Providing Support and Leadership for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

> Volume 37 Number 1



Eddie Ensley reflects on the charismatic activity that was an integral part of the Church's life in the 6th century

In the late sixth century, warring barbarian tribes fought with the armies of the eastern empire for the control of Rome. For over a hundred years before that, Rome and all Italy had been in the grip of warfare and upheaval. The city of Rome itself, which passed from one side to the other several times, was only a shadow of its former glory; the city that once numbered over a million inhabitants now numbered less than 40,000. One inhabitant at the time said, "We see before our eyes this very city, the walls, shaken by storms, houses ruined, churches overthrown, and buildings rotten with old age collapsing." Vast areas of the Roman Empire – such as Britain and Gaul – that had once been Christian were now in the hands of pagan tribes.

The Dark Ages

This was the beginning of the



Charisms in an Age of Upheava

period many historians call the dark ages. While it may be considered dark, in the sense that the social and political structures of a mighty empire collapsed, it can hardly be considered a dark period for the Christian faith. In the midst of this disorder we have many examples of the Lord moving powerfully among his people, leading them to missionary activity, helping them form strong loving Christian communities, and encouraging and guiding them with signs and wonders.

During this era, missionaries began to walk boldly into areas which had been taken over by pagan tribes and brought them back to the Lord. They converted tens of thousands to Christ in North Germany, Scandinavia and Poland where the Gospel had never been preached before. This is the Rome of Pope Gregory the Great, and it is also the era of some remarkable charismatic activity which he recorded. Gregory himself had not wanted to be Pope. Most of all he wanted to be a man of continual prayer; he wanted to follow, as he called it, "the way of the angels". But because of his popularity and reputed holiness, the people and the clergy of Rome elected him Pope. One early tradition says that he had to be

by Eddie Ensley

dragged from the monastic community where he was abbot to be consecrated bishop. He was evidently not a weak man or easily cowed by the circumstances of his day. In the midst of social and political upheavals, he planned and launched missionary ventures that reconverted the northern parts of the Empire. At home he built Christian guesthouses where victims of the famine and warfare in the countryside could come for refuge. His writings tell us a lot about how the charismatic gifts operated during that era. In one of his major works, the Dialogues, and in his sermons, we can find scores of accounts of prophecies, healings and visions that people were experiencing in his own day and as early as 70 years before that. Gregory believed that healings, miracles and the prophetic gifts were important to the Church, and that they should be integrated into the whole context of the Christian life.

Scores of healings and visions

One of the accounts tells of a mother whose little boy had died. She was walking down the road carrying him in her arms when she met Libertinus, a monk, who was noted for his deep prayer life. She implored him, "You shall not pass until

See Charisms continued on page 3



Saturday & Sunday April 4 & 5, 2009

10:00am - 5:30pm each day

Madonna Hall

Santa Teresita Medical Center

819 Buena Vista Street

Duarte, CA 91010

REGISTRATION FORM

New Fire: To Purify and Empower

Saturday Speakers



Fr. George Reynolds "Purified from Impracticality, Empowered with Wisdom" (Prudence)



Fr. Michael Manning, SVD "Purified from Inequity, Empowered with Right Judgment" (Justice)



Fr. Bob Garon "Purified from Despair, Empowered with Expectation" (Hope)

> **Deacon Milt** & Jeannie Rosenberg "Purified from Selfishness, Empowered with Charity" (Love)

PRE-REGISTRATION BEFORE March 20th Please indicate which day(s)you plan to attend:



Fr. Mike Sears Saturday Mass Celebrant

Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC Palm Sunday Mass Celebrant

Courage' (Fortitude) AFTER March 20th

and ON-SITE REGISTRATION		
□ Saturday ONLY	. \$26.00	
□ Sunday ONLY	. \$26.00	
□ Sat. & Šun	. \$49.00	

□ Sunday ONL	ILY \$21.00 Y \$21.00 \$39.00 Name	□ Saturday ONLY \$26.00 □ Sunday ONLY \$26.00 □ Sat. & Sun \$49.00	
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FA	Credit Card: UVISA MasterCard Discover Only registrations paid with a credit card can be faxed to: (818) 771-1379.		
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r. 1. 1. 0	Credit Card #	All individuals whose pre-registrations	
V.SC CS		are postmarked by March 20 will receive a	
Retu SCR 9795 (818) www	Signature	packet in the mail, which will include schedule, tickets, detailed directions, parking info. and map of local restaurants.	

