

Providing  
Support and  
Leadership  
for the  
Catholic Charismatic  
Renewal

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Number 3



SCRC  
SPIRIT

Southern California Renewal Communities  
May/June 2016

# Are You Ready to Cash-in Your Chips?

by Fr. John H. Hampsch, CMF

Without realizing it, we ask ourselves thousands of silent questions every day in decision-making. Should I buy this brand or that one? Can I afford to buy this item? What time is it? Should I see a doctor about this pain? What is the phone number I need to reach this person? Should I watch this TV program or another? What shall I order from the menu?

Of all the countless silent questions we ask ourselves—explicitly or implicitly—the most significant one is that which is most directly related to our very existence and destiny as humans—and one that many persons refuse to dwell on, or even “wonder about” because of the anxiety it may create in their heart. This is especially true among faith-weak or “non-God-trusting” souls.

That question is: **After I die, will I spend my eternity in heaven or in hell?**

If you were to die today—a hypothesis you have often heard and perhaps seldom really contemplated—how will I appear to God at my death—the God who both gave me life and who will judge that life? One of those ponderable, and yet somehow imponderable citations from God’s word that could trigger that formidable question, is the simple truth stated in Hebrews 9:27: **“Man is destined to die once, and after that to face the judgment.”**

But for those who are able to face a fuller view of that ominous prediction, Paul offers a more detailed word-picture: **“we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while living in the**

**body, whether good or bad”** (2 Cor. 5:10).

Our salvation doesn’t depend on theological knowledge or on the ability to quote Scripture, although both are useful. What matters is what is proclaimed in 1 John 4:16-17: *“We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way...we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment”* (1 John 4:16-17). I think it was St. John of the Cross who said, *“In the sunset of life we will all be judged on love.”*

Thus, when one is loving God and is aware of being enveloped in his love, trust is experienced connaturally, for “faith (trust) expresses itself in love” (Gal. 5:6). In the ambience of mutual love, one’s trust dissolves the anxiety of uncertainty concerning one’s salvation. Paul’s advice to the

see *Are You Ready* continued on page 3





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# Merciful *and* Gracious *is the* Lord

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Philippians (2:12) to “work out your salvation in fear and trembling” does not refer to a fear that undermines our trust in God; just the opposite. It is simply *a reminder that our human faith is fragile, so we must be cautious (“fearful”) of losing our trust in the Lord’s promise that he “will save us from sinful backsliding”* (Ezek. 37:23). To lose that consummate trust in God would endanger one’s salvation, for it would question the attribute of God’s Mercy.

In human parlance, we tend to regard the opposite of love as hatred. However, biblically, the opposite of love is sin, which generically is disregarding the will of God for us, his children, as affirmed in the Old Testament: “Those who love me...keep my commandments” (Exod. 20:6), and paraphrased by Jesus in the New Testament: “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). By itself, that statement may seem legalistic and obediencial, like “Obey the speed limit or don’t regard yourself as a good driver.” But love-charged obedience to God’s will, contravening Adam’s disobedience, summarizes the basic obligation that a human creature, as a child of God, has toward his Creator. Salvation is hinged on obedience to God’s will to the extent that each person is able to know God’s will.

However, with a truly devout soul, obedience to God’s command is seen as the supportive “skeleton” of one’s love. The “enfleshment” of that basic “skeleton” is a meaningful and loving *relationship with the Lord*—a warm personal affinity described by Jesus in John 14:23-24: “If anyone loves me he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him (“abide in him”). He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.” So love—the “salvation ticket”—is manifested by obedience to God’s will. However, notice in Jesus’ words the second dimension of love—a *personal relationship with the grace-hungry soul*: “make our home with him.”

That fact highlights the adage about levels of grace: “sanctification trumps justification.” **Justification** creates a weed-free (sin-free) plot of land, while **sanctification** beautifies that clean acreage into a flowering (virtue-bedecked) garden. Jesus hints at both aspects—justification and sanctification—in the scripture passage quoted above. The “abiding presence” that Jesus speaks of is that dimension of spiritual and personal relationship which adds to obedience an awesome “abiding” intimacy with God. That dimension doesn’t replace obediencial love, but it reinforces it.

