

NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

SUMMER 2012



Pope Benedict Speaking to New Bishops

Excerpted from an address to the Annual Seminar for New Bishops in 2011.

“Today I would like to reflect briefly with you on the importance of acceptance, on the part of the bishop, of the charisms that the Spirit arouses for the edification of the Church.

Bishops have the task of watching and working to ensure that the baptized increase in grace, in accordance with the charisms the Holy Spirit causes to arise in their hearts and communities. Vatican II recalled that the Holy Spirit, while unifying in the communion and ministry of the Church, provides and directs her with different hierarchical and charismatic gifts and embellishes her with their fruits. The recent World Youth Day in Madrid showed, once again, the fecundity of the charisms of the Church, concretely today, and the ecclesial unity of all the faithful gathered around the Pope and the bishops. This is a vitality that reinforces the work of evangelization and the presence of Christ in the world. We are able to see – and we can almost touch – that the Holy Spirit is still present in the Church today, and that He creates charisms and unity.

The fundamental gift you are called to cherish in the faithful entrusted to your pastoral care is that of divine filiation; in other words, the fact that everyone participates in Trinitarian communion. Baptism, which makes men and women "children in the Son" and members of the Church, is the root and source of all other charismatic gifts. Through your ministry of sanctification, you educate the faithful to participate with increasing intensity in the priestly, prophetic and regal office of Christ, helping them to build the Church, actively and responsibly, according to the gifts they have received from God. In fact, always bear in mind the fact that the gifts of the Spirit – be they extraordinary or simple and humble – are always given freely for the edification of all. The bishop, as a visible sign of the unity of his particular Church, has the duty of unifying and harmonizing charismatic diversity, favoring reciprocity between the hierarchical and the baptismal priesthood.

Accept, therefore, the charisms with gratitude for the sanctification of the Church and the vitality of the apostolate! And this acceptance and gratitude to the Holy Spirit, who also works among us today, are inseparable from the discernment that is proper to the mission of the bishop. Vatican Council II said as much when it gave pastoral ministry the task of judging the genuineness of charisms and their proper use, not extinguishing the Spirit but testing and retaining what is good.

In intimacy with the Lord you will find consolation and support for your committed ministry. Do not be afraid to entrust to the heart of Jesus Christ all your concerns, certain that he looks after you, as he already admonished the Apostle Peter (cf. 1 Peter 5:6). May your prayer always be nourished by meditation on the Word of God, by personal study and just rest, so that you will be able to listen and accept with serenity "what the Spirit says to the Churches" (Revelation 2:11) and lead all to the unity of faith and love."

Inspirational Videoclips

Below are links to some videoclips featuring Michelle Moran. Michelle, together with her husband Peter, is a founder member of Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism in England. She originally trained as a teacher and taught in a College for 5 years before ministering full time in Sion Community.

Michelle has been involved in Catholic Charismatic renewal from her youth. She had a 'conversion' experience and was baptized in the Holy Spirit as a teenager. She has ministered in CCR all over the world as a conference speaker and teacher. Michelle's first book "*Pass It On*" (practical hints on sharing your faith) was published in 1990. A second book, "*Crossing The*

Line” (evangelization in a Catholic context) followed in 1995. Since then Michelle has written numerous articles for Catholic and ecumenical magazines and journals.

Michelle is currently Chair of the NSC for Catholic Charismatic Renewal in England and Wales and President of ICCRS, the International Council for Renewal in Rome. In 2007 she was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to be a member of the Pontifical Council of the Laity. One of her desires is to see the next generation of young leaders in CCR trained and equipped for ministry and leadership.



Michelle Moran

This is an excerpt of a talk on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit from a conference in Australia:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JW1W7JXM34&feature=relmfu>

This is an excerpt of a talk on the Vision of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal from a conference in Australia: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzGokSC6cRc&feature=topics>

Repentance and being Baptized in the Holy Spirit

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the love of the Father poured into one’s heart. For the human heart to be rightly disposed to receiving this divine love, the person must be able to declare like the psalmist: “My heart is ready, O God; my heart is ready!” (Ps 57:8). But what happens when someone who desires to receive baptism in the Spirit also wishes to persist in a “situation of sin”? In such a case we are facing a heart in crisis, a heart in conflict over readiness, since the key to readiness is repentance.

The fact that repentance is necessary to dispose people for baptism in the Holy Spirit is revealed in God's own providential sequence: John-before-Jesus. To prepare for the mission of his Son, our heavenly Father set up a prerequisite. The *Gospel of Luke* portrays the coming of John the Baptist, the precursor, in preparation for the coming of Jesus (Lk 1:5-80; 3:1-22). John, whose mission was the baptism of repentance, was sent ahead of Jesus whose mission (as John described it) was baptism in the Holy Spirit (Matt 3:11). John was sent to ensure that the soil of Israel's heart would be plowed through repentance, so as to prepare the way for Jesus, the source of new life in the Holy Spirit. John-before-Jesus is an unmistakable principle in God's plan of salvation.

