

STIRRINGS OF THE SPIRIT

A Quarterly Publication of Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services of Ontario

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Jan. 2010



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Let the Fire Fall Light the Fire Again!

One morning, I prayed, "Enlighten my thoughts, feelings, desires, words and actions that I may be pleasing to You in every way." The answer seemed to be, "Wisdom is more than knowing what to do. It requires enlightenment and revelation from God."

These thoughts were in my heart as I went to mass with Eucharistic adoration following. As adoration began I prayed, "Lord, reveal Yourself to us personally and powerfully. Reveal yourself to us so deeply as to change us completely. Lord, touch us and make us all that you have created us to be." As I stilled myself the following poured into me faster than I could write:

It isn't enough to be able to say, "I was baptized with the Holy Spirit in such and such a year. What a profound life changing experience: suddenly God was real; He was with me and in me; I knew that I knew that I knew He loved me!"

In recent years what evidence has there been that you are baptized with and in the Holy Spirit? Yes, there has been some; but, certainly not as constant and consistent as you

could have experienced.

Do not be satisfied that you have experienced Me in the past. Pursue Me and press into Me; desire Me above all and before all. Desire fresh new experiences of Me. Seek Me; seek My face; seek My now word for you. Seek fresh fire from heaven. As Paul said in his letter to the Ephesians, " Be not drunk with wine, but be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit."

You are earthen vessels and earthen vessels leak. Keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit. Never be satisfied; there is always more for you. Keep on seeking Me; I am that more, the infinite and eternal God. Seek Me that you may have even more of Me, that you may have fresh new experiences of Me and My love. You can give to others only what you first receive from me. Come, drink deeply of Me that there may be fresh new evidence that you are filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Be diligent in seeking Me, for those who seek Me find Me. Those who find Me will draw others to Me through the abundant evidence of My holy presence. Those who find Me will draw others to Me through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in them and through them. Come confidently, boldly and expectantly, yielding to Me and to My plan, My good plan for you. Come to Me; let Me do a new thing in you, for you and through you.

Do not be satisfied with yesterday's bread; come receive fresh manna, fresh bread everyday from the table of My presence.

I am the Lord, your God! Seek Me; seek fresh encounters with Me. Seek fresh outpouring of My Holy Spirit upon you, in you and through you. Let Him work fresh evidence in you, fresh witness that you are indeed filled with and overflowing with the Holy Spirit. Let Him work that evidence into your lives.

CCRSO MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and participate in the ongoing renewal of the Catholic Church, witnessing to the reality of Jesus Christ and the love of the Father, under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, exercising the charisms received through release of the Holy Spirit.

Let Him fill you continually more and more. Let His holy fire cleanse and purify you whole and entire, spirit and soul, heart and mind, will and emotions and body. Let His holy fire purify you of all that distracts you from Me. Let His holy fire be the fire that burns in you, consuming all that is not of Me. Receive more; I have so much more for you. Come daily to receive more so that you can be more and more like Me. Receive more! Receive more that you may have more to give. Receive more that you may draw others to Me in great multitudes as the apostles did after they had been filled with the Holy Spirit and His power. This privilege is for all who will come to Me diligently."

Brothers and sisters, this was a powerful word for me; may it also be a powerful word for each of you. May the Lord draw you to himself and generously and extravagantly lavish that **more** upon you. Lord, light the fire again.

*Deacon Stan Cor
President, C.C.R.S.O.*

What's Happening In Sault Ste. Marie

Submitted by Edward Twentyman

The Saint Mary's Prayer Community held a city wide Life in the Spirit Retreat over an eight week period from Oct. 6th till Nov. 24th. The retreat was incorporated into the Celebration of the Eucharist with the talks replacing the homily. Talks were given by Fernando Jour, Fr. Michael Williams, Fr. Jerry Lazoryk, Bishop Brian Dunn and Bishop John-Louis Plouffe. There was 96 registered along with 12 group Leaders and 12 Prayer Partners. As well a number that came for the talks but chose not to join the small group discussions. Overall the retreat was very powerful and well received and we are looking forward to a follow-up meeting in January.

