

# NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

PENTECOST 2013



## POPE FRANCIS TO THE RENEWAL

**“Tell Them I Love Them Very Much”**

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, celebrated Mass at the 36th National Assembly of Catholic Charismatic Renewal at Rimini in Italy. After the sign of the cross, Archbishop Fisichella gave an unexpected message to the 15,000 people present: an affectionate greeting from Pope Francis.

“Before beginning this celebration, I bring you a greeting. Before I left this morning, I was with Pope Francis, and I told him: “Holy Father, I have to leave soon. I’m going to Rimini where there are thousands upon thousands of faithful of the Charismatic Renewal: men, women and young people.” With a great smile, the Pope said: “Tell them that I love them very much!” Upon leaving the Holy Father, Archbishop Fisichella recounted, the Holy Father added: “Look, tell them that I love them very much because I was responsible for Charismatic Renewal in Argentina, and that’s why I love them very much.”

In his homily, Archbishop Fisichella spoke of the New Evangelization and of Jesus as the Teacher, who accompanies us and does not abandon us in a world in which often the Christian must go against the current. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, the “revelation” that indicates the path that God has designed for us. “Thomas’ question is ours: Lord, you are the way, but how can we know it?” he asked. “The secret of our existence, the full realization of happiness, lies in the degree that we know God’s plan for us and that we put it into practice.”

This “realization” can only come about in Christ, who never leaves us alone. “The journey enables us to know who we are, where we are going, and point out the end. The New Evangelization calls us to make our own the certainty of faith, to found our life on Jesus. We must become pilgrims: He, Jesus, is the end. And in this end we must find ourselves.”

## **PAPAL HOMILY AND AUDIENCE QUOTES**

“The Spirit himself, together with our spirit, attests that we are God’s children. And, if we are children, we are also inheritors, inheritors of God and co-inheritors with Christ if we truly take part in his suffering so that we might also be glorified with him. This is the precious gift that that the Holy Spirit brings to our hearts: the very life of God, the life of true children, a relationship of confidence, freedom, and trust in the love and mercy of God, which also has the effect of a new vision of others, near and far, seen always as brothers and sisters in Jesus to respect and to love. The Holy Spirit teaches us to see with Christ’s eyes.”

“The Holy Spirit is the strength of God, it’s what gives us the strength to go forward but many find this upsetting and prefer the comfort of the familiar. The Spirit pushes us to take a more evangelical path but we resist this. Submit to the Holy Spirit which comes from within us and makes go forward along the path of holiness. Let us ask the Lord for the grace to become baptized persons who are brave and sure that the Holy Spirit who is in us, received at baptism, always moves us to proclaim Jesus Christ with our life, our testimony and even with our words.”

“True salvation is in the dignity that God gives back to us in the hope that Christ has given us at Easter. Let's make today an act of faith. Let us say: Lord, I believe. I believe in Your love. I believe that Your love has saved me. I believe that Your love has given me the dignity that I had not. I believe that Your love gives me hope.”

“To follow the Lord, to let his Spirit transform the shadowy parts of our lives, our ungodly ways of acting, and cleanse us of our sins, is to set out on a path with many obstacles, both in the world around us but also within us, in the heart. But difficulties and trials are part of the path that leads to God’s glory, just as they were for Jesus, who was glorified on the cross; we will always encounter them in life! Do not be discouraged! We have the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome these trials!”

“Let us not forget that the Apostles were simple people; they were not scribes, doctors of the law, nor did they belong to the priestly class. It is clear that only the action of the Holy Spirit and the presence of the risen Christ can explain the courageousness of the Apostles and disciples. Their faith was based upon an experience of the dead and risen Christ that was so powerful and personal that they were not afraid of anyone or anything, and indeed they saw persecutions as a badge of honor that allowed them to follow in Jesus’ footsteps and to be like him, bearing witness with their life.”

## **ARCHBISHOP SAMPLE**

As we are all now aware, Archbishop Alexander Sample has taken office as the new Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Portland. At his installation

Mass he called for a new Pentecost. Here are some excerpts from his homily.



