

The Flame

September/October 2026

Year of St. Francis

by Fr. Dave Pivonka, T.O.R

In January of 2026, Pope Leo XIV declared a year of Jubilee for the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. While Franciscans everywhere were preparing for this anniversary, we did not expect the Holy Father to declare a Jubilee Year of St. Francis. To say we were thrilled is an understatement.

For 800 years, the Church and the world have been graced by St. Francis' response to the call of Jesus to rebuild the Church. In the dilapidated chapel of San Damiano, Francis heard the Lord invite him to "rebuild the church, which is now falling into ruins." Many are familiar with the story, aware that Francis began to collect rocks in order to rebuild the failing church.

However, it soon became clear to Francis that God was asking much more than the rebuilding of a physical structure—that the Church, the Body of Christ, was suffering, and Francis was being asked to help heal the Body. Francis was invited to engage the world rather than build a wall and live his life as a religious protected by a barrier. He would famously say that the world would be his cloister. If the Church and culture were going to be healed, they must be healed from the inside.

Francis encountered a clergy that was often unfaithful to the Church and not living in a manner consistent with their vows. Many who were entrusted with spiritual leadership had become entangled in power, wealth, and political influence. At the same time, the laity frequently lacked zeal for the faith and a deep interior life. Corruption, both subtle and overt, had taken root, and the simplicity of the Gospel was increasingly obscured.

Francis began rebuilding the Church in this context, and it all began with Jesus. While many in the Church were focused on many things, they had lost the centrality of Christ. For Francis, Jesus was at the center of everything. This is, in my opinion, one of his greatest attributes. He believed the world was graced and animated by Christ, and he was able to see Jesus everywhere, in the leper, in creation, in his brothers, in unfaithful priests, in sinners, and even in himself. This vision changed everything. When we see Jesus everywhere, we begin to see the world differently, and that was certainly true for Francis.

He challenged the Church to restore Christ to his rightful place and to live a life consistent with the Gospel. Francis did not have a strategic plan for rebuilding the Church. Instead, he simply lived the Gospel in a radical way, and his witness moved people. His life, marked by a deep love for Jesus, was compelling, and men and women were drawn to him.

Eight hundred years later, men and women are still drawn to Francis. It could be argued that, apart from the Blessed Mother and Peter and Paul, no individual has had a greater impact on the Church and the world than St. Francis. There is something about him, about the way he followed Jesus, that continues to resonate something people still find deeply attractive.

Some saints are known for their extraordinary intellect, their courage in martyrdom, or their theological brilliance. In their greatness, they can be a bit intimidating. We might think, "I could never be like that, I'm not that smart or that brave." But there is something different about Francis. It may sound strange, but his greatness was found in his smallness. We are not intimidated by Francis. He loved Jesus by becoming little, humble, and poor, and in doing so, he awakens something in us, the sense that perhaps we, too, could live this way. May we seek to love Jesus as Francis did, seeing his presence all around us.

Francis loved Christ to the end. Near his death, the friars were concerned about what they were to do. What would life without Francis look like? Francis challenged them, "I have done what is mine to do; may Christ now show you what is yours." For 800 years, men and women have sought what was theirs to do. Christ still speaks to the human heart, inviting us to follow him, love him, and rebuild the Church. May each of us discern what is ours to do and participate in rebuilding the Church.

Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, serves as the president of Franciscan University of Steubenville. A well-known Catholic speaker and author, Father Pivonka has written seven books and produced evangelistic videos including "My father's Father" through 10th Hour Productions and "In Person and In Focus" through FaithandReason.com. This article originally appeared in Pentecost Today 2026 Issue 1 and can be found under resources at www.pentecosttodayusa.org.

*"I have done what
is mine to do; may
Christ now show you
what is yours."*

Dear Readers of The Flame,

CRM sponsored its 43rd Conference on July 25 with the theme *Be Renewed in the Power of the Holy Spirit*. The music was wonderful. The talks were edifying. The times of prayer were uplifting. I am grateful to Cheryle Koberna and her team, as well as our speakers, the Matt Fafrak band and everyone else who had a hand in making this conference a truly memorable event. The talks were recorded and can be heard and watched at our website, www.crmweb.org.

At a conference such as this, we have "...tasted the word of God and the powers of the age to come." (Hebrews 6:5) Throughout my many years in the renewal, I can testify that charismatic conferences and retreats have helped form my ongoing walk with the Lord. I can also testify that it is challenging to keep the fire of the Holy Spirit burning brightly within me after one of these events.

The most basic foundational way we deepen our life in the Spirit is through prayer. St. John Damascene taught that, "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." (see the Catechism of the Catholic Church #2559)

St. Josemaria Escriva writes:

#91 You write: 'To pray is to talk with God. But about what?' About what? About Him, about yourself: joys, sorrows, successes and failures, noble ambitions, daily worries, weaknesses! And acts of thanksgiving and petitions: and Love and reparation. In a word: to get to know Him and to get to know yourself: 'to get acquainted!'

