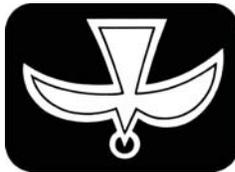


Providing
Support and Leadership
for the
Catholic Charismatic
Renewal

Volume 46
Number 1



SCRC
SPIRIT

Southern California Renewal Communities
January / February 2018

Guided by the Spirit

With Mary in the Upper Room

by Michelle Moran

In the Acts of the Apostles we meet the Christian community gathered in obedience to the command of the Lord who had said; 'wait for what the Father has promised' (Acts 1:4). Mary accompanied them in their waiting prayerfully and in imploring the gift of the Holy Spirit. However, she did this from a very different perspective because we know that at the annunciation she had already been 'overshadowed' and had received a new outpouring or infilling of the Holy Spirit.

When we reflect upon the account of the annunciation (Lk.1: 26-38), we see that Mary enters into a journey. Firstly, she was deeply disturbed by the word but attentive to it (Lk. 1:30). Mary initially engages with the word at the cerebral level with her mind. She ponders 'How can this come about since I am a virgin?' (Lk. 1:34). Then, she allows the word to go deeper and touch her spirit, so eventually, she is able to see that it is the Holy Spirit who makes all things possible (Lk. 1:37). It is only after all this



that she can make that great ascent of faith, her fiat: 'I am the handmaid of the Lord let what you have said be done to me' (Lk. 1:38).

We too can enter into her journey and ask ourselves some important questions. We know that 'the word of God is

something alive and active' (Heb. 4:12). However, when was the last time you allowed yourself to be challenged by the word of God? In one sense, it is easy to read the word but James reminds us that we are called 'to be doers of the word and not only listeners' (James 1:22). So like at the annunciation the word calls for engagement. When was the last time you were disturbed by the word? How are you engaging with the word of God in your life? Following in the footsteps of Mary; is the unfolding of the word in your life drawing you more deeply into the life of faith?

To be 'born of the Spirit' means to see things in a new way, to gain a new perspective. Then in faith, like Mary, to say yes and to surrender to God. This demands a conversion and from the new place, a response both at a rational or intellectual level and a response of the heart. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to do this.

See *With Mary* on pg. 3

SCRC Retreat



January 5-7, 2018

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- Registered attendees may attend Friday Praise & Mass at 7:30pm



Fr. Bill Adams,
CSsR



Fr. Bill
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9795 Cabrini Drive, Suite 208
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Ph (818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379
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With Mary continued from cover page

In John chapter 3, we meet Nicodemus who was a leading Jew, an intellectual, who was trying to work things out in his mind. He comes to Jesus 'by night' in John's gospel and is symbolic of blindness or unbelief. He needs the light of the Holy Spirit to understand what it means to be 'born from above' (Jn. 3:3). We do not hear about the full outworking of his conversion but we see the fruit, his life was changed. Therefore, in a debate among the Pharisees, he defended Jesus and was personally ridiculed (Jn. 7:50). Also, he assisted Joseph of Arimathaea with Jesus' burial (Jn. 19:39).

When we, in the light of the Holy Spirit, do as Mary did and say our unconditional yes to God, new things can be birthed in our lives and we can be fruitful. At the annunciation, Mary said yes to the promise of the Holy Spirit and this led to the birth of Jesus into the world. In the Upper Room at Pentecost the assembly yielded to the Holy Spirit and this led to the birth of the Church. This is highlighted by St. John Paul II in the encyclical *Redemptoris Mater*, when he comments that; 'Mary is the discrete yet subtle presence that indicates the path of birth from the Holy Spirit, first at the annunciation and now at the birth of the Church'.

Pope Francis reminds us in EG 284; 'With the Holy Spirit, Mary is always present in



the midst of people. She joined the disciples in praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit and thus made possible the missionary outburst which took place at Pentecost. She is the Mother of the Church which evangelizes and without her we could never truly understand the spirit of the new evangelization'.

