

# **NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT**

**PENTECOST 2011**



**Stained glass window to the Holy Spirit from St Peter's Basilica in Rome**

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## **The Wonderful Gift of Pentecost**

Pentecost was a wonderful gift of God's power for our lives and for building the kingdom. The apostles and disciples, who had been with Jesus for three years, were afraid and hiding. The Holy Spirit changed everything. The apostles boldly began proclaiming Jesus Christ wherever

they could. Signs and wonders accompanied their words. Miracles happened, people were healed and set free, lives were changed.

The changes that occurs in our lives from being baptized in the Holy Spirit are not due to our initiating the change, but because God first called us to conversion, gave us the grace needed, and we cooperated with that grace. Without God's grace, our personal Pentecost would not be possible. Even our desire to pray is a grace from God.

The gift of Pentecost, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, is about conversion. Yet we do not always remember that the Holy Spirit is calling us the conversion of our whole life. Conversion is not just religious. It's also an intellectual, psychological, emotional, and moral conversion. The Holy Spirit is about the transformation of the entire person to the life, way, and person of Jesus Christ, and through him to the Father.

The disciples awaited being clothed with power from on high as Jesus had foretold. To be empowered by the Holy Spirit, we must be willing to open our lives to God and to cooperate with His grace. The saints show the depth of conversion to which the Spirit calls us to.

The charisms or gifts of the Holy Spirit are also meant for conversion. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church we read, "Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit. . . . There are furthermore special graces, also called charisms after the Greek term used by St. Paul and meaning 'favor', 'gratuitous gift', 'benefit.' Whatever their character – sometime it is extraordinary, such as the gift of miracles or of tongues – charisms are oriented toward sanctifying grace and are intended for the common good of the Church. They are at the service of charity, which builds up the Church." (#2003). In other words, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for conversion the life of the Trinity.

The charisms are the power of God helping us to continue on in our struggle to grow in holiness. The Holy Spirit also calls us to evangelize, to proclaim the gospel. We need to constantly open to this impulse, and like St Paul, be all things to all people for the sake of the gospel. Pentecost establishes the visible church of Jesus Christ and sanctifies God's people in and through it.

The Charismatic Renewal is about living our life in the Holy Spirit. The first Pentecost saw the Holy Spirit intervening in the world to bring about the saving message of Christ through the apostles. This continues through to today and on to the end of time. Pope John Paul II wrote that the "power of the Spirit must always be judged in the light of these words of the Apostle: 'Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel.'" (*1 Cor. 9:16*)

Pentecost, means "putting on Christ." This is a call to complete conversion in every area of our life. We can only do this with the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Send forth the Spirit, and we shall renew the face of the earth!

## **Fr. Barry Mass and Prayer for Healing**

On the Friday of the Memorial Day weekend we were blessed to have Fr. Michael Barry from California come for a Mass and prayer for healing at St Rose parish. The evening was well attended with approximately a hundred people showing up. In his homily, Fr. Barry reminded us of the power of God and his desire to bring healing in our lives in all forms. Fr. Barry described God's healing for us as being spiritual, physical, psychological, and emotional. He reminded us of God's great love for us and encouraged us to have faith. When the time for prayer came, there was a steady stream of people who came forward. They received prayer for specific needs and for whatever God had in mind for them.



*Fr. Barry praying with people at the end of Mass*

## **Sr. Ann Shields**

Many of listen to Sr Ann on the radio or follow her on TV. She is one of the team for Renewal Ministries, along with Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck. Both Ralph and Peter have been in the northwest in recent years.



Below is a video link to an excerpt of a talk given by Sr Ann at the 2010 Charismatic Conference at the University of Steubenville.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRbHi1\\_NblM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRbHi1_NblM)

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## **Facing our Challenges**

Sometimes it is helpful to look at what comes our way in simple terms. That also helps us deal with them and see how God might be working in and through them.

Life's circumstances are usually in one of three different categories:

1. We have control over it. This means that by our own decision and effort we can achieve positive change.
2. We have some control over the issue, but not complete control. Here we do have influence to achieve a positive change.
3. We do not have control or influence to achieve a positive change.



Sorting out the issues we are faced with, and understanding which kind of category it is in can help us understand where we're called to put our energies.

The first category is filled with areas of our lives in which we need to examine our own part and responsibilities and make sure they are in line with God's will. These are areas in which we may be called to change or to provide leadership. In these we have clear accountability for our actions. Are we being faithful to a life pleasing to God?

The second category involves areas in which we may not have complete control, but do have influence. How are we building relationships of trust with others? How are we willing to constructively confront issues and hold others accountable?

The third category is for the areas in which we don't have control or influence. Will we commit them to prayer? Our king has control and influence over all things! Will we trust these to God's authority and care?

We know that the Lord's kingdom is everlasting and his dominion endures through all generations, even ours. Let us be his coworkers in those issues facing us over which we have control and influence. Let his kingdom come now!

What challenges are you facing today? Which category do they fall in? What is our Lord calling you to do?

From <http://christiansincommerce.org>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Mass with Prayer for Healing**

Fr. Bill Adams, CSSR will preside and lead healing prayer at a Mass on 5 August. A year ago Fr. Adams celebrated a similar Mass at St Rose parish.

When: 5 August 2011.

Where: St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church.

Address: 2727 N.E. 54<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland, OR 97213



See the events section of the website ( [www.archdpx.org/ccr](http://www.archdpx.org/ccr)) for a printable flyer.

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