

Serving the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Orlando



THE **CHARISMATIC** NEWS

WINTER 2023 Vol. 7 Issue 3, December 2023

“To you, LORD, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me.”

Psalm 28

*May your Christmas be Blessed & safe.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you. I pray that you have all enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday and did not consume too much turkey or pecan pie. The Thanksgiving holidays have drawn to a close and now we focus our attention on the birth of our Savior, Jesus.

This is such a joyous time of the year for us.

Our conference in September was received favorably and considered successful. There were a little over five hundred people in attendance.

Next year's conference is on September 20–22, 2024 and will take place at the same hotel, the Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway in Orlando, Florida. The theme will be “The Lord is my strength and my shield, Psalm 28:7A. We have another powerful lineup, the speakers include Father Chris Alar, Deacon Ralph Poyo, and Sister Marilyn Minter, back by popular demand. In addition, for our youth track, returning is Nelson Bautista Ruiz and others that we have not engaged yet.

I would ask you all to continue to market the conference on behalf of Renewal. You can register for the conference by visiting our website at [Orlandocharismatic.com](http://Orlandocharismatic.com). If you wish to make hotel reservations from our website, the link for that will be coming up soon.

Once again, we have organized an annual pilgrimage in collaboration with the Renewal in Orlando and the Renewal in Newark, New Jersey. Initially the pilgrimage was to the Middle East but due to the current conditions, it was canceled. We are now visiting the Shrines of Italy. I look forward to this pilgrimage. I know you will be pleased. The flyer which is located within this newsletter is also available on our website. Both Father Ignatius Okoroji and I will be leading the pilgrimage.

Concerning the unrest that exists around the world, let us remain steadfast in our prayers for the end of war in Ukraine and the Middle East, and the plight of the hostages. Please continue to support the renewal in our mission of evangelization of Jesus, by contributing to the office of the renewal. Contributions can be made to CCRC, PO. Box 215, Windermere, FL 34786, or you can donate online from our website.

Have a blessed Christmas, we maintain you in our prayers and ask the same of you.

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



# Pope on The Gift of The Holy Spirit: "Open your heart to the Holy Spirit"

Presiding over Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica on Pentecost Sunday, Pope Francis recalls Jesus' promise to send His disciples the Holy Spirit, "the ultimate gift, the gift of gifts", the Spirit who "is the very love of God".

By Vatican News staff writer

In his homily for the Pentecost Sunday Mass, Pope Francis reflected on the meaning of the mysterious word, difficult to translate, that Jesus used to describe the Holy Spirit: Paraclete. He said two essential meanings are present: Comforter and Advocate.

## **Paraclete as Comforter**

In difficult times we look for consolation, the Pope observed, but often we only look for earthly remedies, which do not last, working only like a temporary "pain reliever" in which "they can sooth us, but not heal us". Instead, someone "who makes us feel loved for who we are" can offer peace to our hearts, not just our senses, and here the "Holy Spirit, the love of God" is the solution. The Spirit, the Pope noted, acts in our spirit, accompanies us and is our "source of comfort".

He encouraged everyone to "open your heart to the Holy Spirit" as a way to confront the darkness, pain and solitude in our lives. Instead, the Pope noted, the world offers us praise when things go well, but condemns us when things do not, just what the hostile spirit, the devil, does. But the experience of Apostles should give us hope, he observed: despite their fears, weaknesses and failings, everything changed when they receive the Spirit. While their weakness and problems did not disappear, "they were no longer afraid of them or of those who were hostile to them", he said. They felt God's comfort, consolation and support within and wanted only to share it and testify to this love they had received.

The Pope said today we are also "called to testify in the Holy Spirit, to become paracletes, comforters" in our world, "to embody the comfort" the Spirit brings. We can do this by "drawing near to others", through "prayer and closeness" and not just through nice words. He also said we need to be positive and not just call out what is wrong, but joyfully proclaim the Gospel, bringing God's love to the world, and testifying to mercy.

## **Paraclete as Advocate**

In his second core point in his homily, the Pope looked at the meaning of Paraclete as the Advocate. As "the spirit of truth", the Holy Spirit "defends us from the deceits of evil by inspiring thoughts and feelings". The Spirit, "proposes but does not impose", he noted; while the spirit of deceit, the evil one, instead entices us to give in to temptation.

We have three "antidotes" here, the Pope said. The first is that the Holy Spirit advises us to "live in the present", to not be chained by our past mistakes or frozen with fear for the future. There is no better time than now, he observed, "the one and only time to do good, to make our life a gift".

The Spirit also calls on us to "look to the whole", to think beyond ourselves, to think as a Church with its wide range of charisms and to look into "a unity that is never uniformity". The Spirit works and brings newness in the community, he noted, as with the apostles who are all very different people with varying ideas, visions and gifts. Yet once they received the Spirit, they gave primacy to the "whole" that is God's plan. If we listen to the Spirit, we can look beyond our differences and accept the call "to unity, to concord, to the harmony of diversity".