Sunday Speakers

Fr. Bill **Delaney**, SJ "Purified from Confusion, Empowered with Clarity" (Truth)

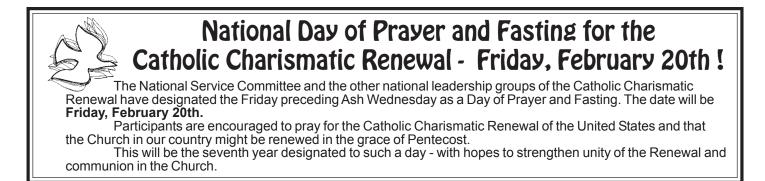


Kay Murdy "Purified from Impatience, Empowered with Self-Control (Temperance)

Dominic Berardino "Purified from Doubt,

Empowered with Trust" (Faith) Fr. Bill Adams, **CSsR** "Purified from Fear, Empowered with





Charisms continued from cover page

you have brought my son back to life!" Libertinus was frightened by the request, but, as Gregory put it, he "came face to face with the devotedness of a mother". Libertinus dismounted his horse. "knelt down and raised his hands to heaven." Then, "the boy came back to life! Libertinus took him by the hand and gave him back to his weeping mother." Gregory went on to say that it was the faith of both the mother and Libertinus that enabled "such a striking miracle" to happen. He then proceeded to tell how the gentleness and humility of Libertinus melted the heart of a harsh abbot and changed the abbot into a gentle person. For Gregory, stories of charismatic activity were by no means wonders to be gawked at for themselves alone. For him they illustrated some aspect of the Christian life or the kingdom of God. Another miracle account is about Boniface, a young boy who had grown in prayer and charity at an early age. "While he was still at home with his mother, he would sometimes leave the house and later return without his coat or even without his shirt, for, as soon as he saw anyone in need of clothes, he would give up his own... Going to the granary one day, the mother found that her son had distributed to the poor almost all the wheat she had stored up that year for the family. The thought of having lost a whole year's food supply nearly drove her frantic. Boniface, seeing her in such distress, tried to console her as well as he knew how. But she would not listen to him. So he begged her to leave the granary. Meanwhile, he knelt down beside the small pile of what still remained and prayed

fervently. Then he invited his mother to come back again into the granary. It was now filled to the top with a supply of grain much greater than before. Moved to repentance by this miracle, the mother thereafter urged her son to continue giving freely, since his prayers were so quickly and abundantly answered."

Winning the English nation to the Lord by miracles and preaching

The missionaries to the north were also experiencing God's power in healing and other miracles. We know the details in part because of Gregory's own letters to them, and theirs to him. One such team were the missionaries to Britain under Augustine of Canterbury who went to convert the pagan king. Their missionary message to these tribes was "how merciful Jesus, by his own agony, has redeemed the sinful world and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers." They were winning the English nation to the Lord "by miracles and preaching", as the sixth century historian Bede put it. Gregory was jubilant about the way the Lord was working through Augustine and his missionary team. He had this to say about it. "By the shining miracles of his preachers God has brought the faith even to the extremities of the earth. The tongue of Britain, which before could only utter barbarous sounds, has lately learned to make the alleluia resound in praise to God." To his friend Eulogius he wrote that Augustine and his companions "seemed to be imitating the powers of the apostles in the signs which they displayed." Prophetic gifts are mentioned numerous times in the Dialogues. He stated that the Spirit of Prophecy

"does not always illuminate the minds of the prophets." The Lord "gives the Spirit of prophecy at some times and at other times he withdraws it. He both lifts the prophet's mind on high and yet preserves him in humility. Thus, by the gift of the Spirit, they may know what they are by God's grace, and at other times, destitute of the same Spirit, they may understand what they are of themselves."

Jesus Christ was here!

