

Serving the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Orlando



THE **CHARISMATIC** NEWS

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“I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God’s upward calling, in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 3:14

Let us start anew from the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, peace be with you.

Easter is just four weeks away. The time before the crucifixion and death of Jesus is painful to many. We anxiously await the Resurrection and Easter Sunday. If possible, please pray and fast as we prepare to receive our Savior, who has conquered the kingdom of darkness for us.

Our conference is on September 22- 24, 2023 in the Hilton Orlando at 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, FL. The theme this year is God’s upward calling, Philippians 3:14. The powerful line up of speakers include Father Jim Blount, Father Philip Scott, Maria Vadia and Nelson Bautista Ruiz. There is a bio of each speaker included in this newsletter.

During last year’s conference we were assessed a penalty for not reaching our contractual room block at the hotel. I am hoping to avoid this for 2023 and plead with you to sign up for the conference and make your hotel reservations. This can be done online at orlandocharismatic.com.

The renewal held its one-day Life in the Spirit seminar on February 18, 2023, at Holy Family Catholic Church. There were approximately 65 people in attendance. It was a blessed event. Help us in our mission of evangelization. Please contribute to the office of the renewal. We are a separate 501(c)(3) corporation with many expenses. I proceed in faith for your consideration.

Have a blessed Easter.

Sincerely,
Vincent Maldonado
Administrator of Operations
Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Orlando

Pope Francis at audience: Let us start anew from the Holy Spirit.

At his weekly general audience, Pope Francis says that a Church which does not invoke the Holy Spirit “closes in on itself in sterile and exhausting debates” .

By Joseph Tulloch

At his weekly general audience this Wednesday, Pope Francis continued with his series of catechesis on the “passion for evangelizing”, stressing the centrality of the Holy Spirit to evangelism.

The Holy Father’s catechesis took the form of a meditation on a single line from the Gospel of Matthew: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19).

The Spirit as “engine of evangelization”

The Pope began by reflecting on the first word of the passage, “Go”.

When Jesus says this to his disciples – and also to us – he is “not just communicating a word”, the Pope said, but also “communicating the Holy Spirit at the same time.” This, he explained, is because “it is only thanks to Him, thanks to the Spirit, that one can receive Christ’s mission and carry it out” – the Spirit is thus “the engine of evangelization.”

And what is this task of evangelization, which the Spirit empowers us to perform? Pope Francis stressed that we are called “not to indoctrinate, not to make proselytes, but to make disciples, that is, to give everyone the opportunity to come into contact with Jesus, to freely know and love Him.”

The Spirit in the early Church

The Pope then turned to consider the role of the Holy Spirit in the first years of the Church, as narrated in the Acts of the Apostles. The protagonist of this book of the Bible, he said, is “not Peter, Paul, Stephen, or Philip, but the Holy Spirit.”

He went on to describe the role played by the Spirit in resolving a famous dispute in the early Church. Christians at the time, the Pope noted, were divided between those who wanted pagan converts to the faith to follow Jewish law, and those who did not.

“How to resolve the dilemma?”, Pope Francis asked. “They might have sought a good compromise between tradition and innovation: some rules are observed, others are left out. Yet the Apostles do not follow this human wisdom, searching for a diplomatic compromise, but adapted to the work of the Spirit.”

“Together, without being divided, despite having different sensitivities and opinions, they listened to the Spirit.”

Calling on the Holy Spirit

Pope Francis brought his catechesis to an end by calling on the Church to invoke the Spirit. He warned that “as Church, we can have well-defined times and spaces, well-organized communities, institutes and movements, but without the Spirit, everything remains soulless.”

If the Church does not pray to and invoke the Spirit, he continued, it “closes in on itself, in sterile and exhausting debates, in wearisome polarizations, while the flame of mission is extinguished.”

“Dear brothers and sisters,” he concluded, “let us start, and start anew, as Church, from the Holy Spirit ... I leave you with this question: do I pray to the Spirit? Do I let myself be guided by Him?”

Grow as a Disciple of Jesus

Why Grow and Go?

Anyone who's played sports, pursued music or developed a new personal skill or trait has probably heard it said, "If you're not getting better, you're getting worse!" While overly simplistic, this motivational quote speaks to a human truth; stagnation or lethargy does not produce things that are new, better and transformed. Not surprisingly, this also applies to our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 9:24, St. Paul compares our journey to heaven to a foot race, "Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win." The takeaway here is not that only one of us is getting into heaven, but the same mentality and disciplines of training hard, moving quickly and crossing the finish line apply to our Christian journey. We then are faced with the question, "How do we run?" The Church provides 2,000 years of insights, inspiration and teachings on what it looks like for us to "run," but I want to boil it down to the two fundamental invitations given to all baptized Catholics: the universal call to holiness and the universal call to mission. Just as a healthy runner utilizes both legs, holiness and mission must be utilized in tandem to achieve maximum speed and ensure finishing the course.

