

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

Volume 45
Number 3



**SCRC
SPIRIT**

Southern California Renewal Communities
May/June 2017



BLESSED ELENA GUERRA MISSIONARY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Deacon Christof Hemberger

Blessed Elena Guerra (1835 – 1914) is remembered in the history of the Charismatic Renewal as someone who prepared the way. She courageously pursued what was on her heart: The Holy Spirit needs to find room again in the Church's awareness! But who was this woman who caused a whole century to be called an "era of the Holy Spirit" – and what did she really achieve?

Blessed Elena Guerra was born into a wealthy aristocratic family and was educated as befitted her rank. Her nature was shaped by the desire "to do good for God"; her heart was burning for the conversion of unbelievers,

she willingly visited the poor and ill of her city. She wrote down her spiritual intentions and thoughts in small brochures and tracts. Elena gathered like-minded people, and as a young woman she founded prayer groups and prayer initiatives ("the perpetual world-wide Upper Room") and the Congregation of the "Oblate Sisters of the Holy Spirit".

It was Blessed Elena's desire to bring people into a close relationship with the Holy Spirit. Church and society – Blessed Elena says – need the Holy Spirit as never before for their own renewal and vivification! She was untiring in this task: she encouraged prayer to the Holy Spirit and

exchanged letters with priests and bishops exhorting them to teach and preach about the Holy Spirit. In her diaries, Blessed Elena called herself "a poor maidservant of the Holy Spirit" and even a "baggage porter of the Holy Spirit". As the reaction she received for her efforts still seemed too small, the desire to ask the Pope for support and for a global spreading of her intention, grew more intensely in her.

Blessed Elena's message was received by Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903) readily and in openness: Only three weeks after her first letter, the Pope introduced a solemn period of prayer to the

see *Blessed Elena* continued on page 3



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San Gabriel Region



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46th Annual

SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention



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Deacon Larry Oney
New Orleans, LA



Dr. Cynthia Hunt, MD
Monterey CA



Fr. Ismael Robles
Santa Fe Springs, CA



Walter Matthews
Locust Grove, VA



Fr. Alex Aclan
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Monterey Diocese

Labor Day Weekend

September 1 - 3, 2017

Anaheim Convention Center & Arena

- * Over 50 Popular Catholic Speakers and Spiritually Enriching Presentations *
- * Teen Conference * Children's Program * Young Adult Conference
- * Saturday Spanish Conference * Saturday Vietnamese Conference

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RENEWAL COMMUNITIES

SCRC Needs Your Help to Spread the Word about the SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention!

Contact SCRC to request Convention brochures
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...with prayer for baptism in the Holy Spirit!

Southern California



Renewal Communities

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

- Come Closer to God
- Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ
- Prayer for Inner/Emotional Healing
- Spiritual Empowerment

Saturday, May 27, 2017

10:00am - 4:00pm

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall

435 Berkeley Ave., Claremont

FREE ADMISSION! FREEWILL LOVE OFFERING

For more information

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**Bring a friend!
Please bring a sack lunch
or visit nearby eateries.**

Hosted by the Our Lady of the Assumption Prayer Community

Blessed Elena continued from cover page

Holy Spirit between Ascension and Pentecost (now known as the Pentecost novena). Between 1895 and 1903, Blessed Elena wrote a total of thirteen letters to the Pope. She encouraged him to urge the bishops to pray together with the faithful for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit as well as for the unity of Christians, which only the Holy Spirit could bring about. In 1897, Pope Leo XIII responded to Elena's desire by writing an encyclical ("Divinum illud munus") about the Holy Spirit. This teaching document was about appreciation for the Holy Spirit and his gifts.

While in 1900, Pope Leo had consecrated mankind to the Heart of Jesus on the occasion of the Holy Year, Blessed Elena was moved in her heart to ask the Pope to begin the new century by calling down the Holy Spirit. Pope Leo took up this suggestion and sang the hymn "Veni Creator Spiritus" (Come Holy Spirit, Creator Blest) in the name of the whole Church. This prayer did not remain without effect. On the same day, the Holy

Spirit really came with his gifts as in the days of the early Christians. However, it was answered in a different way than Blessed Elena and the Pope had expected: The Holy Spirit was first experienced in a new way by people outside the Catholic Church, who had earnestly sought him in prayer: In the evening of that same day when the Pope prayed in Rome, a group of American Protestants gathered around Charles Fox Parham (1873-1923) experienced an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and his gifts. A second initial event for the so-called Pentecostal movement was a revival in the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles led by the African American William J. Seymour. The Holy Spirit did not adhere to confessional boundaries... It took quite some time till also members of the Catholic Church received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and experienced the outpouring of the charisms in 1967, which we consider to this day the starting point of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church and which we celebrate in the 50 year Jubilee

in 2017.

Exactly at a time when our Church underwent major changes (the secular power of the Popes disintegrated with the loss of the Papal States during the time of Blessed Elena Guerra) this small, unimpressive religious sister helped the Church refocus on a power of the Church, which did not rely on rule or armies and had been forgotten for a long time: the power of the Holy Spirit.