Peter did not hesitate to apply this principle on Pentecost morning, as the Spirit was poured forth in fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, exhorted the crowd to "repent and be baptized" so as to receive forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. "Save yourselves," he said to the multitude, confirming that the handle to the door of one's heart is on the inside, and each individual must freely choose to open it (see Rev 3:20). Three thousand in the crowd "accepted his message and were baptized," while apparently others did not (Acts 2:41).

From a pastoral point of view, we always seek to lead people to repentance before praying over them for the outpouring of the Spirit. Some of the "situations of sin" that we may encounter can be difficult. Nevertheless, those who would wish to pray for baptism in the Holy Spirit must hold back their hands and lift up their own hearts to the Lord, once this circumstance is disclosed. The Lord sometimes removes barriers to repentance in surprising ways, especially through intercessory prayer. Solutions can come from we know not where. We do know, however, that our own role in these matters must be humble and circumscribed. It remains wise pastoral practice to lead people to authentic repentance before praying over them for baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Excerpted from an article in the ICCRS Newsletter May-June 2012, by Dr. Mary Healy.

You can find find the ICCRS website at www.iccrs.org.

What is God Doing?

Romans 8:28 Everything works together for the good of those who love the Lord and live according to his purposes.

"What is God doing to me?" This is a question I frequently hear when people are faced with difficulties and tragedy. I've said it myself at times and come to the conclusion that this is not the right question to ask. It indicates a skewed perception of how God works in the world.

The question implies that God is controlling everything like a great manipulator – directing all things to very specific ends. When a business faces reversals, when employees resist direction, someone gets laid off, or a spouse passes away, asking what God is doing suggests that he is directly causing all of this. What kind of a God is that?

When bad things happen, there are a lot of causes that are right under our noses. There's an awful lot of free will going on. This causes many of the problems we face. Things also don't work out well where sin is involved. Sickness and death first came into the world as a result of shared sin.

Over time, I have seen God do the most amazing things, including some incredible things he has brought out of tragedy. I've found that a better question is, "What do you have in mind now, Father?"

This question underscores the faith and hope we have in his love and steadfastness. He is in control in the sense that he is able to adapt and enfold all things into his greater purpose. It also acknowledges our surrender to him, willingness to participate in the transformation of all things, and desire to move forward.

The next time you find yourself about to ask, "Why is God doing this to me?" or "What is God doing to me?" stop and instead prayerfully ask, "What do you have in mind now, Father?"

By Steve Becker, Christians in Commerce.

You can find more inspiring stories and reflections, and further information at their website at www.christiansincommerce.org.

They also have a monthly newsletter and daily reflection you can sign up for.

Upcoming Events

Catholic Women Rejoice Conference

Saturday, July 14, 2012 at Resurrection Church in Tualatin, OR.

Catholic Women Rejoice! is a day-long conference for Catholic women desiring to worship and adore Our Lord Jesus Christ, renew & restore their spirits in the loving arms of Our Heavenly Father, and celebrate the joys of their God-given gifts and talents alongside their sisters in Christ. This uplifting and inspiring event promises to encourage and ignite hundreds of women, ages 14-104 in their Catholic faith!

Speakers will include Sr. Ann Shields SGL, a beloved author, speaker, and host of “Food for the Journey,” the popular daily radio program aired locally. She is an internationally noted speaker and dynamic Biblical teacher, Sr. Ann has written numerous books on Catholic spirituality, including *Deeper Conversion: Extraordinary Grace for Ordinary Times*, *Pray and Never Lose Heart*, and *To Be Like Jesus*, just to name a few.

Check out the website at <http://catholicwomenrejoice.com>

Charismatic Healing Mass

July 13, 2012, 7.00-9.00 p.m., at St. Rose parish

You are invited to an Evening of Charismatic Prayer & Worship and Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by healing prayer

Our celebrant is Fr. Bill Adams



Father Adams is the Spiritual director of “Follow Me Ministries”, a television production ministry in Huntington Beach, California. Fr. Bill also is busy ministering at parish missions throughout the U.S. and abroad. In the past he served as the Provincial of the Redemptorist Order, Western Province. He served as president of the Southern California Renewal Communities in the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

Location: St Rose of Lima Catholic Church
2727 NE 54th Avenue, Portland, OR. 97213
Time: 7.00-9.00pm.
