

**Providing
Support and
Leadership
for the
Catholic Charismatic
Renewal**

Volume 42
Number 3



**SCRC
SPIRIT**

Southern California Renewal Communities

May/June 2014

Pope Francis: Praise Is Not Just for Charismatics



During his homily at Casa Santa Marta (January 28, 2014), Pope Francis reflected on praising God through prayer - an act, he said, that makes us fruitful.

The Holy Father drew his homily from the first reading of the day: the 2nd book of Samuel. The reading recalled the return of the Ark of the Covenant where David danced with joy in the streets. Regarding this dance, the Holy Father said that "if we close ourselves in formality, our prayer becomes cold and sterile."

"David's prayer of praise brought him to leave all form of composure and to dance in front of the Lord with all his strength. This is the prayer of praise!" he exclaimed. While it is easy to ask God for something or even to give thanks to God, praising God is usually left to the side, he added.

"But, Father, this is for those of Renewal in the Spirit (the Charismatic movement), not for all Christians.' No, the prayer of praise is a Christian prayer for all of us!", the Pope said.

"In Mass, every day, when we sing the Holy...This is a prayer

of praise: we praise God for his greatness, because he is great! We tell Him beautiful things, because we like that He is like that. 'But, Father, I am not capable...I should...'. But you're capable of shouting when your team makes a goal and not capable of singing praise to the Lord, to go out a bit from your behavior to sing this? To praise God is totally free! Let us not ask, not give thanks: praise!"

The Holy Father went on to say that we should pray "with our whole heart" like David, who was so happy for the return of the Ark that "even his body prayed with that dance."

"A beautiful question that we can ask ourselves today is: 'How is my prayer of praise going?' the Pope asked. "Do I know how to praise the Lord? Do I know how to praise the Lord or when I pray the Gloria or pray the Holy Holy Holy, do I do it only with my mouth and not with all my heart?' What does David tell me, dancing here? When David enters the city, he begins another thing: a feast!"

The 77-year-old Pontiff also recalled the reaction of Michal,

the daughter of King Saul, who reproached David for dancing in such a way.

"I ask myself how many times we reject good people in our heart, good people who praise the Lord as it comes to them, spontaneously, because they are not cultured, they don't follow formal attitudes? But, to reject! And the Bible says that Michal remained sterile for the rest of her life because of this! What does the Word of God want to say here? That joy, the prayer of praise, makes us fertile!"

Concluding his homily, Pope Francis warned that those who are closed in a formality of "cold, measured prayer" will end like Michal: "sterile in their own formality." The Holy Father invited the faithful to contemplate on the beauty of praying to God with praise.

"It would do us well to repeat the words of Psalm 23 which we have prayed today: 'Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. The Lord strong and mighty, is the King of glory!'"



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Diocese of Milwaukee, WI



Msgr. John Esseff
Spiritual Directee of St. Padre Pio,
Spiritual Director of Bl. Mother
Teresa of Calcutta, sharing his
first-hand personal friendship with
both great modern-day Saints



Bishop Dominic Luong
Orange Diocese



Fr. Jose Antonio Fortea
Exorcist for the
Diocese of Madrid, Spain.
Author of the popular book,
"Interview With An Exorcist"
(Fr. Fortea's participation is pending
Spanish episcopal permission
to travel to this event)



Patti Mansfield
Charismatic Author/Teacher
and participant at the 1967
Duquesne Weekend.
New Orleans, LA



Neal Lozano
Author of "Unbound"
& "Resisting the Devil"
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Suffering— A God's Eye-View of Adversity

by Fr. John H. Hampsch, CMF

Why is it almost impossible to smile when you're in extreme pain? Simply because the mind is overwhelmed with the grief or anguish. Such distress is a negative emotion that can eclipse any effort to elicit a positive emotion—unless the action of God's grace activates faith to see hidden benefits in the hurt.

Many persons who write to me asking for spiritual advice about what appears as "prayer failure" seem to emphasize the prayer of petition, of "I want" or with the plaintive question, "Why doesn't God...?" Seldom do people—even devout persons—express any hint of a loving willingness to accept God's use of hardship. Their prayer seldom includes the words, "I accept," or "I lovingly surrender or "thank you, Lord, for the privilege of being united with you in your suffering," or even a sincere Our

Father prayer including, "thy will be done."

Petition is good, of course, since it expresses our dependence on God for help. Yet it's the lowest form of prayer, and should never occupy the primary part of our prayer life. It should never overshadow the higher forms of prayer, like praise, worship, adoration, glorifying or blessing God, or prayers of contrition or thanksgiving—including gratitude for pain that can be beneficial.

Speaking of petition, the best petition is asking for patience, fortitude, generosity of soul, magnanimity, holy abandonment to God's will, and asking God to use your suffering for his glory, for the salvation of others, for the relief of those suffering in purgatory, or for the spiritual growth of your own soul.

