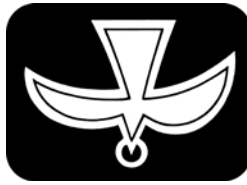


Providing  
Support and  
Leadership  
for the  
Catholic Charismatic  
Renewal

Volume 41  
Number 2



SCRC  
SPIRIT

Southern California Renewal Communities

March / April 2013

# A Gift Called Tongues

What is it for?  
How do we receive it?

by Fr. Fio Mascarenhas, SJ

There is much confusion in people's minds about the gift of tongues. Many think that to speak in tongues means to possess a gift of preaching God's word in a human language which one has not learned before, as happened on Pentecost (Acts 2). Others pick out of context certain texts from St. Paul and claim that Paul discouraged the use of this gift. Though probably well-intentioned, such people are mistaken, for a discerning study of scripture will show that there are three aspects of the gift of tongues: in a few cases, it is a (miraculous) sign; quite frequently, it is an ordinary message from God to the assembly; and in the vast majority of cases, it is just a beautiful gift of prayer. Moreover, far from belittling the gift, Paul had a high regard for its varied uses.

## Public Use

Most of Paul's advice about tongues in the first letter to the Corinthians deals with the disciplined use of tongues in public gatherings of the disciples for prayer and fellowship. In giving his advice, Paul was meeting felt needs of the Corinthian church and was answering questions they had put to him. (1 Cor. 7:1; 11:18; 12:1) Far from discouraging the use of tongues, Paul was encouraging them to use it properly, for the common



benefit. In the public context, two possible functions are fulfilled by this charism: message and sign.

When the gift is used for speaking a message, what is spoken aloud to the assembly in tongues must be made intelligible. Hence Paul advises about the need for the charism of interpretation. (1 Cor. 14:5, 27) Interpretation is not translation, since the one interpreting will not understand the strange sounds spoken. Rather,

the interpreter will be inspired by the Spirit to share in faith an insight or idea about what the message is. This is similar to the operation of prophecy. Paul even encourages the speaker in tongues to himself pray for the power to interpret. (1 Cor. 14:13)

The gift can, it seems, serve as a sign: the strange sounds uttered are sometimes intelligible by themselves, miraculously, without need for interpretation. In this case, the one for whom the sign is meant (see 1 Cor. 14:22) may understand the sounds because they are a real human language of his acquaintance. This is what seems to have happened on Pentecost Day, and perhaps at the conversion of Cornelius. (Acts 2:4-12; 10:45-46) One hears, too, of modern instances of this.

## Personal Use in Prayer

"One who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit...For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful." (1 Cor. 14:2, 14)

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. (Rom. 8:26)

A Gift Called Tongues continued on page 3



# By Popular Demand!

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## 42nd Annual SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention



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Fr. Stan Fortuna, CFR  
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Fr. Michael  
Barry, SSCC  
San Bernardino, CA



Donna Lee  
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# Take Courage, Have Faith

Labor Day Weekend

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### Anaheim Convention Center & Arena

- \* Over 50 Popular Catholic Speakers and Spiritually Enriching Presentations \*
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- \* Young Adult in Mission \* Saturday Vietnamese Conference \*

## www.scrc.org

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RENEWAL COMMUNITIES



Tongues is an aid to prayer, meant for those who at various times find themselves “weak” and unable to pray well enough in the usual ways. It is a prayer which does not rely on concepts. Hence it can help a person to pray at any time, even when he or she is distracted, tired, or busy with mechanical work. It gives rest to the frenetic activity of the mind, a value appreciated by the spiritual masters of all traditions. It has many similarities with the Jesus prayer and with the prayer of quiet described in *The Cloud of Unknowing*. While not understood conceptually by the user, Paul assures us that God, to whom it is directed, understands. (Rom. 8:27)

We can see how pure this prayer is. In other forms of prayer we use thoughts and images as means for reaching out to God. In this prayer we go beyond them, we leave them behind, as we go to God Himself. It is a very pure act of faith. Perhaps in this prayer we will for the first time really act in *pure* faith. So often our faith is leaning on the concepts and images of faith. Here we go beyond them to the object of faith, leaving all the images and concepts behind.

