

Providing
Support and Leadership
for the
Catholic Charismatic
Renewal

Volume 48
Number 1



SCRC
SPIRIT

Southern California Renewal Communities
January / February 2020

First things First- Prioritize Your Life



by Fr. John Hampsch, CMF

A successful businessman was zipping along through a residential district in his new Jaguar, at a somewhat reckless speed, when he heard a thud that told him something had hit his car door. He skidded to a stop, backed up, and found a brick in the street—the obvious cause of the ugly dent in his car door. Just then a young lad emerged from between the parked cars—obviously the culprit. “Did you throw this brick at my car?” demanded the driver.

“Yes, sir,” he said. “And I’m really sorry, but I had to throw the brick, ‘cause I couldn’t get any car to stop by waving at them. They were all going by too fast. I need someone to help me with my little brother; he fell out of his wheel chair going over the curb. He’s paralyzed and now he’s bleeding and I can’t pick him up to put him back into his wheel chair.”

The driver’s anger dissolved suddenly into compassion, as he lifted the slightly injured child back into his wheel chair, guiding it back to the

sidewalk. As the lad hurriedly pushed his brother homeward for first-aid attention, he shouted back to the driver, ‘Thank you, Sir. Sorry about the car. God bless you!’”

The driver never had the dent repaired; he left it as his constant reminder that as we humans recklessly speed through life, focused on our own petty interests and desires, God sometimes “throws a brick at us”—some distressing hardship—to restore an awareness of what is truly urgent or important in our life. We need to be reminded to prioritize our goals in life—first things first!

Putting first things first—prioritizing our life—is the theme of the Martha-Mary episode in Luke’s Gospel (Ch. 10). Jesus highlights this basic theme with his response to Martha’s complaint: “Mary had chosen what is most important” for us as Christians—followers of Christ—namely, cultivating a personal encounter with him. Paul tells us (2 Cor. 13:5) to test ourselves regarding our basic faith commitment; he says

we will fail the test as authentic Christians if our life is not ultimately and primarily Christ-focused. In a former encounter, Mary, a converted prostitute, touched by Jesus’ gentle mercy, was so Christ-focused that she party-crashed another’s home to anoint Jesus’ feet with perfume.

Like Mary, Martha too was Christ-enamored, as she arduously prepared the meal for her guest of honor; both Luke and John chronicle that fact. Jesus rebuked Martha, not for her urgent work and loving care in preparing the meal, but for her hectic freneticism in doing so. Jesus told her that she was “worried and upset about many things.” Mary’s hospitality in not leaving Jesus alone was different and more sublime than Martha’s. Mary, mesmerized by Jesus’ loving words, chose a priority not to be abrogated by Martha’s lesser one.

Jesus was a supreme champion of prioritizing life. He showed the rank materialism of godless pagans lacking a

Prioritize continued on page 4



From Spiritual Warfare to Spiritual Blessings



Topics include:

- **The Power of His Name: From Spiritual Attack to Spiritual Freedom**
- **God's Gifts of Spiritual Protection**
- **Spiritual Blessings from Heaven**

Mass Included

Saturday, February 22

10:00am - 4:00pm

**St. Didacus Parish Hall
14325 Astoria St.
Sylmar, CA**



Fr. Bob Garon
Pastor, St. Didacus Church
Sylmar, CA



Dominic Berardino
President, SCRC
Burbank, CA

REGISTRATION BEFORE February 18:

Register Online: scrc.org

(includes catered chicken lunch) **\$20.00**

(after Feb. 18 & at the door: \$25)

Luncheon guaranteed for those registered by 02/18/20.

If you plan to register at the door, please call or email for lunch count. (Registration is the same price, with or without lunch).

Return completed registration form with payment to: **SCRC**
Spiritual Warfare to Spiritual Blessings
 9795 Cabrini Drive, Suite 208
 Burbank, CA 91504-1740
 SCRC (818) 771-1361 fax (818) 771-1379
scrc.org spirit@scrc.org

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Telephone () _____ Email: _____

Check or Money Order (please make checks payable to: SCRC)

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

Only registrations paid with a credit card can be faxed to: (818) 771-1379.

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Credit Card # _____

Total Number of Registration(s) including Lunch _____ @ \$20 per person _____	Amt. Enclosed _____ <small>(after Feb. 18 & at the door: \$25)</small>
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Spiritually enriching Books, CDs/DVDs and gifts will be available for purchase throughout the day.

Live Lent Differently

Ash Wednesday, February 26

Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

Too often, we associate Lent with negative images that involve, in different ways, giving up something. Meanwhile, most of us have a hard time wanting to give up anything.