As we have seen, Gregory placed importance on miracles. He believed, as he said in one of his sermons, "if the work of the Lord could be comprehended by reason, it would be no longer wonderful." For him, the work of miracles and the charismatic phenomena were a participation in and an imitation of, the work of Christ. In the Dialogues he stated that "every act of our Redeemer, performed through his human nature, was meant to be a pattern for our actions." Another statement from the Dialogue makes a worthy conclusion to this glimpse at God's work in the late sixth century. After glimpsing a healing, Gregory states, "If any would ask you how this happened, tell him simply that the Lord Jesus Christ was here doing his work."

Deacon Eddie Ensley has many years experience leading retreats at churches and

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conferences throughout the country. He is the author of numerous books. He holds a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, New Orleans, LA and lives in Georgia. Reprinted from New Covenant Magazine.

Stand in the Ga

by Dr. Tom Curran

(This is an excerpt from a talk at the WWCCR (Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal) Spring Conference in Tacoma, WA on March 24, 2007 - www.org

What's it going to mean for you if you say, "I'm willing to embrace the call to be an intercessor?" What does the call to be an intercessor actually look like?

There's a phrase in the scriptures that identifies the way in which God describes the intercessor. It's that phrase "stand in the gap." In Ezekiel 22:23-31, pay attention to the situation that's happening among God's people according to God's perspective and then what God intends to do about it. Verses 23-29 outline the unfaithfulness and the sins of the people. But what is God's answer to all of that? Ezekiel 22:30-31:

"Thus I have searched among them for someone who could build a wall or stand in the gap before me to keep me from destroying the land; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out my fury upon them; with mv fierv wrath I have consumed them; I have brought down their conduct upon their heads, says the Lord God."

God's first answer to the evils happening among God's people and to the enemies that are attacking God's people is that God seeks someone to stand in the gap.

What does that mean, to stand in the gap? It refers to the way in which cities were built. Many cities were built in places that could be protected, on the top of hills and mountains, in a way in which walls would provide protection. So, when an enemy would come to attack the city, they would try to find a weak point and then they would begin to attack the wall.

As the bricks, the mortar and the stones began to fall away, there would be a gap that would begin to

open in the wall. As soon as a gap opened up in the wall that surrounded the city, the invading army would focus the intensity of its attack on that gap, pouring out its fury on that gap. Once it could breach or break through that gap and get on the inside of the city, the city would surrender and the battle would be won.

So, when a gap would open up, the army of the city that's being attacked would look for courageous members of the army or the guard who would be willing to stand in the gap. They would take up their place right where the enemy's attack would be most ferocious, most intense and unvielding. Those who would stand in that gap were the last defense of the city.

God chooses the image of standing in the gap and equates that with the intercessor.

Notice something about this standing in the gap. It's the place where the fighting is the fiercest. Probably the worst persecution that any of us have experienced is being mocked or ignored for our faith. Most of us haven't been spit upon or beaten because we call ourselves Catholics, Christians and disciples of Jesus. And yet, even if

we have experienced that, the opposition which is the fiercest will happen in an invisible realm. It's going to happen as we get on our knees. It's going to happen as we say, "God, put me in the gap. I'm in!"

When you start praying, you're going to get tremendous distractions. You're going to get intense temptations. You're going to get all these things that will try to stop you, prevent you, or cause you to end your prayers of intercession. Why? Because the primary battle we face is spiritual. (see Ephesians chapter 6).

We have many enemies on this earth, but we have an enemy from the heavens, an enemy that is spiritual: the devil and demons. As long as you're not interceding, and you don't have a vibrant life of prayer, the devil's thrilled with you trying to do all kinds of godly work without God's power and direction and God's timing. But as soon as you start saying, "God, I'm in! God, I'm here, I'm for You. What's Your heart?" get ready, you're going to appear on the radar screen. Get ready for the onslaught. The battle for minds and hearts is won on your knees first.

Notice how God places the intercessor, the one who stands in the gap. He's in the army, protecting God's people, standing in the gap; and coming at God's people is the enemy. In this image of standing in the gap from Ezekiel, do you know who the enemy is that's coming at God's people? It's God! Verse 30 says: "I have searched among them for someone who could build a wall or stand in the gap before *me* to keep *me* from destroying the land..." I'm coming at my people, and I'm going to come at them with my fury, unless someone stands in the gap and withstands Me.