We can see too how Christian this prayer is. For we truly die to ourselves, our more superficial selves, at the level of our thoughts, images, and feelings, in order to live for Christ. We “die” to all our thoughts and imaginings, no matter how beautiful they may be or how useful they might seem. We leave them all behind, for we want immediate contact with God Himself, and not some thought, image, or vision of Him--only the faith experience of God.

The gift is of use in praising God, when one runs out of words and ideas, and in prayer of intercession. When one does not know what to ask for or for whom to pray, the



Spirit is ready to intercede through our inarticulate sounds. (Rom. 8:26) The experience of those in the charismatic renewal is such that prayer is effective and fruitful.

The gift is also useful as a means of entering into the prayer of contemplation, as Benedictine and Trappist monks have testified, and for effectively waging spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10-11, 18) Paul reminds us that we are all engaged in spiritual warfare. Our continual battle is not with human realities but with superhuman forces against whom we are helpless on our own. Hence our need to use the whole of God’s armor and to rely fully on His gifts and power. This power we tap through faith.

Paul’s experience, and the modern experience of those in the charismatic renewal, tells us that using the gift of tongues is a good way of waging war against the enemy with devastating effect, and of overcoming his temptations. No wonder we are so often tempted by the deceiver to belittle this gift and give up using it.

### A Prayer of Faith

Since it builds up our faith, the gift of tongues is often called the doorway to the other gifts--the “threshold charism.” To receive and use all the charisms such as prophecy, healing, the word of knowledge, and the rest, one needs to have active, claiming faith. Receiving--yielding to--the gift of tongues gives one an experience of what this means. In this way it is the doorway to the other gifts. However, yielding to tongues is not a pre-requisite to receiving the other gifts.

“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...Now I want you all to speak in tongues.” (1 Cor. 14:4,5) To edify means to build up, to make firm and strong. Praying in tongues is an important way of building up our faith. Since we exercise our faith in using it, its frequent use makes that faith strong. Praying in tongues is an important way of building up our faith. Since we exercise our faith in using it, its frequent use makes that faith strong. The more regularly we use the gift, rejecting all temptations

A Gift Called Tongues continued from page 3  
of doubt and weariness, the more is our faith edified, built up. Hence Paul, whose faith was tremendous, could boast publicly: "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than you all." (1 Cor. 14:18)

Of course, praying in tongues is only one of a number of forms of prayer. Those in the charismatic renewal also engage very much in liturgical prayer, the Eucharist, the Divine Office, and other traditional forms of public and private devotion. Paul himself encouraged this when he said, "I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also." (1 Cor. 14:15)

Prayer in tongues cannot be judged in itself. Because it goes beyond thought, beyond image, there is nothing left by which to judge it. In conceptually active prayer we can make some judgments after we have prayed: "I had some good insights," "I felt some good feelings," or, "I had lots of distractions." But all that is irrelevant to this prayer. Therefore, there is nothing left by which to judge the prayer in itself.

There is, however, one way in which the goodness of this prayer is

confirmed for us. Our Lord has said, "You can judge a tree by its fruits." If we are faithful to this form of prayer, making it a regular part of our day, we very quickly come to discern the maturing in our lives of the fruits of the Spirit. I have experienced this in my own life and have seen it again and again in the lives of others.

### How to Receive the Gift

This gift, then, in its three aspects, is a means and an opportunity to surrender all of ourselves--even our intellect!--to the Lordship of Jesus!