Finally, the Spirit calls us to a humble openness to God, to "put God before yourself", the Pope said, since "the Spirit affirms the primacy of grace". We must empty ourselves in order to "leave room for the Lord". Only by doing so will we truly "find ourselves" and "become rich in the Holy Spirit". The Pope said this is also true for the Church: we should not become lost in our own plans and projects, but always remember to look up and remember that "the Church is not a human organization; it is the temple of the Holy Spirit".

In conclusion, the Pope prayed that "our Advocate, sweet counsellor of the soul, make us witnesses of the 'today' of God, prophets of unity for the Church and humanity" as apostles grounded God's grace, "which creates and renews all things".

## Lamps, Light and Love

*[Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out". But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves". They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you". So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.] (Matthew 25:1-13)*

The context of this parable of the Ten Bridesmaids (literally, Virgins) is foreign to our marriage customs today. Back then, after the marriage betrothal, the bridegroom would leave the bride with her father, and return to his father's house to prepare a home for her. When all was ready, he would then triumphantly return to claim his bride. The young unmarried bridesmaids would go out to greet and usher him in, and the community would celebrate the union. This is my limited understanding of that ancient ritual. The following is my imaginings of what our Lord's parable might mean for us today.

Most importantly, it is a love story –of our God who frames the culmination of life in Spousal Love. That the Creator, of all that is, joins himself to us in the intimacy of a marriage union, can only be mystery to which everything else in the story points to. As in all love stories, happiness is revealed against the contrast of tragedy. Here, the Faithful are rewarded with Eternal Joy, while those who did not persevere to the end, were unable to pass through Judgment's Door.

This entire chapter is in fact, about the Great Judgment waiting to expose the film of our lives. It is inevitable, inescapable, and there are no do-overs. All humanity shares in the same drama: gifted with Life, destined for Love, we must struggle to accept or reject our Divine Purpose. This opening parable, I believe, speaks to this Judgment, to what is required of us, and to what will insure our success.

First, let us acknowledge that all ten bridesmaids set out to meet the Bridegroom. Some were wise and some were foolish, but all had made the commitment to seek and join him; all of them discerned their Divine Purpose; all began the journey. They were Virgins, they were saving themselves for the Husband of Their Dream; they were unattached, free to throw themselves without distractions into their calling. And, if we were allowed to flesh out the details of this story, most certainly, there might be many other players beside the Ten: those who spurned the invitation to greet the Bridegroom; those who were not saving themselves for the Other, who only sought to please themselves; those who were beyond foolish, who were already Lost.

The Ten, were a privileged lot. They found their Purpose, their Meaning in Life. They were a Consecrated People; set aside to bear light on the Light of Lights; to usher in the Source of all Light and join with him in Love. So it was that all on the journey carried a Lamp Burning.

What can this all mean? To be found with our light burning brightly is mission critical. We will either pass or fail. There is no second chance. This is our common destiny, our unavoidable test. That it will happen is certain, but when is never known.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

The lamp's Light is the Burning Fire of Love. But, it is not for illuminating the path, 'going as we do by faith and not by sight' (2COR 5:7), for, "anyone who loves his brother is living in the light and need not be afraid of stumbling' (1JN 2:10). Rather, our Light, our Love, is to be a Sign: that we may be identified; that the Bridegroom will not say of us, "I do not know you." For, 'everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.' (1John 4:7). Love is the reason for breath -what brings us into Eternal Light.

Oil must burn before it becomes Light, and we must die before we can love. The lamps then, are where Oil is sacrificed to become Light. If light is the product of something consumed, then the lamps are Occasions of Love -where Self is sacrificed; where Selfish Desire is consumed by Grace; where Will submits to Obedience. To carry a lamp is to be a Living **Yes** -to a God who only asks for Love. To carry a lamp is to give witness -to be a Reflection of our Creator; to be a consecrated **Vessel of Love**.

## VESSEL OF LOVE

The Oil is the fuel, the source, the Grace which ignites into Love. It is the essence of our Living Yes, yet it comes not of our self, but of God -it is, in Truth, God himself. That is why it is not our possession, to give away to one who has not. It can only be attained through surrender. The Oil is the Spirit of God, whose image we become in Love. It is Mystery manifested; the Incarnate becoming carnate, and the carnate becoming Divine. It is the Quintessence of Grace.

All of the Ten began with their lamps full of Oil, but only the sensible ones took flasks of oil. They understood more would be demanded, that the night would take them where they could go no longer, where their youth would be humbled, their exuberance shriveled, where a blood moon would cast them as a shadow of the Cross. Only the wise ones readied themselves for the midnight hour: where weariness closes eyes to Hope; where inner strength runs dry, and Darkness erases the memory of Sun. They knew that only 'Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall...'

