



IF GOD IS REAL...

by Kevin Monette

This generation is entering a crisis of faith. Growing up I always seemed to hear this main question: Is faith relevant? Is Jesus real? What does he have to do with my life? Which is actually kind of a silly question, but it has a simple answer. What does he have to do with my life?... *Everything!*

So it seems this generation is not seeking advice or a 12-step program to follow God better. It goes back to that original question. If God is real, then....? Stop there. If God is real.... That's where it's at. How do I know that God is real? Because if the God of the universe, the all-knowing, the all-powerful who is always present and part of everything in my life, shouldn't I experience that in some way? Where can this generation go to experience that, to find that? Is it from other Catholics?

In the bible, there are some pretty serious words for believers. "Whoever says that I know him but does not keep his commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him. This is

the way that we may know that we are in union with him. Whoever claims to abide in him ought to live just as he lived" (1 John 2:4-6). So if we are not keeping his commandments, if we are not living as Jesus lived, then the truth isn't in us. Do you see why this generation might be struggling to just simply believe? Do you see people who are living like Jesus? What's that like? What is it like keeping his commandments?

In Mark's gospel it says this: "He said to them, 'Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. These signs will accompany those who believe. In my name they will drive out demons. They will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands and if they drink any deadly thing it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick and they will recover. So then the Lord Jesus after he spoke with them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs'" (Mark 16:15-20).

If God is real, then unbelievers will see signs through believers. Signs that confirm the teaching, that confirm the values, that confirm that the kingdom of God is present and at hand. And upon seeing that, it brings them to a decision point. Do I want this for my life? ♦

Kevin Monette will be the guest speaker for the WWCCR Pentecost Celebration on May 28. He is Director of Encounter Ministries, Portland Campus. He shares an active family life with his wife Rose and their three children.

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WWCCR VISION AND MISSION

Vision: *that all Catholics mature in a personal relationship with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father.*

Mission: *to renew the face of the earth by nurturing and inspiring Catholics:*

- + *To experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ*
- + *To fan into flame the gifts we receive through the Sacraments*
- + *To develop a deeper life of prayer and worship*

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GLEANINGS is the bimonthly newsletter published by Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal (WWCCR). The purpose of this newsletter is to provide teaching, news, and a calendar of events which help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the Church in Western Washington.

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OFFICE NOTES FROM KATHY MOORE WWCCR Office Manager



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Kevin Monette, author of our lead article on page 1, will be our main speaker for our Pentecost Celebration, May 28. (See our ad on page 8.) Is God for real? Is faith relevant? Perhaps you can relate to those questions. On page 3, "Behind the scenes, WWCCR's Pentecost Celebration Committee," written by the chair of the Committee, John McGinn, is a must read if the Holy Spirit is encouraging you to help bring a WWCCR event into fruition. John takes away fears as he outlines the steps committees take. WWCCR also makes available Holy Spirit Retreats. On page 4, Deacon Mikhail Alnajjar from Gig Harbor, describes attending a Holy Spirit Retreat and how he felt the Holy Spirit open the eyes of his heart to things that mattered. Father Carlos Orozco will have the next Holy Spirit Retreat at his parish, Holy Spirit parish in Kent on Saturday before Pentecost. His article on page 3 is a personal witness story of the Holy Spirit becoming real in his life. His journey to the priesthood began with that event.

Each article is a witness of the Holy Spirit planting a seed of service in each person's heart. Andrea Garcia, page 6, sums up this idea with rain and seeds and growth to be able to do the job God calls us to. Come Holy Spirit, have your way in me. ♦

Giving always works miracles. We witness miracles at the charismatic events that WWCCR sponsors—our Pentecost Celebration, Holy Spirit retreats, and the annual Women's Retreat. WWCCR has printing and general operations costs in fulfilling its mission to help others experience a

personal relationship with Jesus Christ and we need your support. Consider asking your bank to set up automatic withdrawals to monthly partner with WWCCR. Contact the WWCCR office to request a yellow envelope to send in your support. Call 206-364-2272 or mail your support to: WWCCR, P.O. Box 68575, Seattle, WA 98168. Thank you for your support!



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WWCCR.org

PENTECOST FIRE

by Fr. Carlos Orozco

Was it real? The event at Pentecost... the strong driving wind, the tongues of fire, speaking in different languages... was it real? And if so, what was it like? How did that fire feel? Did it burn? Did it hurt? Do those things happen today?

These are the questions that came to mind on my way to a charismatic youth Pentecost vigil I had been invited to by a friend when I was 16. I was curious, nervous, skeptical but honestly open. My friend had told me that this type of spirituality was not necessarily everyone's "cup of tea" but it would be worthwhile to at least have the experience. I had heard about events like these before: people speaking in strange languages, receiving physical healing, speaking prophecies, falling to the floor... Being that I would often struggle with my faith and occasionally doubted in God's existence, I really wanted to know if it was real.

