

IGNITE[®]

in us the fire of your love

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Refresh Your Life in the Spirit *by Al Mansfield*

Charismatic Renewal has been a movement in the Catholic Church for over four decades and it's time "examine our Catholic Charismatic conscience." How well are we living out the grace of being baptized in the Spirit?

I. Have I experienced a new life in the Spirit?

Has being baptized in the Spirit made a decisive difference in my life? Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM, Cap., the preacher to the papal household, says that he has had two lives, once before being baptized in the Spirit and one after. Has there been a "before" and an "after" in my life? If not, have I really been baptized in the Spirit?



How well are we living out the grace of being baptized in the Spirit?

II. Have I experienced the Holy Spirit bringing me into a living relationship with the Father and the Son?

My wife, Patti, likes to use Romans 5:5 as a definition of what it means to be baptized in the Holy Spirit: "The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Do I have a sense of being a beloved child of the Father, crying out, "Abba, Father" (see Rom. 8:15)? Scripture tells us, "No one can say

'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit." Is that a living reality in my heart? Do I know the Father and the Son in a more intimate way?

III. Has my prayer life been significantly changed?

Actually a more basic question would be, "Do I have a real prayer life? Do I give time to prayer every day? Is it like eating and sleeping for me? Have I experienced a greater sense of adoration, praise and thanksgiving to the Lord? Have I entered into a charismatic dimension in prayer, that is, the experience of tongues, prophecy, revelation, guidance, inspirations, etc.?"

IV. Am I addicted to the Word of God?

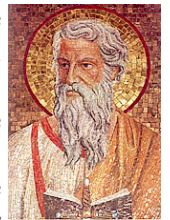
Am I irresistibly drawn to the Word of God, Holy Scripture? Do I "eat and drink" the Word of God, like Ezekiel in the Old Testament and John in Revelations? In the early days of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, it was not unheard of for people to stay up all night reading Scripture. The Holy Spirit produces that hunger and desire for God's Word. Has there been that kind of attraction for Holy Scripture in my life?

V. am I involved in any way in witness and evangelization?

One of the primary purposes of the outpouring of the Spirit was to give

What Paul Teaches us about the charisms *by Kay Murdy*

Everything we claim as our own flows from God's Graciousness. The Greek word is *charis*, which is used in the New Testament for the "grace" or "favor" of God to heal and save us. The gifts that come from the Spirit are called "*charisma*" free expressions of God's *charis* toward us, which enables us to be channels of God's *charis* to others.



In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul uses the analogy of the body to teach us how the charisms unite the Church, which is the body of Christ: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (12:12).

Paul emphasizes that unity does not mean uniformity. Just as every part in a body has a role to play, there are a variety of gifts that function differently within the Church. These gifts come from the spirit, and are given, not for the glory of the individual, but for the "common good" (12:7).

In chapter twelve of 1 Corinthians, Paul uses the generic term *pneumatika* for the "spiritual gifts" (12:1), as a corrective to an

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us the power to witness to Jesus (see John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8). Do I have that impulse to share the good news according to my life circumstances, wherever I am? Do I look for opportunities to bear witness in word and deed?

VI. Do I meet together with other Catholic charismatics for fellowship and support?

Scripture tells us, "Do not neglect to meet together as is the habit of some..." (Heb. 10:25). We know that a way of getting a fire to burn out is to pull the logs apart. In a similar way, if we are pulled apart from each other, our fire will go out, both individually and collectively. Is some kind of regular Catholic Charismatic Renewal gathering an element in my life? If not, is my Holy Spirit fire still burning?

VII. Am I willing to receive and exercise spiritual gifts?

We see especially in the Acts of the Apostles that there is a mysterious link between the coming of the Holy Spirit and charismatic gifts. When the Holy Spirit is poured out, there is an outbreak of spiritual activity. The spiritual gifts are given for the common good (see 1 Cor. 12:7). Scripture states that there are different kinds of gifts, for example: preaching, teaching, faith, miracles, healing, prophecy, revelation, discernment of spirits, giving money, exercising leadership, hospitality, works of mercy, administration, etc. Am I open to receiving and using the spiritual gifts? Am I contributing any gift to the Body of Christ?

VIII. Have I experienced a change in my moral life, my attitudes and behavior?

Has there been a real break with serious sin or is serious in still a regular occurrence in my life? Am I still attracted to some deep character flaws, for example, in the use of the tongue? Do I still have what the spiritual writers call an "affection for sin," a pet sin that I am familiar

with and can't bear to get rid of, for example, a spirit of criticism? Am I able to better love, God, whom I cannot see and also love my neighbor, whom I can see (and is apt to be irritating?)