At her Beatification on 26 April 1959, Pope John XIII called her a "missionary of the Veneration of the Holy Spirit in our present time" and thus testified to Blessed Elena's extraordinary vocation in the church and for the church, which she lived courageously – which makes her a model for us to this day.

Reprinted from ICCRS Newsletter Jan/Feb 2017 issue. Please visit: iccrs.org

How to Enjoy Real Happiness with God



- **Smile!** God Loves You!
- **Jesus'** Remedy for Worry
- The **Joy** of Believing
- **Healing** Mass

Saturday, June 10, 2017

10:00am-3:00pm

**St. Didacus Parish Hall
14337 Astoria St., Sylmar, CA**



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



Dominic Berardino
President, SCRC
Burbank, CA



Fr. Ed Benioff
Pastor, Good Shepherd
Beverly Hills, CA

REGISTRATION BEFORE June 5: (includes catered chicken lunch) **\$20.00**
Register Online: scrc.org (after June 5 & at the door: \$25)

Luncheon guaranteed for those registered by 06/05/17.

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

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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 # _____ Signature _____
 Total Number of Registration(s) including Lunch _____ @ \$20 per person _____ Amt. Enclosed
 (after June 5 & at the door: \$25)

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

May 2017 Calendar



SAN FERNANDO REGION

Thursday, May 18

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

SAN GABRIEL REGION

Saturday, May 13

100th Anniversary Celebration of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, 9:30am-4:00pm with Fr. Bob Garon, Fr. Jerry Thompson, Fr. George Reynolds & Dominic Berardino at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 344 W. Workman St., Covina. \$20, includes catered chicken lunch. (See page 7)

Saturday, May 20

Mass & Healing Service, 9:00am with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at St. Luke the Evangelist, 5605 Cloverly, Temple City.

Friday, May 26

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR at San Gabriel Mission Chapel, 428 S. Mission, San Gabriel. (Praise 7:15pm)

SAN PEDRO REGION

Monday, May 15

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

Monday, May 22

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

HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARS

Saturday, May 20

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

Saturday, May 27

Holy Spirit Seminar with prayer for Baptism in the Holy Spirit, 10:00am-4:00pm with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ, Dominic Berardino & Dr. Elizabeth Kim at Our Lady of the Assumption, 435 N. Berkeley, Claremont. (see page 3).

June 2017 Calendar

SAN FERNANDO REGION

Saturday, June 3

SCRC Pentecost Vigil Celebration & Mass, 1:30-4:30pm at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall, 18115 Sherman Way, Reseda. All Are Welcome! Free Admission! (see back cover)

Saturday, June 10

How to Enjoy Real Happiness with God, 10:00am-3:00pm with Fr. Bob Garon, Fr. Ed Benioff & Dominic Berardino at St. Didacus Parish Hall, 14337 Astoria St., Sylmar. \$20 before June 5th, (includes catered chicken lunch) Healing Mass included. Please see opposite page.

Thursday, June 22

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

Thursday, June 22

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Kevin Rettig at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 19855

Sherman Way, Canoga Park. (Praise & Worship at 7:00pm)

Saturday, June 24

Teaching, "Saints & Their Relics, 7:30pm with Dominic Berardino at Incarnation Church Auditorium, 1001 N. Brand Blvd. (at Glenoaks), Glendale.

Friday, June 30

Healing of Memories Mass with Fr. Pat Crowley, SSCC, 7:15pm at Incarnation Church Auditorium, 1001 N. Brand Blvd. (at Glenoaks), Glendale.

SAN GABRIEL REGION

Friday, June 23

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Jerry Thompson at San Gabriel Mission Chapel, 428 S. Mission, San Gabriel. (Praise 7:15pm)

SAN PEDRO REGION

Monday, June 19

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

Monday, June 26

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Ismael Robles at St.

Cornelius, 5500 E. Wardlow Rd., Long Beach.

Friday, June 30

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

You can be an instrument to help connect others with the ultimate force in the universe!

Coming this Summer...

Prayer Ministry Training
Details in next issue



Pentecostalism and Spiritual Ecumenism

by Charles Whitehead



The twentieth century is already being described by church historians as “The Century of the Holy Spirit”. Why? We already know that on January 1st 1901 Pope Leo XIII prayed for the Holy Spirit to come again in power on the whole Church, as he sang *Veni Creator Spiritus* in his private chapel. This coincided with an experience of the power of the Holy Spirit at the Protestant Bethel Bible School in Topeka, Kansas, followed by other similar events, and in 1906 by revival at Number 312, Azusa Street, Los Angeles, California, a poor, run-down mission church pastored by William J. Seymour, a descendent of African slaves. This heralded the arrival of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements, which would soon be found in churches all over the world.

As William J. Seymour preached at Azusa Street in 1906 about the importance of being open to the Spirit’s supernatural presence, the small, multi-ethnic congregation experienced frequent manifestations of supernatural power and the charismatic gifts. So exciting was this that Protestant Christians from all over America began to come to Azusa Street to experience it for themselves. Most experienced Baptism in the Holy Spirit and returned to their own churches full of his joy, love and power, only to be rejected by their congregations. Not surprisingly many of them left their churches and formed new

fellowships with others who shared their experiences of the transforming power of the Spirit. They soon became known as Pentecostals, and so gave birth to one of the most significant movements in the history of Christianity. But something wonderful that should have led to the empowering of existing churches all over the world, was in danger of ending up as just another new denomination in the body of Christ, with its own expressions of faith and practice.