This intimate love that Jesus refers to as “abiding presence” is the same intimacy-craving love that he speaks of in Rev. 3:20: “If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...”

On the basis of this “overlay of *personal relationship*” that goes beyond basic obedience, many mystics and saintly souls have spoken of the “spirituality” of love as an experience beyond the salvific iteration of love. The “spirituality” of love adds an “enfleshment” to the “skeletal” obedience mandate by feeding the interior life, beyond love’s basic salvation aspect. As an example of this dimension of experiencing God’s love in intimacy, St. John Vianney writes, “The Interior life is like a sea of love in which the soul is plunged, and is, as it were, “drowned” in love.... Just as a mother holds her child’s face in her hands and covers it with gentle kisses, so does God lavish his love on a loving devout soul.” Devout rhapsodies like this bring to the surface the personal-relational aspect of love; they enhance, but don’t replace its salvific thrust.

Like love, sin is not merely a feeling, but also something we do. According to I John 5:3, “This is love for God: to obey his commands.” Thus, love is fulfilling God’s will—keeping God’s commandments; sin, then, is the breaking of His commandments—that is, his moral guidelines found in his revelation and in our conscience. Though deep feeling (fervor) is certainly

involved in the biblical concept of love (as in the Song of Songs), yet, on judgment day, our *obedient conformity to the will of God will be the primary determinant of our salvation*.

Seriously consider this: If we sin, then, according to Scripture, at the time we are sinning, we are not loving God, but insulting him. For that matter, we’re not even loving ourselves, because every sin we commit is a step toward spiritual suicide. Ultimately, love (that is, loving obedience to his will) or sin—non-love (disobedience to his will) translates into either salvation or condemnation. If we cling to serious sin *without sincere repentance*, it means that we do not appreciate that God has lovingly given us a supernatural life consisting of grace, by which we share (extrinsically) in his own divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4). On the other hand, by accepting and not abusing that gift, we can claim his awesome promise of living with him forever in mutual love that far exceeds any human ability to imagine! (1 Cor. 2:9; Is. 64:4).

Stripped of any possible nuances that might affect God’s judgment, this is the stark reality of what faces us, after we have become aware of his design for our salvation. That awareness reminds us that, if we love him, then we will hate sin (since sin is any refusal to do or accept his will).

Hark back to the question we may be afraid to ask ourselves—will I spend eternity in heaven or in hell? If in heaven, how high in heaven—based on our holiness at the time of death? If in hell, how low in hell—based on the degree of evil in our heart at the time of death? The answer, starkly stated, is this: our very eternal existence will be spent either in heaven or in hell; which one it will be? The epithet already quoted states the answer pithily but poignantly: “In the sunset of life, we will all be judged on our love.” Or the lack of it.







# Experiencing God's Merciful Love



- The Medicine of Mercy
- Mercy & Forgiveness: Two Sides of the Same Coin
- Our Good Shepherd
- Healing Mass

## Saturday, May 21, 2016

10:00am-4:00pm

Sacred Heart Parish Hall  
344 W. Workman St., Covina, CA



**Dominic Berardino**  
President, SCRC  
Burbank, CA



**Fr. Jerry Thompson**  
Charismatic Healing Ministry  
Whittier, CA

**REGISTRATION BEFORE May 16th:** (includes catered chicken lunch) ..... **\$20.00**  
Register Online: [scrc.org](http://scrc.org) (after May 16 & at the door: \$25)

Luncheon guaranteed for those registered by 05/16/16.

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:  
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(818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379  
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Credit Card:  VISA  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

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

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Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Registration(s) including Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 per person \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Enclosed

(after May 16 & at the door: \$25)

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

# May, 2016 Calendar

## SANTA BARBARA REGION

Thursday, May 19

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC at Holy Cross Church, 1740 Cliff Dr., Santa Barbara. (You are invited to attend Eucharistic Adoration in the Church 1:00pm-7:00pm)

## QUEEN OF ANGELS REGION

Saturday, May 14

"Living Christ's Mercy Daily", 9:00am-3:00pm with Dcn. Steve Greco at St. Jerome Parish Hall, 5550 Thornburn St., Los Angeles. Bring sack lunch. Love offering taken. Contact: Donatus/Murglen (323) 294-1940.