*Association of Christian Therapists (ACT)
Hamilton Chapter
22nd Annual Presentation*

We Are More Than Conquerors

*"No, in all these things we are more
than conquerors through Him who loved us."
Romans 8:37*

**9 A.M. TO 6 P.M.
SATURDAY, 20 FEBRUARY, 2010**

LOCATION
Holy Cross Croatian Parish Hall
1883 King St. E., (at Rosedale Ave), Hamilton

REGISTRATION
\$40./person, received by 12 Feb./ \$50 at the door

MORNING SESSION
With Father Joseph MacDonald
1. We Are More Than Conquerors
2. Power of Intercessory Prayer

NOON BREAK –BRING YOUR LUNCH
Priests will be present for private Reconciliation.

AFTERNOON SESSION
With Carol Ward
3. We Are More Than Conquerors –
But First the Battle
4. Victory in Jesus – Peace at Last

5 P.M. – EUCHARIST
Celebrated by Fr. Joseph MacDonald

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT**
Lucienne 905-573-3390 or
Jennie 905-335-2010
e-mail: acthamilton@sympatico.ca

What's Happening In Alexandria/Cornwall Diocese

YOUTH ON THE MOVE

Our Diocesan Youth Group meets on the 4th Sunday of every month for the 7 p.m. Mass at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Cornwall and for a gathering afterwards. All teens are welcome for a teaching and social time. Join Youth on the Move on Facebook for information about upcoming events and to stay connected.

YOUTH MASS

Youth are very visible at the 5 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church in Ingleside the 3rd Saturday of each month, joyfully filling many different roles and praising God with their voices in the youth choir. Mass is followed by social time with food and games.

ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

The 11th *Annual Journey to the Father Catholic (high school age) Youth Conference* will be held in St. Raphael's, Ontario the weekend of 16 – 18 July, 2010. Information is available at www.journeytothefather.ca and a new promo video is posted on YouTube. This very successful youth conference fills quickly. Group leaders are encouraged to register their groups early to avoid disappointment.

LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA

Audio CD teachings by Catholic speakers are being welcomed by parishioners at St. Columban's Parish in Cornwall and St. Joseph's Parish in Lancaster.

NEWSPAPER

Bishop Paul-Andre Durocher writes an article weekly for Cornwall's daily newspaper

REDISCOVERING CATHOLICISM

Bishop Paul-Andre Durocher will host an evening session based on Matthew Kelly's popular book "Rediscovering Catholicism", on Wednesday, January 20th at 7 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall in Cornwall.

WHAT DO CATHOLICS BELIEVE?

Father Kevin Maloney at St. Peter's Church in Cornwall is presenting a 6 week series of talks with a question period on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. from 23 February through 23 March, following the 8 a.m. Mass.

LENDING LIBRARY

Several hundred good Catholic books, in English and French are available on loan free of charge. There are Novels, Lives of the Saints, Theology....books that explain our great Catholic faith.

PRAYING WITH THE BIBLE

The Diocese welcomes Catholic biblical scholar Stephen J. Binz for an evening session on "**Praying With the Bible: An Introduction to Lectio Divina**", on Thursday, 11 February at 7 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall in Cornwall. Lectio Divina is a slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures which enables the Bible, the Word of God, to become a means of union with God.

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Family Prayer Mission

Lenten Retreat

**6 TO 9 P.M., FRIDAY, 19 MARCH,
9 A.M. TO 6 P.M., SAT. & SUN.
20 & 21 MARCH**

LOCATION

St. John's Hall, 2185 Stavebank Road,
Mississauga

TEAM

Fr. Mathew Naickomparambil, V.C.
Fr. Joby Kachappilly, V.C.,
Sister Teresa, FCC

SPECIAL BLESSING – SUNDAY

Main Celebrant of Holy Eucharist & Homilist -
His Grace Thomas Collins, Archbishop of
Toronto

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Family Prayer Mission (Ontario)
905-896-2854
email: familyprayer@sympatico.ca

The Key

(A personal testimony by Michael Joyce)

After many attempts to begin to write this article, and after a heartfelt prayer to the Blessed Virgin, asking her to intercede for me, I found myself staring at a small luggage key sitting on the desk in front of me. It reminded me right away of something that took place in Medjugorje in October of 2005 during Eucharistic Adoration. A woman from our prayer group leaned over to me and whispered in my ear *“I see the Lord giving you a key but I don’t know what it’s for.”* I didn’t realize at the time what the meaning of a “key” would be, but soon after arriving home and looking at the spiritual events that had taken place in my life, I realized that the key is the Blessed Virgin Mary. I would like to share some of my experiences with you, so that you may understand why I believe this.

