

# NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

LENT 2012



## PERSONAL REFLECTION CHECK LIST

Lent is a good time to take stock of our spiritual lives. The most important thing for all of us is to make sure we remain faithful to the Lord. This means being faithful in our prayer, in our reading of Scripture, in our sacramental life, and in our acceptance of those who have God given responsibilities in and for our lives. These things are very important if we want to be on fire with the Spirit, much more so than courses, conferences, programs, techniques, or good ideas. If we are the busiest people in the world but neglect our relationship with the Lord we will certainly fall short of what we could have been or done in the Lord.

The simple truth is that in the hectic lives we all lead we can so easily forget this, often with sad consequences. Christian service, life, and leadership is not so much about exercising power as it is about having good discernment. It is so much not about being popular as it is about being

faithful to what God asks of us. It is not so much about having a relevant and dynamic ministry as it is about being a prayerful person.

In light of all this here are some things for us to prayerfully consider:

- How is my relationship with the Lord at the moment?
- Am I spending good quality time in prayer, and also in listening to him?
- Do I make time to pray in liturgical settings?
- Am I reading and reflecting on the Scriptures and the wisdom of the Church?
- Do I have a wise person to guide me and help me grow spiritually?
- Do I join in fellowship and support with others?
- How am I proclaiming the Gospel to others?
- In what ways am I working with Christ to advance his kingdom on earth?



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## DAILY PRAYER AND REFLECTION RESOURCES

As we go through our busy daily lives, we can sometimes use a little outside help to keep focused on the Lord and to keep growing in our understanding of living the Gospel every day. We could all use some help in this. Below are links to two daily programs put out by Renewal Ministries ([www.renewalministries.net](http://www.renewalministries.net)). Each are 15 minutes long and are well worth a listen.

The first is "Fire on the Earth" with Catholic evangelist Peter Herbeck. It airs on weekdays at 6:30 in the morning and 4:30 in the afternoon. You can find the program live or recorded on the web at:

<http://renewalministries.net/?module=Events&class=Media&event=Show&mediaID=6>

The other is "Food for the Journey" with Sr. Ann Shields. Her program airs at 6:45 each weekday morning, 4:45 each afternoon. The Friday program is repeated several times over the weekend as it deals with scriptures for the following Sunday. Her program can be found at:

<http://renewalministries.net/?module=Events&class=Media&event=Show&mediaID=4&episodeID=1184>

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## CHARISMATIC RENEWAL IN BRAZIL

In the February 26, 2012 edition of the Our Sunday Visitor weekly newspaper there is a good two page article on the renewal in Brazil. It's worth a read. Here are a few excerpts.

*Most Church historians in Brazil agree that two American priests, Jesuit Father Harold Rahm and Father Edward Dougherty, started Catholic Charismatic communities in Brazil during the early 1970s.*

*At that time, Brazilian bishops.... paid little attention to Catholic Charismatic groups. By the mid-1980s, however, the bishops could no longer ignore the Charismatics' momentum and growth.*

*But the most important gain for Brazil's Catholic Charismatics came when Bishop Claudio Hummes, then known for his progressive leanings, became archbishop of Fortaleza, in the poor state of Ceara.*

*He relied heavily on the Charismatics in his attempts to improve the state of the local Church. The bet paid off: In two years, Fortaleza showed signs of revival and a growth in priestly vocations. And in 1998, Archbishop Hummes was appointed archbishop of Sao Paulo and elevated to cardinal in 2001.*

*The movement's fortunes underwent a complete reversal: Cardinal Hummes regularly presided over massive Charismatic praise and worship events at the largest local stadium, before he was chosen for a Vatican post in 2006 and retired in 2010.*

*At present, Charismatic Catholicism is present in all 27 Brazilian states and has coordination offices in 285 dioceses. According to the latest data, there are 21,800 prayer groups, averaging 30 to 50 people.*

*“The mere numbers are misleading,” said Renzo Valdetaro, a local church analyst. “The greatest impact of the Charismatic Renewal has been its capacity to inspire multiple ministries, new charisms and spiritual communities — and, paradoxically, far more effective social services than liberation theologians.”*

*One of its most important fruits is the “Shalom” community, an association of the faithful recently approved by the Vatican. “It was via the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, with its intense call to prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, sacramental life and fidelity to Church authorities, that Shalom became a reality,” Shalom founder Moyses de Azevedo told OSV. The community has 17,000 members, 11 priests and 46 seminarians.*

The complete article can be found at <http://www.osv.com/tabid/7621/itemid/9047/Charismatic-Renewal-enriches-Brazilian-faith.aspx>. Make sure you check out all that OSV has to offer. They have lots of resources from newspapers, magazines, books, blogs, and more. Check all this out at their website <http://www.osv.com>.

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## LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR NEWS

Greg Johnson reports that the Roseburg prayer group recently completed a very successful Life in the Spirit seminar. The seminar was held on March 3. There were a total of 24 attendees. Folks came from Coos Bay, Klamath Falls, Medford and Roseburg. The presenters were Jim and Ann Delong from Coos Bay, Ipo and Mary Ross from Klamath Falls, and Jim Haught from Medford. The music was good and the presentations were effective.

Please keep in your prayers all those involved. Pray for the people who were baptized in the Spirit that the Lord continues what he has begun in them. Pray also for the prayer group in Roseburg that they will be strengthened and that the good news of this seminar will spread and lead others to them.