

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

**Volume 48  
Number 3**



**SCRC  
SPIRIT**

Southern California Renewal Communities

**May / June 2020**

# **FINDING JOY IN SINGING WITH THE ANGELS**

## **THE GRACE OF JUBILATION**

### **THE ASTOUNDING PRAYER THAT CAME WITH PENTECOST**

by Deacon Eddie Ensley

One of the happiest discoveries in my life has been an ancient form of prayer that offers a foretaste of heaven, a way of opening up so God can fill us with boundless joy. Great theologians like St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Augustine prayed this way. Great spiritual leaders like St. Francis prayed this way. Countless numbers of Christians prayed this way in the first sixteen centuries of the history of the Church. After years this prayer form is experiencing a resurgence of interest through the charismatic renewal movement.

It is a way of prayer found in the Catholic tradition called "jubilation" (jubilatō in Latin), which modern-day charismatics called "singing in tongues." In an article on jubilation in *Commonweal*, Joseph A. Komonchak asserts that this kind of wordless praise has deep roots: "The verb *jubilo* and the noun *jubilatio* occur often in the Latin Psalms ... Augustine would point out that the word referred to a vocal expression used to express a joy or happiness too immense or too deep for

words." [i] Komonchak quotes from Augustine's *Commentary on the Psalms*: [i]

What I am about to say you already know. One who is whooping



does not speak words. Whooping is a certain sound of joy without words ... the sound of a mind poured forth in joy, expressing an affection, as far as possible... he bursts forth into a sound of exultation without words. [ii]

As part of my discovery of the Catholic Church, I read the early Church Fathers and Mothers and the original lives of the saints, especially St. Francis. The description of thousands of people praying in jubilation and the genuinely felt emotion in their worship was far richer than what I had seen at modern day charismatic Masses and prayer groups. When people prayed this way miracles and healing broke out.

There are hundreds of references to jubilation through the centuries. Augustine describes a Mass he celebrated in his home church in Hippo when two people were healed of palsy: "The exultation continued, and the wordless praise to God was shouted so loud that my ears could scarcely stand the din. But, of course, the main point was, in the hearts of this clamoring crowd, there burned that faith in Christ for which the martyr Stephen shed his blood." [iii]

Thomas of Celano describes

see *Singing With the Angels* on next page

Singing With the Angels continued

a scene of jubilation at the canonization of St. Francis:

“People danced in the streets... Then there was raised a clamor among the many people praising God: the earth resounded with their mighty voices, the air was filled with their jubilations, and the ground was moistened with their tears. New songs were sung, and the servants of God jubilated in melody of the Spirit. Sweet sounding organs were heard there, and spiritual hymns were sung with well-modulated voices. There a very sweet odor was breathed, and a most joyous melody that stirred the emotions resounded there.” [iv]

There are also vivid descriptions of St. Teresa (of Avila) spontaneously singing, dancing and jubilating, as well as depictions of St. Thomas Aquinas urging people to pray this way. One letter from Abbot Haimon in the thirteenth century describes the early volunteers who were building the Cathedral of Chartres singing and praying in this manner.

Jubilation is a means of uniting with God’s own song, yodeling back and forth tenderly to the

one who loves us most. Jubilation often leads to the tender silences of contemplative adoration. It is a treasure that once enlivened the whole Church. It can become that again.

Jubilation came with Pentecost, equipping God’s people with a great tool of prayer that leads to immense joy. Jubilation can be God’s means of healing and tuning into the wonder of the heartbeat of heaven. That gift is available to all who ask in faith. You can find out more about the gift of jubilation by getting in touch with a charismatic prayer group in your area, or by taking a Life in the Spirit seminar. Finally, ask the Holy Spirit to give you this gift, so that you might worship with renewed joy. As John XXIII prayed at the beginning of the Second Vatican Council, “Renew your wonders in our time, as though by a new Pentecost.”

For further reading and documentation see: *Sounds of Wonder*, Eddie Ensley, Paulist Press 1977

*Sounds of Wonder*, Eddie Ensley Revised and updated, foreword by Vinson Synan, Tau Publications. 2013  
“Whooping to the Lord” in *Commonweal*, January 11, 2012

*Pause in Wonder*, Chapter Six – “Finding Joy in Singing with the Angels”, Eddie Ensley, Ave Maria Press, 2020.

The two versions of *Sounds of Wonder* are out of Print. *Pause in Wonder* scheduled release in print May 29, 2020. Available for pre-order from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

[i] Joseph A. Komonchak, “Whooping to the Lord” in *Commonweal*, January 11, 2012.

[ii] Komonchak, “Whooping,” quoting Augustine’s *On Psalm 46:1*.

[iii] Augustine, *City of God*, Book XXII, Chapter 8.

[iv] Thomas of Celano, *St. Francis of Assisi: First and Second Life of St. Francis with Selections from the Treatise on the Miracles of Blessed Francis*, trans. Placid Hermann (Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1963) 69.

[v] Pope John XXIII, *Humanae Salutis*, December 25, 1961.