One of my earliest experiences took place many years ago in my kitchen. I had asked the Lord a question and I distinctly felt Him say *“Ask My Mother”*. It was a pivotal moment and from that day onward I always went to Jesus through Mary.

Around that same time, my custom for praying the rosary was to state a list of intentions and names before beginning to pray. I soon realized that I was beginning to forget some of the names and so I told the Lord that from then on I would offer the rosary for the intentions of His Most Sacred Heart, because He knew better than I what needed to be prayed for.

One evening, as I attempted to pray the rosary, I stopped after a short time because I couldn’t meditate on the mysteries. Suddenly I saw an image of an old fashioned steam locomotive. As I looked at it, I tried to figure out what it meant – but couldn’t. I tried again to pray the rosary and when I did I felt the Lord say to me *“You are the steam locomotive”*. I still had no idea what the Lord meant and told Him so. Again I felt Him say *“My Holy Spirit drives the steam locomotive”*. I could understand that because I could see the fire in the firebox under the boiler and immediately thought of the fire of the Holy Spirit. Then I saw passenger cars behind the engine that were full of people. I told the Lord that I still didn’t

understand. He said *“You have told me that when you pray the rosary you offer it for the intentions of My Most Sacred Heart”*. I responded “yes” and he said *“The people on the train are the people you are praying for”*. I began to understand. He asked *“What happens when a train stops?”* I responded *“people get on and off the train”*. He said *“What I am trying to impress upon you is that if you stop praying, the train will stop and these people will get off the train. If you don’t want them to get off the train, you don’t stop praying, whether you think you can meditate or not.”* That was the lesson I was to learn. I love it when the Lord teaches me in ways like this.

Once at a conference I was attending with Bishop Sam Jacobs as the guest speaker, I felt prompted to ask him for some spiritual advice because of the direction in which I was being pointed with regard to Our Lady. His advice was very simple. He told me to keep Our Lady in the same perspective as does the Church. If I were to do this, I would never have an improper relationship with her. I remember that after talking with him and walking back to my seat, a beautiful peace came over me and remained for a very long time. I discerned from this peace that the advice he had given me was correct.

On another occasion, at a prayer meeting, a man had asked for prayer and was sitting in a chair. A group of us had gathered around him and began to pray. During a moment of silence I spoke out *“Blessed Mother, by virtue of the infinite merits of your holy and immaculate heart, please obtain for this man what we cannot possibly obtain due to our sinfulness”*. Instantly the man rested in the Spirit. What I saw next amazed me. All those gathered around him (except myself) became drunk in the Spirit. They were slurring their words and had to hang onto one another to remain standing. I remember mentioning to them that the Lord was trying to tell us something about the intercession of His Mother. The Lord later spoke to me about the incident saying *“It is the love with which my mother prays for my children, who are her children, which touches my most Sacred Heart and releases the flow of my most Holy Spirit”*.

We all pray for the Lord to send forth His Holy Spirit into this broken world. This next experience relates to that prayer.

At a Day of Renewal on a Saturday morning during the Praise and Worship, I saw an image of a wine bottle being turned upside down as if to empty out the wine inside. I felt the Lord say to me *"This used to be the best wine but due to bitterness and resentments it has turned sour and needs to be poured out. The cork on the bottle is unforgiveness"*. I then saw the cork come out of the bottle and the contents poured out. Everything came out even the sludge in the bottom – right down to the last drop. The bottle then stood upright again and I had a "sense" that just as at the wedding feast at Cana when Jesus turned the water into wine (honouring His Mother's request), we too need to humble ourselves and ask Our Lady to intercede for us for a fresh outpouring of His Holy Spirit. The lady who had organized the Day of Renewal had been praying for months for a scripture reading for that day. She received it about a month before the Day of Renewal but told no one. When I finished sharing the imagery of the wine bottle, she read the scripture the Lord had given her. It was John 2:1-11, the wedding at Cana.

I share these experiences with you and ask you to pray for discernment as to what they may mean if applied to your own personal life. As for me, I will continue to pray at the end of each decade of the rosary *"Come Holy Spirit, come by means of the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, your well beloved spouse"*.

Michael Joyce
CCRSO Delegate - Diocese of Pembroke

**ONE DAY RETREAT
FOR PRIESTS AND BISHOPS, FRIENDS
Of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal
ROME – 8 JUNE, 2010**

Join ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity for a one day retreat held in Rome to coincide with the world-wide meeting of the Holy Father with Priests (9-11 June, 2010) at the conclusion of

The Year of the Priest.