“In these readings from the Acts of the Apostles which the Church gives us during these first days of the Easter octave we have St. Peter, in the power of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, standing before the people and proclaiming Jesus Christ, as risen from the dead. His is truly a bold and fearless proclamation of the Good News meant for all those whom God calls. He is fulfilling the mission that Jesus Christ entrusted to him and the other Apostles.

This is what is needed in the Church today. We need a new Pentecost, a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit to set our hearts on fire for proclaiming Jesus Christ. With hearts filled with joy, love and mercy, we must proclaim the Good News. ”

“No one can give what one does not have! We cannot give Jesus Christ to others until we have first come to know him intimately and profoundly.”

“We must witness and speak of our faith before others with confidence and clarity and with the greatest charity. But speak of Jesus Christ and our faith, we must. And we must not forget that which will our greatest witness

to Jesus Christ, and that is the love, the mercy and the compassion that we show toward those who suffer; the poor, the marginalized, the abandoned, the lonely and forgotten. The modern day “widows and orphans” that Sacred Scripture admonishes us to care for. How beautifully our new Holy Father, Pope Francis, is showing us the way by example.”

## OUR GIFTS FOR THE CHURCH

Charles Whitehead, a leader of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in England, and former head of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) in Rome shares these observations. Perhaps we can reflect on them in our own lives and prayer groups.

“I am convinced that by far our most important gift to the Church is the *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. As Cardinal Suenens wrote in 1996: “*The soul of Renewal - Baptism in the Spirit - is a grace of Pentecostal refreshment offered to all Christians*”. This grace will lead us into a personal, living relationship with God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- and will help us to seek holiness. With the Baptism in the Holy Spirit come the spiritual gifts or charisms, which the second Vatican Council reminds us are “fitting and useful for the needs of the Church” (*Lumen Gentium 12*).

- Among the other gifts we have to offer are prayer, praise and worship, empowered by the gift of tongues.
- Equally important is our *expectant* faith -- we are confident that God is going to act. Sadly this expectancy is often missing in the Church -- many have a creedal faith but no expectation that the Lord will ever *do* anything.
- The Renewal has restored to the Church the conviction that the Lord heals and works miracles through ordinary people, and we have seen many healings through prayer and the laying-on of hands. But we must also admit that there have been many more occasions when people have not been healed. We do not know why the Lord heals one and not another, but we do know that we must persist in prayer for those who are sick.

- Other gifts we bring to the Church are a sense of joy and celebration -- it's exciting to be a Christian today!
- We have a desire to be witnesses, secure in the knowledge that we are empowered for the New Evangelization and for service -- we have received all that we need to proclaim Christ.
- The Charismatic Renewal has helped to bring alive one of the theological virtues -- hope. Millions of people now know they can trust in God's promises -- he is faithful.
- Another important gift we bring is our prophetic voice in the Church and in the world. The charismatic gift of prophecy is one of the ways God speaks to us, and in our materialistic and selfish society, we desperately need to hear his voice. We are called both to speak and to act in a prophetic way.
- Because the Spirit is very much alive in us, we are also aware of the need for intercession and spiritual warfare. Through the Holy Spirit we understand that there is a spiritual battle going on and we are part of it -- we recognize the presence of evil spirits as well as the Holy Spirit. We therefore have a role and a task to defend the Church against the power of the evil one, which those who are not aware of the spiritual battle cannot do.
- Finally, but by no means of the least importance, the Spirit has given us a concern for justice, peace, and social issues. These things are important, and we are called to bring them to greater prominence. We know we must be practical as well as spiritual.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### International Evangelist Colin Calmiano



When: June 6 to 8, 2013

Saturday June 8 – Day of Renewal and Teaching,  
Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Lake Oswego.

Time: 9.00am to 4.00pm

**All are welcome.**

Colin has been a leader in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in India for many years. He and his wife now minister full time throughout the world.

See the flyer for more details at [www.archdpdx.org/ccr/events.html](http://www.archdpdx.org/ccr/events.html)

## **Mass with Prayer for Healing**

Fr Bill Adams will celebrate Mass and then lead a time of prayer for healing.

When: 7.00pm on Friday July 19, 2013.

Where: St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church,

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



Fr Bill Adams preaching.