Deacon Eddie Ensley is an international speaker and a Catholic retreat leader. He has authored many books and conducted parish missions and retreats throughout the country. Deacon Eddie based this article on a chapter in his soon to be released book, *Pause in Wonder: Learning to Delight in God and His World*. For more information see: [parishmissions.net](http://parishmissions.net)



## Sequence to the Holy Spirit

**Come, Holy Spirit,  
send forth the heavenly radiance of your light.  
Come, father of the poor, come, giver of gifts,  
come, light of the heart.**

**Greatest comforter, sweet guest of the soul,  
sweet consolation.**

**In labor, rest, in heat, temperance, in tears, solace.**

**O most blessed light, fill the inmost heart of your faithful.**

**Without your grace, there is nothing in us,  
nothing that is not harmful.**

**Cleanse that which is unclean, water that which is dry,  
heal that which is wounded.**

**Bend that which is inflexible, fire that which is chilled,  
correct what goes astray.**

**Give to your faithful, those who trust in you,  
the sevenfold gifts.**

**Grant the reward of virtue, grant the deliverance  
of salvation, grant eternal joy. Amen.**

# SCRC Summer Convention?

## THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

John 1:5

This theme selected last December for the 2020 SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention has incredibly turned out to be seemingly prophetic. Normally at this time of year, Convention pre-registration is well underway. But all of our lives have been disrupted by the sudden appearance of the coronavirus global pandemic.

Months of planning and organizing have already gone into this major spiritual event. Many new speakers have come on board. The wide array of spiritual teachings, prayer experiences, exuberant liturgies were in the midst of the necessary multi-faceted work of coordination. All the various anointed special ingredients which make this Convention so popular for thousands of people were coming together.

As of this writing, restrictions are in place -- especially for large gatherings. The Anaheim Convention Center is shut-down. There is no definitive date when restrictions will be eased or lifted.

If SCRC does not have your current email address, please send it to [spirit@scrc.org](mailto:spirit@scrc.org) to receive updates as they become available.

The majority of SCRC's operating budget comes from this single large event. Your financial support and heartfelt prayers are crucial to the continued fruitfulness of this mission. A Big Thank You to all of you who have invested in this vital work of God's Kingdom.

Until we can again gather at all our various SCRC spiritual events --  
May God's warm love embrace you in the safety of His Peace.

## Hope Does Not Disappoint

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap.

During the general audience transmitted by video on Wednesday, March 11, referring to the Coronavirus crisis, the Holy Father exhorted the faithful of the whole world to face the situation "with strength, responsibility and hope". Let us try to give content to each of these three dispositions.

**Strength.** Let us listen to the Word that God addresses to his People in a particular moment of trial as if it were addressed to us today: "Not by power, nor by might, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (Zac 4:6). This does not exempt us from putting into action all human resources and precautions, but it assures us that we are not alone in our struggle. God is never so much Emmanuel, God-with-us, as when we are in trial. In such a moment, let us also cry out to Jesus like the apostles in the storm: "Lord, don't

you care that we perish?" He awaits our cry so that his intervention may be at the same time the fruit of his grace and of our faith.

**Responsibility.** Let us not think only of ourselves, of taking shelter, possibly even at the expense of others. Let us think of the consequences that one of our actions or omissions may have. This situation offers us a unique opportunity to remember that we are one family and "members of each other". A true captain does not abandon ship until all those for whom he is responsible have been rescued. This is the selflessness that so many doctors and caregivers have shown in such magnificent ways, but which has been exemplified above all else by our Saviour who "offered himself to death for all of us."

**Hope.** The most beautiful contribution that we can offer our

brothers and sisters as people of the Charismatic Renewal is this: to keep alive the theological hope, the hope that "does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Rm 5:5). In the name of the Moderator of CHARIS and of the whole International Service of Communion, I address to all the brothers and sisters of the CCR the wish that the Apostle addresses to the faithful of Rome: "May the God of hope give you joy and peace in your act of faith, so that hope may abound in you by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rm 15:13).

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap. has authored numerous books. Appointed by Pope John Paul II as Preacher to the Papal Household in 1980. Please visit: [cantalamessa.org](http://cantalamessa.org)





## In these hard times, God's help is close by.

Although SCRC's spiritual events are being delayed and postponed, we want to continue to provide you with good spiritual nourishment. We are tapping our vast library of inspirational and encouraging talks to boost your spiritual strength through this time of crisis.



[SCRC.org/podcast](http://SCRC.org/podcast)

# Spiritual Fortitude PODCAST

### To access a free subscription:

Listen to the Spiritual Fortitude Podcast on iPhones (Apple Podcast/iTunes), Android Phones (Google Podcasts), or the web by visiting [SCRC.org/podcast](http://SCRC.org/podcast) -- You can subscribe on any podcast service to receive notifications of new episodes, which will arrive every other day. You may share it with others who are seeking spiritual uplift. Consider following us on Facebook to help spread the word and receive podcast updates and more. And please post your testimonial there or on our website to share how the talk has helped you!



### SCRC SPIRIT

9795 Cabrini Drive, Suite 208  
Burbank, CA 91504-1740  
(818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379  
[spirit@scrc.org](mailto:spirit@scrc.org) [scrc.org](http://scrc.org)

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

1 Peter 1:2

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 4833  
Santa Ana, CA

**DATED MATERIAL**