By the 1960s, however, through the prophetic ministry of Pentecostal leaders like David du Plessis, this life-changing dimension of charismatic life had broken out in a number of denominations—Anglican, Episcopalian, Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran and Reformed – and eventually in the Catholic Church among a group of students in 1967. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR), as it became known, spread rapidly throughout the world and from the beginning had close links with Pentecostal and the fast-growing New Independent Charismatic Churches and Fellowships, as well as with other denominational charismatics. It is largely for this reason that Pope Francis has clearly stated they should all be warmly included in our 50th Jubilee Celebrations as of right and not just as our guests. On June 1st 2014 in Rome, he quoted from the first Malines document 5:3: “The Charismatic Renewal is by its very nature ecumenical. Catholic Renewal rejoices over

what the Holy Spirit carries out in other churches”.

Whilst fully accepting that there are important theological and pastoral differences between us, Pope Francis believes passionately in “Spiritual Ecumenism”. This means building positive relationships with members of these other churches so that we pray and work together as much as possible. Here we all have important parts to play, so that in the Pope’s words: “We remain united in the love that the Lord Jesus asks of all men, and in the prayer to the Holy Spirit to come to this unity which is necessary for evangelization in the name of Jesus” (Rome, 1st June 2014). A wonderful sign of the progress we were all making even before Francis was elected Pope, came in 2004 when I was honored to be invited as the only non-Pentecostal member of the 12 strong Azusa Street Centennial Cabinet, meeting regularly to prepare the big international meeting for thousands of Pentecostal leaders which took place in Los Angeles in April 2006 to celebrate 100 years since the birth of Pentecostalism. So let’s give thanks for all our Pentecostal and Charismatic brothers and sisters – may we always pray and work together at every opportunity in response to the prayer of Jesus: “May they all be one, Father... so that the world may believe it was you who sent me” (Jn 17:21).

Reprinted from ICCRS Newsletter Jan/Feb 2017 issue. Please visit: iccrs.org

100th Anniversary

of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima

1917-2017



Saturday, May 13, 2017

9:30am-4:00pm

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

❖ Rosary ❖ Talks on Fatima ❖ Mass ❖



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



Dominic Berardino
President, SCRC
Burbank, CA



Fr. George Reynolds
Assoc. Pastor, St. Cornelius Parish
Long Beach, CA



Fr. Jerry Thompson
Assoc. Pastor, St. Francis Xavier Parish
Pico Rivera, CA

REGISTRATION BEFORE May 8:

Register Online: sccc.org

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

(after May 8 & at the door: \$25)

Luncheon guaranteed for those registered by 05/08/17.

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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c/o SCRC, 9795 Cabrini Drive, Suite 208
Burbank, CA 91504-1740
(818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379
spirit@sccc.org

REGISTRATION FORM

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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 # _____ Signature _____

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

(after May 8 & at the door: \$25)

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

Saturday, June 3, 2017

1:30-4:30pm
St. Catherine of Siena
Parish Hall
18115 Sherman Way
Reseda, CA

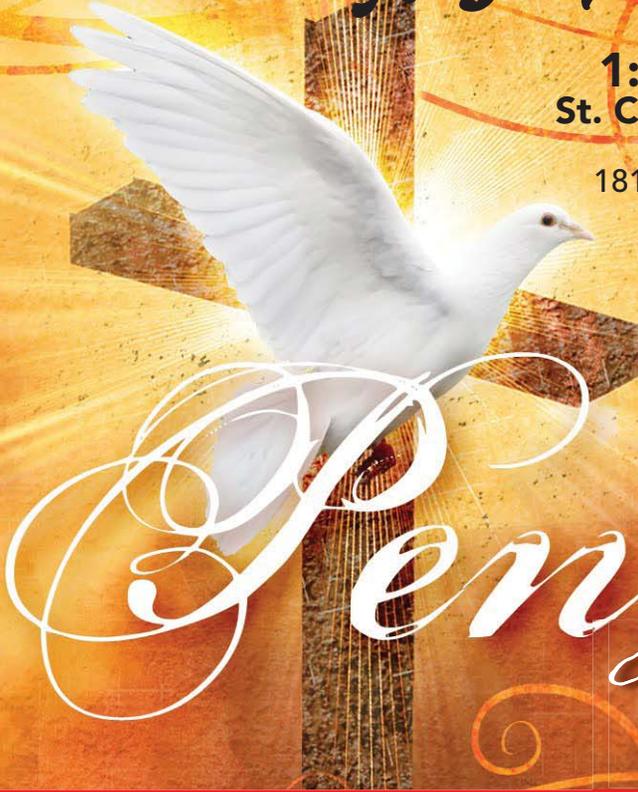


Dominic Berardino



Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ

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Pentecost Vigil Mass

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1 Peter 1:2

"We are sanctified by the Holy Spirit..."

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