## SAN FERNANDO REGION

Friday, May 6

Healing the Family Tree Mass, 7:15pm with Fr. Mike Barry, SSCC at Incarnation Church, 1001 N. Brand Blvd, Glendale.

Saturday, May 14

**SCRC Pentecost Vigil Celebration & Mass, 1:30-4:15pm at St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Hall, 7100 Whitaker Ave., Van Nuys. (at Sherman Way). All Are Welcome! Free Admission!**

**1:30-2:00pm: Praise & Worship  
2:00-2:40pm:**

**Testimony - Fr. Ramon Valera  
Teaching - Dominic Berardino  
2:40-3:00pm: Break/Prepare for Mass  
3:00-4:15pm: Pentecost Vigil Mass with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ  
(see back cover for details)**

Thursday, May 19

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

## SAN GABRIEL REGION

Saturday, May 7

San Gabriel Valley Chapter Magnificat Prayer Meal, 10:00am-1:00pm at San Dimas Country Club, 2100 Terrebonne Ave., San Dimas. Guest Speaker: Barbara Lambert. \$29 at the door. Contact Clara: (626) 963-5532.

Saturday, May 21

**"Experiencing God's Merciful Love", A Day of Teaching, Prayer and Healing Mass, 10:00am-4:00pm with Fr. Jerry Thompson & Dominic Berardino at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 344 W. Workman St., Covina. \$20, includes catered chicken lunch.**

**(See opposite page)**

Tuesday, May 31

Mass & Healing Service, 7:00pm with Fr. Rick Van De Water at Our Lady of the Assumption, 435 N. Berkeley, Claremont.

## SAN PEDRO REGION

Monday, May 16

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

## ORANGE DIOCESE

Saturday, May 7

Orange County Magnificat Prayer Breakfast, 9:30am-12:30pm with Guest Speakers: Fr. Bao Thai, STL at Embassy Suites, Anaheim-South, 11767 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove. \$28. Contact: Anne (714) 420-5482. magnificat-orangecounty.org

Monday, May 23

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

## SAN BERNARDINO REGION

Friday, May 6

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm at Sacred Heart Church, 12704 Foothill Blvd., Rancho Cucamonga.



## HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARS

Saturday, May 21

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

# June, 2016 Calendar

## QUEEN OF ANGELS REGION

Friday, June 24

Mass and Healing Service, 7:00pm-9:00pm with Fr. Patrick Crowley, SSCC at St. Jerome Church, 5550 Thornburn St., Los Angeles.

## SAN FERNANDO REGION

Thursday, June 16

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

## SAN GABRIEL REGION

Saturday, June 18

**"Your Wounds I Will Heal" A Day of Teaching, Prayer & Healing Mass, 10:00am-4:00pm with Fr. Pat Crowley, SSCC, Fr. Ed Benioff & Dominic Berardino at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall, 435 N. Berkeley Ave., Claremont. \$20, includes catered chicken lunch. (See page 7)**

Tuesday, June 28

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Chris Troxell at Our Lady of the Assumption, 435 N. Berkeley, Claremont.

## SAN PEDRO REGION

Monday, June 20

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

Monday, June 27

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

## ORANGE DIOCESE

Monday, June 27

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

## SAN BERNARDINO REGION

Friday, June 3

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm at Sacred Heart Church, 12704 Foothill Blvd., Rancho Cucamonga.

# Year of Mission *in Mercy* 2016

by Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

The National Leadership Groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have designated 2016 as a Year of Mission in Mercy. We are supporting Pope Francis' Year of Mercy. Pope Francis explains that mission and mercy go together: "In the present day, as the Church is charged with the task of the new evangelization, the theme of mercy needs to be proposed again and again with new enthusiasm and renewed pastoral action" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 12). "The Church feels the urgent need to proclaim God's mercy. Her life is authentic and credible only when she becomes a convincing herald of mercy" (*MV*, 25).

## Zeal for Souls:

Charismatic Renewal is a missionary movement. We must continue to be this. We live in a Church that is in need of renewal, and a world that has lost its way. Baptism in the Holy Spirit has brought renewal to millions, but there are many that still need to be rescued and renewed. If we do not care enough, we will be complacent. We need a change of heart that enables us to act. "Jesus asks us also to forgive and to give. To be instruments of mercy because it was we who first received mercy from God" (*MV*, 14). Let us have a hunger for souls!

