



Light the Fire

Catholic Renewal Services of Edmonton (Alberta) Newsletter

May 2009 14th Edition

Our Mission Statement

To serve the Catholic Church as an instrument of renewal; seeking to strengthen the Charismatic movement and encourage conversion to Jesus Christ by promoting a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit and His presence in the lives of God's people.

In This Issue



Chairman's Message	1
Wisdom.....	2
Gift of Healing.....	3
Beware of the Desert of Godlessness.....	4

Chairman's Message

Welcome to Issue # 14, the focus of which is a continuation on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, and Healing. The Pastoral Team is hoping that we will gain some of each as we ponder the words. I want to focus my message on the gift of understanding. Actually, understanding community and to encourage examination of why and what we are accomplishing in this community called the Charismatic Renewal.

placency, of faith and doubt. The mood and spirit of these groups encourage or inhibit the continual conversion required of those who seek to follow Jesus."

I say hear, hear! Since it is you and I that are community, and have more or less similar visions for the Renewal, would it not make sense that we should be helping and working with each other to accomplish our goals (*a cord of three strands is not quickly broken* - Eccl 4:12). I challenge you to, if you are able in body and/or mind, to offer service to the Renewal, or if you have some profound ideas, with whatever your gift may be, to contact us. This "Movement of the Spirit", the Charismatic Renewal has touched and changed millions of lives; let's continue this community project as we work together, sharing talents, gifts and resources for the greater glory of God and the building of His Kingdom.

Dr. Fr. Peter Coughlin said recently in *The Bread of Life* magazine:

"Every community group needs a vision. It needs to know its major focus and the vision needs to take the group beyond itself for a greater purpose than self-need. For example, a prayer group needs to be constantly reaching out for new members, offering Life in the Spirit Seminars, being evangelistic, welcoming new people, involving them, shepherding them into discipleship and in their turn shepherding others. Christian communities are crucibles of courage and com-

May God bless you, one and all.

Tony Janssen
Chairman

CRNA CONFERENCE

St. Paul,
God's Fire Brand

May 23-24, 2009

Our Lady of Victory Camp
Bentley, AB

Mark your calendar & plan to come with family and friends

JPII Bible School students will do the youth stream

Cost: \$50.00 per person
\$125.00 per family

For more information, contact:

Teresa (403) 278-9863
or Tony (780) 963-4348

Catholic Renewal Network of Alberta

Please help defray cost of this publication

All donations promote the work of the **Catholic Renewal Services** Prayer Breakfast, Seminars, Conferences, and Newsletter *Light the Fire*. Catholic Renewal Services issues receipts for income tax purposes (Please indicate if this receipt is required).

Please make cheques payable to **Catholic Renewal Services** and mail to

Catholic Renewal Services
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Edmonton, AB T5M 4B5

Our email is:

renewal@ccredmonton.info

for your prayer requests, suggestions; for event announcements.

Visit our website at

www.ccredmonton.info

God bless you!

May 30

Pentecost 2009

Annual Vigil

Annunciation Church
9420 - 163 St Edmonton

7:00 PM **Praise & Worship** by Day Spring CCR
7:30 PM **Vigil Mass** presided by Fr. Stefano Penna

Come on!! Join millions all over the world for a weekend of Pentecost Celebrations

Let's fill the LORD'S House!

No charge - A collection will be taken

Wisdom

by **Mary Serniak**

This word is used in scriptures, not only for learning, but for skill in the arts; the instinct of birds or beasts; discretion and spiritual insight. We are very familiar with the scripture in Is. 11:12:

'The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him; a Spirit of wisdom and of understanding; a Spirit of counsel and of strength; a Spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD.'

It is the LORD who gives wisdom (*Pr. 2:6*) and fear of Him is its beginning (*Pr. 1:7*). He often produces fruit in the lives of His people through their voluntary humility (*Pr. 11:2*); the rod of correction (*Pr. 29:15*) and through His Holy Spirit which is the source and summit of wisdom. The Spirit imparts A wisdom from above, not a worldly wisdom which is futile and foolish (*1 Cr. 3: 19-20*). His Spirit of wisdom is given generously to all who ask. (*Jas. 1: 15*).

We, who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, were recipients of the above mentioned "Isaian gifts." How well have we put them into practice in our spiritual journey? To know how to use talents abilities, giftedness and knowledge, we need to put the gifts into practice and make them a part of our everyday lives.

Wisdom is that gift of the Holy Spirit whereby the Divine Spirit raises up our alone. Knowledge tells us the value of

Healing (from page 3)

How many desires of our heart go unanswered because we fail to ask? Jesus teaches us that we should ask in His name. When Jesus tells us to ask "in His name," He is teaching us to pray in His personality and character. If we don't see the LORD answering the small trivial petitions, how will we ever have the courage and trust to ask Him for greater requests? Also when we don't see the answers to prayer as we have requested we automatically think that the LORD's desire should have been the same as our petition. We need

earthly things and how we can enjoy them lawfully without offending God, but wisdom mounts high above them.

