

I G N I T E

In us the fire of your love

Volume 24, Number 1

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Are You Up for the Challenge? *By Bishop Sam Jacobs*

Paul as a Theologian of Charismatic Renewal, *by Fr. Bob Hogan*



*He will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit
and with fire*

Bishop Sam Jacobs has challenged the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to work intentionally in the next 10 years to bring as many people into the "full and lived grace of Pentecost" as possible. We are to work hard at fulfilling our mission, so that the year 2017, the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of CCR, will be a great celebration in every nation, town, community and household—a great proclamation of the Lordship of Jesus and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth

This is an excerpt from a talk given at the 2007 National Conference in Secaucus, NJ, celebrating 40 years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Our vocation is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Our mission is to stir up and exercise the charismatic gifts of the Spirit so that we can build up one another. That mission is needed today more than it was 40 years ago.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II challenged the Charismatic Renewal:

"Do not interrupt the journey you have begun! Have trust: Christ will complete the work that he himself has started. "Desire the higher gifts!" (1 Cor. 12:31). Always seek Christ: seek him in meditation on the word of God, seek him in the sacraments, seek him in prayer, seek him in the witness of your brothers and sisters. Be grateful to the priests who pastor your communities; through their ministry it is the Church who guides you and helps you as a mother and teacher. Joyfully welcome the occasions that are offered to you to deepen your Christian formation. Serve Christ in those close to you, serve him in the poor, serve him in the needs and necessities of the Church. Let yourselves be truly guided by the Spirit! Love the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic!" (Message to the world Meeting of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Rimini, April 24, 2000)

"I pray most fervently that your

Charismatic Renewal is meant to be a renewal of the charisms (gifts of the spirit). However, even more fundamentally, it is meant to be a renewal of the "gift of the Holy Spirit," himself, in all of his manifestations. St. Paul proclaimed to people the experience of "Renewal in the Spirit (baptism in the spirit) through Jesus Christ, but he also wanted to help them to understand, and enter into, the full implication of this gift. This is the role of a theologian. Let me give you a brief summary of Paul's profound reflections on the gift of the Holy Spirit. I hope you will read all the Scripture references, since I can only reflect on a few of them.

1—Rebirth and Renewal: Paul teaches that God saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior" (Titus 3:5-6). From this initial experience of the Holy Spirit Paul unfolds the full richness of the gift of the spirit.

2—Love: "The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:1-5; see Eph. 3:14-21; 2 Tim. 1: 6-8).

3—Power and Conviction: "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction" (1 Thess. 1:15; see Eph. 3:14-21; 2 Tim. 1:6-8).

4—Divine Inheritance: "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a Spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption,

communities and the entire Charismatic Renewal will 'put out into the deep' of prayer in order to 'put out into the deep' of mission. Then you will help the whole church still more to lives of action and contemplation which is the womb of evangelization." (to the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic covenant Communities and Fellowships, June, 2001)

Is there any need for a clearer challenge? How much stronger must God speak to us through the scriptures and through his vicars? Can there be a question concerning what we are expected to do at this stage in our journey as a Renewal? How much more explicitly can the Lord speak to us before we respond?

What is the grace of these 40 years? What is it that is asking of us? To be obedient to what Jesus has explicitly told us to do and to be obedient to the clear directives of the vicars of Christ to the Renewal.

These 40 years have been a time of cleansing and a time of new beginning.

A time of preparation and of waiting on the Lord.

A time of trust in the promises of God and acting on those promises.

A time of renewal and stirring up frequently the gifts given to us when hands were laid on us and the Spirit invoked.

A time of strengthening and solidifying our affirmation and commitment.

We have learned from the past, we are recommitting ourselves to the present moment. And we're looking to the future.

But what is the future?

I believe we have a great challenge before us.

I believe that God desires us to intentionally prepare for the great year of jubilee, 2017. How? To bring as many people as possible into the full and lived grace of Pentecost. Indeed

the harvest is ripe. We are to pray to the Lord of the harvest, and not only to send more laborers but to realize that he has already chosen and empowered us as the ones who are to make it happen. And pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit this grace of Pentecost will truly renew the Church and the world.

We have been filled with the Holy Spirit and desire to be filled anew in a fresh outpouring. The great commissions are still our mandate:

"You will receive power when the Holy spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses throughout the world" (cf Acts 1:8)

"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me, go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always until the end of the age."