The simple way of putting it is that the intercessor does not stand with God at the point of His righteousness but stands with the people at the point of their See Gap continued on page 5



SCRC OFFERS SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

SCRC has the responsibility to foster and serve Catholic Charismatic Renewal, especially in the Los Angeles area. We invite those who want to see the Renewal grow to join us for a Spiritual Formation Program specifically designed for those in Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The Program combines understanding, theological spiritual wisdom and ministerial skills with a solid human foundation (Grace builds on nature - St. Thomas Aquinas).



Included will be a time of worship, prayer discussion and recommendations for further growth. To make the Progam suited for the widest number of people, we have given the option of attending individual days for those unable to attend the whole program, and for those who would like to do more, we will offer the opportunity to do some additional work between the sessions. I look forward to seeing you there.

Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ (See page 7 for registration form)

Gap continued from on page 4

sinfulness. Intercession doesn't just give you a heart to see righteousness established; it's going to put you on the side of the broken, the sinful, those who are trapped in their evil.

God puts you in that place. Because before God "brought down their conduct upon their heads," He looked for an intercessor to stand in the gap so He wouldn't have to. In other words, this is all describing the God of love. The God who wants good things but who is literally held back from bringing good things into this situation because these people "don't get it." He is a God of mercy but He needs someone to cry out "Bring mercy," or justice will fall. God wants us to invoke God's mercy on behalf of those who deserve the opposite.

Do you really want to do more than just say intercessory prayers? Are you open to being drawn into bringing about God's plan, cooperating with the blessings that God intends to bring by standing in the Gap?

The intercessor is displaying the heart of God to God. The intercessor is bringing before God, God's own heart for His people.

There are some blessings God gives us *without* us. There are some blessings God gives us *despite* us. But there are some blessings that only come to us, *with* us, with our cooperation.

If God has given you the kind of faith where you're open to Him, praising Him, seeking Him, following Him, there *is* an intercessory call that is part of your life. There is a call to stand on behalf of others and for the sake of others. This is God's message to us: "I am counting on you." Stand in the Gap!



Dr. Tom Curran is director of Trinity Formation Resources, a non-profit ministry dedicated to helping Catholics understand, live and share their Catholic faith.

Special IRS Provision for IRA Rollover to a Charitable Organization

Normally, distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's) are taxed at ordinary income tax rates. However, as part of the banking bailout legislation, a two-year extension of the IRA Rollover provision has been enacted for gifts made from Jan. 1, 2008 through Dec. 31, 2009.

Basically, the provision

Normally, distributions from lual Retirement Accounts are taxed at ordinary income es. However, as part of the bailout legislation, a two-year exempts from federal taxable income any funds transferred ("rolled over") from an IRA to a charitable organization, such as SCRC. The following limitations apply:

- The donor must be age 70 1/2 or older.
- The cap on annual IRA rollovers is \$100,000.
- The contribution must be a

direct gift to a charity (no planned gifts, the trustee of the IRA would send the check directly to SCRC). If you would like further details on the provision, or to make a charitable gift to SCRC from your IRA, please call Fr. Bill at

(818) 771-1361, ext. 19.

January, 2009 Calendar

SANTA BARBARA REGION

Wednesday, January 14 Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm with Abbot David Geraets, OSB at St. Mary of the Assumption, Church, 207 S. School St., Santa Maria 93454.

SAN FERNANDO REGION

Fri. - Sun., January 2 - 4

SCRC Retreat, *"Finding Peace in an Imperfect World"* at Sacred Heart Retreat House, 920 E. Alhambra Rd., Alhambra, 91801. See back page.

Beginning

Saturday, January 17 (8 week series) SCRC Spiritual Formation Program at Incarnation Church Auditorium, 1001 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale 91202. See Pg. 7 for Info/Registration Form.

Saturday, January 17

Creation, Evolution & Intelligent Design, with Chuck Weber, PhD, 9am-4pm (Mass at 4pm) at St. Charles Borromeo, 10828 Moorpark, N.Hollywood, 91502. \$20 per person. RSVP by Oct. 25,(949)457-0446.

Wednesday, January 21

Mass & Healing Service, 6:30pm at St. Mel Church, 20870 Ventura BI., Woodland Hills, 91364.



