

NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

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Spreading the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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This is an excerpt from an article by the author.

The essence of the messianic action of Jesus is to baptize in the Holy Spirit: “He who comes after me will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with

fire” (Mt 3:11); “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit” (John 1:33). It is the essential work of Christ, the fulfillment of the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament when God “will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh” (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17).

The Holy Spirit has given rise to the CCR to spread the experience of Pentecost in our time. We must tell lukewarm Catholics and all men and women in our society that Jesus is Lord, that He is risen, and He wants to renew mankind in the Holy Spirit.

To have the experience of the baptism in the Spirit is to live a Pentecost today (Acts 2:3, 4). There are many who bear witness with their lives to having had a Pentecost today. The experiences and life transformations of all who have received the baptism in the Spirit—be they men, women or children, consecrated or lay—are similar to those of the apostles in the Upper Room. It is a unique grace that makes a person recognize the power and lordship of Christ. In that very moment “the man recognizes that he is nothing and God is everything (Fr Cantalamessa).

The baptism in the Spirit received by the apostles at Pentecost was the driving force of the evangelization that has reached us. The baptism in the Spirit experienced by Christians today is what will render credible and convincing the proclamation of the Gospel in our time, giving life to the words of Jesus: “I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!” (Luke 12:49).

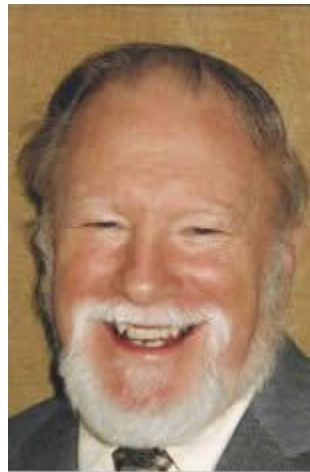
The entire article may be found in the current edition of the ICCRS Newsletter at www.iccrs.org/images/uploads/newsletters/NL12-5/NL12-5_En.pdf.

Fall Day of Renewal : Deacon Bill Brennan

Our Fall Day of Renewal was an inspiring affair. Clint Bentz and the ICPE musicians provided the music and led the worship. Deacon Bill came up

from California to do the presentations. Deacon Bill is very active in the renewal and he was at his upbeat best in his preaching and teaching.

In the first session he spoke about God's amazing grace and reminded us of Pope John Paul II's words in his Apostolic Exhortation to the Laity which encouraged the use of the charisms. Deacon Bill reminded us that the Baptism in the Spirit brings to life or reinvigorates the grace we first received at baptism, when God begins to share his life with us. He said that our lives should reflect the presence of God within us. If they don't, we have a problem. The big problem is the gap between the faith we profess and the lives we live.



Deacon Bill Brennan

Reflecting on the ministry of Jesus Deacon Bill pointed out that Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God first and foremost. All healings of the sick, raising of people from the dead, and the casting out of demons was an authentication of that message. He asked us to reflect on the question "What evidence do you have that your work is affecting the lives of people?" He emphasized that we must live what we have received in the renewal every moment of every day.

In the second session he reminded us of the need to be grateful. He spoke of a spiritual principle from the early church that said "A heart of thanksgiving becomes a heart of praise, and a heart of praise becomes a heart of worship". When we have gratitude it leads us to God.

He challenged us to ask ourselves three simple questions:

1. What am I hearing?
2. What am I experiencing?
3. What does this mean for my life?

He went on to say that the biggest obstacle we face to experiencing God's amazing grace is our own fear. Fear immobilizes us and paralyzes us, and we can miss what God has for us. We miss God's amazing grace at those moments of our lives. So what are we afraid of? It's not so much God, but rather of what God might do and ask of us if we ever did really let go and gave him free reign in our lives.

In the third session, Deacon Bill began with the question; "Are we still amazed, astonished, or astounded at what God has done or is doing?" He went to answer it by saying that if we are not, then we need to be renewed ourselves.

Regarding our desire for the charisms he pointed out that we often want the safe charisms such as love, joy, and the like, rather than the charisms which really challenge us and call us out of our comfort zones. He reminded us that one of the primary calls of the Church to its members is to make Christ present in all we say and do.

He concluded with a reflection on Jesus speaking with Peter after the resurrection and asking him three times whether he loved him. Commenting on Peter responding each time that he did and Jesus response about caring for his sheep, Deacon Bill asked us to reflect on whether we love the Lord enough to continue the journey we have begun in Christ and in the renewal.

The day concluded with a time of prayer and prayer for healing and personal needs.

Boat Lift

Recently someone sent me an amazing video concerning the evacuation of people from lower Manhattan after the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. It is an amazing story of heroism, faithfulness, and simply doing what's right. I have listed the video link below.

In light of Deacon Bill's words to us at the Day of Renewal, it is a reminder of what we are capable of and our call to act for good in the world. In the same way we are called to be faithful in our daily lives in living the Gospel and reflecting Christ and his love for others.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDOrzF7B2Kg&feature=plcp>

Charismatics in Poland Celebrate Together

The 18th National Conference of Polish Catholic Charismatic Renewal took place traditionally in Czestochowa at the third weekend of May (18-19 May 2012). The meeting consisted of two parts. The leaders gathered together on May 18—about 2000 participants were present. The second day was open for everybody and about 140,000 came to pray together. Evangelization was the main topic of the conference. The open day culminated with the prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Many people present at the meeting place worshiped the Lord in tongues. The Spirit of joyful prayer visited people who were gathered at Jasna Gora.

Pentecost 2013 in Rome



In response to the invitation of the Holy Father Benedict XVI to the movements for Pentecost vigil in 2013, ICCRS is happy to announce that a program has been planned around the meeting with the Pope. All those in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal who will come to Rome for the official event, from all over the world, are invited to take part in this meeting. The proposed plan includes:

- Friday evening, 17 May: Prayer meeting in a central Church in Rome.
- Saturday, 18 May: Pentecost Vigil with the Holy Father.
- Sunday afternoon, 19 May: Pentecost of the Nations Celebration.

More information will be published in the next issues of the *ICCRS Newsletter* and on the website. Please follow the updates at www.iccrs.org or e-mail events@iccrs.org
