paul went on to Corinth and then Ephesus. (Acts 18 & 19) In those places he adopted a different approach.** His ministry was characterized by a radical reliance on the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. People listened to the gospel because they saw and experienced the power of God. This led St. Paul to say to the Corinthians:

*...my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive [words of] wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. (1 COR 2:4-5)*

**As Christendom wanes and God is squeezed out of public life, we need to reach into the toolbox of the Holy Spirit and give witness to the gospel by charisms of power, as well as by deed and word.**

An apostolic mission needs to rely on the same power that the apostles relied on for the initial proclamation of the gospel. For sure, there is an inherent power in the basic gospel message. However, many people lack the framework to understand it. In a sense they lack ears for hearing (Matthew 13:14-15). Signs, wonders and miracles jump start faith in the unbeliever. We need to be open to exercising these charisms.

We also need to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. **Genuine love of people, joy that goes beyond the comforts of the world, peace that surpasses understanding is attractive to people.** Again, when God is squeezed out of culture, people's existence becomes joyless. And as our efforts to evangelize are effective, we will need the fruit of patience. As we know, people who come to Christ often bring some baggage. Our patient and prayerful encouragement will move people from encountering Christ into being genuinely established in Christ.

**In this time of *sea change*, the tide of Christendom has receded.** A world that does not acknowledge God has come rushing in. It will be the Holy Spirit who will help us navigate those treacherous waters. In fact, there will be times when, by the Spirit, we will do what Jesus did. We will walk on water (Matthew 14:24-33) and even speak to the storms that batter us and say, *Quiet! Be still!* (Mark 4:39) and calm will ensue, if not in our external circumstances, at least in our souls. **Though much has been lost with the collapse of Christendom, opportunity abounds as we move into this apostolic mission mode.** Let us pray for the holy boldness and wisdom that the Spirit gives. By the Spirit we will bear great fruit for the glory of God.

In Christ,

**Fr. Bob Franco**

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Romans 12:2 "...be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

**Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group invites you to a  
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR**

This seminar will focus on the movement we know as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal – a renewal that all the Popes from Paul VI to Francis have given their support and approval. If you desire more for your life, this seminar can be the beginning of a 'renewal' of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The seminar presentations for the eight weeks will prepare participants for the prayer of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We have already received the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. This prayer is a new, refreshing renewal of the Holy Spirit's gifts for your life and helps you to surrender more fully to Our Lord Jesus. To support you to live out this new life, we offer our weekly prayer meeting – joining with like-minded people in our prayer group.

**Where?** Our Lady of Angels School, Primary building  
(behind Linus Hall) - Handicapped accessible  
3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH 44111 - there will be signs!

**When?** Eight consecutive Tuesdays, beginning September 6<sup>th</sup>  
through October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Time?** 7:30 – 9:00pm (Refreshments will follow)

For more information and to register please phone  
Verna at 216-251-3560 or Tom at 216-252-5724.

There is NO charge for this seminar.

PLEASE NOTE: from September 6 through October 25 our Prayer Meeting will be replaced by our Life in the Spirit Seminar on Tuesday evenings. All are invited.

# Catholic Renewal Ministries 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](mailto:kposa@sbcglobal.net)

## Prayer Group Information

**Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group** continues to meet to praise our Lord through the Holy Spirit with worship, singing, gifts of the Holy Spirit, sharing stories, and teachings. We meet in the auditorium of the Primary Building behind Linus Hall of Our Lady of Angels Parish at 7:30 PM every Tuesday evening until 9 PM. Refreshments, fellowship, and prayer teams immediately follow. All are welcome. We are also on Zoom. Please phone Don Lawrence, 1-740-424-4707, for updates and more information (leave a message!) or email [DonLawrence603@gmail.com](mailto:DonLawrence603@gmail.com). 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 meeting face-to-face (masks and distancing optional) from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays either in the parish library on the first floor of the church or downstairs in the gathering area. 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 Healing Prayer Ministry** at St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick is now meeting again face to face. We on the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 7 p.m. 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, 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 Deacon Tom Sheridan at: [TSheridan@stambrose.us](mailto:TSheridan@stambrose.us).

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).

## CRM and Prayer Group Events

### Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group

Romans 12:2 "...be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."

Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group will offer a '**Life in the Spirit Seminar**' this Fall on **eight consecutive Tuesdays, September 6th through October 25th, 2022 from 7:30-9:00pm**. Join us in the Primary Building (behind Linus Hall) 3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH 44111 (there will be signs).