Wisdom is the blossom of all the other gifts; the ladder, lead us step by step to the throne of God, but wisdom bids us to sit down on his footstool and judge all things from that sublime height.

Wisdom gives us courage to trample underfoot, wealth, honour and pleasure, if these things impede our salva-

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tion or even cast so much as a shadow between us and our God. The nineteen chapters of the Book of Wisdom, in the Old Testament, give us a wealth of knowledge and convey the message of the most popular religious themes of that time, namely the splendour and worth of Divine Wisdom. Solomon sought wisdom, the source of blessings; as his counselor and comfort; and realized that wisdom is a gift from God. In (*1 K. 3: 5-12*), we read of Solomon's request of God, thus we learn of the God-given wisdom

to always pray to seek his will and then ask for His direction to determine how our prayer should be directed. Jesus was always in that right relationship with the Father so He knew what and how the prayer should be.

We should always be attentive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and then we will know what and how to pray. All mothers should be praying for their children and fathers should also be praying and leading the family in prayers for healing. Our grandchildren as young as five are also enlisted to pray for their parents when ill with the flu or colds, and we have allowed them

he received to surpass the wisdom of all human kind.

In the New Testament we learn of more spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit; the first of which is wisdom in discourse (*1 Cr. 12: 4-11*). Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. Of wisdom it is written: "all good things come to me with her and innumerable riches through her hands." It is the gift of wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity, and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. Wisdom enlightens the mind to discern and relish things divine, in the appreciation of which earthly joys lose their savour, while the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness, according to the words of the Saviour: "Take up the cross and follow Me, for my yoke is sweet and my burden light."



PRAYER: LORD, grant us the Spirit of Wisdom; that we may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal. Amen

Mary Serniak is a Prayer Group leader and member of the Pastoral Team of **Catholic Renewal Services**.

to bless and lead in prayers that are simply spoken and asking Jesus to heal the sick parent. Many times we have seen what we refer to as divine intervention and experienced healing. Unless we step out in faith and ask we, because of our own free will, will probably not experience the fullness and abundance of life that Jesus wishes for us.

Deacon Stan Kroetsch is a Permanent Deacon ordained in July 2008 and the liaison to the Archbishop for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Edmonton

Gift of Healing

by **Deacon Stan Kroetsch**

"I f you, with all of your sins, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your heavenly father give good things to anyone who asks." (Matthew 7:11) Jesus is speaking to us about the power of prayer and is not referring only to spiritual matters but he is also referring to healing. Preaching forgiveness and healing are almost inseparable. God provides for us in most cases without our even asking but there are special things, the desires of our hearts or the particular needs for the moment and it is God's will that we ask for those things. God knows that the prayer of petition has a part in developing our relationship with Him and in maturing our spirits. God has given us the power to choose and the right to ask. In order to ask anything of any person we must draw closer to them. So it is with God, we need to draw closer to Him to be comfortable in our own person to be in a position to ask for the healing to take place. Therefore in Him we live, and move and have our being.

The gift of healing is one of the charismatic sign gifts. This is a gift that manifests in a special way the power of God in the world. It calls attention to God's reality and so brings people to knowledge of God. The words of Christ, at the end of the Gospel of Mark, tell us that this is God's way of confirming the truth of the message:

The touch is incredibly important and sometimes the touch in itself is the prayer

"Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation....signs like these will accompany those who have professed their faith... and the sick upon whom they lay their hands will recover." The LORD continued to work with them throughout and confirm the message the signs which accompanied them.

Before we deal with the actual gift of

healing, let us look at healing prayer. Usually when we pray for healing most people are not completely healed but there is a change, they are improved. When we go to a doctor and he prescribes medicine for us, the more

Jesus is the healer

medication we take the more improved we are. We are pleased that according to the doctor in a week or in a month we will be restored to wellness. There are times when we pray that there is an immediate healing but in most cases there is some improvement. It seems that we become a bit discouraged and we do not continue with prayer. Many situations, according to Francis MacNutt, require soaking prayer. This situation requires a great deal of continuity in prayer. Sometimes it will require some additional prayer warriors. The touch is incredibly important and sometimes the touch in itself is the prayer. Even if we ourselves do not have the gift of healing we are still all called to pray for healing. When we feel there is a possibility that a healing has taken place, it does not show a lack of faith in God to continue to pray for the fullness of that healing.

