

The Flame

September October 2012 Publication of The Charismatic Renewal Cleveland, Ohio

CATHOLIC and Charismatic *by Fr. John Gordon*

Forty years ago Pentecost was renewed unexpectedly in the midst of the Catholic Church. In those early days, in what came to be known as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, participants looked for and received pastoral advice and wisdom from our Pentecostal and neo-charismatic brothers and sisters. They encouraged us in the use of the spiritual gifts; they encouraged us in our own Church. We grew in the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the charisms. As the Catholic Charismatic Renewal matured we sought to place ourselves more firmly within the life of the Church.

The Holy Year of 1975 was a significant time of grace for the Renewal. The international conference was held in Rome for Pentecost. The next day Cardinal Suenens celebrated Mass at the high altar in St. Peter's for all the conference participants. Afterwards Pope Paul VI came and spoke glowingly, enthusiastically and appreciatively of the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit as expressed in the Charismatic Renewal. Over the years the Bishops of the United States have issued pastoral statements regarding the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, culminating in the 1997 document, *Grace for the New Springtime*. [<http://www.nscchariscenter.org/graceeng.htm>] In all these statements of the bishops there is both praise and gratitude to the Lord for this grace, encouragement to the Church, especially to priests and bishops to be involved in the Renewal, and a word of caution about some concerns that the

The Grace of Pentecost



bishops have had over the years. As we have received these encouragements and directions from the bishops we have sought to implement them in our lives. Thus you'll find people touched by the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit in a wide variety of roles and ministries at the parish and diocesan level, indeed throughout the Church. We are catechists, schoolteachers, religious, deacons and priests and there are some bishops among us. We are involved in healthcare ministry and ministry to the poor. There is no aspect of the life of the Church in which persons touched by this grace are not also present.

We saw in Pope John Paul II an elder brother who has encouraged us in our walk in this grace and has brought us more fully and more deeply into the life of the Church, and so it is fair to say that the Renewal has found itself a home in the Catholic Church. While there may be some places in which there is tension, in the main, the Charismatic Renewal is received as a grace. Even though individual persons might not choose to be involved with the Renewal it is welcomed in the Church. In addition to our charismatic styles of prayer, we have embraced traditional Catholic piety and devotion. In many places, the rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, novenas and other forms of piety have been infused with a new grace and enthusiasm because of the Renewal.

Yet at the same time I wonder, have we lost some-

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September & October, 2012

Dear Readers of the Flame,

I experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit 37 years ago. It was on Saturday evening, April 5, 1975 during a Life in the Spirit Seminar at St. Joseph Christian Life Center.

I sometimes wonder, "What has kept me faithful to this renewal movement? Why is this experience more than a happy memory for me?" Ultimately, the reason is God's grace. However, God's grace needs our acceptance. We need to avail ourselves to God's grace. We need to make use of the means of God's grace.

At the end of July CRM sponsored its 30th annual charismatic conference, **Let the Fire Fall**. It was a wonderful event in which all who participated were refreshed, empowered and equipped by the Holy Spirit to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord. The question is: how do we keep this and other encounters with the Lord from simply becoming a happy memory? How can we remain faithful to the graces we have received?

There are three levels by which we remain faithful to the graces of this renewal movement. The first level is the personal level. We need to pray, read and ponder the sacred scriptures and deepen our personal relationship with the Lord. There is no substitute for this.

The second level is the communal. This is a bit more challenging and in some ways more necessary. We need to gather with like minded people to share our lives and seek the Lord together. Prayer meetings and small faith sharing groups make this communal dimension of our faith a reality. This keeps the flame of faith burning brightly in a person's life. Take a log out of the fire and it will cool down and perhaps go out. Keep the log with other logs in the fire, and it will burn brightly. We need personal fellowship to "kindle afresh the gift of God that is within" us (II Timothy 1:6).