It was, in this Midnight Hour, that the Foolish Five left their watch. Faith blinked within. Fear of Emptiness drove them away -just inches from journey's end. It was also, in this Midnight Hour, that the Faithful Five dipped into their flasks of oil. With flames burning bright, they shook off the Darkness and greeted the Bridegroom. Radiant with Joy, the Night became a New Day.

And what might be these Saving flasks of oil in our lives? We cannot persevere in Love without Faith and Hope. So, that which Anchors us in these virtues becomes our flasks of oil: Feeding on the Body and Blood of Christ; daily Prayer and Scripture; Christian Community -whatever calls us into Truth will root us in the Promises of God, where Fear and Darkness cannot coexist with the Light of Love. Faith and Hope then, ever renewed, ever regenerated by Truth, guarantees that we will be found in Love; that with our Light burning brightly, we will be Recognized, and the Door will be opened unto us.

Published by Richard Swiderski on his Blog:

[Thoughts On God And Life: About The Author \(godstuffrichard.blogspot.com\)](http://godstuffrichard.blogspot.com)

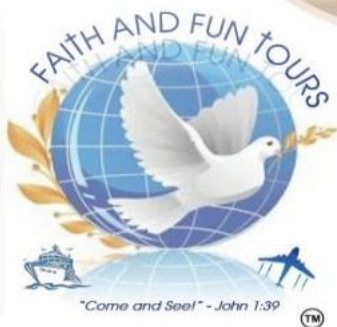
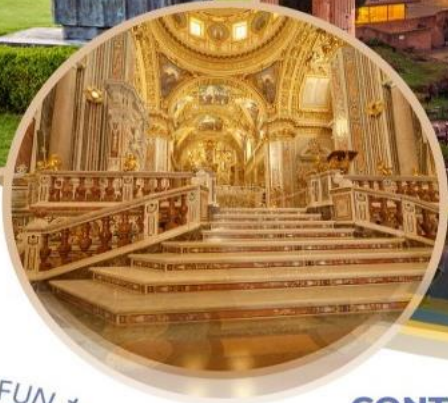
LORD MAKE ME A VESSEL OF LOVE



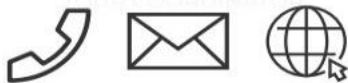
# SHRINES OF ITALY

## 10-DAY PILGRIMAGE

WITH FR. IGNATIUS OKOROJI SDV AND  
VINCE MALDONADO



**CONTACT US**  
TOUR COORDINATOR



Deacon Tim & Angie Kennedy  
732-423-7013 / 732-407-3069  
dcntim@faithandfuntours.com  
angie@faithandfuntours.com



**SEPT. 25 - OCT. 04, 2024**

\$4,349 per person • Departure from Newark, NJ  
\$4,649 per person • Departure from Orlando, FL

Nativity Pilgrimage | 832-406-7050 | info@nativitypilgrimage.com | www.nativitypilgrimage.com

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference  
*presents*

THE LORD

IS MY  
STRENGTH  
AND MY  
SHIELD

IN HIM MY HEART  
TRUSTS

PSALM 28:7A



September 20-22, 2024

Hilton Orlando

[OrlandoCharismatic.com](http://OrlandoCharismatic.com)



Speakers

Father Chris Alar

Sister Marilyn Minter

Deacon Ralph Poyo

Nelson Bautista Ruiz , Youth Track

[www.OrlandoCharismatic.com](http://www.OrlandoCharismatic.com)

See for complete Conference & Pilgrimage  
Information and Registration.





Do you have a  
Small, Medium, or Large

**BUSINESS**

?



Would you like to reach almost 3000  
new clients in Central Florida and the  
surrounding  
areas?



We are considering including advertising in our  
quarterly newsletters and were wondering if any of you  
would be interested in  
advertising your business with us. Our rates, when  
finalized, will be VERY rea-  
sonable.



If interested, please email our  
Editor at :



7

OrlandoCharismatic@yahoo.com

7

Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Orlando

P.O. Box 215

Windermere, FL 34786-0215

**Return Service Requested**



**Non Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Orlando, Florida  
Permit No. 235**

## **TO CONTACT US**

### **ADMINISTRATOR OF OPERATIONS**

Vince Maldonado

Phone 407-610-1012

E-mail [orlandocrc@aol.com](mailto:orlandocrc@aol.com)

### **NEWSLETTER, DATABASE**

Philip Turgati

E-mail [orlandocharismatic@yahoo.com](mailto:orlandocharismatic@yahoo.com)

### **COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON**

Natalia Gil

E-mail [Natagil1015@icloud.com](mailto:Natagil1015@icloud.com)

### **MEMBER AT LARGE**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Charlie Hargraves

E-mail [skytraveler102@gmail.com](mailto:skytraveler102@gmail.com)

### **SECRETARY:**

Debbie Malambri

E-mail [Debbieccrc@aol.com](mailto:Debbieccrc@aol.com)

Address: Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Orlando

P.O. Box 215

Windermere, FL 34786-0215

**WEBSITE** [www.orlandocharismatic.com](http://www.orlandocharismatic.com)