IX. Have I experienced a change in my approach to the sacraments?

Do I receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly, with repentance and faith, as a means of spiritual growth? Has my experience of Mass changed so that I enter into the liturgy, join with the priest, and make it my own offering and prayer? Have I experienced a change in my reception of the Eucharist so that it a blessed time of communion with the Lord and not just a routine formality?

X. Have I experienced a conversion in my mind?

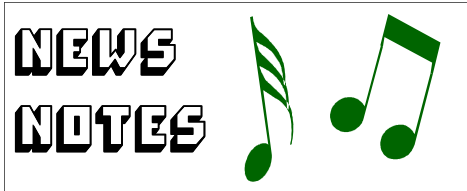
Do I have a desire to learn what the Catholic Church teaches? Am I familiar with the Documents of Vatican II and the Catholic Catechism? Do I know basic Catholic teaching? Do I try to read and understand what the Holy Father says? Am I a well-informed Catholic Charismatic Christian? Do my beliefs influence my actions, my conversations, my vote? Have I not only put on the spirit of Christ but also put on the mind of Christ?

This can be a rather daunting examination. It certainly is for me! Some in our prayer group took it as a ten-point test to see if we got a passing grade. Let us trust in God's grace and remember that the Holy Spirit is a gift, which we cannot deserve or earn, Let us close by simply asking the Lord Jesus, the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, to baptize us anew and afresh in the Holy Spirit, with all the gifts and fruits that the Spirit brings. Amen.

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✘It is with great sorrow that we report the death of a long-time leader in the Charismatic Renewal. Betty Plancon, who led the Staten Island Prayer Group Leadership Conference for many years, was tragically killed in a car accident on May 29, 2010. She will be honored at the event she had already planned, the "Night Under the Stars" on Sunday, August, 22 at Mt. Manresa. Please keep this faithful servant of the Lord in your prayers.

✘A revised prayer group directory is in the process of being updated. If you have any information about changes, new groups, closed groups, etc, please contact this office by phone, fax or e-mail as soon as possible so that the new and accurate information will be available in time for our annual conference on Nov. 13. Details of the conference may be found on the back page.

overemphasis on a few gifts by the 'super spiritual' Corinthians. In verse four, the word *charisma* is used for the "gifts" of the Spirit. In verse five, the word *diakonia* signifies the variety of "services" that Paul attributes to Christ. In verse six, *energema* are the "activities" or "works" of God the Father whose power (energy) in manifested in the world in visible ways.

In verses eight to ten, Paul lists nine examples of the Spirit's manifestations:

Gifts of Grace (*charis*) The power to speak, sometimes called Word Gifts—*Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues.*

◆Prophecy is God's message spoken through an individual to the community. Prophecy does not necessarily means predicting the future. Paul says the purpose of prophecy is for the "upbuilding and encouragement and consolation" of God's people (14:3).

◆Tongues (*glossalia*) are God's messages spoken through an individual, which must be interpreted for the good of the community. It is akin to the language of lovers, or of a parent to a child. Yielding to tongues opens us up to receive and use the other gifts.

◆Interpretation of Tongues is the ability to interpret (not translate) a message given in tongues into the vernacular. Tongues along with interpretation amounts to prophecy.

Gifts of Service (*diakonia*) The power to know—*wisdom, knowledge, discernment.* These gifts are the ability to express and understand various aspects of God's nature or plan in a manner that brings effective results.

◆Wisdom is the facility to offer a solution to a problem or to give insightful teachings that open the

hearer to God's wisdom.

◆Knowledge is the ability to clearly communicate God's word or doctrinal truths, or to know how God is working within an individual or in the community at a particular time.

◆Discernment is the capacity to know whether a gift or inspiration has at its source the Holy Spirit, is of human origin or of evil influence. Paul says that the Spirit always bears witness to Jesus (12:3).

Gifts of Works (*energema*) The power to do—*Faith, miracles, healing.* Jesus' preaching was always accompanied by cures, miracles and deliverance that led the people to faith and enabled them to experience as well as hear the good news.

◆Faith is a supernatural infusion to know with full certainty that God will bring something about. (Charismatic faith is not the same as the virtue of faith with which we receive our salvation in Christ).

◆Miracles are Gods' supernatural interventions into the natural realm to demonstrate divine power. Miracles help strengthen or bring about faith.

◆Healing is the manifestation of God's power to restore a person's spiritual, psychological, or physical well-being. This may be instantaneous or gradual, and often

through the use of natural means.

These are not all the charisms illustrated in the New Testament. They are also found in Romans 12 and Ephesians 4. At least 27 gifts are listed covering a broad range from gifts like prophecy and healing to teaching and almsgiving. Charismatic gifts are as important for the Church today as they were in Apostolic times. These gifts work to bring unity, to empower and serve the Church's needs.