#85 Slowly. Consider what you are saying, to whom it is being said and by whom. For that hurried talk, without time for reflection, is just empty noise. And with Saint Teresa, I will tell you that, however much you work your lips, I do not call it prayer.

#116 Don't neglect your spiritual reading. Reading has made many saints.

(Texts in the chapter 'Prayer' in the book 'The Way' of Josemaria Escriva. Link: <https://escriva.org/en/camino/prayer/>)

These basic exhortations to prayer teach us to invest our time and effort into prayer. This is not easy. Sometimes we do not "feel" like praying. We need to remember our emotional life generally follows our thought life. St. Paul, highlighting the spiritual battle we are in, gives this advice to the church in Corinth:

For, although we are in the flesh, we do not battle according to the flesh, for the weapons of our battle are not of flesh but are enormously powerful, capable of destroying fortresses. We destroy arguments and every pretension raising itself against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive in obedience to Christ... (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

All that we see and hear can influence our thinking. On the one hand St. Paul said, *Faith comes by hearing...* (Romans 10:17). St. Paul also said, *But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived*

Eve by his cunning, your thoughts may be corrupted from a sincere [and pure] commitment to Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3)

We seek to *take every thought captive in obedience to Christ* by prayer. If we find our thoughts straying into bitterness, unchastity, envy, greed or the like – this is a summons to humbly pray. With St. James we need to remember that

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds. (James 4:6b-8)

By humbly submitting to God we can draw near to God in prayer.

Besides prayer, a life in the Spirit is sustained by community. Family, friends, fellow parishioners, and prayer groups keep us in touch with the Lord. The New Testament calls us *the body of Christ*. Just as the parts of the body need each other, we need other likeminded people in our lives who want to live a life in the Spirit.

One final thought: I was reflecting on the passage of Jeremiah 18:1-6, the first reading for Mass on Thursday, the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time. As Jeremiah watched the potter form and reform the clay according to his desire, the prophet realized that God molds his people according to his purpose.

As I continued to reflect on this passage from Jeremiah, I realized that people are not passive. We can choose to cooperate with God's plan or not. By cooperating with God's grace, we become who God created us to be.

And still further, I pondered on the difference between cooperators and collaborators. Cooperators fulfill their part in the plan. Collaborators not only cooperate with the plan. They understand it and seek to further it by bringing others to cooperate with the plan.

Jesus said, *"I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you."* (John 15:15-16)

As we strive to live a life in the Holy Spirit, let us seek to be collaborators with Jesus Christ. We know his desire: to save the world. We know his method: his own saving death and resurrection. We, who are filled with the Holy Spirit, be his collaborators. May our lives be aflame with the Holy Spirit so that we may draw others into a vibrant Spirit-filled life too.

In Christ,
Fr. Bob Franco





Catholic Renewal
Ministries presents:

The **ZEAL** of the **WARRIOR**



Join us for a Day of Renewal, Healing, and Empowerment. Come experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. Our speaker Fr. Kevin Joyce helps us to experience *the Zeal for God* to allow the Holy Spirit to set our life on fire.

Whether you're seeking peace, healing, or want to experience God's presence, come and be part of this grace-filled time.

*Fr. Kevin Joyce, a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha, is founder of **His Global Love**, a Catholic apostolate focused on contemplative, communal intercessory prayer. Inspired by Christ's mission, it aims to deepen our relationship with the Lord and form us into a "house of prayer" for all, dedicated to sustained prayer for the Church, nation, world, priests, families, and humanity's needs.*

- PLACE:** St. Francis of Assisi (School cafeteria),
6850 Mayfield Rd, Gates Mills, OH 44040
- DATE:** Saturday, September 19, 2026
- TIME:** Doors Open: 8:00 AM, Program Begins: 8:30 AM, Program Ends at 3:00 PM
- PRESENTER:** Fr. Kevin Joyce, Founder *His Global Love*
- COST/DETAILS:** \$35 includes boxed lunch
- CONTACTS:** Tom or Olivetta Todt at **440-342-9163**
Marge Zampino at **216-990-0919**
Please do not contact the church

SEATING IS LIMITED. Please register by September 12th

Must Call ahead for Late Registration: considered only if space is available. Lunch on your own

First Name _____ Last _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Make checks payable to **CDCR** (Catholic Diocese Charismatic Renewal).

Mail to: Marge Zampino,
2747 Vincent Drive, Seven Hills, OH 44131

Register with PayPal on www.crmweb.org (online or postmarked by September 12th **No Walk-ins**)

His Global Love

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 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 is happy to present a **Life in the Spirit Seminar** again this Fall – over eight consecutive Tuesday evenings from **September 8 through October 27, 2026, from 7:30-9:00pm**. We meet at Our Lady of Angels School, Primary building, 3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH 44111. Come to make or renew a deep personal commitment to Jesus in openness to the Holy Spirit and the Spirit's gifts for your life! Phone Ver-na 216-251-3560 OR Tom 216-536-6495 for more information and to register to attend.