Mary joined the disciples in the Upper Room praying and waiting for what the Father had promised. She interceded so that they could receive the power from on high. She was desirous that they should receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit because one of the fruits of this is that people begin to move in missionary power. That is why Pentecost marks the birth of the Church.

On Pentecost day, in the Upper Room, there were three moves of the Holy Spirit. First, the wind or breath of the Spirit filled the entire house and

there was a communal Pentecost. Then they saw 'what seemed like tongues of fire resting on the heads of each of them' (Acts 2:3). This was a personal Pentecost as they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Once this had happened, they were no longer able to stay in the confines of that room. They had received the power of the Holy Spirit and become witnesses who were now commissioned and empowered to go 'to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).

Are we like Mary desirous that many more people should receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit so that the Church can more perfectly fulfil her missionary mandate? Do we intercede for this? Are we active in bringing it about?

Pope Francis said to the CCR in Rome on June 1, 2014; 'I expect from you that you share with all in the Church the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit'. We have a responsibility, like those first Christians in the Upper Room, we cannot keep this incredible treasure to ourselves. We are called to spread the fire of Pentecost. This is the ongoing action of the Holy Spirit, Pope Paul VI reminded us; 'The Church needs her eternal Pentecost, she needs fire in her heart, words on her lips and a glance that is prophetic'.



This article is based on a talk; 'With Mary in the Upper Room' given by Michelle Moran in July, 2014. Michelle is the former President of ICCRS.

(International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services-based in Vatican City).

Pope Francis: *Meaning of 'Full of Grace'*

At the Immaculate Conception, the angel addressed Mary with a "word that is not easy to translate," Pope Francis said in his remarks before the Angelus on December 8, 2017, in St. Peter's Square.

In Luke 1:28 the angel says the word: "filled with grace," "created by grace," "full of grace".

"Before calling her Mary, he calls her full of grace, and he thus reveals the new name that God has given her, which fits her more than the name given to her by her parents," the Holy Father explained. "We also call her thus, with every Hail Mary."

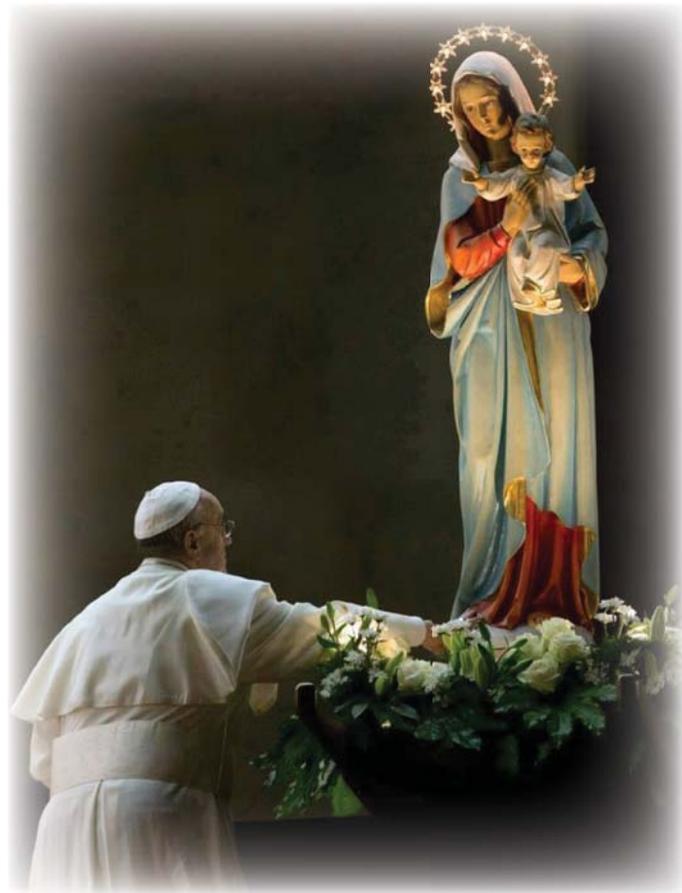
To be "full of grace" means that "Mary is full of God's presence. And if she is entirely inhabited by God, there is no place in her for sin," the Pope continued. He explained that all people — except Mary — have a dark side that is contaminated by sin.