The third level is that of mission. Pope Paul VI best summed this up by saying, "**She [the**



Church] exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection." (On Evangelization in the Modern World, #14) The Church can only effectively evangelize if individual Catholics commit themselves to do it. We are witnesses of Jesus Christ. We can be lousy witnesses or we can witness in the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to have a missionary mentality, desiring to make Christ known through our personal and corporate efforts. Christ is counting on us. People will be influenced toward heaven or hell because of our clear witness or insipid indifference. Let us commit ourselves to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ, true missionaries of the Lord wherever He has placed us.

One of the oldest "contemporary" Catholic songs from the 1960's are entitled "Here We Are". Part of the first verse of the song goes, "Keep the fire burning, kindle it with care..." The fire of the Holy Spirit has fallen. By God's grace let us keep it burning and carefully fulfilling our personal, corporate and missionary duties. If we do so, we will "keep the flame of faith alive" in our hearts so that "when the Lord comes" we may "go out to meet Him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom." (Rite of Baptism, based on Matthew 25:1-13).

Please check out our website at www.crmweb.org to find charismatic prayer groups and other faith building events.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Bob Franco



Grateful to God

***Blessed, Holy Trinity, Father, Son & Holy Spirit,
Glory, Praise & Honor Be to Your Name!***

We thank and praise You for all Your wonders! Our hearts are filled with awe at Your mighty works throughout the "Let the Fire Fall" conference. You have touched so many lives through its work, truly the work of Your Hands. We are filled with joy! You have unified us and blessed us with the amazing gift of serving one another through Your Spirit. Thank You for Your grace of calling us to work with You, we are aware this is a very special gift. There are so many who have made sacrifices and said "yes" to serving You in so many unique ways. In humble gratitude, we lift up to You all Your children whose have ministered in small and great ways and we ask that You lavish Your mercies upon them. May these mercies proclaim Your Glory! We ask You too Lord, to pour out Your abundant blessings on all who attended and served this and all conferences of the past. May our hearts always be found in You, in love, humility, unity and gratitude, always seeking to serve You. We Thank You Father, Son & Holy Spirit!

Please Lord, Let Your Fire Fall! Amen.

Renewal Ministries Events

Light of the World Prayer Group presents their annual outdoor **Praise in the Valley Music Festival** at **St. Martin of Tours**, 1800 Station Rd, Valley City 44280 on **Saturday, September 1st, 2012** (Labor Day weekend) starting at 6 p.m. (after 5 p.m. Mass). It will be held rain or shine. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Parish Food Bank and a lawn chair or blanket. Hot dogs and refreshments will be available. Enjoy worship songs by numerous area musicians. All ages are welcome. The event will move indoors in case of rain. If you have questions contact Rose Austin at 330-483-3808.

Mary, Queen of Heaven & Earth Chapter of Magnificat, a women's ministry modeled after the Visitation, invites you to a **Breakfast on September 8th** at Walsh Univ., Barrette Center, 2020 E. Maple St., N. Canton, OH. Join us in a special time of fellowship and sharing. Karen Herrmann will speak on "God's Gift – Have You Unwrapped it Yet?" Doors open 8:30am with Breakfast at 9:00am. Cost is \$15. Make checks payable to "Magnificat of Stark County". Send to Raquel Berroteran, 2880 Cranbrooke Dr., Silver Lake, OH 44224. All names and monies for this meal must be received no later than Saturday, September 1st – no refunds. No tickets sold at the door. Contact Raquel Berroteran 330-686-2088.

The 22nd Erie Charismatic Conference "Intercessory Prayer ~ Clothed With Power From on High", sponsored by Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center will be held **October 12th -13th, 2012**, at St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie, PA. **The Guest Conference Speaker will be Fr. Robert Franco.** Conference opens on Friday at 7pm. Contact Word of Life Renewal Center 814-824-1286 or wolccrc@aol.com for registration information or visit www.wordoflifecrc.org. Advanced registration \$30. After September 30th \$40.