Try meditating on one of

the Bible's richest passages—St. Paul's words in 2 Corinthians. 12:7-10: "I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will thankfully boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

There is no such thing as "failed prayer, because all prayer is answered in one of three ways: Yes, No and Wait. If the answer is YES, we get what we want when we want it or at least with minimum delay.

God's Eye-View continued on page 4

If the answer is NO, we always get something better instead, like the ultimate salvation of a loved one headed for hell or the deathbed repentance of someone somewhere—possibly a loved one, etc. Paul's answer was a triple "NO," which he said released Christ's power in him and thus sanctified him enormously and enhanced his ministry to countless souls—still active today by his 13 epistles—a major part of God's love letter—the Bible.

If your prayer is answered with a "WAIT," it means, "Keep on praying and not give up," as Jesus said when explaining his parable about the widow importuning the judge (Luke 18:1). Only God determines which of the three ways your prayer will be answered, but he wants you to be open to all three.

Paul was a weak human being made strong by his God-designed providential suffering. He actually thanked God for his physical ailments, because it taught him that through his pain God wanted to sanctify him and give him enormous power in his work of leading others to Christ as he described it in Colossians 1:24. His suffering was thus altruistic, not self-centered. He lifted himself, with God's grace, above self-pity. Without this insight, all his suffering would have been wasted in spiritual pettiness.

Ask yourself if you fulfill the biblical command of James 1:2-4: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance in suffering finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Suffering can "finish its work" only if we al-

low ourselves to be "trained by it, as described in Hebrews 12:10-11. The author reminds us that all suffering seems unpleasant at the time we undergo it, but it "produces a harvest of righteousness and peace, but only for those who allow themselves to be trained by it." Self-pity in our pain or hardship doesn't "train" us, but only exposes out spiritual pettiness, not the maturity that James urges.

Or, try meditating on Paul's words from Romans 5:3-5: "We glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love is poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

The love that God has for us—which is hard to recognize when we are overcome with distress—reminds me of a true story that might help you when your suffering seems unbearable. The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he resigned himself to a kind of "Robinson Crusoe" type of existence and eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, 'God! How could you let this happen to me?'

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! 'How

did you know I was here?' asked the weary man of his rescuers. 'We saw your smoke signal,' they replied.

The moral of this story is clear: It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, especially in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember this story the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God to your weary soul.

Finally, consider this insight of Peter: from 1 Pet. 4:12-13: "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial that you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."

Try meditating frequently on the Bible's many suffering-related passages, until they become part of your life. Reading them prayerfully will not only provide support for you in your trials and misfortunes, but will also reinforce your conviction that an incalculable eternal reward awaits you.

For further insights into God's view of adversity, you may want to test yourself with the Scripture-based "faith barometer," which measures six levels of faith-response to one's trials, as expounded in Fr. Hampsch's booklet, *Rainbows in Your Teardrops—Finding Joy in Suffering*. Or another booklet, *When God Says No—25 Reasons Why Some Prayers are Unanswered*.



Used with permission by Fr. John Hampsch, CMF. Please visit Fr. Hampsch's website at: www.catholicbooks.net Fr. John will be one of the speakers again at the SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention in Anaheim over Labor Day Weekend, August 29-31, 2014.

May, 2014 Calendar

SANTA BARBARA REGION Wednesday, May 14

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

SAN FERNANDO REGION Saturday, May 10

"Glimpses of Eternity" 12:30pm-4:00pm with Dominic Berardino at the SCRC Center, 9795 Cabrini Dr. #209, Burbank, CA. \$15. Register online: www.scr.org. (see page 6)

SUNDAY, May 18

"Strengthened By The Spirit" 1:30pm-4:00pm with Dominic Berardino at the SCRC Center, 9795 Cabrini Dr. #209, Burbank, CA. FREE! All Are Welcome! (see page 6)

SAN GABRIEL REGION

Thursday, May 15

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

SAN PEDRO REGION

Thursday, May 8

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm

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

Monday, May 19

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

ORANGE DIOCESE

Saturday, May 17

Orange County Magnificat Prayer Breakfast, 9:30am-12:30pm with guest speaker: Jackie Francois at the Embassy Suites, Anaheim-South, 11767 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove. \$28. www.magnificat-orangecounty.org or contact Dely: (714) 670-7332.

Monday, May 19

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm with Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC at Holy Spirit Parish, 17270 Ward St., Fountain Valley. (Praise & Worship at 6:30pm)

Monday, May 19

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

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

September 8-20, 2014

Holyland & Italy Pilgrimage - A Journey to the Lands of our Faith, 13 Days. with tour chaplain, Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC. For more info., please call Hope Castillo (760) 486-6263.



HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARS

Thursdays, May 8-July 10

Life in the Spirit Seminar, 7:00pm-9:00pm at St. Joseph the Worker, 19855 Sherman Way, Canoga Park. For more info., please contact Eddie (818) 300-5135.

Saturday, May 31

A Day of Spiritual Enrichment (Life in the Spirit Seminar), 9:00am-6:00pm (Registration begins at 8:30am) at Incarnation Church Auditorium, 1001 N. Brand Blvd. (at Glenoaks), Glendale. For info., (818) 421-1354 heartofjesus@att.net

June, 2014 Calendar

QUEEN OF ANGELS REGION

Sunday, June 8

Pentecost Sunday Bi-lingual Liturgy for Ecclesial Movements with Celebrant: Archbishop Jose Gomez, (3:30pm - as of press time, pls. go to scr.org for updates) at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, 555 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA. (see back pg.)

SANTA BARBARA REGION

Wednesday, June 11

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

SAN GABRIEL REGION

Thursday, June 5

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm with Fr. Bill Adams, CSSR at St.

Luke the Evangelist Church, 5605 Cloverly, Temple City.

Friday, June 27

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm at San Gabriel Mission, 428 S. Mission, San Gabriel.

SAN PEDRO REGION

Thursday, June 12

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

Monday, June 16

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

Monday, June 23

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

ORANGE DIOCESE

Monday, June 23

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm with Fr. Michael Barry, SSCC at Holy Spirit Parish, 17270 Ward St., Fountain Valley. (Praise & Worship at 6:30pm)

Monday, June 23

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

SAN BERNARDINO DIOCESE

Saturday, June 14

Palm Desert Magnificat Prayer Meal, 9:30am-12:30pm with guest speaker: Fr. Patrick Crowley, SSCC at Indian Wells Country Club, 46000 Club Dr., Indian Wells. Tickets: \$28. For info., please go to: www.magnificatpalmdesert.org

Glimpses of Eternity

The Life of the World to Come



Dominic Berardino
President, SCRC

**Saturday, May 10, 2014
12:30pm-4:00pm**

- ~ **Heaven, Purgatory & Hell: What Can We Know of Them?**
- ~ **After-Death Visitations of Saints**
- ~ **Contemporary Accounts of Otherworld Journeys**
- ~ **Helping Suffering Souls**
- ~ **What are Joseph Dreams?**

SCRC Center - 9795 Cabrini Drive - Suite 209 - Burbank, CA 91504
\$15 per person. (includes study materials) Limited Seating. Register online at: scrc.org

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Sunday, May 18, 2014 — 1:30-4:00pm

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President, SCRC

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- 1) Read Neal Lozano's book *UNBOUND-A Practical Guide to Deliverance* (available scrc.org/unbound)
 - 2) Attended the "Set Free" Track at 2013 SCRC Convention
- OR
- Watch *UNBOUND: Freedom in Christ* DVD's (available heartofthefather.com)

Prerequisites to be on a Ministry Team at the 2014 SCRC Convention, UNBOUND Track:

- a) Requisites 1 & 2 above, plus:
- b) Attend this July 12 event
- c) A letter of recommendation from your parish clergy or prayer group leader (email, mail, fax to the SCRC office or bring with you to event).

In Person!



Neal Lozano

Executive Director of *Heart of the Father Ministries* based in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. Author of the books, *Unbound & Resisting the Devil*. Recently returned from the International Colloquium on the Ministry of Deliverance in Rome, Italy.



Matt Lozano

Director of Training and Leadership Development, *Heart of the Father Ministries*.

Saturday, July 12, 2014

10:00am-6:00pm

St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall

18115 Sherman Way, Reseda

EARLY REGISTRATION BEFORE July 1: \$25.00

**AFTER July 1
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space permitting

Return completed registration form with payment to:
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PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

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Only registrations paid with a credit card can be faxed to: (818) 771-1379.
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Credit Card # _____
Signature _____

All individuals whose registrations are received by July 1 will receive a packet in the mail, which will include schedule, ticket(s), detailed directions, and map of local restaurants.

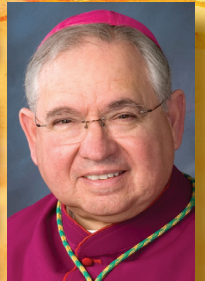
Spiritually enriching Books, CDs/DVDs and gifts will be available for purchase throughout the day.

Pentecost Sunday Bilingual Liturgy (English/Spanish)
for Ecclesial Movements

Sunday, June 8, 2014

3:30pm...as of press time,
(please check scrc.org for updates)

**Cathedral of
Our Lady of the Angels**
555 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA



Main Celebrant:

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez

*Pentecost
Sunday*

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SCRC Participants are cordially invited

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