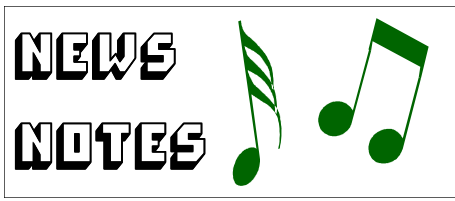
(Matthew 28:19-20)

Wouldn't it be a great year when we celebrate the Jubilee of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our times, that throughout the world the **shofar** can be blown in every community and every household, that we will proclaim that Jesus Christ is truly Lord and that his spirit is truly upon us and we are going to renew the face of the earth.



**And so we pray,
Lord, pour out your Spirit anew
As on the day of Pentecost!**

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 Website: catholiccharismaticny.org



✘ For those who are subscribers in Brooklyn, we are saddened to tell you of the death of Karen Archer on Thanksgiving Day. Some of you will remember Karen and Jim Archer who led the "Sonseed" Music Ministry at many Brooklyn charismatic events; they also lost two children to cancer. The Archers have lived in West Virginia for some years. Anyone who wishes to contact Jim can call or write to this office.

✘ The Council of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities (CRR is on this council) is promoting a Family Life conference on March 21, 2009. Members of the CEM will have information tables so that the various movements in the Church may be more widely known in parishes. See enclosed flyer for details and how to register.

✘ If you do not receive Pentecost Today, our only Charismatic publication, contact Chariscenter at 1-800-338.2445. The magazine is free, but a donation would be welcome.

SPC

MINI-CALENDAR

through which we cry, Abba, Father! The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ" (Rom 8:14-17; see 2 Cor. 1:21-22, 3:1-6; Eph 1:13,14).

5—The inner experience of the Holy spirit also includes **freedom and transformation** (2 Cor 3:17-18), **a new mind and wisdom** (Rom 12:1-2, 1 Cor. 2:6-16, Eph 1:15-23, 4:11-24), **joy and peace** (Rom 14:17, 15:13), **fellowship, participation, unity with the Spirit** (2 Cor 13:13, Phil 2:1-2).

6- Prayer: The Holy Spirit activates prayer in us. He **intercedes and prays in us** (Rom 8:18-27). We are called to **pray in the Spirit** (Eph 6:18-20); **worship through the Spirit of God** (Phil. 3:3); pray in **tongues** (1 Cor 12:10) and experience **prophecy** through the spirit (1 Thess 5:16-22). We experience the word of God as **the sword of the spirit** (Eph. 6:17).

7—Moral living: We experience the Spirit overcoming the flesh, and producing the fruit of the Spirit in us (Rom 7:14-25; 8: 1-12; Gal 5:13-26, 6:1-10).

8—**Community and Ministry in the Spirit:** The Spirit forms us as the body of Christ, the Church, and empowers us with **charisms** (spiritual gifts) for the building up of the body of Christ (Rom 1:11-12, 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12, 13, 14; Eph 4:1-16). We participate in the glorious ministry of the Spirit (2 Cor 6:4-10). We minister with **signs, wonders, demonstrations of power, and mighty deeds** (Rom 15:18-19, 1 Cor 2:1-5, Gal 3:1-5).

Wow! In this Year of St. Paul let Paul the theologian lead us into the full understanding and manifestation of the gift of the spirit in our lives and in the Church!

National Service Committee, reprinted from the website with permission, 10/08

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)

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

...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 (no session April 16-ends June 11)

...Feb. 28, Sat. Seminar, Themes of St. Paul, Healing and Carrying the Cross, 9 AM Mass to 4 pm

...March 28, Sat. Brunch, "Unity...We are One Body in Christ."9 Am Mass in IHM, until 12:30 p.m.

...Holy Thursday, April 9, 9 AM to 2 PM, Tenebrae, Prayer & Praise, Talk, Lunch. Scripture Sharing—call to confirm

For Brunches and Sat. Seminars, Call 2 days before to reserve

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

...Healing Mass, Mar 26, St. Patrick's, Yorktown Hts.,

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

...Healing Mass, May 7, St. Patrick's, Yorktown Hts.

...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;

..Healing Mass, Mon., Mar.16, Fr. Robert Ginel, Music at 7 pm, Mass, 7:30 PM

..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



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SAVE THE DATE !! Third Annual NY General Conference

Saturday, November 14, 2009

Immaculate Conception Church, Bronx, NY

“Fanning the Flame of the Holy Spirit”

**General Session Speaker: David Thorp
Youth Track: Mark Nimo**



Flyers 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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