St. Mary Church in Hudson, 340 N. Main St., is hosting a **Life in the Spirit Seminar** on Sept. 24th, Oct. 1st, and Oct. 8th. The presentation titles each evening will be: Sept. 24th – God's Love, New Life/Salvation; Oct. 1st – Repentance and Healing, Receiving God's Gifts; Oct. 8th – Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Growth and Maturity. For registration, please call Ryeo at 234-380-1457 or Maria at 330-388-6088.

Catholic Renewal Ministries' **Traveling Charismatic Mass** is scheduled for **Friday, October 19th at 7pm**. It will be held at **St. John Bosco Parish, 6480 Pearl Rd., Parma Hts., 44130**. Fr. Bob Franco will be the celebrant. Healing prayer teams will be available after Mass for individual prayer. Please contact Fr. Franco at 440-327-2201 or CRM at 440-944-9445. God *is* present in the praises of His people! This is a chance to let Our God's Love embrace you! **Please visit our website www.crmweb.org for times and locations of the September Traveling Charismatic Mass**, as well as other recent informational updates. See you there! Bring your family and friends!

St. Hilary Charismatic Prayer Group invites you to discover the transforming power of the Holy Spirit! Your prayer, worship and faith will take on a new vibrancy! Expect Scripture to come alive like never before! Come, we welcome you to the **Life in the Spirit Seminar** on **Friday, September 28th, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. & Saturday, September 29th, 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 p.m.** The church is located at 2750 W. Market St. in Fairlawn 44333. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included on Saturday and the seminar is free! Please use the rear parking lot; the seminar will be held in the lower level of the church. Directions will be posted. For more information, and to *RSVP, please contact Jim McGuire at 330-612-5969 or Theresa Virkler at theresa2crm@yahoo.com *Please help us! We truly believe it is a privilege to serve you. Thoughtful accommodations for meals and seating are being prepared because your comfort is important to us. Although walk-ins are welcome, we encourage you to please RSVP at least one week in advance.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Northeast Ohioans are invited to take part in the International 40 Days for Life from **September 26th - November 4th, 2012**. In addition to 40 days of peaceful prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, please consider volunteering to pray outside of an abortion facility during the 40 days. Spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort. Special Events are also scheduled before the 40 days begin, please check our website, www.40daysforlife.com for your local details!

St. Michael Catholic Church welcomes all to a **Healing Service** to be held on **Sunday, September 16, 2012**. **Fr. Pete Coletti** will lead this service starting at 1:00 PM. St. Michael is located at **6540 Brecksville Road Independence, OH**. Invite your friends and family!



LAST CHANCE!

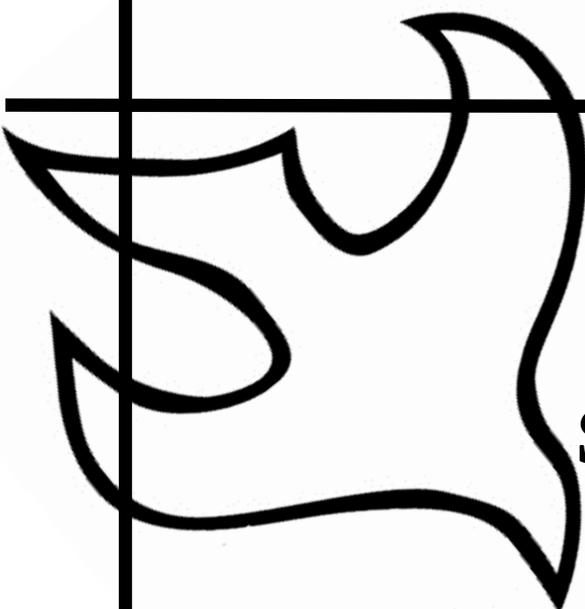
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RENEWAL MINISTRIES FOR THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND.
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WICKLIFFE, OH 44092 440-944-9445

You Are Invited to Discover The Transforming Power of The Holy Spirit:

Life in The Spirit Seminar ²⁰¹²

**St. Hilary Charismatic Prayer Group
2750 W. Market St., Fairlawn, OH**



**Friday September 28th
6:30 pm ~ 9:30 pm**

&

**Saturday September 29th
8:30 am ~ 9:00 pm**

This Seminar is Free!