Information available by contacting the ICCRS office by e-mail at events@iccrs.org

ASSISI 2010

Intercession Event: The Road to Pentecost

MAY 19 – 23

This international event, with a special focus on intercession, will be an opportunity to:

1. Experience a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
2. Celebrate the Pentecost Triduum and the Pentecost of the Nations with ICCRS in Assisi.
3. Deepen our understanding about the call to intercession.
4. Intercede for the nations in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The conference is limited to 400 participants so early registration is recommended.

For more information and registration, visit

<http://www.iccrs.org>

or e-mail: events@iccrs.org

ICCRS LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE

Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio
12 – 18 SEPTEMBER, 2010

*"Take strength from the grace which is in Christ Jesus. Pass on to reliable people what you have heard from me through many witnesses, so that they in turn will be able to teach others."
(Timothy 2:1-2)*

The ICCRS Leadership Training Course is a way for ICCRS to help foster leadership in the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In partnership with local Charismatic realities, ICCRS provides this week-long programme that will call and empower new leaders as well as strengthen and encourage current leaders.

Mary And Ecumenism

By The ICCRS Doctrinal Commission.

In many parts of the Catholic Church, maybe especially in the Charismatic Renewal, there is a tension on the subject of Christian unity. The temptation for the ecumenically-minded is to pay less attention to Mary and for the more Marian to pay little heed to Christian unity. The reason why this issue may be more serious in the Renewal is that the Lord has graced us all with the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit and brought us all into the same movement. With other ecclesial movements it is easier to opt for a more Marian movement or one that is more ecumenical.

First, both Mary and ecumenism are an integral part of Catholic life and faith. We have no right to choose between them. Devotion to Mary belongs to the heart of Catholic faith. Concerning unity, John Paul II wrote in 1995: "ecumenism, the movement promoting Christian unity, is not just some sort of 'appendix' which is added to the Church's traditional activity. Rather, ecumenism is an organic part of her life and work, and consequently must pervade all that she is and does" (Ut Unum Sint, par. 20).

Relations with Protestant Christians

Often in the Charismatic Renewal there is fellowship with other Christians who have been baptized in the Spirit. In some places there are regular inter-denominational prayer groups and even a few ecumenical communities. But in most places the meetings are more occasional. How should we approach such contacts?

First, meetings that are planned as inter-denominational, whether regular or occasional, have to be based on what is shared in Christ, recognizing that what divided Christians share, is more fundamental than what divides (see Ut Unum Sint, par. 22). In these meetings, there cannot be direct prayers to Mary, but it is possible to pray together Mary's hymn, the Magnificat. This limitation should not be seen as a problem, when the other Christians respect the faith of the Catholics. But Catholics need to express their devotion to Mary as well as their commitment to

Christian unity. So the Catholics who attend inter-denominational meetings need also to gather as Catholics where there is freedom to honour Mary and the saints, just as they need to gather for the Eucharist. So it is normal that in Catholic meetings to which other Christians may come as guests there is full freedom to express all aspects of Catholic faith including our devotion to Mary.

Second, we need to pray and work so that the question of Mary is not a "no go" area. Our first meetings with other Christians are not the right time to take up such major differences. They need first to experience us as fellow-Christians. Theological argument is never the right place to start when we want to build fellowship. We begin by getting to know each other, to accept each other as fellow-Christians and to develop a trust. At this stage it becomes possible to talk about Mary and what she means to Catholics. When relationships develop in a healthy way, the Protestants will often ask about Mary, maybe more puzzled than full of objections. As this question comes up, we need the light and wisdom of the Holy Spirit so that the answers we give will truly help them. We need to know the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church: on Mary, see Chapter 8 of the Vatican II Constitution on the Church and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 484-511, 963-975.

The Renewal of the Church

The right framework for approaching the issues of Mary and ecumenism is the whole programme of Church renewal launched by Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council. The two issues are very different. The honouring of Mary is an age-long tradition in the Church, that like every other aspect of Church life, needed renewal. The issue of Christian unity was a new topic, never before addressed in a Church Council. For this reason, the encyclical Ut Unum Sint goes further than the Council's Decree on Ecumenism, because it is based on thirty years experience of the Church's ecumenical engagement. Nonetheless, the conciliar decree laid down the basic principles which are still valid.

