



Light the Fire

Catholic Renewal Services of Edmonton (Alberta) Newsletter December 2011 16th 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.

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 God bless you!

Editorial

Welcome to Issue #16 of the newsletter for the **Catholic Renewal Services of Edmonton**. This is the second issue that we will have available electronically. It can be downloaded, free of charge, from our website: www.ccredmonton.info If you do not have access to a computer the newsletter will be made available free of charge at the prayer breakfasts. The newsletter can be found on the book table.

This past year, we have continued to host our monthly prayer breakfasts, being blessed with speakers who share how the Holy Spirit has led them in their daily walk with our LORD. Along with our prayer breakfasts we also hosted a mass with healing service in January followed by our spring conference *'Who has Seen the Wind'*. Michael Cumbie an American evangelist was our speaker and he shared his conversion story along with his vast knowledge of the doctrine of the Catholic Church. Presently he is studying in Catholic Seminary. The **CRNA (Catholic Renewal Network of Alberta)** Conference May 28 & 29 was held at Our Lady of Victory Camp. The name of this conference was *Refiner's Fire* and the take home messages were that first we need to make more time for the LORD as we are getting too comfortable and second that if we are not challenged we are not growing. Father Stephano Penna once again was our main celebrant along with Deacon Stan for our eve of *Pentecost Vigil*. On September 9 & 10, we had our fall conference, *'Christ Speaks Today'*, with Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck. The fall conference was a joint venture between the Edmonton and Calgary Charismatic Renewal Services. It was a wonderful event and it prepared us as a community to be completely open to a visit by Robert and Chita Canton. Robert led our *Life in the Spirit Seminar* which was completed with a Mass and healing service. Robert has the gift of healing and many people were touched by the healing power of Our LORD through the mass (led by Father John Reddy and the healing service led by Robert Canton. These were all wonderful events where Our LORD was able to pour out His grace abundantly on His people. I thank Our LORD for the wonderful gift of His presence through the Holy Spirit and I am always amazed at the wonders He works amongst us if we remain open to His Holy Spirit.

"Pope John Paul II speaks of three rediscoveries to which the Holy Spirit has led the Church beginning with the Second Vatican Council. One of these rediscoveries is the rediscovery of the 'universal call to holiness'. Pope John Paul II further emphasized that this call to the fullness of holiness is an essential part of being a Christian." (Ralph Martin, *Fulfillment of All Desire*, page 2). All the Christian faithful, of whatever state or rank, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity. (NMI 30; cf. LG 40 *).

Archbishop Richard Smith during the catechesis for the last *Nothing More Beautiful* evening also spoke on the 'Call to Holiness' as being essential for all Catholic Christians. Brothers and Sisters, let us continually open our hearts to the voice of Our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ and with the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit through the intercession of our blessed Mother Mary recommit ourselves to this blessed journey to holiness.

Please let me or any other member of the Pastoral Team know if you have a specific request, need or prayer intention. May Our LORD bless each and every one of you with His grace and His love.

Corrine (Cory) Yakimovich

Chairperson

(*) NMI, Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* by Blessed John Paul II
 LG, Vatican II *Dogmatic Constitution of the Church*, Lumen Gentium

Merry
 Christmas!!!





Music Corner

by Tony Janssen

"The one who sings well, prays twice"

Dear friends:

The next four music related sharings will be dedicated to help us understand the reasons and purposes for praising God, and to assist those who lead Praise and Worship in their Prayer Group and/or Church. I used these at the *CFMA Music Workshop* in 2008; the topics are:

1. Principles of leading praise and worship
2. The relationship between music and praise
3. The function of the music ministry
4. Important points for the music ministry

PRINCIPLES OF LEADING PRAISE AND WORSHIP

A. Call of ministry of leading worship

We should have an attitude of gratitude. We are unworthy of the gift and we need to return it to the LORD; Parable of the

Talents (Mat. 25:14-30). There is a danger of falling into pride, which compromises God's action. We need a clean heart (Psalm 51), because we are in the front lines of spiritual warfare, as the evil one wants to break it down. Only with God's power in our lives can we overcome him. To whom much is given, much is expected. Give it your all. Be proficient, play skillfully to the LORD. Practice lots, learn complimentary chords, and seek the LORD's confirmation as performing can become idolatry.