The Church has declared: "Whether these charisms be very remarkable or more simple and widely diffused, they are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation since they are fitting and useful for the needs of the church" (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, #12).

Paul stresses the fact that no one has all the gifts (1 Cor. 12:29-30), but each person should be open to manifesting any gift at any time. He exhorts us to "strive" for the gifts and not try to suppress them (14:1,39). We must widen our expectations and try not to limit what God do through us. We need to adopt the attitude of Mary: "Be it done unto me according to your will." Paul says the effect of the gifts upon unbelievers should lead them to say: "God is really among you" (14:25).

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2010 National Leaders' And Ministries Conference

"Power From on High for all Generations"

October 29-31, 2010 In St. Paul, Minnesota

Speakers include: Bishop Sam Jacobs, Fr. Dave Pivonka,

Peter Herbeck, Caroline Gambale-Dirkes and

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa

Register at: www.nsc-chariscenter.org or call 1-800-338-2445



MINI-CALENDAR

Staten Island Conference, varied events, call 718-987-8175 for all, except where another number is given

...Healing Mass, 3rd Tues., 8 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 40 Poplar Ave., Call Nanie, 718-948-2049

...Healing Mass, 3rd Tues., 8 p.m., O.L. Star of Sea, 5371 Amboy Rd., Call Marge, 718-984-0593

...Healing Mass, 3rd Sat., 8 p.m., O.L. of Mt. Carmel/St. Benedicta, 1235 Castleton Ave., Call Victor 718-494-1860

...Healing Mass, 4th Wed., 8 p.m., Holy Child Church, call Sr. Jean, 718-356-5890

...Weekly Mass - Wednesdays -Lamb of God, Mt. Manresa, 9 P.M. (following 8 P.M. prayer meeting)

..."Jesus Night Under the Stars", Sunday, Aug. 22, 6-9 pm, Mt. Manresa— Special Honoring of Betty Plancon
S.I. website: <http://siconf.tripod.com>

...St. John the Baptist P.G., 210 W. 31 St., Healing Mass, third Tuesday, other events, call 212-686-1016
Life in the Spirit Seminar, April 28-June 23

...O.L. of Peace Prayer Community, 237 E. 62 St., NYC, 212-838-3189...call for current events

Hope Healing Ministry, 12:30 P.M., 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, St. Mary Church, Mt. Vernon, 914-664-5855

...St. Mary's Prayer Group, 8 pm, Wednesdays

St. Paul the Apostle, 77 Lee Ave., Yonkers, call Sr. Eileen, 914-969-3480

...Charismatic Holy Hour, 1st Tues., Prayer Meeting, 2nd Tues., Healing Mass, 3rd Tues.,

...Prayer Meeting, 4th Tues., Prayer Meeting & Bible Teaching, Fr. James Villa, 5th Tues.

St. Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer, Scarsdale, 914-723-0533

...Thursdays of prayer, begins with IHM parish Mass 9 AM (or Noon Mass) to 1 PM with lunch - call to confirm
(concludes for the summer on June 10, resumes after Labor Day)

Northern Westchester/Putnam Vicariate Cluster - Mary Jane -914-737-4286 for general info*

...Cluster Prayer Meeting, Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010, 7:45 p.m., St. Patrick's Parish Center*

...Healing Mass, Mon., Aug. 9, 7:30 pm, Fr. Martin Njenga, call Anne for info, 914-769-4067

...Healing Mass, Thurs., Aug. 19, Call Laura for info, 845-225-2531

...Healing Mass, Thurs., Sept. 16, 8 pm, St. Patrick's, York. Hts., Call Joan for info, 914-526-6538

Ulster Healing Masses, Fridays, Music at 7 pm, Mass at 7:30 pm, Call 845-246-9581

...1st Sunday of month, Prayer Meeting, 1:30 p.m., St. John the Evangelist Church, call 845-246-9581

See the "Out & About" column of *Catholic New York* for more current information on events.
or log onto the NY Charismatic Renewal website: catholiccharismaticny.org



FOURTH ANNUAL CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

November 13, 2010

St. Helena Church, Bronx

9 AM—5 PM

"Moving with the Spirit...into the Heart of the Church"

- ◆ David Thorp will return to speak about how we can use the gifts of the Holy Spirit in service to the Church
- ◆ Mark Nimo will again lead our Youth Track (13-18)
- ◆ Fr. Bill Cosgrove is celebrant of the closing Mass
- ◆ Steve Leaden and "The Voice of Praise" will lead praise and worship

Flyers and Registration forms will be mailed out in mid-August
Contact the Charismatic Renewal Office (info on p. 2) to add names to the mailing list
Ignite subscribers are already on the list, so please do not duplicate