Praise and worship music began as people stood, clapped, sang, and swayed to the beat. At first, I felt a little embarrassed but joined in. After a motivating talk, the time came. The lay preacher began invoking the Holy Spirit and asked if we wanted to experience fire. Emotions were triggered, praise and worship music started off again as people began to say out loud what was in their minds and hearts, which did make me uncomfortable at first, but the

invitation to experience the fire of the Holy Spirit in this way was too irresistible, so I decided to put away the embarrassment, stretched out my hands and began to pray spontaneously out loud for the very first time as I expressed a desire for God I didn't realize I had.

Minutes into the prayer I started hearing people make strange sounds, others cried, some fell to the floor... others just stood there, eyes closed, arms tightly around themselves, swaying and smiling as if being hugged. The skeptic in me kept emerging and I wasn't all that sure what was happening. How do I know this is God or just me? I wasn't all that sure what was real and what was just heightened emotions, but I chose to continue calling out to the Holy Spirit until I ran out of words to say. I wanted to keep speaking but I couldn't. Both my mind and tongue felt blocked, until suddenly, it felt as if my tongue had been set free. I felt a rush of warmth come over my body and as if someone was speaking for me in ways I did not understand. At that point, whether it was real or not it didn't matter, the feeling was overwhelming, the only way I can describe it is: it felt like fire. There began my journey to know Jesus more deeply. ♦

Fr. Carlos Orozco is the priest administrator of Holy Spirit Parish in Kent. He invited the WWCCR Holy Spirit Retreat team to present the upcoming retreat at the parish on May 27. See ad page 5.

(WWCCR activities and events are organized by committees made up of willing volunteers and normally at least one member of the Board of Directors and/or office staff. Each committee has a specific role with particular responsibilities. This month, we would like to highlight the Pentecost Celebration committee.)

The process of planning the Pentecost Celebration event usually begins with a call from the WWCCR office asking a volunteer to join or chair the Pentecost planning committee. There is discussion about inviting others to be part of this committee and scheduling the first planning meeting. This initial call normally takes place in January or February.

The budding planning team then reaches out and invites others to join the Committee and to participate in the planning meetings. Our first meeting often includes discussion of this year's Pentecost theme, potential locations to hold the event and who to invite to be the guest speaker and worship leaders. Committee members volunteer to lead specific elements of the event. For example, this year Sue Gallwas agreed to help with our worship leader invitation to Gabby Herndon of *United Praise* and reached out to invite the prayer ministry leader as well.

Subsequent planning meetings include finalizing the Pentecost theme and event flyer, distributed in various ways including WWCCR's newsletter, website, Facebook and weekly emails. We also discuss and determine the program details and the order of the Pentecost Celebration service. We do this with full, heartfelt desire that attendees encounter the Holy Spirit in a powerful way. Our meetings begin and end with prayer and we are truly asking the Holy Spirit to lead us in all aspects of this Pentecost Celebration.

Our current Pentecost Planning Committee includes Theresa Jordan, Sue Gallwas, Kathy Moore, and John McGinn. ♦

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Deacon Mikhail Alnajjar



Deacon Mikhail and June Alnajjar

For many of us, including me, we are at times oblivious to the forces that dominate our journey in life. Our reactions to these forces do not come until later when we realize that the events that took place are beyond our control and are too extraordinary to be considered random or coincidental. These events might be joyful, sorrowful, or glorious, yet still considered extraordinary, to say the least.

When I was ordained 12 years ago as a permanent Deacon, I never thought my life would be on a roller coaster. But, here I am. As my journey continues, I am blessed to experience a greater sense of the Church family and community. These experiences in my life are more than just random, for they have shown to me the true power of the triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

For many years, my wife, June, and I have been very active in Church ministries (retreats, Marriage Encounter, Cursillo, Diaconate, and the like). But for more than 15 years, for one reason or another, “the life in the Spirit Retreat” never fit into our hectic schedule, even though our desire was strong to attend.

During Covid when everything seemed to come to a standstill, including Church activities. I struggled with the fact that my journey in the Diaconate program seemed to be halted as well. At times things looked very bleak, not knowing what was up ahead.

However, I knew deep in my heart that the power of God was at work guiding me forward. After a period of prayer and discernment, I asked the Holy Spirit to guide me and give me a clear path to make my next move to continue my ministry and give me some clear direction for my next parish assignment.

Within two weeks, I went from being uncertain about what my next move might be, to hearing about a “Life in the Spirit Retreat”, and my wife and I attended without even registering, the very next day.

On that retreat, I realized that the Holy Spirit was opening the eyes of my heart and helping me to overcome my pride so I could embrace humility for the purpose of servicing my God. I truly discovered that it is not my plan that mattered, but the plan of the Holy Spirit guiding my journey.

For me, the retreat was not just a weekend away from home, but rather a safe place where I found joy as I struggled to find myself in this chaotic world. So, whenever you find yourself at the edge of uncertainty allow the Holy Spirit to show you the way. You will be completely taken by surprise, like I was, for what lies ahead before you. The Holy Spirit is completely unpredictable; we just need to open our minds and our hearts for the spiritual ride he has planned for us to take. Blessings to all. ♦

Deacon Mikhail Alnajjar serves at St. Nicholas parish, Gig Harbor.

Come Holy Spirit!

