

# I G N I T E

In us the fire of your love

Volume 24, Number 2

April/May/June 2009

## **THE CHALLENGE of GALATIANS 5 by Fr. Francis Martin**

Paul introduces the main theme of the letter to the Galatians at the letter's beginning. He calls this letter, written in the early 50's of our era: "the Truth of the Gospel," that is, the fact that the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ have set us free. He "...gave himself for our sins that he might rescue us from the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father; to whom be glory for ages of ages, Amen" (Gal.1:4-5).

I wish in this brief article to consider the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit as the experience of "the truth of the gospel." I will consider it in the light of chapter 5 of the Letter to the Galatians, comparing the two famous lists in Galatians 5:13-26 which Paul calls the "works of the flesh" and "the fruit of the Spirit." Here is the first of the two lists: "The works of the flesh are manifest, such are: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, rage, rivalry, dissensions, factions, orgies and things like these. I forewarned you [now] as I forewarned you [then]; those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:19-21).

It is significant, I think, that of the fourteen "works" listed here,

\*eight have to do with interpersonal relationships.

\*four have to do with sensuality

\*two deal with false worship

Each involves a certain emotional component and many are often affected by emotional memories and wounds. Paul tells us that there is a way of being free from these works of the flesh:

*through the power of the act of love in which Jesus dies and into which we are baptized.* "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal. 3:27); "Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death"...If then we died with Christ, we believe that we will live with him; knowing that Christ, raised from the dead, will die no more. Death has power over him no longer. The death he died he dies to sin, once for all; the life he lives he lives to God" (Rom. 6:3, 8-10).



### **Overcoming the flesh and baptism in the Holy Spirit**

I would like to begin with a definition. By "baptism in the Holy Spirit," I mean a grace of revelation by which the Holy Spirit reveals to the spirit of the believer the divine Lordship of Jesus Christ, conferring personal and intimate faith knowledge of him as Son of God who is present in the heart of the believer and Head over his Body, the Church.

This revelation is the source of power and conviction enabling someone to overcome sinful drives and bear effective witness to what has been re-

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### **RISE UP AND BE COUNTED**

*By Aggie Neck*

Today we see a slipping away of the foundation on which our faith was built. It is indeed time to shake off the drowsy state that veils the message of Pentecost. Shout it from the housetops, speak of it whether convenient or inconvenient, live it as if today could be the last day. We must not miss any opportunity to proclaim the message of hope. We must not sit silently when all that is sacred and holy to us is defamed. Above all we must live fully and openly our charismatic culture of Pentecost. This means keeping the gifts alive, all of the gifts, and especially the gift of prophecy. It is necessary to hear the Lord.

To build this culture of Pentecost we must live it faithfully and hand it down to succeeding generations as the precious treasure that it is. Now is the time to rise up and be counted. This is indeed the season of the harvest. May God grant us the grace and zeal that will enable us to accomplish this task.

*Excerpted from Pentecost Today, July/Aug/Sept 2007, with permission*

ceived, carrying out this witness with the signs appropriate to it. In this brief essay, I will restrict myself principally to that death to sin and life to God that is the heart of holiness.

Experience in the Charismatic Renewal points to the fact that the capacity to die to sin and live to God takes on a very special and intense dimension with baptism in the Holy Spirit. Because one is conscious of grace, there is a growing awareness of the difference between flesh and S(s)pirit and, with this awareness, an endowment with power to “put the deeds of the body to death” (Rom. 8:13). Such advice only makes explicit the teaching about ongoing change in the Christian life which we have already considered.

The motive for desiring change is love based upon a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ and a deep gratitude for what he has done for all of the human race by his death and resurrection. Such love is not possible without that work of the Holy Spirit which makes the possession of grace a conscious reality. Because of this love, the convicting role of the Holy Spirit is accepted and there is sorrow for sin, now seen not as dangerous infraction of the law of a remote God, but as a personal refusal of his grace. This marks a radical shift in one’s personal center of gravity.

Repentance is the work of revelation. It is the means by which the Holy spirit applies to the life of the believer the healing grace that comes from the cross of Christ. Let us consider some aspects of this grace of repentance.

The first revelation usually understood after baptism in the Holy Spirit is the distinction between the two sources of energy available to the believer: the flesh and the Spirit. Little by little, we come to grasp how much of our past life, even in religious matters, was dominated by our own energy. We may have studied St. Paul and acknowledged the existence of a human spirit enlivened and submitted to the Holy Spirit as well as another aspect of that

same human personality still opposed to God, but when the Holy Spirit quickens our spirit, this distinction becomes a matter of experience.

We see the difference between a willed conformity to the demands of the Gospel and an intimate yielding to the action of Christ. We have a greater capacity to perceive and acknowledge the true source of much of our activity: our ego with its ignorance and fear of God. We realize, little by little, the pervasive nature of our self concern. The sign that this growing awareness is a work of the Lord and not a psychological phenomenon is this” revelation in this area is marked by extraordinary honesty and peace. The admission of sin openly and repentantly is done with sorrow, but without a great deal of emotional concomitance.

