# Providing Support and Leadership for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Volume 44 Number 2

I was in a car yesterday, driving through Rome with a group of friends. My assignment was to check out places to hold a future event in the city. As we drove along, we passed by so many places that had such dear memories for me: St Peter's Basilica where we met with Pope Paul VI at Pentecost 1975, the fields above the catacombs of St. Callistus where we gathered to praise God and celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which at times would break out into spontaneous dancing!

I saw places where men and women from around the world had gathered, speaking different languages but united in the language of the Spirit. Oh the joy, the fire...and the fun! My thoughts were brought back to the present moment when an Argentinian woman (a personal friend of Pope Francis) asked me a question as we drove along. "In June, it will be a year since the Holy Father addressed the worldwide Renewal here in Rome. At that time he told us he wanted us to bring this experience of the Holy Spirit to all of the Church. I haven't seen much action in the Renewal on this point. Jim, if the Holy Father should ask me how we are doing what shall I tell him?"

"Tell him we got tired," I mumbled under my breath. The conversation in the car stopped and everyone looked at me. "Some folks have been trying to do that very thing for the last 50 years," I continued, "and



Southern California Renewal Communities

March / April 2016



have not always been welcomed with open arms. I think some people have just worn down." The Argentine nodded in silent agreement but came back with a dramatic statement, "But now there is a new opportunity, a new possibility! We have to wake the Renewal up! This is the time!" Another added in, "We have carried this baby for so long, we cannot be too tired to deliver the child!" Another analogy was offered; "It is as if we got dressed to go to a party and we waited and waited for the invitation. We got tired of waiting so we took off our party clothes and put on our pajamas. Now the party is about to begin...and we are in our pajamas!"

We were driving by St. Peter's at the moment and my thoughts turned to a particular place in the square where once

I had seen an ailing Pope John Paul II struggle out of his chair to declare with all the strength he could muster, "Be open to the Holy Spirit! Be open to the Holy Spirit!" Those words, spoken many years earlier, seemed to me to be a prophetic exhortation from the now-canonized Pontiff.

Are we truly "open to the Holy Spirit?" Are we indeed at a moment of "new opportunity, new possibility?" Are we "dressed for the party" or "home in our pajamas?".

The conversation in the car returned to normal, but I sat there in silence, looking out the window and reflecting on the last 5 minutes.....and the last 50 years.

I will acknowledge that time has moved on and we Dressed continued on page 3



The Power of the Precious Blood • Mary and the Saints: Our Allies in Spiritual Battle
 Enemies Not of Flesh and Blood • Mass Included!

#### Saturday, March 12 10:00am-4:00pm

St. Didacus Parish Hall • 14337 Astoria St. • Sylmar, CA

Registration Deadline March 7th: \$20 (includes catered chicken lunch) After March 7th or at the door: \$25

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**Encountering Jesus Our Healer Experiencing Healing Prayer** 

The Power of Divine Mercy
Healing Mass included

## The Healing Power of God's Mercy

Saturday, April 30 10:00am-4:00pm
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall • 3175 Telegraph Rd. • Ventura, CA
Registration Deadline Apr. 25th: \$20 (includes catered chicken lunch) After Apr. 25th or at the door: \$25

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cannot return to 1967. Nor can we discern the future through a nostalgic look at the past.

We can learn from the past, however, and see what we can embrace in the current moment and go forward.

I know I am speaking in broad generalities, but here are some things we did that kept the fire burning bright:

We were people committed to prayer. Our lives were restructured to ensure that we had a significant amount of time for personal prayer. It became one of the highest priorities of life...higher than sleep or showers or food. It was a common thing to ask a friend "So...how is your prayer time going these days?" Our prayer was contemplative, it was charismatic, it was traditional... and it was consistent. Every follower of Jesus saw it as their personal responsibility to have a daily prayer time.

When touched by the Holy Spirit, we became infatuated with the Word of God. We would always carry our Bibles with us. A Scripture passage could become the focus of a lunch time conversation. We would constantly turn to Scripture for strength, guidance and inspiration. It was unthinkable to go to bed at night if you had not read your Bible for whatever amount of time you were committed.

After encountering the Holy Spirit, we had such a new sensitivity to the Sacraments! We were amazed that ancient rituals which we had grown up with now seemed so vital and alive. Every time we went to Mass, every time we entered the confessional, we expected to encounter the living Christ who had become so real, so relevant in our lives.