SAN GABRIEL REGION Tuesday, January 13

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm with Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR at Epiphany Church, 10911 Michael Hunt Dr., So. El Monte, 91733.

Saturday, January 24

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm with Fr. Ed Gomez at St. Louis of France Church, 13935 Temple, La Puente 91746.

SAN PEDRO REGION Thursday, January 8

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Chris Troxell at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 14815 S. Paramount Blvd., Paramount, 90723. (*Praise & Worship at 7:00pm*)

Monday, January 19

Mass and Healing Service, 7:30pm

with Fr. Albert Avenido at St. Linus, 13915 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, 90650. **Tuesday, January 20**

Mass and Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Joshua Lee at St. Cornelius Church, 5500 E. Wardlow Rd., Long Beach, 90808.

Friday, January 30

Mass and Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Raymond Roh, OSB at Mary Star of the Sea Church, 877 W. 7th St., San Pedro, 90731.(*Praise & Worship 7:00pm*)

ORANGE DIOCESE

Monday, January 26 Mass & Healing Service, 7:15pm with Fr. Eamon O'Gorman at St. Angela Merici,



HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARS

Saturday, January 24

Life in the Spirit Seminar, 9:00am-6:00pm at Incarnation Church Auditorium, 1001 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, 91202. Registration starts at 8:30am. For info., please call (818) 546-1012.

February, 2009 Calendar

SANTA BARBARA REGION

Wednesday, February 11

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm with Fr. Michael Barry, SSCC at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 207 S. School St., Santa Maria, 93454.

Saturday, February 28

"The Healing Power of the Eucharist", 8:30am-4:30pm with Fr. John Hampsch, CMF at St. Raphael Church, 5444 Hollister, Goleta, 93111. Mass included. Contact, Barbara: (805) 636-3144.

Contact, Barbara: (805) 636-3144. Looking Ahead! July 24 - Aug. 7, 2009 Monastery of the Risen Christ-School for Spiritual Directors to be held at the Santa Barbara Mission Renewal Center. Contact Monastery of the Risen Christ, PO Box 3931, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403 (805) 546-8286 or (805) 544-7808 or Dr. Marie at Joyologist@gwi.net

SAN FERNANDO REGION Wednesday, February 18

Mass & Healing Service, 6:30pm with Fr. Michael Manning, SVD at St. Mel Church, 20870 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, 91364.

Friday, February 20

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Mike Barry, SSCC at Incarnation Church, 1001 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, 91202.

Saturday, February 21

San Fernando Valley Magnificat Prayer Brunch, 10:00am-1:00pm with speaker: Heather King at the Odyssey Restaurant, Granada Hills. Cost: \$26- before Feb 11. For info. contact Teri (805) 527-3745 or magnificatsfv.com

SAN GABRIEL REGION Saturday, February 28

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm with Fr. Jesse Galaz at St. Louis of France Church, 13935 Temple, La Puente 91746.

SAN PEDRO REGION

Thursday, February 12

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Jesse Galaz at Our Lady of the Rosary, 14815 S. Paramount Blvd., Paramount, 90723. (*Praise & Worship at 7:00pm*) **Monday, February 16**

Mass and Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. John Struzzo, CSC at St. Linus, 13915 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, 90650. **Tuesday, February 17**

Mass and Healing Service, 7:30pm at St. Cornelius Church, 5500 E. Wardlow Rd., Long Beach, 90808. Friday, February 27

Mass and Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Joshua Lee at Mary Star of the Sea Church, 877 W. 7th St., San Pedro,

90731.(Praise & Worship 7:00pm)