This seminar will focus on the movement we know as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal – a renewal that all the Popes from Paul VI to Francis have given their support and approval. If you desire more for your life, this seminar can be the beginning of a 'renewal' of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The seminar presentations for the eight weeks will prepare participants for the prayer of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We have already received the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. This prayer is a new, refreshing renewal of the Holy Spirit's gifts for your life and helps you to surrender more fully to Our Lord Jesus. To support you to live out this new life, we offer our weekly prayer meeting – joining with like-minded people in a prayer group. For more information and to register, please phone Verna at 216-251-3560 or Tom at 216-252-5724. There is NO charge for this seminar.

The Stark County Chapter of Magnificat invites you to a **Breakfast on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**. Diana Smith will be the guest speaker. Join us in a special time of fellowship and sharing at Walsh University, Barrette Center, 2020 East Maple Street, North Canton, Ohio.

Option 1: \$25 Mail-in – Go to [magnificatstark.weebly.com/mail-in-reservation](https://magnificatstark.weebly.com/mail-in-reservation)

Option 2: \$26 Online – Go to [magnificatstark.weebly.com/online-reservation](https://magnificatstark.weebly.com/online-reservation)

### RESERVATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER SEPTEMBER 10.

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 Rosemary Pfiffner at 330-904-6096.

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St. Hilary's  
**Healing Waters Ministry**  
presents

# A Day of Healing

## UNBOUND: FREEDOM IN CHRIST

### CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 29, 2022

9am - 5pm

St. Hilary, Horning Hall

Registration Required, \$60

Pastry, Lunch, Snacks Included

Check-In at 8:30am

**Register today - limited seating!**

**<http://StHilaryChurch.org/healing2022>**

Find the freedom Christ offers from repetitive sin, unforgiveness, resentment, anger, deep wounds of the past and resulting physical challenges.



Questions?

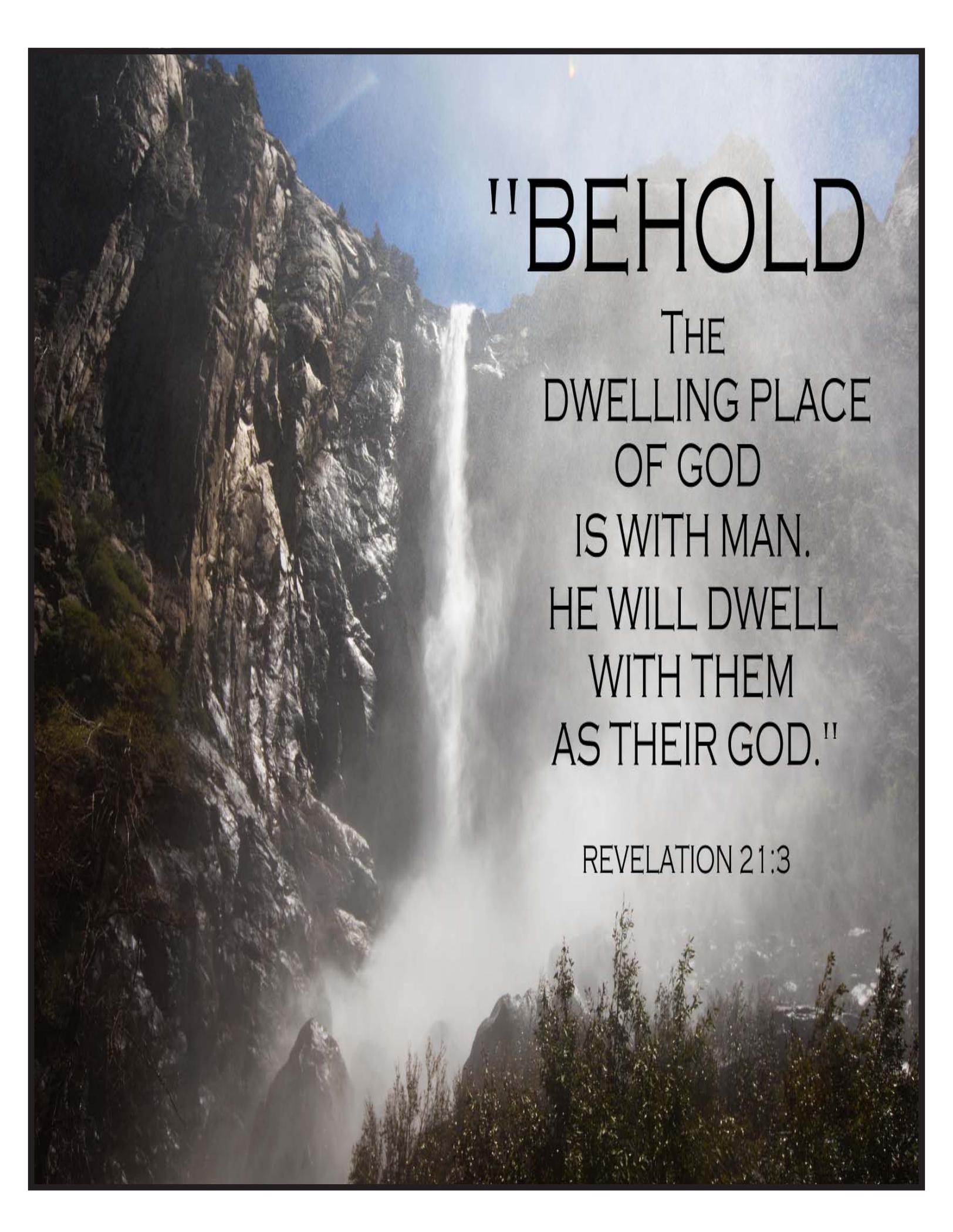
E-mail: [StHilaryHealingWaters@gmail.com](mailto:StHilaryHealingWaters@gmail.com)