When praying we need to remember that Jesus sometimes spoke when He healed and sometime He simply laid hands on the individual for healing to take place. This is important for us to think about when we are visiting someone in a hospital where we will pray silently but still be able to touch the individual. Just being in the presence of Jesus is also sufficient for the healing process to take place. Sometimes we are accustomed to thinking that the gift of healing is reserved for certain individuals who receive a supernatural call from God to go forth and heal. We read the lives of the saints and find it difficult or impossible to come close to their heroic acts of holiness or piety. Therefore, we feel we could not possibly imitate their works of healing. Acts 10:34 does

state that God does not have favorites, so that leads us to believe that God wants us to develop our relationship with Him that will enable us to be the channels of His healing grace. Perhaps we feel that we are not worthy but that would be a false thought as God can use us right where we are even in our state of sinfulness. This only emphasizes the fact that it is Jesus is the healer. The most important criteria are our action to step out and be the channel of love and healing that Jesus wishes to use. Agnes Sanford says that she herself wondered how the miracles took place so decided to find out. First she studied the words of

Just being in the presence of Jesus is also sufficient for the healing process to take place

Jesus Christ and then simply tried what he said and seeing whether it worked or not. Lo and behold it worked. That should be example enough for us as well. Agnes through practice developed her gift of miraculous healing. She indeed became the channel of God's love and healing through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Agnes also found that it was essential that she spent time in prayer in worship and prayer asking for guidance by the Holy Spirit before she went out to pray for healing. Jesus spent time in prayer and worship alone with the Father, so therefore when He asked for healing He knew that the Father would grant His request.

(Continue on page 2 as Healing)

Veni Creator Spiritus
that is
Come, creator Spirit



*Get your
Cross of the Renewal*

Beware of the Desert of Godlessness

by **Edwigde Guin**

Pope Benedict warns the West. Pontiff likens attempts to remove religion from daily life to the mockery Jesus faced from the mob.

Daily Telegraph, Rome

The Pope gave this warning in his Good Friday address: "This increasingly secular Western society risks drifting into a 'desert of Godlessness.' A book written by Peter Steinfels, caught my attention in 2003. It was entitled **A People Adrift**, which revealed the condition and the situation of the Church's present crises, especially on the American continent. This book perfectly correlated and confirmed entries I made in my journal, which I have been keeping for about 35 years, the crisis of a people of God searching for truth, which would give us the promise of God's Word: "*Salvation unto Eternal Life*".

Should we ask ourselves this very crucial question: Is the Church, not just in America, but worldwide, really in a state of crisis? Do we passively ignore it, hoping it will simply go away, or will we in a very responsible way consider to simply light a candle or rather curse the darkness of the obscurity of the intensifying brokenness in the Body of Christ, His visible presence here on earth? Is it your concern or mine or relatively speaking would the retort be: "It's none of your business?" Will we simply stick our heads in the sand and believe that the winds of compromising indifference will suffice to blow over

the worst of the storm? Should we simply, justifiably watch the ship blown a gale, to disembark in the rocky shores of time?

**We fight not against
flesh and blood but prin-
cipalities of darkness,
spirits of the unseen
world; resist the enemy
and he will flee**

Eph. 6:12

What will tell the story? Will the lighthouses (Prayer Groups and cenacles) dimly shine their light to the rescue or will they even be bright enough to render directions? Will their lights be out completely, perhaps awaiting their own Golgotha or will it simply be the "Place of the Skull", or just the rattling bones of the passing crowd? Will there simply be onlookers or will there be participators? Will God's Spiritual Army be prepared and ready for battle, or will we simply hide in our foxholes and trenches waiting out the storm and let the gale force winds blow over?


If we are adrift at the moment, will the gale force winds of the Holy Spirit once again blow to brood over the void, to seed the Word of New Life to come?

Let us pray, pause and ponder these relevant questions of this very hour! To continue the course of our journey, are

the sails of our drifting ship strong enough to capture the directions of where God's Wind of His Spirit is blowing? Is Jesuah (Jesus), Emmanuel (God with us) at the helm, directing this ship and is the faith and trust of it's remaining occupants prepared to persevere and endure the journey, or has despondency and discouragement and despair destroyed and divided its people?

Are we open to receive the Holy Spirit's directives, guidance and directions? Are we submissively sufficiently prepared to obey, trust and basically believe that God is present in this sailing ship with its faithful remnant? Are we hearing and are we listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd, Christ Jesus, repeating these very words? *With men it would not be possible but with God everything is possible.*

Will we be supportive participants in affirming and encouraging Christ's representatives here on earth, by obedience and intercessory prayer to confront the Spiritual combat?

*We fight not against flesh and blood
but principalities of darkness, spirits of
the unseen world; resist the enemy and
he will flee* (Eph. 6:12) Amen! 

Our next issue of "Light the Fire" will deal with what God's Spirit is wanting for us all, to be able to do and to fulfill His will, His plan, for humankind.

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord

Praise & Worship



Mass presided by Fr. Larry Tan

Fellowship



Wednesday June 24
Knights of Columbus Hall
11030 St Albert Trail
(128 St & 111 Ave)

From 7:30 pm

Healer of My Soul

Conference

Lorraine Hartsook
&
Fr. Clair Watrin

October 2 & 3, 2009

St. Andrew's Centre Auditorium

More information to come.