

# NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Advent 2010



## October Day of Renewal

**“Give what you have received!”**

A little over 50 people showed up for this event, despite the overcast and rainy weather. The music was provided by Clint Bentz and his family. We began the morning with praise and worship, and many were moved by the depth and intensity of it. It was deeply refreshing and inspiring. After the praise and worship we had two talks before lunch.

Fr Odo Recker, a monk of Mt Angel Abbey, was our presenter. Fr Odo was involved in the renewal in Ohio and was a well known speaker. Fr Odo began by setting the scene by looking at the faith of the apostles and the religious environment they were coming from. Then in the second talk he focused on Jesus the Messiah and how he fulfilled all the prophecies, even though it was not the way people were expecting. Fr Odo then went on to highlight how Jesus was Messiah on the cross and how the cross is part of our lives. The important thing is to be faithful to what we are called to, as Jesus was. Fr Odo reminded us that while we like the cross, we often want it padded so that it doesn't hurt as much when we have to carry it. He also emphasized that the cross doesn't go away if we ignore it but it does change when we offer it!



*Fr Odo teaching and encouraging*

After lunch we had another period of stirring praise and worship from Clint Bentz and his worship team. Thereafter Fr Odo concluded with his third talk, and what a powerful and hard hitting talk it was! He reminded us of the prophecy of Joel and how in the last days God's Spirit would be poured out. This began at Pentecost and continues through today and until the end of time. Fr Odo strongly emphasized that the key gift of the Catholic Charismatic renewal is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Then he went on to tell us "Give what you have received!" And if we expect to bring others into the life in the Spirit then we need to live it and reflect it. In this vein Fr Odo reminded us that if we are not dead then we are not done with our own ongoing conversion. He concluded by exhorting us to obey the Lord as He is faithful to His promises. What happened at Pentecost is still happening and that we are caught up in it. And to be part of this we need to live it ourselves and to share with other what we have received!



*Praise and worship at the Day of Renewal*

The day concluded with a time of prayer for those who wished to receive it. All in all it was an encouraging and inspiring day.

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**The Grace of Pentecost is a Missionary Grace**

*“It is therefore important for us to embrace our mandate. We are not just called to be people who have experienced a ‘personal Pentecost’, important as this is, but along with this experience goes a responsibility. We are called to be channels for the graces of Pentecost in our Church and in our world...Clearly, Pentecost is for the world. It is about transforming society through the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Michelle Moran, ICCRS President

## 2010 SCRC Conference

SCRC is Southern California Renewal Communities, the organization supporting the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the region. Every year they have a conference which draws thousands of people. This year was no exception as over 7,000 people registered for the conference and many others came for single sessions or for a day. The conference is the largest of its kind in the USA at present. Approximately 45 speakers gave talks, did workshops, and ran seminars. The 2010 conference theme was “Stand Firm in the Faith”

There were various conference tracks including those for Teens, Young Adults, Children, and for Vietnamese. John Michael Talbot, the famous Catholic musician provided some of the music and a workshop. Other presenters included Fr Bill Adams CSSR who did a healing Mass here at St. Rose in Portland last July. Other speakers included Patti Mansfield who was present at the Duquesne weekend in 1967, Fr Stan Fortuna CFR, Sr Linda Koontz SNJM, and Fr Michael Barry SSCC who is also a frequent visitor to the northwest.



*Opening of 2003 SCRC Conference*

The following three Youtube videos are from a participant at the conference. They give one a feel for the main sessions, the Masses, the praise and worship, and the smaller breakout sessions. Obviously it is just a thumbnail sketch approach, but for those of us who have been to large charismatic conferences it is a great reminder that we are part of something much larger and that there are many others who are also baptized in the Spirit and seeking to live a life of faith in the Spirit in this way.

[www.youtube.com/user/davyface#p/u/3/mT-4A-CWsTg](http://www.youtube.com/user/davyface#p/u/3/mT-4A-CWsTg)

[www.youtube.com/user/davyface#p/u/2/BP8DT3jrxAo](http://www.youtube.com/user/davyface#p/u/2/BP8DT3jrxAo)

[www.youtube.com/user/davyface#p/u/1/5t-kECyHvcM](http://www.youtube.com/user/davyface#p/u/1/5t-kECyHvcM)

To get more information about SCRC, its newsletter, and its events, go to [www.scr.org](http://www.scr.org).

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### **Hungry for the Spirit**

*“In our time that is so hungry for hope, make the Holy Spirit known and loved. Help bring to life that ‘Culture of Pentecost’ that alone can make fruitful the civilization of love and friendly co-existence among peoples. With fervent insistence, never tire of praying ‘Come Holy Spirit! Come! Come!’”*

Pope John Paul II, 2002

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## **Holy Spirit Sightings**

### **Healing at Mass in Kelso**

A woman brought her mother to the recent healing Mass in Kelso. She was encouraged to take her mother by a friend. The mother had been recently diagnosed with a very aggressive form of Lymphatic Cancer. She was prayed with by one of the priests and the team members with him. The mother reported being deeply touched by the prayers and laying on of hands. The following day she had a scheduled doctor’s appointment to discuss a treatment plan for her cancer. They did a PET Scan and found NO cancer! Praise God!

## Healing at the Day of Renewal

A woman attending the Day of Renewal had suffered for many years with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), which caused lots of pain. She had seen many doctors, had lots of tests, taken medicines, and even had her gall bladder removed in trying to combat this disease. For the past few months it had recurred with constant abdominal pain and much loss of sleep. During the last talk at the Renewal Day, she was in pain and sitting in the back to more easily leave without disturbing others. At the end of the conference, she asked several team members and some others to pray specifically for healing of the IBS. That night and since then, she has had almost no pain or symptoms of the IBS. The absence of pain, and the ability to sleep through the night without pain is a wonderful gift from the Lord! Praise God!

## Starting a new Prayer Group

Another attendee at the Day of Renewal was so moved by the Holy Spirit and Fr Odo's message on sharing the gift of the baptism in the Spirit we have received that she went back to her parish and decided to start a prayer group. She secured permission of the pastor and bishop and is now setting up that prayer group. Another disciple and missionary proclaiming the Good News! Praise God!

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## Bringing the Holy Spirit to Others

*“Are we going to discover the secret of the first Pentecost in the Church? Are we going to offer ourselves humbly to the renewing power of the Holy Spirit so that He can free us from our poverty and our total inability to carry out the task of proclaiming Jesus Christ to our fellow men? ... The Upper Room is the place where Christians allow themselves in welcoming the Holy Spirit to be transformed in prayer. But it is also the place from which one goes out to bring the fire of Pentecost to one's brothers and sisters.”*

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, 1992

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