## Holy Spirit Seminars:

The greatest tool we have for evangelization in the Renewal is the "Life in the Spirit Seminars." We are encouraged not only to do weekend seminars as a way for people to have an experience of the Holy Spirit, but to offer the 7-8 week seminar, which can lead to a "lifestyle" in the Holy Spirit.

If your group is small, you might consider asking another group to work with you. "Great"



## Focuses for the Year of Mission in Mercy

- **Renew our zeal for souls**
- **Promote Life in the Spirit Seminars**
- **The New Evangelization**
- **A Culture of Pentecost**

speakers are not needed as much as someone to tell their story in relationship to the topic of the talk. There are also several DVD series available. A personal invitation to attend a Seminar is always the best. Invite the un-churched and nominal Christian as well as those in the pew each week.

## New Evangelization:

St. John Paul II articulated the concept of "The New Evangelization." It is to be new in its fervor—a reference to the Holy Spirit; in its methods—a reference to modern media; and in its expressions—a reference to lay initiative and ecclesial movements. We are both to evangelize the sacramentalized who do not have a living relationship with Jesus, and go out to people who do not know Jesus. Pope Francis encourages us to go "out to the peripheries," "smelling like the sheep," and "acting in mercy, especially to the poor and marginalized." The Renewal assists the Church in the New Evangelization. We promote with "fervor" the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit so that

Christians may be set on fire for the sharing of the Gospel. Discuss in your prayer groups: Is our group "new" in fervor, methods and expression? Are we engaged in evangelization, or are we self-concerned? Promote a seminar with emphasis on "new people." Plan at least one evangelistic event for non-churched people; organize prayer group "visits" to pray with people; and do some "work of mercy."

## Culture of Pentecost:

Our mission includes bringing to "life that culture of Pentecost that alone can make fruitful the civilization of love and friendly co-existence among peoples" (Pope John Paul II). Pentecost is to be a living, experienced reality within the Church "where the Holy Spirit is known, loved, and frequently invoked; where the whole way of life flows from the active presence of the Spirit and his gifts" (Baptism in the Holy Spirit, p. 93).

The culture of Pentecost is not to be confined in the Church but it must be spread in our society in our economics, politics, and, our "culture" in the sense of the arts, music and film; transforming a "culture of death" into a "culture of life." We are to live Pentecost (a lifestyle and culture of the Holy Spirit) in our daily lives and in all our involvements!

Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD is a former member and chairman for the National Service Committee for Charismatic Renewal, and a member of the NSC Council. Reprinted from Pentecost Today, 2016 Winter Issue.



nsc-chariscenter.org  
Fr. Bob will be a speaker at the 45th Annual SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention, "Merciful and Gracious is the Lord", September 2-4, 2016 at the Anaheim Convention Center & Arena.





# Your Wounds I Will Heal

Jer. 30:17



- Jesus Heals Today!
- Inner, Physical, Spiritual Healing
- Healed for Heaven
- Healing Mass

## Saturday, June 18, 2016

10:00am-4:00pm

**Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall**  
435 N. Berkeley Ave., Claremont, CA



**Fr. Ed Benioff**  
Administrator,  
Good Shepherd,  
Beverly Hills



**Dominic Berardino**  
President, SCRC  
Burbank, CA



**Fr. Patrick Crowley, SSCC**  
Hemet, CA

**REGISTRATION BEFORE June 10th:** (includes catered chicken lunch) ..... **\$20.00**  
Register Online: [scrc.org](http://scrc.org) (after June 10 & at the door: \$25)

Luncheon guaranteed for those registered by 06/18/16.

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



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Burbank, CA 91504-1740  
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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.

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(Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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(after June 10 & at the door: \$25)

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

# Pentecost Vigil Celebration and Mass

Praise & Worship • Teaching/Testimony  
Prayer • Pentecost Vigil Mass



Dominic Berardino



Fr. Ramon Valera



Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ



All Are Welcome!

Free Admission!

## Saturday, May 14, 2016

1:30-4:15pm

St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Hall – 7100 Whitaker Ave., (at Sherman Way), Van Nuys.

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1 Peter 1:2

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