The Spirit of God also

opened our hearts to others. We hungered for fellowship. We met with brothers and sisters of other denominations and saw them as co-workers in the Vineyard. Our own fellow Catholics became deepest friends. God put a new love in our hearts for family and co-workers. It was a sovereign work of God, and we knew it. We never complained about a prayer meeting going too long. Heck, we would stay up all night if need be...it was just so much fun to be together!

We did not "throw a switch" after a prayer meeting. We sought to follow the Spirit 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We would use the charisms at a conference, but also in the workplace. God "might show up anywhere" and we always wanted to be ready to follow his lead.

I think that even though we saw ourselves as "part of the Renewal," our true identity was that we had been grasped by Christ. Our identity was directly linked to him. There was not much talk about my ministry or one person's accomplishments. The focus was on God, not the person.

And it was about the Lord that we spoke so freely. We could not be quiet! We would tell anybody...and everybody that "We have seen the Lord!" Sometimes we were met with skepticism and even mocking... but we would not be silent. What had been whispered to us in our hearts was shouted from the rooftops!

There was a sense that we were all in this together. True, the Renewal had leaders, but it had no spectators. Everyone did their part. Everyone took personal responsibility, doing their share to keep the fires of Pentecost burning bright.

The driver of the car slammed on the brakes to avoid hitting a motorcycle, jarring me out of my reverie. I tried to re-

enter the conversation but could not. I was asking myself a few questions:

What is my daily prayer life like? How committed am I each day to Scripture? Do I have an expectation of encountering the living Lord in the sacraments... or am I just going through the motions? Am I still in fellowship, on a regular basis with "people of the fire?" Am I "charismatic" only when it is convenient or am I always ready to respond to the promptings of the Spirit? Who have I spoken with recently about my encounter with Christ? Do I see myself as belonging to a religious club...or to Christ? Is my involvement in Charismatic Renewal more about what God is doing...or what I am doing? Am I taking some responsibility for fanning the flame in my own life, or waiting for others to carry me along? Can I just relax, have a little more fun and trust in God or do I need to "make everything work?" Where is the fire? Where is the joy? Where is my "first love?"

I hadn't noticed that the car was parked and everyone had gotten out. We were going to the Church of the Holy Spirit, very close to St Peter's. I hurriedly walked in with a new enthusiasm. This is a new moment, a new opportunity! The best days lie ahead. We only need to be faithful to God on a daily basis and wait for him to act. The Spirit is about to move in a new way. It won't be a repeat of 50 years ago. It will be the work of the Spirit for this time! It will be wonderful! I am going to reinvest my life in those little things we committed to so long ago. I am going to put the pajamas away for at least another 50 years. I'm getting dressed for the party!



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nsc-chariscenter.org

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Leadership Formation Initiatives for
International Catholic Charismatic
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the Country Coordinator of Mexico
Missions for Renewal Ministries.
Jim is President of Vera Cruz
Communications.



One Day Conference

## **Healing the Family Tree**

## Praying For Our Loved Ones Living & Deceased



Dominic Berardino President, SCRC Burbank, CA



Fr. Michael Barry, SSCC Mary's Mercy Center San Bernardino, CA

- Healing the Harmful Effects of Ancestral Sin
- Why is it Important to Pray for the Deceased?
- Breaking Bondages Over Generations
   Helping Future Generations Experience
   Freedom and Transformation
  - Mass for Healing the Family Tree

#### Conference Special Features PRAYER WALL

A prayer wall will be constructed with pictures of your living & deceased family members and friends to be prominently placed near the altar during the Eucharist being offered for them. Bring copies or reproductions of family portraits, and/or funeral mass cards (please do not bring originals in case they are lost or damaged.)

#### MASS FOR GENERATIONAL HEALING

A Special Mass will be offered for all your living & deceased loved ones. Your genogram will be placed on the altar.

#### **GENOGRAM**

Preparing your own personal genogram will help you pray more specifically for your family members/immediate ancestory. A blank genogram will be mailed to all who pre-register before 4/11/16. You may download a genogram at www.scrc.org. Bring your completed genogram to the Conference.