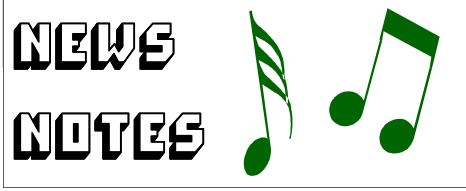
If we allow the grace of the Holy spirit to lead us to a serious examination of the source of our motives and drives, two things result. First, there is a willingness to wait for revelation and secondly, there is an increased capacity to discern the genuine will of God. Daily repentance is the source of all solid discernment. By comparison, when a worker for the Lord, baptized in the Holy Spirit but not seeking to reach the depths of that grace, undertakes and sustains his activity in the power of his own desires, imagination, and will power (his flesh) then the consequent depletion of these resources leads him to a search for compensation on the same level as that of the output. Flesh begets flesh. Exaggerated or even sinful modes of conduct ensue, both to sustain the project and to compensate the minister.

On the other hand, the most beautiful fruit of experiencing an ongoing death to sin is the fact that we grow in our assurance of God’s saving work in our lives and in knowledge of God himself. Faith grows deeper as we know more deeply the liberating work of the cross in our lives: “Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me, or else believe because of the works

**is published quarterly by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Archdiocese of New York, 194 Gaylor Road, Scarsdale, 10583. It is distributed to those who support the New York Leadership Team through their donations, service and prayer, and is sent to all who request it. Information for this newsletter may be submitted in writing to this address or by phone (914) 725-1773 or fax (914) 725-5227.**

**E-Mail: [CharismNY@optonline.net](mailto:CharismNY@optonline.net)**

**Website: [catholiccharismaticny.org](http://catholiccharismaticny.org)**



◆ In this issue, we give special attention to St. Paul in this year dedicated to him and to his writings. Fr. Francis Martin helps us make the connection between Paul’s exhortation to the Galatians and the grace of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Feast of Pentecost and the close of the Year of St. Paul come close together, giving us inspiring material for reflection and prayer.

◆ The Leaders’ supplement published by ICCRS and included with each issue of Ignite, is offered to leaders of prayer groups, to provide them with topics and outlines for brief teachings at prayer meetings. The enclosed topic “Hail Mary, full of grace”, comes in time for talks on Mary and her role at Pentecost and her life in the Spirit.

◆ You are invited to send material for the newsletter—witnesses of answered prayer, short articles (subject to editorial approval) or any newsworthy events or people involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in New York. A special column will be dedicated to your submissions.

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themselves” (Jn. 14, 11). This ever-deepening rhythm of knowing God found eloquent expression in the medieval axiom: “God is known in his effects.

### **The fruit of the Spirit and baptism in the Holy Spirit**

*But the fruit of the Spirit is: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, Generosity, faithfulness, humility, self-control, Against things such as these there is no law.*

The flesh produces “works” that manifest the scattered and disordered state of our fallen structure. The Spirit brings forth one lightsome and many sided fruit, that is, a Christian personality that manifests the beauty of Christ:”I live now, not I, Christ lives in me”. As baptism in the Holy Spirit, a contemplative grace from its inception, reaches its full maturity, the tumult of the flesh gives way to the unhindered fruitfulness of the Spirit.

Once the soul is placed at the peak of perfection and freedom of spirit in God, all the repugnancies and contradictions of sensuality have ceased, she no longer has any other activity to engage her than surrender to the delights and joys of intimate love of her Bridegroom.

(St. John of the Cross, *The Spiritual Canticle*, 36.1-2).

Reprinted from Pentecost Today, April/May/June 2009, with permission

## **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, 948-2049

...Healing Mass, 2nd Tues., 8 p.m., O.L. Star of Sea, 5371 Amboy Rd., Call Rita, 984-4144

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

...Unity Night, June date to be announced

...Revival Under the Stars, August date to be announced

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, parish 9 AM Mass,(or Noon Mass) to 1 PM with lunch) call to confirm (ends June 11)

...May 16, Sat. Seminar, Themes of St. Paul, “Stir into Flame the Spirit You Have been given...” 9 AM Mass to 4 pm Sat. Seminars, Call 2 days before to reserve

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

...Cluster Prayer Meeting, Thursday, April 30, 2009, 7:45 p.m. St. Patrick's Parish Center\*

...Healing Mass, May 7, 8 pm, St. Patrick's, Yorktown Hts. Fr. Steve Norton\*

...Healing Mass, June 8, 7:30, Holy Rosary, Hawthorne, call Anne 914-769-4067

...Cluster Prayer Meeting, Thursday, July 30, 2009, St. Patrick's Parish Center\*

Ulster Healing Masses, Fridays, Music at 7 pm, Mass at 7:30 pm, Call 914-626-7477;

...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](http://catholiccharismaticny.org)*

### **Tri-Diocesan Charismatic Conference**

**June 20, 2009**

**9:00 AM—7:00 PM**

**Holy Cross Church, Brooklyn**

**Fr James Kelly**

**Year of St. Paul:**

**“I Remind You to Stir Into  
Flame...”**

**See enclosed flyer for  
Registration form**



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**SAVE THE DATE !! Third Annual NY General Conference**



**Saturday, November 14, 2009  
9 AM—5 PM**

**Immaculate Conception Church, Bronx, NY**

**“Fanning the Flame of the Holy Spirit”**

**General Session Speaker: David Thorp & Voice of Praise Music  
Youth Track: Mark Nimo & Youth Music Group**

Registration brochures will go out to all who receive IGNITE—fill out the information below  
for anyone else who wishes to receive information about the Conference.

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