"If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" (John 7:37-38) If we would receive this gift we must:

**1. Thirst for the gift.** Reflect on the scriptures and be convinced in your own mind and heart that this gift is from God, intended for the church today, available to you. Remember Paul's words: "Earnestly desire the spiritual gifts...I want you all to speak in tongues...I thank God that I speak in tongues more than you all...One who speaks in a tongue speaks not

to men but to God...He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also...Pray at all times in the Spirit." (1 Cor. 14:1, 5, 18, 2, 4, 16; Eph. 6:18)

**2. Come to Jesus and ask for the gift, in prayer.** Tell Him the desire of your heart. Ask with love and faith.

**3. Accept the gift from Jesus in faith and begin to use it.** Know that God has answered your prayer. (Luke 11:13) Deliberately speak out in unintelligible sounds while focusing your attention entirely on God. One must intend these sounds to be either a prayer of praise or of intercession. Initially the gift may be very rudimentary--the same two or three syllables being repeated over and over again. But a regular and persistent use of the gift--say, 15 minutes a day--will lead in a few days to a more developed and satisfying tongue.

Our basis for this method is the expectant faith so often illustrated and encouraged in scripture; for example, in John 2:7-10; Luke 17:12-16; Matt. 14:22-31. Here the persons concerned had to take the first step. *They* had to act, disregarding the risk that nothing might happen and relying entirely on God's goodness and desire to act. And because they believed and acted on this belief, they discovered to their joy that they were indeed blessed.

"Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24)

**4. Continue to believe and use this gift for prayer.** No human proofs are possible to encourage us toward this initial yielding to the gift. However, we will be convinced by the evidence which will follow its regular use. By its fruits in our life shall we be able to judge its value and authenticity. *Reprinted from New Covenant Magazine, November, 1979.*



**Fire From Heaven**



Fr. Jose Antonio Fortea

**Saturday, June 1, 2013**  
**10:00am-4:00pm**  
**St. Catherine of Siena Church Hall**  
**18115 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA**

A day of prayer and instruction with Fr. Jose Antonio Fortea from Madrid, Spain. Author of Interview With An Exorcist. Popular speaker from last year's SCRC Convention. Fr. Fortea's only California visit in 2013. Pre-registration opens April 15 online: [www.scrc.org](http://www.scrc.org) Registration ends when capacity fills.







# SCRC Teaching Center Calendar of Events!

SCRC Catholic Renewal Center • 9795 Cabrini Drive • Suite 209 • Burbank, CA 91504  
(The land where SCRC is located was once owned by St. Frances Xavier Cabrini & the Order she founded!)

**Sunday, April 21**  
2:00pm-4:00pm

## THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN INTERCESSORY PRAYER

For those desiring to deepen their gift of 'prayer tongues' and learn more about the ministry of the Holy Spirit in relation to prayer.



Dominic Berardino

**Free Admission!**  
A love offering will be taken.  
Reserve online to assure a seat!  
[www.scrc.org](http://www.scrc.org)



## Walking As A Disciple

**Saturday, April 27**  
1:00pm-4:30pm

- Jesus Is Lord
- Tapping Our Energy Source
- Faith or Control
- Disciples & Discipline
- Staying the Course
- Freedom & Fruit of the Spirit



Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ

**Free Admission!**  
A love offering will be taken.  
Reserve online to assure a seat!  
[www.scrc.org](http://www.scrc.org)



# March, 2013 Calendar

## SANTA BARBARA REGION

**Wednesday, March 13**

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm with Fr. Paul O'Donnell at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 207 S. School St., Santa Maria.

## SAN FERNANDO REGION

**Tuesdays, Feb. 26, Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26**  
**Cleansing Renewal, 7:00-9:00pm** in St. Mary's (Sacred Heart Room), 1600 E. Ave., R-4, Palmdale. For info., contact B.J. (661) 285-1022 or Celia (661) 618-3990.

## SAN GABRIEL REGION

**Friday, March 1**

Mass & Healing Service, 8:00pm with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at Holy Family Church, 1501 Fremont St., So. Pasadena.

**Sat. & Sun., March 23-24**

**SCRC Spring Conference, "Growing Deeper in the Spirit", 10:00am-5:30pm** at Santa Teresita Medical Center, (Madonna Hall) 819 Buena Vista St., Duarte. One Day: \$21, before March 8. Both Days: \$39, before March 8. Register online at [www.scrc.org](http://www.scrc.org) or see next page for registration form.