Saturday, April 23, 2016 10:00am - 4:00pm

**Mary Star of the Sea** 

Parish Auditorium 877 W. 7th Street San Pedro, CA

## EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION BEFORE April 11th:

\$25,00

AFTER April 11th and ON-SITE REGISTRATION: \$30.00

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Return completed registration form with payment to:	Healing the Family Tree Conference SCRC, 9795 Cabrini Drive, Suite 208	361 361	scrc.org spirit@scrc.org	PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

	TOKE ADMITTHE \$25.00						
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM	Name						
	Address						
	City State Zip						
	Day Telephone ( ) Email:						
	☐ Check or Money Order <i>(please make checks payable to: SCRC )</i> Credit Card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express  Only registrations paid with a credit card can be faxed to: (818) 771-1379.						
	Exp. Date						
	Credit Card # All individuals whose registrations are received by April 11th will receive a packet in the mail, which will include schedule, ticket(s), genogram, detailed directions parking location, and map of local restaurants.						
	Signature Spiritually enriching Books, CDs/DVDs and gifts will be available for purchase throughout the da						

## In February 1967, about 25 college students from Duquesne University attended a retreat at The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center near Pittsburgh. PA. It was on this retreat that the Holy Spirit fell in power. Today, we trace the beginnings of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal back to this historic event.





The Ark and The Dove, Inc.

Home of Baptism in the Holy Spirit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Renewal Purchases Site Where New Pentecost in Catholic Church Began

Gibsonia, PA, December 18, 2015 – The Ark and The Dove, Inc. today announced the purchase of the historic site of the "Duquesne Weekend" where nearly 50 years ago the Holy Spirit fell in power on a handful of Duquesne University students. Many in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and others baptized in the Holy Spirit trace their beginnings back to this event.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household, said: "I cannot but rejoice over the decision...to buy The Ark and The Dove retreat house where the Catholic Charismatic Renewal had its first visible manifestation back in 1967. How we would be happy if we could purchase the Jerusalem Cenacle where the first Pentecost took place!" With Fr. Cantalamessa's endorsement, "the humble place where the 'new Pentecost' in the Catholic Church began" has been purchased for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide "keeping the flame burning till it reaches the whole Church."

Expounding on the vision of this historic purchase, Johnny Bertucci, Chairman of The Ark and The Dove, Inc., exclaimed: "In response to Pope Francis' commission to the Renewal, in the hopes of unifying the many expressions of the Renewal, in anticipation of the Jubilee and the 50th anniversary of the Duquesne Weekend, to reclaim our historic site, to proclaim the love of God though His Son Jesus in the POWER of the Holy Spirit, The Ark and The Dove can be that rallying point for the Renewal worldwide."

The four-fold usage of the facility will be as follows:

- Pilgrimage Destination for those baptized in the Holy Spirit and those interested in this grace.
- Retreat Center for spiritual renewal by the Holy Spirit for laity, clergy, and religious.
- Resource Center for those interested in understanding and fostering the charisms.
- Praise and Worship Events for days of renewal and empowerment.

Isaiah 54:2-3 inspires the vision of The Ark and The Dove: "Widen the space of your tent, extend the curtains of your home, do not hold back! Lengthen your ropes, make your tent-pegs firm, for you will burst out to right and to left, your race will dispossess the nations and repopulate deserted towns."

Towards this end, we seek UNITY through a diverse worldwide board. We will engage the various streams, cultures, expressions, and others espousing baptism in the Holy Spirit to more effectively promote the New Evangelization. In keeping with Pope Francis' charge for unity, we desire to come together to give testimony to the single current of grace while maintaining our individual charisms.

#### March, 2016 Calendar

#### SAN FERNANDO REGION

Thursday, March 10

Healing the Family Tree Mass, 6:30pm with Fr. John Struzzo at Our Lady of Grace Church, 5011 White Oak Ave., Encino.

Saturday, March 12
"Victory Is With the Lamb
-Lessons in Spiritual Warfare",
10:00am-4:00pm with Fr.
Bob Garon & Dominic
Berardino at St. Didacus
Parish Hall, 14337 Astoria
St., Sylmar. \$20 before
March 7th, (includes catered chicken lunch) Mass
included. Please see top
of page 2 for reg. form.
Thursday, March 17

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bob Garon at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 19855 Sherman Way, Canoga Park.

SAN GABRIEL REGION
Sat. & Sun., March 19 & 20
SCRC Spring Conference,
"A Disciple's Journey:
Maturing in the Spirit",
10:00am-5:30pm at Santa Teresita, (Madonna Hall) 819 Buena Vista St.,
Duarte. One Day: \$22.
Both Days: \$40, before
Mar.9th. Register online at scrc.org or see opposite page for registration form.

#### SAN PEDRO REGION Monday, March 21

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Mark Cruz St. Linus Church, 13915 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk.

Monday, March 28

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Delaney,

SJ at St. Cornelius Church, 5500 E. Wardlow, Long Beach.

#### ORANGE DIOCESE

Monday, March 14

Mass & Healing Service, 7:15pm with Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC at St. Angela Merici, 585 S. Walnut, Brea.