"She is the only 'evergreen oasis' of humanity, the only uncontaminated one, created immaculate to receive fully with her "yes," God who was coming to the world to thus begin a new history," the Pope said. "The Church congratulates Mary today, calling her all beautiful."

Here is a translation of the address Pope Francis gave before the Angelus...

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning and happy feast!

Today we contemplate the beauty of Mary Immaculate.



The Gospel, which narrates the Annunciation, helps us to understand what we are celebrating, especially through the greeting of the Angel. He addresses Mary with a word that is not easy to translate, which means "filled with grace," "created by grace," "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Before calling her Mary, he calls her full of grace, and he thus reveals the new name that God has given her, which fits her more than the name given to her by her parents. We also call her thus, with every Hail Mary.

What does full of grace mean? That Mary is full of God's presence. And if she is entirely

inhabited by God, there is no place in her for sin. It's something extraordinary, because everyone, unfortunately, is contaminated by evil. Looking inside, each one of us sees dark sides. The greatest saints were also sinners and all realities, even the most beautiful, are affected by evil — all, except Mary. She is the only "evergreen oasis" of humanity, the only uncontaminated one, created immaculate to receive fully with her "yes," God who was coming to the world to thus begin a new history.

Every time we acknowledge her full of grace, we give her the greatest compliment,

See *Full of Grace* on pg. 6

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us. Ps.90:17
God's abundant blessings upon you and your loved ones throughout 2018!

January, 2018 Calendar

SAN FERNANDO REGION

Thursday, January 25

Mass and Healing Service, Healing of Memories, 6:30pm with Fr. Bob Garon at Our Lady of Grace Church, 5011 White Oak Ave., Encino.

SAN GABRIEL REGION

Fri. - Sun., January 5 - 7, 2018

SCRC Retreat, "May All the Earth Be Filled With Your Glory" with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ & Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR at Sacred Heart Retreat House, 920 E. Alhambra Rd., Alhambra. (see page 2)

SAN PEDRO REGION

Friday, January 26

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR at Mary Star of the Sea, 877 W. 7th St., San Pedro. (Praise 7:00pm)

ORANGE DIOCESE

Friday, January 12

Mass & Healing Service (Healing

the Family Tree), 7:30pm with Fr. John Struzzo, CSC at Mission Hospital Conference Center, Rms. A,B&C. 26726 Crown Valley Pkwy., Mission Viejo.

Monday, January 22

Mass & Healing Service, 7:15pm with Fr. Michael Barry, SSCC at St. Angela Merici, 585 S. Walnut (at Fir), Brea.

SAN BERNARDINO DIOCESE

Monday, January 15

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 2525 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino.

HOLY SPIRIT SEMINAR

Saturday, January 20

Be Empowered by the Holy Spirit, 9:00am-6:00pm, Incarnation School Auditorium, 1001 N. Brand Bl., Glendale. Contact: (818) 421-1354, heartofjesus@att.net

Congratulations

to the

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Drawing took place at the SCRC Fundraiser Banquet Saturday, November 4, 2017

\$1000 - Danny Washle

\$ 300 - Esther Osollo

\$ 200 - Sandy Nutile

\$ 100 - Mary McGoldrick

...the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. Rom.5:5



February, 2018 Calendar

SAN PEDRO REGION

Friday, February 23

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at Mary Star of the Sea, 877 W. 7th St., San Pedro. (Praise/Worship 7:00pm)

ORANGE DIOCESE

Friday, February 9

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Paul Vu at Mission Hospital Conference Center, Rms. A,B&C. 26726 Crown Valley Pkwy., Mission Viejo.