For the renewal of the Church's honouring of Mary, the Council made two important contributions that are vital for ecumenism. The first was presenting Mary in the context of the whole Church, understanding her role as Virgin

and Mother in relation to all aspects of the Body of Christ. The second was rooting devotion to Mary more firmly in the Scriptures. If Protestants are to open up to Mary's role in salvation history, it will only happen through a thoroughly biblical approach. Very helpful here is the book "Daughter Zion" by Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI. Once, this book was given to a Protestant pastor, who later commented that he had never realized these things were in the Bible.

*Reprinted from Jan-Feb. 2010
ICCRS Leadership Formation Newsletter.*

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Finish Well

based on a teaching by Rick C.

God is more interested that we finish well than how we began. We have to keep focused on the centrality of the cross of Jesus Christ.

We are called to unity – to be at peace with each other as fellow Christians. We are called to be rooted and grounded in love. If we want to follow Jesus we have to deny ourselves and put Him and others first. We are called to live the love walk.

We are all in some form of ministry. What follows might be called:

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF MINISTRY

Have a regular prayer life.

We might ask, "How long does it take you to get ready to leave the house?" We must prepare in prayer before we leave the house. I'm not talking about saying prayers, or praying petitions or intercessory prayer; I'm talking about prayer as our devotional time with God, our intimate time with God, seeking his presence.

Daily bathing yourself in the Word of God.

I recommend daily time; go through a book of the Bible such as Proverbs to gain God's wisdom and insight on things, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, etc. It is good to use different translations as each brings out a particular nuance and helps round out our

understanding. Rom 10:17 "So **faith comes** from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." It is good to read the Scriptures **out loud** to yourself. My spiritual director of years past had this advice: "Preach the Gospel to yourself. When you strike gold, stay with it until you mine it all out by the Holy Spirit." Read and study the Scriptures for what the Holy Spirit can teach **you**, not for what you can share with others.

Our preaching and sharing- our message.

We are here to learn so that we can take it out to a dying world in love. Our message must be practical and relevant, genuine and powerful. It's fun! Ministry should be fun.

Integrity

We should be models to follow; we should be able to say with St. Paul, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ." This is a call to wholeness, to a togetherness, and purity. The Church needs good models not just good mottoes. Do what is right always, not just when it is convenient or "feels" right at the moment. Do what is right because it is right and do it right! This requires a) right choices, b) being consistently consistent, c) giving credit to God and to those who have poured into our lives.

Purity.

Purity of heart comes only through the Blood of Jesus Christ. What comes before our eyes, and ears and thoughts must come through a pure filter, a filter informed by the truth of God's Word and God's ways, a filter made pure in the power of the Blood and in the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit. Matt. 5:8 encourages us to purity in these words, "Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God." James 3:17 "But the **wisdom from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy."

Our example:

in punctuality, in speech, in our behaviour. Our example in our dress: modesty in apparel, honouring God in our dress. We are called to excellence in everything. We have the example of Daniel who, though in Babylonian captivity, did not let himself be captured by their way of living or their false gods; in every way he kept himself pure and holy before God. As a result, Daniel was

given great wisdom and revelations from God. How we are in natural things is how we will be in spiritual things. Are we sloppy in the way we keep our homes, our desks, etc.? That is a good indication of how "tidy" we will be in spiritual things. Some suggestions include: keeping your watch five minutes fast, smile a lot, admit your mistakes but learn from them, be encouraging, be the first to initiate hello and welcome.

Relationships.

We must make it a point to have right relationships and to beware of the spirit of lawlessness. Many ministries and lives have been ruined because people have not guarded themselves to keep their relationships pure. We need to get along with others. The new man in Christ wants to connect with like-minded believers. Make the decision to stay sweet in spite of the sour. Work at being the kind of Christian who gives effective witness to the sweetness of Christ.

Philosophy of ministry:

sincere, sacrificial, care about people. Be aware of the primacy of grace: grace saves, not our good works. Grace results in good works. It is not about us; it is about Jesus.

Faith.

You've got to have faith; you have to protect your faith. Encourage your faith, guard your faith, feed your faith through the Word of God and devotional prayer.

Warfare minded.

Finally we get to the area of spiritual warfare, once we have the other nine commandments in place. We need to be warfare spirit minded people. We can only be as effective in warfare as we are in our devotional life. Our devotional life and intimacy with God is a prime key.

Submitted by Deacon Stan Cor

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STIRRINGS

**WELCOMES RENEWAL ARTICLES AND
NEWS OF UPCOMING EVENTS
FROM ALL OF THE
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