### SAN BERNARDINO DIOCESE Saturday, March 5

Palm Desert Magnificat Prayer Meal, 9:30am-12:30pm at Indian Wells Country Club, 46000 Club Dr., Indian Wells, CA 92210. Guest Speaker:Betty Gorey. \$28/person before 2/27. After 2/27, \$35, on stand by list. Contact Janice: (760) 902-7395 or visit: magnificatpalmdesert.org

#### April, 2016 Calendar

#### SANTA BARBARA REGION

Saturday, April 30

"The Healing Power of God's Mercy", 10:00am-4:00pm with Fr. George Reynolds & Dominic Berardino at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall, 3175 Telegraph Rd., Ventura. \$20, before April 25th. \$25, thereafter. (includes lunch) Register online at scrc.org or see bottom of page 2 for reg. form.

#### SAN FERNANDO REGION

Saturday, April 16
"Prayer and Responding to Spiritual Power",
Topics: The Disciple Has A
Mission, The Purpose of
Spiritual Power, Charisms,

Intercessory Prayer, We Do Not Know How to Pray As We Ought, Walking in the Presence of God. 1:30pm-4:30pm with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at the SCRC Center, 9795 Cabrini Dr., #209, Burbank. Love offering.

#### SAN GABRIEL REGION

Monday, April 18

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm at St. Linus, 13915 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk.

Saturday, April 23

"Healing the Family Tree: Praying for Our Loved Ones Living and Deceased", 10:00am-4:00pm with Fr. Mike Barry, SSCC & Dominic Berardino at Mary Star of the Sea Auditorium, 877 W. 7th St., San Pedro. \$25, before April 11th. \$30, thereafter. Register online at scrc.org or page 4 for registration form.

Monday, April 25

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Jerry Thompson at St. Cornelius, 5500 E. Wardlow, Long Beach.

#### ORANGE DIOCESE

Monday, April 25 Mass & Healing Service, 7:15pm with Fr. Mike Barry, SSCC at St. Angela Merici, 585 S. Walnut, Brea.

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

August 3-11, 2016, Marian Shrines in Portugal, Spain & France with Fr. Perry Kenaston. For more info., go to regina-tours.com



## SCRC Spring Conference

#### **Saturday Speakers**



Deacon Steve Greco Exercising Charisms: A Walk in Faith



Fr. George Reynolds Bearing Witness in Life and in Word



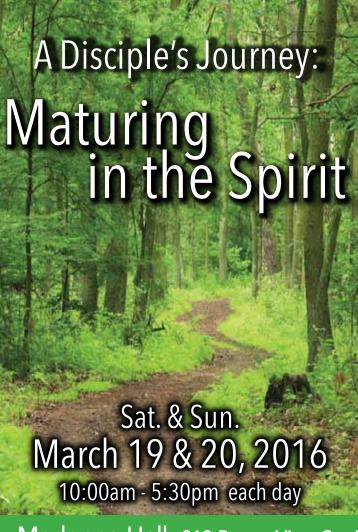
Sr. Regina Marie Gorman, OCD Community: Where a Servant's Heart is Formed



Elizabeth Kim, PhD Healing As A Journey



Fr. Ismael Robles Celebrant: Mass & Healing Service



**Sunday Speakers** 

Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ Balance: When To Say 'No'



Kay Murdy Perseverance: Finding the Path Through Life's Difficulties



Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR A Life Formed By the Word of God



Dominic Berardino **Prayer That** Grows Deeper



Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC Celebrant: Palm Sunday Procession &



#### Santa Teresita - Madonna Hall, 819 Buena Vista St., Duarte, CA 91010

□ Saturday C	ATION THRU Mar. 9, 2016 te which day(s)you plan to attend: NLY \$22.00 ILY \$40.00	Online Registration Available! SCrc.org	PRICES AFTER March 9, 2016 and ON-SITE REGISTRATION: ☐ Saturday ONLY\$27.00 ☐ Sunday ONLY\$50.00
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ERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS IS THE ORI 45th Annual SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention JUBILEE MERCY Spirit is STILL Moving! -3 Day Christ Triumphant Track spirit@scrc.org featuring Official Exorcists
-MEGA Healing Service
-Young Adult Conference
-Teen Conference (818) 771-1361 Labor Day Weekend -Spanish Conference -Vietnamese Conference Children's Program...and so much more! Anaheim Convention Center Bishop Kevin Vann SundayClosing Liturgy (Anaheim, CA...across from Disneyland Resort) Fr. Bob Sears, SJ Illinois Fr. Doug McManus Washington, DC Farao, OFM C California OFM Cap Canton Lorig Arizona Grob California California California California

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