I encourage you to live this Lent in a manner that may be different than what you have done before:

- Take the first two weeks of Lent to think about the love God has for you. Read carefully, slowly, the Gospel of John, Chapters 14-17. I urge you, if you can, to read those four chapters out loud in some quiet space. (Receiving the Word through two senses—sight and hearing—helps the truth penetrate our hearts.)
- Take the second two-week period of Lent to look at the Gospel of Matthew and read aloud Chapters 25 and 26.
- Take roughly the last two weeks to read the Gospel of Mark, Chapters 14 and 15.
- In the last week—Holy Week—pay attention to the selected readings for the Mass of the Day.

A Genuine Personal Relationship

One major step that can help you receive the Word of God and know God's presence more than ever before is this: Consider putting some restrictions on yourself regarding your use of cell phones and other media devices during Lent. **If you want a genuine personal relationship with God, you need time to be still and listen to God as He**

speaks to you in the Scriptures. Remember, His Word is "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). His Word convicts, counsels, and consoles. Give God room to move in your life and heart this Lent!

As you read each of these Scripture passages, pause and ask yourself how God is showing His Love for you. Remember, He did not die for crowds of people—He died for you. In His living Word, God wants to touch your heart with the realization that, when He died on that cross, He already knew you.



He wanted to obey the Father that you might be with Him forever. You were on His mind when He died on that cross, though you had not yet been created. (With God there are no time limits; God has no limits)

Talk To God

Ask God for the grace to receive and accept His love for you! Ask God to give you the grace to renew your promises to Him or to make your personal commitment to follow Him for the first time. Talk to Him about wanting to be more His son or daughter. Talk to Him about wanting to thank Him for all He has done for you. Tell Him you want to follow Him more closely. Ask Him to help you make a decision or two that will assist you in living out your relationship with God as both your Father and Savior.

Remember God hears every word of every prayer you pray—of every word you speak. Give Him your mind and your heart and ask Him to lead you in the ways He wants you to go.

If you live Lent this way, and if you make a good confession during Lent, you will come to see, by His grace, how dearly He loves you and wants to walk closely with you from now until eternity.

Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, is part of Renewal Ministries' leadership team. (renewalministries.net) She is an internationally noted speaker, the author of numerous books on Catholic spirituality, and the host of the popular daily US radio program "Food for the Journey". Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI awarded Sr. Ann the Benemerenti Medal for service to the Church.

sense of true priority, worrying about what they're going to eat or wear. Our heavenly Father knows we have need of all these things, he reminds us, "but seek FIRST his kingdom and holiness, and all these things will be given you" (Matt. 6:33). We must seek first his kingdom ("thy kingdom come") and the universal holiness that is to characterize that planned end-time kingdom—the holiness attained by conforming to his will ("thy will be done"). God's priority thus becomes ours. Can you think of a stronger way of illustrating priority than the words of Jesus: "What does it profit a man if he gains the entire world and yet suffers the loss of his immortal soul?"

Prioritizing our goals in life is simply to be more inspired by Mary's insight than Martha's "distracted" (and perhaps stressful) preoccupation with the less important things. It is crucial to our very authenticity as Christians for us to take that test that Paul urges in 2 Corinthians 13. Keep in mind his dire warning that deviation from an over-all pervasive Christ-focus in our daily life means that we flunk the test of our faith. If we're ruthlessly honest, all of us need to admit that our priorities need upgrading—something seldom, if ever, confessed in even the most fervent confession—itself a neglected priority.

Let's start the test with a recent event—just a few

minutes ago. You came into the church and genuflected before slipping into a pew. Was that genuflection a mechanical ritualistic meaningless action? Or was it a profound act of loving adoration of Jesus in this tabernacle in front of you? Was your faith operative and Christ-focused during that simple act of devotion, or distracted?

Try another priority test within very recent time frame. In reciting the Gloria of the Sunday Mass, do you really mean it when you say, "we praise you, bless you, adore you, glorify you, and give you thanks for your great glory"? Most Christians limit their prayer to petition (impetration), but seldom worship, adore, glorify, bless, praise, or even thank God in prayer. Petition is good, of course, since it shows our dependence as creatures on our Creator, but it's the lowest form of prayer, and for most Christians the only form of prayer. The "gimme" mentality is a misplaced priority, making God merely a Santa Claus.

Consider the prayer you often recite—the Lord's Prayer—a frequent test of your spiritual priorities. St. Thomas emphasizes the priority that Jesus explicated in teaching the Our Father: the first three petitions God-focused, the last four human focused. And notice how we distort this priority mentally in that very prayer, thinking, "My will be

done, rather than Thy will be done." Far from our priority is the transcendent triangle undergirding God's Providence: the sovereignty (control) of God, his guiding wisdom and his love motivating it.