## SAN PEDRO REGION

**Thursday, March 14**

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

**Monday, March 18**

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Thomas Asia at St. Linus Church, 13915 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk.

**Monday, March 25**

Mass and Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Thomas Asia at St. Cornelius Church, 5500 E. Wardlow, Long Beach.

## ORANGE DIOCESE

**Monday, March 18**

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

## SAN BERNARDINO DIOCESE

**Saturday, March 9**

Palm Desert Magnificat Prayer Meal, 9:30am-12:30pm at Indian Wells Country Club, 46000 Club Dr., Indian Wells, CA 92210. Guest Speaker: Fr. John Struzzo, CSC. \$25 per person thru 3/2. 3/3 thru 3/6, \$30. For info., please

contact: (760) 772-8768 or visit: [www.magnificatpalmdesert.org](http://www.magnificatpalmdesert.org)

## SAN DIEGO DIOCESE

**Fri.-Sun, March 8, 9 & 10**

Association of Christian Therapists Conference, *The Many Faces of Forgiveness*, at The Dana on Mission Bay in San Diego. Registration/Info: [actheals.org](http://actheals.org) or 858-452-7243.



## HOLY SPIRIT SEMINAR

**Sundays, March 3, 10, 17**

Thy Kingdom Come Seminar, 1:00pm-4:00pm with speakers: Fr. Arthur Najera & Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR at St. Raphael Parish Hall, 5444 Hollister Ave., Santa Barbara. Registration: 12:30pm. No charge for this seminar. For info, contact Phil/Chris (805) 962-1438 or [strapraiseandworship@west.net](mailto:strapraiseandworship@west.net)

# April, 2013 Calendar

## QUEEN OF ANGELS REGION

**Friday, April 5**

Mass & Healing Service, 8:00pm with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at St. Bernard Church, 2500 West Avenue 33, Los Angeles.

## SANTA BARBARA REGION

**Wednesday, April 10**

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

**Thursday, April 25**

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm at St. Joseph High School Chapel, 4120 S. Bradley Rd., Santa Maria.

## SAN FERNANDO REGION

**Sunday, April 7**

Divine Mercy Sunday, 1:00pm with Fr. Mike Sears at St. Mel Church, 20870 Ventura, Woodland Hills. Mass, Chaplet, Eucharistic Procession.

**SUNDAY, April 21**

**The Power of the Holy Spirit in Intercessory Prayer, 2:00pm-4:00pm** with Dominic Berardino at the SCRC Center, 9795 Cabrini Dr., #209, Burbank. Free Admission! Love offering.

**Thursday, April 25**

Mass & Healing Service, 6:30pm with Fr. Mike Sears at Our Lady of Grace Church, 5011 White Oak Ave., Encino.

**Friday, April 26**

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at Our Lady of Peace Church, 15444 Nordhoff St., North Hills.

**Saturday, April 27**

**"Walking as a Disciple" 1:00pm-4:30pm** with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at the SCRC Center, 9795 Cabrini Dr., #209, Burbank. Free Admission. Love offering.

## SAN GABRIEL REGION

**Thursday, April 11**

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 5605 Cloverly Ave., Temple City.

**Friday, April 26**

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Joshua Lee at San Gabriel Mission Chapel, 428 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel. (Praise & Worship 7:15pm)

## SAN PEDRO REGION

**Thursday, April 11**

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

**Monday, April 15**

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at St. Linus Church, 13915 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk.

**Monday, April 22**

Mass and Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR at St. Cornelius Church, 5500 E. Wardlow, Long Beach.

**Friday, April 26**

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR at Mary Star of the Sea Church, 877 W. 7th St., San Pedro, 90731. (Praise/Worship 7:00pm)

## ORANGE DIOCESE

**Monday, April 22**

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

## CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

**September 10-18**

Year of Faith Pilgrimage to Canada with Chaplain: Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC. 9 Days. \$2699 per person from LA. Please contact Hope (760) 486-6263.