Led by Matt Lozano, Coauthor of *Unbound Ministry Guidebook* and *Abba's Heart*.

*Unbound is a simple, gentle, & powerful prayer ministry where you will learn how to claim the freedom that Jesus Christ promised.*

*Individual prayer will be available during and after the conference.*



"BEHOLD

THE  
DWELLING PLACE  
OF GOD  
IS WITH MAN.  
HE WILL DWELL  
WITH THEM  
AS THEIR GOD."

REVELATION 21:3

# Catholic Renewal Ministries Events



**VISIT US ONLINE!**

**Holy Family Healing Prayer Group** is located at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3179 Kent Rd, Stow, OH. We are passionate about intercessory prayer and have completed training in conformity with the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. Prayer is available in the small chapel in the back of the church adjacent to the Adoration Chapel, the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of the month after the Saturday 5PM and Sunday 9AM Masses. We are available for private and home bound prayer, inner, emotional, spiritual and Unbound healing by appointment. Call the Healing Prayer Group, 330-686-0017 to schedule a session.

Nine week Healing Prayer classes will resume in September. Classes are FREE. We meet weekly on Mondays, 10-12 noon and 6:30-8:30 pm in the small chapel in the back of the church. Come experience the healing power of God and witness his healings. Call Mary Cusack

for information: 330-687-8843.

St. Hilary's Healing Waters Ministry is offering a **one-day Unbound Conference**, on **Saturday, October 29, 2022**. *Unbound* is a simple, gentle, and powerful prayer ministry where you will learn how to claim the freedom that Jesus Christ promised. Matt Lozano, of Heart of the Father Ministries, is the keynote speaker and co-author. Check-in at 8:30am with the conference beginning at 9am until 5pm. Continental breakfast and box lunch is included with the \$60 registration fee.

Email [StHilaryHealingWaters@gmail.com](mailto:StHilaryHealingWaters@gmail.com) with questions. Register online at [www.sthilarychurch.org](http://www.sthilarychurch.org). St. Hilary Parish is located at 2750 W. Market St., Fairlawn, OH 44333.

(Continued from page 1)

Jesus gives us the freedom of how we respond. Some accepted completely, others rejected him, and others such as the rich young man, wanted to accept but on their own terms. That is not possible as we are then not completely free to follow and accompany Jesus.

One practical way to respond is the increasingly popular *Surrender Novena*. The concluding prayer is, "O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything!" You can adapt the reflections and prayers and include the Holy Spirit, whose wisdom, strength, guidance, and gifts we need to live a life surrendered to Jesus.

You can find a downloadable version of the *Surrender Novena* here: <https://bit.ly/SurrenderPrayer>

*Bishop Peter Smith, born and raised in South Africa, is Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon. He is a member of the CHARIS International Service of Communion. Appointed by Pope Francis, he represents North America and the Caribbean. Recently he became an Episcopal Consultant to Pentecost Today USA, joining Archbishop Emeritus Robert Carlson and Bishop Emeritus Sam Jacobs.*

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To all who worked on and participated in our charismatic conference last month, **Thank You!** A blessed time was had by all. If you did not get to the conference, or perhaps simply want to watch/listen to those talks again, you may purchase a thumb drive with all the talks from the conference.

**Rejoice always, Pray without ceasing, in all things Give Thanks**

**Thumb drives of all conference presentations are now available for \$15 each.  
in video (mp4) and audio (mp3) formats – both included**

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