Our spiritual range of priorities is related to our spiritual maturity, referred to in James 1:4—a maturity calibrated by the amount of true joy that we are able to find in life's sufferings, custom-designed for each of us and caused or permitted by God's loving providence. It relates to our personal "value system"—by simply embracing the highest value in our hierarchy of values). That is, of course, the Christ-focus cited in 2 Corinthians 13. It takes on its deepest personal meaning by Paul when he rhapsodizes, in Galatians 2:20, "I live no longer I, but Christ lives in me!"...I live by faith in the Son of God."

You've heard, I'm sure, the facetious quip of the man who complained, "Just when I had trained my donkey to go without food, he died of starvation!" If we allow our soul to become priority-starved—that is, deprived of Christ-focus, its true spiritual priority—and become preoccupied with Martha-like distractions and stressful secondary concerns in our daily living, don't be surprised, if we end up spiritually starved to death. Attain and maintain priority!

O Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,

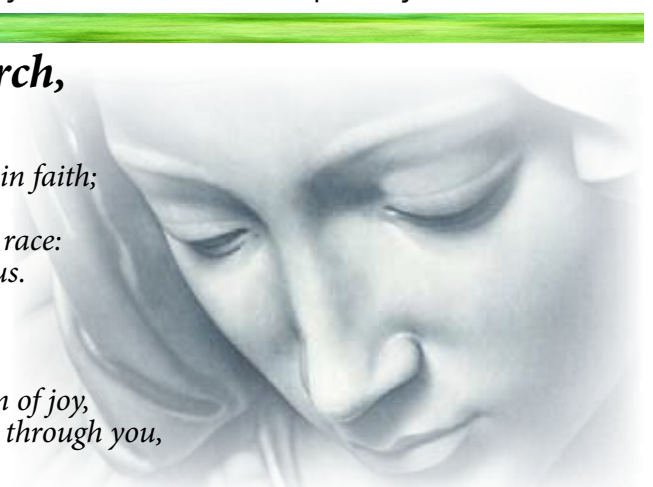
we entrust to you the entire Church.

*Remember all your sons and daughters;
make their prayer effective before God; preserve them solid in faith;
strengthen their hope and increase their charity.*

*We entrust to your Immaculate Heart the whole human race:
Lead them all to know the one true Savior, Christ Jesus.*

*Free them from the punishment of sin.
Grant the whole world true and lasting peace,
in justice, in freedom and in love.*

*Make the whole Church raise to the God of mercies a hymn of joy,
thanksgiving and rejoicing, for the wonders the Lord has worked through you,
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.*



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 2020!

January, 2020 Calendar

SAN FERNANDO REGION **Thursday, January 16**

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 19855 Sherman Way, Canoga Park. (Praise 7:00pm).

Saturday, January 18
"Healing the Family Tree: Prayer for Your Loved Ones Living & Deceased" 10:00am-4:30pm with Fr. Michael Barry, SSCC & Dominic Berardino at St. John Eudes Parish Hall, 9901 Mason Ave., Chatsworth. Teachings, Prayer and Mass for Healing the Family Tree. Bring sack lunch. See next page for info. and registration form or go to: scrc.org

Thursday, January 23

Mass for Healing the Family Tree, 6:30pm with Fr. Bob Garon at Our

Lady of Grace, 5011 White Oak Ave., Encino.

SAN GABRIEL REGION

Fri. - Sun., January 3 - 5, 2020
SCRC Retreat, "Growing As a Disciple" with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ & Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR at Sacred Heart Retreat House, 920 E. Alhambra Rd., Alhambra.

SAN PEDRO REGION

Friday, January 24

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

HOLY SPIRIT SEMINAR

Saturday, January 18

Life in the Spirit Seminar, Incarnation School Auditorium, 1001 N. Brand Bl., Glendale. Onsite registration starts: 8:30am. Contact: (818) 421-1354, heartofjesus@att.net



Congratulations to the RAFFLE WINNERS!

Drawing took place at the SCRC Fundraiser Banquet Saturday, November 2, 2019

- \$1000 - Cora Jamero
- \$ 300 - Armando Muggia
- \$ 200 - Dcn. Rolando Bautista
- \$ 100 - Art Saranglao

...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, 2020 Calendar

SAN FERNANDO REGION **Thursday, February 20**

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 19855 Sherman Way, Canoga Park. (Praise & Worship 7:00pm).

