

wise words regarding the Charismatic Renewal



"The Catholic Church will not be strong until she recaptures the source of her strength that the earliest church found... until the charismatic movement becomes invisible—because all Catholics are charismatics."

Peter Kreeft – author and lecturer



"It is no longer possible to ignore, or to consider as marginal, this phenomenon that in more or less profound ways, has reached hundreds of millions of believers in Christ. Pope Paul VI called the renewal "a chance for the Church and for the world."

Raniero Cantalamessa – preacher to the Papal household



"Our mission is to give this church of ours the Baptism in the Spirit – without it we are nothing. That is why the Charismatic Renewal has a special responsibility."

(late) Bishop Joe Grech – Diocese of Sandhurst



"The Charismatic Renewal is a great force at the service of the proclamation of the Gospel, in the joy of the Holy Spirit ... I expect from you that you share with all, in the Church, the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit!"

Pope Francis – Charismatic Renewal Convention, 2014



The booklet was prepared by the Missionaries of God's Love Priests and Brothers, a contemplative-charismatic Catholic religious order birthed in Canberra, Australia.



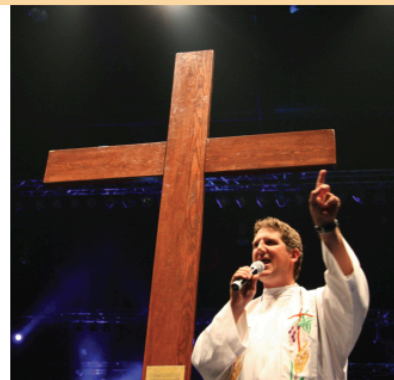
www.mglpriestsandbrothers.org



@MGLBrothers



/mglpriestsandbrothers



Catholic & Charismatic

a brief intro to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal



a renewal that exists to not exist

"To interpret the Charismatic Renewal as a movement among other movements is to misunderstand its nature; it is a movement of the Spirit offered to the entire Church and destined to rejuvenate every part of the Church's life. The soul of the renewal—Baptism in the Spirit—is a grace of Pentecostal refreshment offered to all Christians."

Cardinal Suenens, a close collaborator with Pope Paul VI and a major architect of Vatican II



what the popes are saying:



Pope Francis

"The Charismatic Renewal ... is a current of grace, a renewing breath of the spirit for all members of the Church."



Pope Benedict XVI

"Let us rediscover, dear brothers and sisters, the beauty of being baptized in the Holy Spirit..."



Pope John Paul II

"How can we not give thanks for the precious spiritual fruits that the Renewal has produced in the life of the Church?"

what is the 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit'?

God gives this grace as a way of providing for genuine adult conversion to take place, a way for Catholics to be released in the power of their baptism, for them to come to know Jesus personally, and to discover the inherent power of the basic gospel message. He is stirring Catholics to come alive in the Spirit, to fall in love with Jesus, and to joyfully bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to others.



Embracing the charisms:

The New Testament names many different spiritual gifts that help us build the kingdom of God, such as wisdom, teaching, administration, leadership and faith (see Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4). In the context of worship you may encounter:



Tongues: Praying in tongues allows us to pray vocally beyond ordinary words and concepts as we praise and worship God. The sounds that come are not any known language, but arise spontaneously.



Praise: When we praise God in the Spirit, the focus is taken off ourselves and put upon the Lord. We praise God for who he is. When we genuinely worship the Lord "in spirit and in truth", the Holy Spirit captivates our hearts, and we become seized by the great Mystery of who God is.



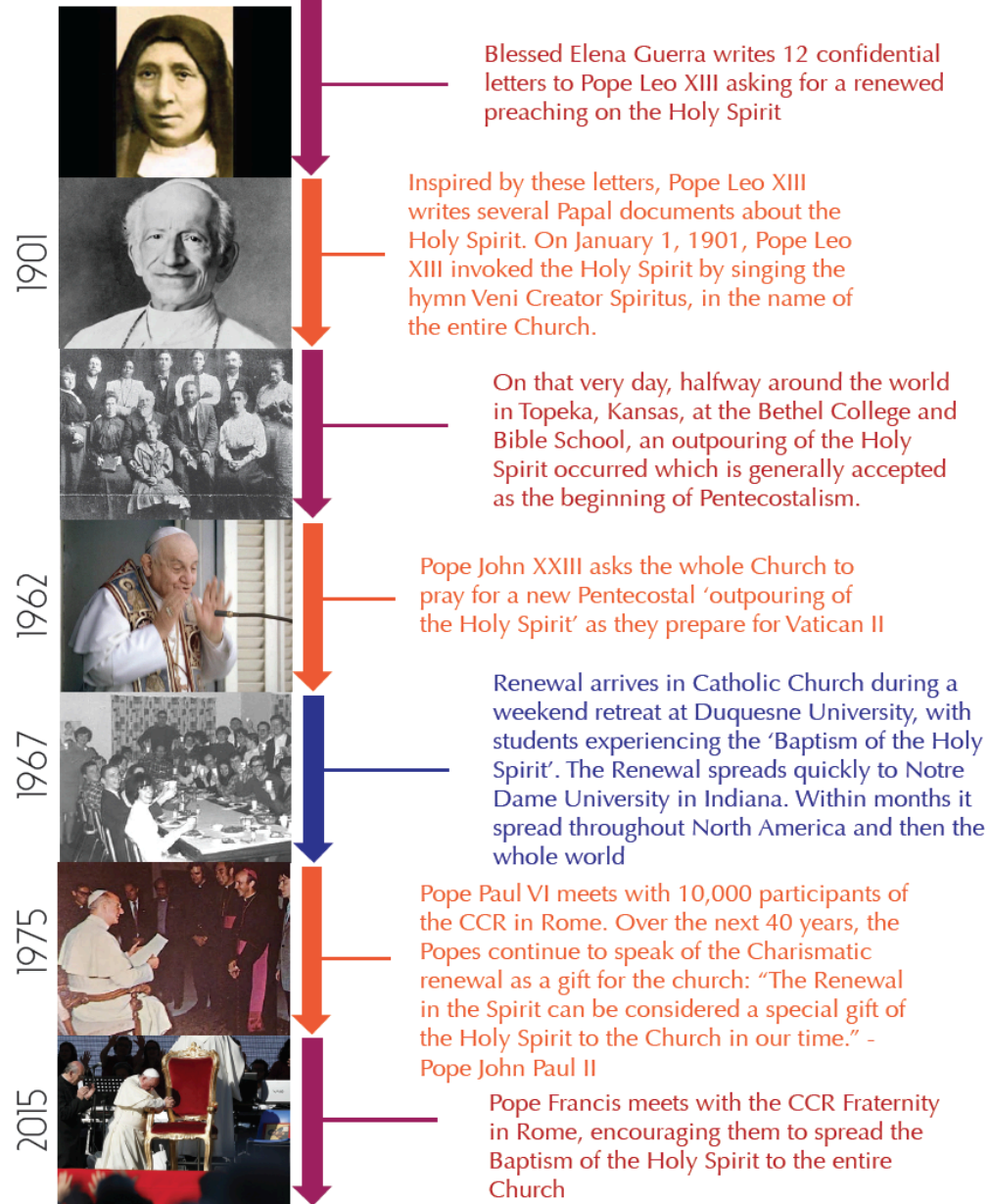
Healing: All healing prayer, whether for physical, emotional or spiritual healing, is about believing in God's love and communicating his love to others. Healings of the body are signs of the coming resurrection of the body.