Throughout the year, we meet every Tuesday evening 7:30-9:00pm to praise Our Lord, move in the Gifts of the Spirit, hear a teaching or sharing and pray for each other's intentions. We enjoy refreshments after our meetings. There is always a healing team available for personal prayer. Phone Tom Stamper for more 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: 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 at 7:45 pm. For the first Thursday of September, on the 3rd, Fr. John Betters will be our presenter.

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.

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. 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

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Catholic Renewal Ministries Cleveland
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Cleveland, Ohio 44124
crmweb.org | (440) 944-9445

Life in the Spirit Seminar



*"I will send you the Spirit of Truth," says the Lord.
"He will guide you to all truth." John 16:15*

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding.
Proverbs 3:5-6*



PRESENTATION:

Life is becoming more and more confusing, filled with challenges that are different than we've known before. We look for courage, we want stronger faith.

This Life in the Spirit Seminar offers you a new way to manage the uncertainties of life through a closer walk with Our Lord and His Holy Spirit. God is real and personal. This seminar is an avenue to bring a more personal relationship with Jesus into your life. It asks that you come with expectations to want to experience more in your life.

Come. Be open; be humble. Our Charismatic Prayer Group is part of our Catholic Church and approved by Bishops of the United States and all the Popes since Vatican II. It is filled with beauty and expressive prayer. God has more for each of His children and He promises greater freedom and help for your life. Our prayer group members are here to lead and guide you. Then when the seminar finishes, we continue to meet weekly on Tuesday evenings to support each other in this new life with God.

Everyone is most welcome!

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 Tuesday evenings,
beginning September 8th
through October 27, 2026
7:30 – 9:00pm**
(refreshments will follow)

CONTACT:

For more information and to register please phone
Verna at 216-251-3560 or Tom at 216-536-6495
(There is NO charge for this seminar.)

2026 Conference talks on YouTube!

CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES PRESENTS:

Be **RENEWED** in the **POWER** of the **HOLY SPIRIT**



Go to: crmweb.org to watch!

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.

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!

SEPTEMBER 18 TRAVELING MASS

Catholic Renewal Ministries' **Traveling Healing Mass** for September will be held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish on **Friday, September 18th, 6:45 pm**. Fr. Kevin Joyce will be the celebrant. The Rosary will be prayed at 6:45, praise and worship will begin at 7:00, and the

liturgy will start at 7:30. Following the Mass, Fr. Joyce will lead healing prayer. The CRM prayer teams will be available for individual healing prayer needs.

Fr. Kevin Joyce is a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha. He is the founder of His Global Love, a Catholic apostolate of contemplation, communal intercessory prayer that is rooted in the mission of Christ to bring healing, hope, and renewal to the world through the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit.

The Church is located at 1545 S. Green Rd. in South Euclid 44121. For more information about the evening, please contact CRM at 440-944-9445. All are Welcome to this Evening of Healing with Fr. Kevin Joyce.

SEPTEMBER 26 HEALING MASS

Holy Family Church in Stow will be offering a **Healing Mass on Saturday, September 26th**. Padre Pio's chalice will be used during the Mass and available for veneration along with his relics after Mass. Confession and Adoration at 8:00AM, followed by 8:30AM Praise and Worship by Matt Fafrak, and 9:00 AM Mass and Anointing followed by individual prayer led by priests. Holy Family Church is located at 3179 Kent Rd. in Stow. Pray, Hope and Don't Worry - venerate and pray with Pio's relics.

Remember: Check CRM website frequently for Event updates!
www.crmweb.org



"WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?"

**Saturday
Sept. 26
VENERATE
PIO's
RELICS**

Healing Mass

- 8:00 AM CONFESSION & ADORATION
- 8:30 AM PRAISE & WORSHIP
- 9:00 AM MASS & ANOINTING

MULTIPLE PRIESTS ~ INDIVIDUAL PRAYER
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH ~ 3179 KENT RD, STOW

Friday, September 18th 2026

Fr. Kevin Joyce Celebrant

Rosary will be prayed at 6:45

Praise & worship begins at 7:00

Liturgy begins at 7:30 p.m.



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

1545 S. Green Rd., South Euclid, OH 44121

Catholic Renewal Ministries presents

Fr. Kevin Joyce and His Global Love.

Join us at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish for our travelling mass and a special evening of healing prayer. The CRM prayer teams will be available for individual prayer needs after mass.

Fr. Kevin Joyce is a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha. He is the founder of *His Global Love*, a Catholic apostolate of contemplation, communal intercessory prayer that is rooted in the mission of Christ to bring healing, hope, and renewal to the world through the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit.

Contact CRM: 440-944-9445

www.crmweb.org

His Global Love



The Flame

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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.