B. Be aware of who is being worshipped

Music needs to be good, but avoid a pre-occupation with perfection. Minor things such as tuning and avoiding dead strings, are more important than the beauty of the music. Remember that the words are most important. Allow the Holy Spirit to fine-tune us; seek after personal conversion, be a person of prayer and strife to be more holy.

C. Praying for anointing and ministering of angels

We can ask the Guardian Angels to teach us how to pray and sing. Pray for

deepening and maturity of your gift. Pray for yourself.

D. Be selective of the music to which we listen and use

All music is inspired, but not all inspiration comes from the Holy Spirit. Even some of the "Christian" stuff is not always wholesome and anointed. So learn and use the songs that "grab" you, because they will be "God-inspired"; such songs will make our leadership more effective.

I hope this made sense so far; make sure you catch the next installment.

"God is good."

Your friend in Christ,

Tony



Tony Janssen is praise and worship leader of Day Spring, C.C.R., and has been in the Renewal since 1986. He is Praise and prayer group leader, and choir director. Tony and his wife Pat are long time parishioners of and active at Holy Trinity Church in Spruce Grove/Stony Plain, Alberta.

Special Event on Baptism in the Holy Spirit

by Corrine Yakimovich

On March 17-20 of this year, 2011, the **Pontifical Council for the Laity** sponsored a special event in Rome which was attended by 150 theologians and sponsored by the **International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS)** in collaboration with the **Pontifical Council for the Laity**. Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko celebrated the Mass on Friday and Father Cantalamessa, in addition to his address, also led Eucharistic adoration. This event considered the contemporary experience of baptism in the Spirit from biblical, theological and pastoral points of view, especially in its relationship to the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. According to the preacher of the Pontifical Household, Father Cantalamessa, the first consequence of a baptism in the Holy Spirit is an overwhelming desire to proclaim Christ.

According to an **ICCRS** report from Father Cantalamessa and I quote, "that in contrast to many other charismatic and

prophetic groups in Church history, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has had a strong ecclesial bent. It aligned itself with previous renewal movements through the capacity it brought for a change of life, but differed from them in its fidelity to the institutional Church. He emphasized that credit for this belongs not to the Charismatic Renewal alone but also to the hierarchy, and particularly to the courage of Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

Baptism in the Spirit was looked at in relation to the sacrament of confirmation by Father Denis Biju-Duval, a professor at the **Pontifical Lateran University**. He was saddened that "the secularized atmosphere of Western culture does not favor the integration of faith into a person's life" and thereby restricts the effects of the "sacrament of Pentecost". The **ICCRS** report also

said that Father Biju-Duval noted that for spiritual growth to take place, it is necessary that the graces of baptism and confirmation unfold at the level of experience.

Bishop Santier from Creteil, France, spoke about how the Church Fathers in their early writing wrote about the baptism of the Spirit while Beatriz Spier Vargas, a leader of the Charismatic Renewal in Brazil shared about the impact of the Renewal in her country. Other lay leaders and priests shared about the impact of the Charismatic Renewal in India, Malta, Guatemala, Benin, Cameroon, England and Korea.

Take great solace my brothers and sisters in Christ that the Holy Spirit is alive and well and is working all over the world. This event will be followed by the publication of a document on baptism in the Spirit. We will look forward to sharing more with you on this when we receive this publication.



Father Raniero Cantalamessa

by Deacon Stan Kroestch

In Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, we recently experienced the visitation of Father Raniero Cantalamessa who spent time with private instruction for the priests and the deacons in the Archdiocese. Father Cantalamessa is a Franciscan Capuchin Catholic Priest who was appointed in 1980 by Pope John Paul II as Preacher to the Papal Household. In this capacity, Father Cantalamessa preaches a weekly sermon at Advent and Lent in the presence of Pope Benedict XVI, the Cardinals, Bishops, and Holy See Staff. The title and office of Preacher to the Papal Household, also known as the Apostolic Preacher, date back to the time of Pope Paul IV (1555-1559). In 1743, Pope Benedict XIV reserved the order to the Order of Capuchin Friar's Minor. I had the opportunity to spend some private time with Father when he was speaking with the priests and deacons.