SAN GABRIEL REGION

Saturday, February 22
"From Spiritual Warfare to Spiritual Blessings" with Fr. Bob Garon and Dominic Berardino at St. Didacus Parish Hall, 14325 Astoria St., Sylmar. \$20 before Feb. 18, includes catered chicken lunch. See inside front cover for info. and registration form or go to: scrc.org

SAN PEDRO REGION

Friday, February 28

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

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES

May, 2020

Follow Me Ministries Pilgrimage, escorted by Deacon Scotty Bourne & Joi Bourne.

Option #1 - May 4-13, 2020

(10 days): Medjugorje/Dubrovnik

Option #2 - May 4-21, 2020

(18 days): Medjugorje/Dubrovnik/Loreto/San Giovanni Rotondo/Orvieto/Assisi/Rome. Reservations, call Follow Me Ministries (661) 836-8222 or Armando & Paula Muggia (714) 326-6581.



2019
SCRC Convention
CDs, DVDs & MP3s
are available
for purchase!

Also, hundreds of
Instant Downloads
are available now!

To order, go to the
SCRC Online Store:

scrc.org/onlinestore

SCRC Retreat



January 3-5, 2020

GROWING AS A DISCIPLE

What Do You Seek? • You Will Receive Power
Teach Us to Pray • You Will Be My Witnesses
I Will Give You Rest • That They May Be One

Take this opportunity
as the year begins...
to spend time with the Lord.

at the beautiful and serene

Sacred Heart Retreat House
920 E. Alhambra Rd., Alhambra 91801

Begins Friday at 7:30pm

Ends Sunday at 3:00pm

This retreat is a partially silent retreat -
silence is requested for the hour
following each presentation

Overnight Stay:

- Private Room w/ private bath - \$310
- Semi-Private Room w/ shared bath - \$270 (per person)
- Double Room - 2 beds w/ private bath \$190 (per person)
- Queen bed w/ private bath - \$380 (per married couple)
- (Price includes 3 meals on Sat. & 2 meals on Sun.)
- No dinner Friday night - Check in opens at 6:00pm in Library

Commuter Attendee (without room):

- Saturday ONLY - Sat. lunch/dinner - 9:30am-9:30pm - \$85
- Sunday ONLY - Sun. breakfast/lunch - 8:30am-3:00pm - \$65
- Saturday & Sunday - commuter meals as above - \$150
- Registered attendees may attend Friday Praise & Mass at 7:30pm



Fr. Bill
Adams, CSsR



Fr. Bill
Delaney, SJ

Return completed registration form with payment to:



SCRC Retreat
9795 Cabrini Drive, Suite 208
Burbank, CA 91504-1740
Ph (818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379
spirit@scrc.org

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE: scrc.org

SCRC Retreat January 3-5, 2020

Name _____

Address _____

Check box, if above address is new please list former address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Day Phone() _____ E-mail _____

Overnight Stay: Private Room Semi-Private Room Double Room Married Couple Rm. (QueenBed)

First Floor Room Required Roommate's Name (if applicable) _____

Commuter Attendee:

Saturday ONLY commuter Sunday ONLY commuter Saturday & Sunday commuter

Payment: Check Enclosed or VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____ FAX credit card payments to 818-771-1379

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE!

Cancellations taken until Friday, December 20, 2019 (\$30.00 of your fee is non-refundable)



One Day Conference

Healing the Family Tree

Praying For Our Loved Ones Living & Deceased



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



**Dominic
Berardino**
President, SCRC
Burbank, 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 ancestry. A blank genogram will be mailed to all who pre-register before 1/13/20. You may download a genogram at www.scr.org. Bring your completed genogram to the Conference.

**Saturday,
January 18, 2020**
10:00am - 4:30pm

**St. John Eudes
Parish Hall (Grill Hall)**
9901 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311



EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

BEFORE January 13:

\$25.00

AFTER January 13th

and ON-SITE REGISTRATION: \$30.00



Return completed registration form with payment to: **SCRC**
Healing the Family Tree
SCRC, 9795 Cabrini Drive, Suite 208
Burbank, CA 91504-1740
(818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379
scr.org spirit@scr.org

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Telephone () _____ Email: _____

Check or Money Order (please make checks payable to: SCRC)

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 January 13 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 day.



SCRC SPIRIT

9795 Cabrini Drive, Suite 208
Burbank, CA 91504-1740
(818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379
spirit@scrc.org www.scrc.org

"You crown the year with your goodness."

Psalm 65:11

NEW YEAR BLESSINGS!

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Santa Ana, CA

DATED MATERIAL



A Prayer for the New Year



*Come, Holy Spirit
Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always.
Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.
May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,
A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.
Come, Holy Spirit
Be with us today and always.
Mary, Mother of God, pray for us! Amen.*