We are called to be holy because God is holy, and through the death and resurrection of his Son, we have access, through baptism, to God's Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is poured into our hearts, we receive his power to transform us from broken, fearful and sinful people to beloved, chosen and free sons and daughters of God. As it states in one of the landmark documents of Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, "Indeed (Jesus) sent the Holy Spirit upon all men that he might move them inwardly to love God with their whole heart and their whole soul, with all their mind and all their strength and that they might love each other as Christ loves them." (40) The Great Commandment (you shall love God with all your heart ...) is the root of our call to holiness. Simply put, we are called to grow. Grow in love, grow in power, grow in understanding, grow in freedom and grow into the body of Christ. In our race toward heaven, our first leg is the "grow" leg.

Our second and equally important leg is our "go" leg. When Jesus delivered the Great Commission, "**Go** therefore and make disciples of all nations ...", he wasn't just talking to his disciples at the time, but to all who would follow him. Pope Benedict XVI confirms this in *Verbum Domini* (The Word of the Lord): "The mission of proclaiming the word of God is the task of all of the disciples of Jesus Christ based on their baptism. No believer in Christ can feel dispensed from this responsibility." Jesus understood that growing equips us to go, and once we go, we realize how much we still need to grow. Jesus challenges us to enter into his mission to work for the salvation of everyone around us. Going sharpens our own beliefs as we share the story of what Christ has done for us. What a wonderful joy it is to not only be brought into greater union with Jesus, but to enthusiastically share that relationship with others!

Pete Burak is the director of i.d.9:16. He has a master's degree in theology, and is a frequent speaker at events for youth and young adults.

From FAITH Magazine

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LANSING

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ..."

From The Depths (Psalm 130)

*“From the depths I call to you, Yahweh, Lord,
listen to my cry for help!
Listen compassionately to my pleading!
If you never overlooked our sins,
Yahweh, Lord, could anyone survive?
But you do forgive us: and for that we revere you.
I wait for Yahweh, my soul waits for him,
I rely on his promise,
my soul relies on the Lord
more than a watchman on the coming of dawn.
...For it is with Yahweh that mercy is to be found...”*

Lord, my soul has become familiar with the Depths. Your Glory, so bright, is shadowed. Sin has darkened your Light. Burdens of this life loom large. I am weak. Youth's arrogance is a distant illusion.

Only say the Word and my soul shall be healed. ...Yet you allow me to know the freedom of brokenness. ...Yet am I driven to hope. ...Yet must I still seek your Saving Hand.

What mystery is this Life with you. Invisible is This Hand that sustains me so. Unquestionable is your Promise. Unfathomable this Well Of Faith, this Source of Hope.

You empty what you desire to fill. You break what you desire to heal. You humble what you desire to raise. So it is Lord, that I know now the Watchman's need. The Night forbid his eyes to see. Try as he might it, in vain could he see without your Light.

I know now, that Watchman's need was comforted. For your Mercy goes first, to those in the darkest of night. Only in clinging to your Faithfulness, can I see the Dawn that is yet to be.

Conference 2023

Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Orlando Conference

presents

GOD'S UPWARD CALLING

*"I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling,
in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14*

Hilton Orlando Destination Parkway
Sept. 22-24, 2023

Speakers:

Fr. Jim Blount

Fr. Philip Scott

Maria Vadia

NelsonBautista Ruiz Youth Track

Music Ministry:
Missionary Families
of Christ

www.orlandocharismatic.com

See
www.OrlandoCharismatic.com
for complete Conference information
and
Registration.

2023 SPEAKERS BIO

Fr. Philip Scott, F.J.



Is the Founder of Family of Jesus the Healer, a community of priests, brothers and sisters who are praying to be healed and formed into a family by the Divine Family (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). They pray to live out in a prophetic manner their baptismal calling to follow Jesus Christ and be His instruments of healing for families; both the individual domestic family, and also the broader family of the Church and society.

Join Fr. Jim Blount



For rich treasures of the faith, promoting the love of God, the peace of Our Lady, and living in God's Divine Will. Fr. Blount keeps listeners captivated with his unique style, powerful stories, and deep love of each of the Persons of the Holy Trinity and the Blessed Mother. Fr. Blount's enlightening conversations cover a range of topics important for spiritual growth, including sharing about devotions, people, and resources that may be unknown to many.

About Maria Vadia

Evangelist & Founder



Born in Havana, Maria Vadia was 10 years old when she and her family fled to Miami to escape the Communist regime in her native country. She attended Catholic schools and was a Sunday Catholic with no personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Later married to a wealthy man, she was gripped with materialism; yet in the midst of everything that the world had to offer, she felt an emptiness deep within her heart.

Maria's life was radically changed when she was baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1987. She consecrated her life to Jesus and to the preaching of the Gospel. In spite of great adversity, the Lord has been with her like a mighty warrior (Jeremiah 20:11).

Nelson Bautista Ruiz - Youth Track -

**Nelson Bautista Ruiz,
Youth Minister for the
Diocese of Orlando**





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