All Saturday Meals Included.

All Are Welcome To This Amazing Event!

Information & RSVP*

Jim McGuire 330-612-5969

Theresa Virkler theresa2crm@yahoo.com

**Please help us! We truly believe it is a privilege to serve you. Thoughtful accommodations for meals and seating are being prepared because your comfort is important to us. Although walk-ins are welcome, we encourage you to please RSVP at least one week in advance.*

Traveling Charismatic Mass



September Traveling Charismatic Mass

Location & Time,
Calendar & Recent Information:
www.crmweb.org

Friday, October 19, 2012 7pm
St. John Bosco
6480 Pearl Road
Parma Hts., OH 44130

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thing of the charismatic aspect of our identity? While it is good, important and right that we be fully Catholic there is also a grace that has been poured out on to the Church to invite it back to the roots of Pentecost—back to the Upper Room and the grace and power that come when the gifts of the Spirit are exercised.

Many in the Renewal are fully aware of the teachings of the Church; we are well versed in the Catechism, in the documents of Vatican II and in the encyclicals of the popes. I would like to encourage us to be as well versed in the scriptures and the life that we have in the power of the Spirit, to be as well versed in the practice of leading people to the baptism in the Holy Spirit and helping others yield to the gifts of the Spirit—tongues, prophecy, healing, wisdom, knowledge, indeed all the myriad ways in which the Holy Spirit seeks to work charismatically through the Church, with a power that comes not from human wisdom or

training or planning, but with a power that comes from on high. May the grace of Pentecost, that is Catholic and charismatic, bring life to the whole Body of Christ. May this life be faithful to the grace of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God's power from on high.

Reprinted with permission from PENTECOST Today January/February/March 2007 VOLUME32 NUMBER1
Fr. John Gordon was a guest speaker at the 2012 Cleveland Charismatic Conference. He has been active in the Charismatic Renewal since 1975 and has been a member of the National Service Committee. Fr. Gordon has been a speaker at a variety of Charismatic conferences throughout the country. He is a doctoral student at Fordham University, Graduate School of Education. Recently, he served as the Director of the Pre-Theologate Program at Franciscan University of Steubenville, and currently, Fr. Gordon is Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Church in Nutley, NJ.

**CD Order Form: Let the Fire Fall, July 20 & 21, 2012
Catholic Renewal Ministries**

TALK TITLES	# OF CDs ORDERED	TOTAL
1. Like a Mighty Wind David Mangan, Friday Evening		
World Afire Deacon Dave Pecot, Saturday Evening	_____ X \$7.00	_____
2. The Fire of Pentecost Fr. John Gordon, Friday Evening	_____ X \$7.00	_____
3. Let the Fire Fall – Keynote Address Fr. Bob Franco, Saturday Morning Saturday Vigil Mass Homily Deacon Ken Golonka	_____ X \$7.00	_____
4. How Do You ‘Hear’ the Lord David Mangan, Saturday Morning	_____ X \$7.00	_____
5. A Transforming Fire Deacon Dave Pecot, Saturday Afternoon	_____ X \$7.00	_____
6. Yielding to Spiritual Gifts- Workshop David Mangan, Saturday Afternoon	_____ X \$7.00	_____
7. Keeping the Fire Alive - Workshop Fr. John Gordon, Saturday Afternoon	_____ X \$7.00	_____
8. Entire Set of 7 Conference CD’s	_____ X \$42.00	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		_____

SHIP TO: _____ PHONE # _____

MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO **CRM** TO BILL DOCKRILL, 9445 REED ROAD, NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OH 44039. ORDERS WILL BE SHIPPED IN APPROXIMATELY 2 TO 3 WEEKS.



FOR CONFERENCE DATES AND TIMES CHECK OUT:
WWW.CRMWEB.ORG

The Flame **SUBSCRIPTION IS \$5 ANNUALLY**

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