

NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

CHRISTMAS 2009

Yes, this is a real photo and is not photoshopped! Papal Christmas blessings for us all!



Pontiff Calls Movements Gifts to the Church

Cardinal Cordes Praised for Helping Them Grow

Pope Benedict recently praised Cardinal Paul Cordes, who when at the Pontifical Council for the laity, welcomed the inspiration of new movements in the Church, and highlighted the positive contribution they have made. In a letter to Cordes, now president of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the Holy Father recalled a long friendship with Cordes, including a shared membership in the German bishops' conference before both were called to serve in the Roman Curia.

"With courage and creativity at the beginning of your work in Rome you opened up new roads to lead young people to Christ," the Holy Father affirmed. "You also made a contribution to the genesis and the growth of the World Youth Days."

He underlined Cordes' "pastoral involvement" and "commitment to the movements" in his role in the Pontifical Council for the Laity. "The **charismatic movement**, Communion and Liberation and the Neocatechumenal Way have many reasons to be grateful to you," the Pope said.

"While at the beginning the organizers and planners in the Church had many reservations in regard to the movements," Pope Benedict stated, "you immediately sensed the life that burst forth from them - **the power of the Holy Spirit** that gives new paths and in unpredictable ways keeps the Church young." He continued: "You recognized the **pentecostal character** of these movements and you worked passionately so that they would be welcomed by the Church's pastors.

The Pontiff acknowledged the cardinal's ability to see that what is "organic is more important than what is organized." He affirmed the prelate's vision that "here were men who were deeply touched by the spirit of God and that in such a way there grew new forms of authentic Christian life and authentic ways of being Church."

While needing some guidance at times, the Pope said, " They, nevertheless, are gifts to be grateful for." He continued, "It is no longer possible to think of the life of the Church of our time without including these gifts of God within it."

Pray as you can, and do not pray as you can't. Take yourself as you find yourself; start from that.

Dom John Chapman

Damian Stayne Healing Conference

Some of us have heard of the English evangelist Damian Stayne. He is a layman and has been mightily used by the Lord in the areas of evangelism and healing. He travels internationally and speaks at conferences around the world.

Below is a link to a series of videoclips of Stayne teaching and ministering at conferences. The link is to an Italian Catholic Charismatic conference in Rimini.

www.youtube.com/user/ChristianHealing?gl=IE&hl=en-GB

Once you are on this site, you can see links to part 2 of this particular healing conference in Rimini, as well as a link to another conference in Bosnia.

Recent Events

We have had a number of successful events recently. There were Life in the Spirit Seminars in Albany and Gresham in the early fall. Both drew between 40 and 50 people. Let us continue to pray for all the people who were prayed with, especially those who sought the baptism in the Spirit, that God would continue what He has begun in them.

In November, Fr Michael Barry from California was in Camas, WA and offered a Friday evening and Saturday mini retreat on healing family relationships. Those who attended described the ministry as deep and powerful. We are very grateful for Fr Michael's willingness to bless us all with his gifts.

Upcoming Healing Mass

There is a planned Healing Mass scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2010 at St Thomas Aquinas parish in Camas, WA. The Mass will begin at 7.00pm and the celebrant will Fr. Justus Kiiza, who is from Uganda.

The address is St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 324 N.E. Oak Street, Camas, WA 98607-1499. The event is being sponsored and organized by the charismatic prayer group at the parish.

Raised from the Dead!

This is a remarkable story about a Christian doctor, and renown cardiologist Dr Chauncey Crandall, who prayed with a patient who was clinically dead. The man revived. The story was picked up by one of the local TV stations in the area and the video clip of their report has become an internet sensation. I have included the link below so you can see the clip for yourself.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-2334132798216105638#>

While we often only seem to see and hear the bad news, the Holy Spirit continues to work in the world, and in and through the lives of men and women who are open to him.

What good is it if Mary gave birth to the son Of God centuries ago if I do not also give birth to God's son in my time and culture?

Meister Eckhart

Testimonies: Chemotherapy in Christ

"I have never seen a more caring group of people. They cry, they laugh, and become involved with all of us. The patient is the most important person." This is how a patient named Pat described an oncology clinic in Gilroy, California where two Spirit filled women, Beverley and Kathy work.

When patients first come in they are scared," says Beverley. "They bring their families. We talk to them, make them feel welcome, give them a hug, and assure them that they will be fine. Other patients present will often speak up and tell them the same thing. When I start the IV I say, 'Let's pray that this IV will be painless'. They start to relax and tell the family that they can go. At some point I will ask the patient if I can pray with him or her. They always say OK. The other patients are always respectful and supportive of the new ones. There is a special peace in the room."

Beverly, who is also a noted gospel singer and concert violinist, will sometimes sing for her patients. Once she played her violin for a patient who could not come to the local symphony to hear her play. Pat said, "Beverly sings and dances, she's comic relief. She sang to me, *I Believe I Can Fly* and will sing at my memorial service. She will play Ave Maria on the violin."

"We get very close to many of our patients," Beverley said. "We'll go to the hospital and pray with patients, even when they are in a coma. Sometimes I will go to their funerals and share with the families what we talked about - that there was prayer and peace and forgiveness.

"People tell me, 'You shouldn't get so close to your patients.' But I tell them that this is my 'God job'. My purpose is to walk them into heaven. I have done a lot of things with my life, but after attending a weekend retreat with Kathy a few years ago, I realized that I was happiest when I was caring for oncology patients. This is what God wants me to do."

Kathy says, "It is hard not to get close to these patients. We don't see them as walking diseases, but the persons that they are. As a receptionist, my role is to provide a warm and friendly greeting, escort them to the therapy room, and assure them of my prayers. Through the years, we have met many people who have touched our lives in special ways. Their lives leave an imprint on us. When a patient dies, I have trouble throwing their rolodex card away. I always say a prayer over each one, remembering the special things about each person."

Kathy acknowledges that there is a sadness and that things can get very intense because all of the treatment and paperwork are very time sensitive. But she says, "It is not as depressing as most people think. I feel honored and privileged to work with patients who are so inspiring and show such courage and strength."

So, what is your "God job"?