When Fr. Cantalamessa was first appointed, he said he was asked to investigate this charismatic renewal. Fr. said he was the perfect one to investigate as he was very skeptical of the Renewal itself. He was both invited and sent to a conference in St. Louis to find some evidence that would incriminate the renewal. Because of his skepticism he was more critical of what was happening at this conference and he was truly smitten when he rested in the spirit. When he returned to Rome, he had indeed news for the Vatican. A new perspective would follow in his report as he was now able to provide the Papacy with his testimony. He, like Paul in the scriptures, became the greatest proponent of the Holy Spirit.

When Father spoke to us, he shared with us that with the Holy Spirit we experience the reverse of what happened at Babel. When we speak or pray in the spirit or in tongues, we do so for the glory of God not to glorify ourselves as at the building of the tower of Babel. We must go through the same conversion as the Apostles did. We must make a choice for Jesus and yet there is no more exciting way than to make the choice in this manner. Some were convinced that the Apostles were drunk on spirit as some may feel today, but with the Holy Spirit the change that takes place is a life changing experience. Fa-

ther says this is like the DNA of the Church because it is the very beginning of the Church. With the Holy Spirit we are able with power to preach Jesus in a powerful and confident way. The Holy Spirit gives us a new understanding of Jesus and what he calls us to do and be. The new life in the Spirit gives us a new ETERNAL DESTINY. We have a new greater love and recognition of the Lordship of Jesus. We are more able to accept Jesus as our personal LORD and Savior.

Father spoke to us as priests with the responsibility of ensuring that all we come in contact with have the access to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Priests are to be the example to lead others into the life in the Spirit. This leads us to a new evangelization when as a pastor we are to lead people into a personal relationship with Jesus. We have a greater responsibility to get in touch with Jesus and we must pastor not just be fishers of men. We are to live the new Pentecost. Only God makes a Pentecost. "What we can do is empty ourselves, be humble and be ready to serve." Moreover, "We cannot

be humble before God in prayer if we are not humble before our brothers and sisters."

We must repeat the experiences of the Apostles and share our testimony or story with all we encounter. That is the new evangelization. We must realize that there are many manifestations of the Holy Spirit not merely speaking in tongues. We must not only know but practice the life in the Holy Spirit. This living life in the Holy Spirit is being completely immersed in the love of God as the Father pours into our hearts the love and fellowship of his Holy Spirit.

People are looking for love. Jesus will share his love with us by the power of his Holy Spirit. Jesus gives us his Holy Spirit to remind us of all the things that Jesus said and did for us. When we experience the new Pentecost, we are filled with the love that is shared by all.

"GOD sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)



Christ Still Speaks Today Conference

by Corrine (Cory) Yakimovich

On September 9 & 10 of this year, we had two wonderful speakers visit the Catholic Charismatic Community in the Archdioceses of Edmonton and Calgary; Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck. They came to give us the message of Our LORD for His Church as revealed in the book of Revelations in the Bible. These two men were asked by both the Charismatic Renewal in Edmonton and that in Calgary to provide the same teachings to the people by having the speakers fly between both cities. On Friday night in Edmonton, Ralph broke open the word concerning the Churches of Smyrna, Philadelphia and Laodicea while Peter on Saturday addressed the Churches of Ephesus, Sardis, Pergamum and Thyatira as they relate to our journey in the present age.

The messages we heard were both those of encouragement and challenge as they were designed to stir up the ashes and get God's people ready for mission.

Ralph began, 'Blessings to those who hear and read the word of God'. The Church of Laodicea was lukewarm; neither hot nor cold. Is that what we see sometimes? It can be easy to drift into a dull Christian life but this literally makes Jesus sick. How do we come against this? It is the call to holiness that keeps our Christian life alive and bearing fruit. Sometimes our spiritual journey seems to hit a plateau and when this happens

(continue on Page 4 as Conference)