*Jesus is Risen! Alleluia!*



*Sunday, March 31*





# SCRC Spring Conference

## Saturday Speakers



**Fr. George Reynolds**  
*Building Spirit-Filled Relationships*



**Sister Regina Marie Gorman OCD**  
*Dying to Oneself and Rising in Christ*



**Fr. Mike Sears**  
*Learning to Rely on God*



**Elizabeth Kim, PhD**  
*Healing of the Heart*



**Fr. John Hampsch, CMF**  
Celebrant:  
*Mass & Healing Service Topic: "Are You Spirit-Filled or Running on Empty?"*

# Growing Deeper in the Spirit

## Sunday Speakers



**Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ**  
*Testing the Gifts of the Spirit*



**Kay Murdy**  
*Bearing Fruit in Community*



**Fr. Bill Adams, CSSR**  
*Hearing and Sharing God's Word*



**Dominic Berardino**  
*Growing in God-Centered Prayer*



**Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC**  
Celebrant:  
*Palm Sunday Mass Celebrant*

Saturday & Sunday  
**March 23 & 24, 2013**  
10:00am - 5:30pm each day  
**Madonna Hall**

Santa Teresita Medical Center, 819 Buena Vista St., Duarte, CA 91010

### PRE-REGISTRATION THRU March 8, 2013

- Please indicate which day(s) you plan to attend:
- Saturday ONLY ..... \$21.00
  - Sunday ONLY ..... \$21.00
  - Sat. & Sun ..... \$39.00

### REGISTRATION FORM

Online Registration Available!  
[www.scrc.org](http://www.scrc.org)

### PRICES AFTER March 8, 2013 and ON-SITE REGISTRATION:

- Saturday ONLY ..... \$26.00
- Sunday ONLY ..... \$26.00
- Sat. & Sun ..... \$49.00



Return completed registration form with payment to:  
**SCRC Spring Conference**  
9795 Cabrini Drive, Suite 208  
Burbank, CA 91504-1740  
(818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379  
[www.scrc.org](http://www.scrc.org) [spirit@scrc.org](mailto:spirit@scrc.org)

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if new address, check box, and list former address \_\_\_\_\_

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Check or Money Order (please make checks payable to: SCRC )  
Credit Card:  VISA  MasterCard  Discover  AmericanExpress  
Only registrations paid with a credit card can be faxed to: (818) 771-1379.

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

All individuals whose pre-registrations are postmarked by March 8, 2013 will be sent a schedule, tickets, detailed directions, parking info. and map of local restaurants.

# Celebrate Pentecost!

St. Catherine of Siena Parish

18115 Sherman Way, Reseda, CA



SCRC

## Saturday, May 18, 2013



Fr. Paul  
Griesgraber



Fr. Bill  
Delaney, SJ



Deacon  
Steve Greco



Dominic  
Berardino

3:30pm (Parish Hall)

4:00pm-5:15pm

5:30pm-6:30pm

6:45pm (Church)

7:00pm - 8:30pm

- Doors Open

- Prayer Group Assembly (*open to all*)

*"Let's Get Together to Support One Another - A Time to Pray and Share"*

Prayer Group Interaction - Facilitated by Deacon Steve Greco & Dominic Berardino

- Dinner & Fellowship (*sandwiches/chips/cookies/soda provided - donation*)

- Praise & Worship provided by *Spirit of Praise*

- Pentecost Vigil Mass, Celebrant: Fr Paul Griesgraber, Homilist: Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ

No Registration Fee Required for Teaching

RSVP appreciated for Teaching & Dinner

[www.scrc.org](http://www.scrc.org) [spirit@scrc.org](mailto:spirit@scrc.org) 818-771-1361

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...beginning of St. Patrick's Breastplate

*The Three in One and One in Three."*

*By invocation of the same,*

*"I bind unto myself today,*



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