ORANGE DIOCESE

Monday, February 23

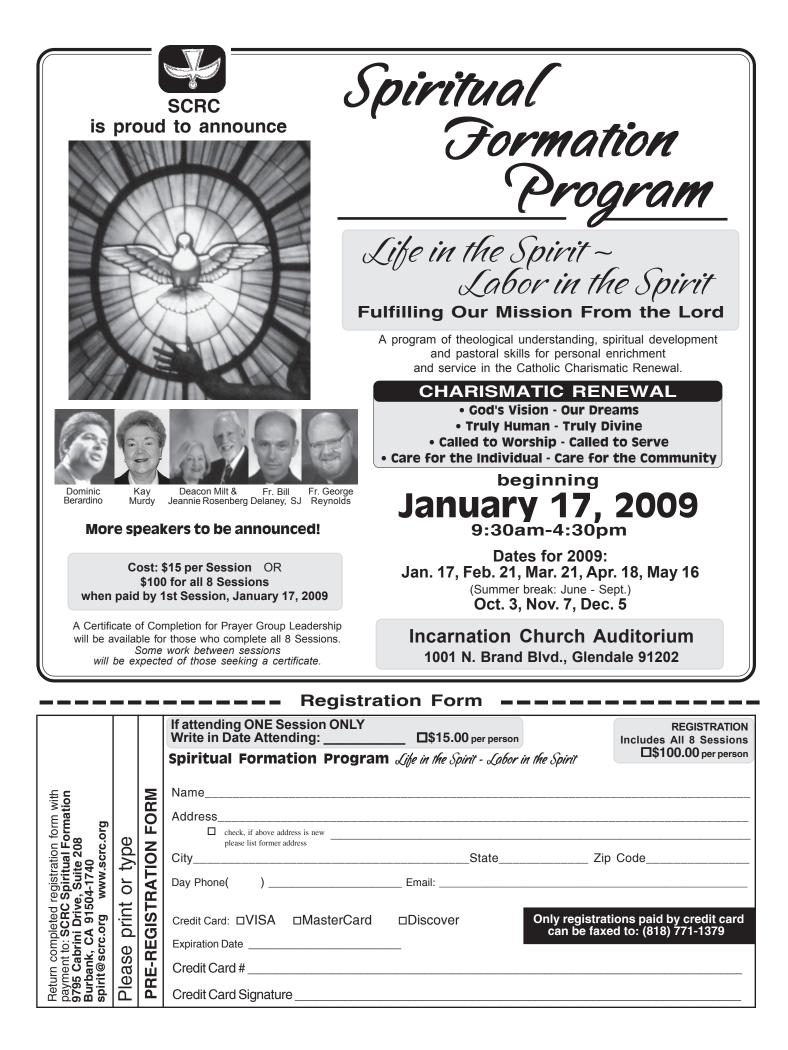
Mass & Healing Service, 7:15pm with Fr. Paul Griesgraber at St. Angela Merici, 585 S. Walnut, Brea, 92821.



2009 SCRC Convention Brochures to debut at this year's RE Congress! (Feb. 27-Mar.1, 2009)

Visit the SCRC Booth & pick up extras for your parish, friends & family! See you there!

SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention September 4 - 6, 2009 Anaheim Convention Center





SCRC Annual Retreat Finding Peace i **Imperfect Wor** • Union with God • Finding Balance in Our Lives • Laboring for the Kingdom • Peace as God's Gift Faithful to Our Duties
What Has Been Entrusted to Us? January 2 - 4, 2009

at the beautiful and serene Sacred Heart Retreat House 920 E. Alhambra Rd., Alhambra 91801

Overnight Stay: \$235.00 - Private Room w/ private bath \$215.00(*per person*) - Semi-Private Room w/ shared bath \$165.00(*per person*) - Double Room - 2 beds w/ bath (Price includes 3 meals on Sat. & 2 meals on Sun.)

Commuter:

If you wish to attend the retreat, but not stay overnight, (Saturday - lunch & dinner; Sunday - breakfast & lunch) (Registered commuters may attend Fri. evening Mass & fellowship time at no additional charge).



Fr. Bill Delaney, S.J. Pastoral Coordinator, SCRC



Fr. Ron Young, OMI Visiting Professor of Oblate Mission Studies, St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada

For more information, please contact SCRC (818) 771-1361 spirit@scrc.org www.scrc.org

ΙΑΑΡΡΥ ΝΕΜ ΥΕΑΡΙ

And be thankful." Colossians 3:15 since as members of one body you were called to peace. 'speace of Christ rule in your hearts.

> www.scrc.org spirit@scrc.org 9761-177 (818) XA3 1961-177 (818) 9795 Cabrini Drive, Suite 208 Burbank, CA 91504-1740



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