Monday, February 26

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

SAN BERNARDINO DIOCESE

Sat. & Sun. Feb. 3 & 4

Diocese of San Bernardino 2018 Conference with Presider: Bishop Gerald Barnes. Keynote Speaker: Michelle Moran. Friar Nelson Medina, OP. Location to be announced. For more information, please contact Office of Charismatic Renewal - Diocese of San Bernardino - Rosa Zepeda (909) 475-5365.

Monday, February 19

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 2525 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino.



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the same that God does. A nice compliment to give a lady is to say to her, gracefully, that she looks young. When we say to Mary full of grace, in a certain sense we also say this to her, at the highest level. In fact, we acknowledge her always young, because she never grew old by sin. There is only one thing that makes one truly grow old, to grow old interiorly: not age, but sin. Sin makes one old, because it makes the heart inflexible. It closes it, renders it inert, it makes it wither. However, she who is full of grace is empty of sin. Hence, she is always young, she is "younger than sin," "she is the youngest of the human race" (G. Bernanos, *Diary of a Country Priest*, II, 1988, p. 175).

The Church congratulates Mary today, calling her all beautiful, *tota pulchra*. As her youth is not in her age, so her beauty does not consist in the

external. Mary, as today's Gospel shows, does not excel in appearance: of a simple family, she lived humbly at Nazareth, an almost unknown hamlet. And she wasn't



famous: even when the Angel visited her, no one knew it, that day there was no reporter there. Our Lady did not even have an agitated life, but preoccupations and fears: she was "greatly troubled" (v. 29), says the Gospel, and when the Angel "departed

from her" (v. 38), the problems increased.

However, she who was full of grace lived a beautiful life. What was her secret? We can gather it looking again at the scene of the Annunciation. In many paintings Mary is depicted seated before the Angel with a small book. This book is the Scripture. Thus Mary was usually listening to God and dwelling on Him. Her secret was the Word of God: close to her heart, who then took flesh in her womb. By remaining with God, conversing with Him in every circumstance, Mary made her life beautiful. Not appearance, not what passes, but a heart pointed to God is what makes life beautiful. Today we look joyfully at her who was full of grace. Let us ask her to help us to remain young, saying "no" to sin, and to live a beautiful life, saying "yes" to God.

NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER AND FASTING for the CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

The National Service Committee and the other national leadership groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have designated the Friday preceding Ash Wednesday as a Day of Prayer and Fasting. This year's date will be Friday, February 9th.

Participants are encouraged to pray for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States and that the Church in our country might be renewed in the grace of Pentecost. This will be the sixteenth year designated to such a day with hopes to strengthen unity of the Renewal and communion in the Church.





SCRC Spring Conference

Fresh Anointing of the Spirit

Saturday, March 24, 2018

10:00am-5:30pm



Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR
Following Jesus Today



Maria Velasquez
Experiencing God the Father's Love



Fr. Michael Barry, SSCC
Palm Sunday Vigil Mass and Healing Service



Kay Murdy
Healing and Wholeness



Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ
Growing in the Life of the Spirit (w/ Prayer for Baptism of Holy Spirit)

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Psalm 65:11

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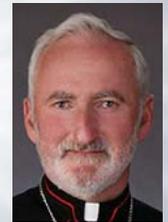
47th Annual SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention



The Spirit Gives Life



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Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA



Bishop David O'Connell
Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA

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Anaheim Convention Center



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St. Barbara Parish,
Santa Barbara, CA



Fr. Vince Lampert
Exorcist
Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN



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Scripture, Sacred Heart
Seminary, Detroit, MI



Fr. Gary Thomas
Exorcist
Diocese of San Jose, CA



Tom Peterson
EWTN Host
Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA



Lalith Perera
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