Prophecy: Prophecy is a beautiful gift through which a person becomes a channel of God's word for a group or for individuals. This can be a word of encouragement, challenge, repentance.

The brief history of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

the work of the Holy Spirit in the last 100 years:



Fruits of the Renewal in the Church

conversion...

People experience a new revelation of Jesus as their loving Saviour, and new depth of surrender to Christ as Lord; a deep infilling of the love of God; a new ability to call God "Abba" (Father), a new love for Scripture, for the Sacraments, and for the Church, a new hunger to learn the teachings of the Church...

a heart of praise...

a new inspiration to praise and worship God from the heart, a new desire for personal holiness, a new power to change sinful patterns and to develop in a life of virtue...

forming community...

a new capacity to love others and a desire to live the communal life of the Church, a blossoming of charismatic gifts...

fire for mission...

a new love for the poor, a passion for justice, a new fire and boldness in evangelization, and a new desire for unity in the Church. What faithful Catholic would not want these fruits in their life?

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses." Acts 1:8



Frequently asked questions



What does it mean to be 'charismatic'?

The Charismatic Renewal must not be understood as a movement or alternate spirituality within the Catholic Church. Rather, it is a 'current of grace' which God is using to renew and restore the Church. The Holy Spirit not only gives us gifts to make us holy (the 7 gifts we receive at confirmation). He also gives us the charisms that empower us to be God's witnesses in the world and instruments of his love, healing and compassion to those we meet.

What does the Church say about the gift of Tongues?

The gift of tongues has been used in the Church ever since the first experience of Pentecost. It is mentioned in many verses in the bible (Acts 2:4, 1 Cor 14:5). It is also mentioned in the writing of the Church Fathers and many great saints, including St Augustine, St Teresa of Avila and St Thomas Aquinas. St Teresa of Avila says that "our Lord sometimes causes in the soul a certain jubilation and a strange and mysterious kind of prayer. If He bestows this grace on you, praise Him fervently for it"

Is the 'Baptism of the Holy Spirit' different from 'Sacramental baptism'?

The baptism in the Spirit can be understood as providing the experiential dimension of our sacramental baptism and confirmation. It is often experienced as an adult conversion, when an individual provides living faith and a "yes" in surrender to the power of their Sacramental baptism and confirmation. While the emotional content of the experience is not all that important, there is usually a level of tangible religious experience which accompanies this release of the Spirit.

Why is it important to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

St Seraphim of Sarov said that the whole Christian life is one invocation of the Holy Spirit. The whole goal of the life of a disciple is to be filled with the Spirit. We all need the graces of our baptism and confirmation to be awakened and released in us more powerfully. This doesn't have to manifest in us in a standardized way, nor does it have to be at a single moment of time. However, a deliberate preparation over a period of time is the best way to make ourselves available for a new infilling of the Spirit.

Why is praise and worship so important?

Baptism in the Spirit leads to a renewed desire for worship both in the context of liturgy as well as in personal prayer. When people encounter the love of God they respond with gratitude through praise and worship. This is often done through song or spoken words and often with uplifted hands.

What is a life in the spirit seminar?

Prayer for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit usually takes place in the context of a prayer group or community. The 'Life in the Spirit Seminar' is a short course designed to bring about a renewal of faith through an encounter with the basic gospel message. Pope Francis recently spoke to priests saying, "I ask each and all of you that as part of the current of grace of Charismatic Renewal you organise seminars of Life in the Spirit in your parishes and seminaries, schools, in neighborhoods to share Baptism in the Spirit,"