Experience a **LIFE** with the Holy Spirit **RETREAT**

Saturday,

May 27

8:30am to 4:30pm

Holy Spirit Parish

310 3rd Ave S
Kent, WA 98032

Spend the day on a personal journey with Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Through teaching, personal stories, small groups and prayer together, you can experience what life with the Holy Spirit looks like and be better equipped to use the Gifts bestowed on you at your Sacramental Baptism.

Details:

- **Register early** at wwccr.org or call 206-364-2272. Suggested donation: \$10
- **Pre-registration is required.** No on-site registration. Registration cut-off date is Friday, May 12th.
- **Bring your lunch.** It's a very full day, so this is a closed retreat and we stay together for lunch.
- **We begin promptly at 8:30am.** Doors open at 8:00am for check-in. Retreat ends at 4:30pm and all are welcome to attend 5pm parish Mass at Holy Spirit.

Sponsored by Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal

More Info? at wwccr.org or 206-364-2272

A HOLY SPIRIT PROMISE

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other Apostles, 'What are we to do, my brothers?' Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call."

Acts 2: 37-39

REFLECTION



THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE

by Drea Garcia

Praise God, it's spring time! I don't mind the showers so long as I know what's coming. Flowers. I love flowers! I'm not a green thumb as you are well aware but there's always hope.

This made me think of an image I had while praying for WWCCR recently and it's mission to foster life in the Holy Spirit. It's the image of God and his planting of each one of us as seeds in the world and our growth.

It is "in the waiting" we are placed in the ground. with sun, rain and time the promise of things hoped for comes forth. But we need something more. What is it?

Again it reminds me of waiting for something else after Easter—and that is Pentecost. With our participation in the life death and resurrection Jesus reminds us to go, wait and look for the promise of the Spirit. We will not be left alone in this world. We need this breath of God to be able to do the job he has called us to. Our hope is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

PRAYER: Come Holy Spirit, have your way in me. Amen.

ACTION. Pray the novena to the Holy Spirit for a deeper release in specific areas for you and your family today. ♦

Drea Garcia is a WWCCR Board Vice President and a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament parish in Seattle.

MAY/JUNE INTERCESSORY PRAYER NETWORK

Please pray for these priests, deacons, and seminarians:

May 1	Pope Francis	June 1	Pope Francis
May 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne	June 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne
May 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS	June 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS
May 4	Bishop Frank Schuster	June 4	Bishop Frank Schuster
May 5	Fr. Jim Northrop	June 5	Fr. Jim Northrop
May 6	Fr. Andrzej Galant	June 6	Deacon Thomas Hayward
May 7	Fr. Naresh Gali	June 7	Fr. William Heric
May 8	Deacon Cesar Galindo-Legaria	June 8	Fr. Bryan Hersey
May 9	Fr. Richard Gallagher	June 9	Fr. Chad Hill
May 10	Deacon Felix Garcia	June 10	Fr. Phuong Hoang
May 11	Deacon Leon García-Martínez	June 11	Fr. Christopher Hoiland
May 12	Fr. David Gese	June 12	Deacon Del Hoover
May 13	Fr. Vincent Gilmore	June 13	Fr. Timothy Ilgen
May 14	Seminarian Patrick Gitau Mbuiyu	June 14	Fr. Caleb Insko
May 15	Fr. Patrick Godley	June 15	Deacon Fred Johnson
May 16	Fr. Emilio Gonzalez	June 16	Deacon James Johnson
May 17	Deacon Jose Gonzalez	June 17	Fr. James Johnson
May 18	Deacon Lawrence Gorman	June 18	Fr. Tyler Johnson
May 19	Deacon Gerald Graddon	June 19	Fr. Clarence Jones
May 20	Fr. Chad Green	June 20	Deacon Dave Jones
May 21	Deacon Jeffrey Greer	June 21	Fr. Bernard Jonientz
May 22	Fr. Randy Guarino	June 22	Fr. P.A. Kaech
May 23	Fr. Armando Guzman	June 23	Fr. Nicholas Kayongo
May 24	Fr. Mark Guzman	June 24	Deacon Patrick Kelley
May 25	Fr. Bradley Hagelin	June 25	Deacon Dennis Kelly
May 26	Deacon Bill Hamlin	June 26	Deacon Lyle Kendall
May 27	Fr. W.R. Harris	June 27	Deacon Larry Kheriaty
May 28	Seminarian Nathan Hatch	June 28	Fr. Young-Kwan Kim
May 29	Fr. Richard Hayatsu	June 29	Fr. Mark Kiszewski
May 30	Fr. Anthony Haycock	June 30	Fr. Ronald Knudsen
May 31	Fr. Kenneth Haydock		

Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love you provide ministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve the Archdiocese of Seattle as priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us that, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus the Christ, we may: announce glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free, and renew the face of the earth. Amen

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray...

Come Holy Spirit,

as we seek to follow you every day. Show us how to live a life filled with the Spirit—in every part of our life, in every relationship, in every situation that comes our way—so that you may be glorified.

Come Holy Spirit,

through the Life with the Holy Spirit Retreat at Holy Spirit parish and the Pentecost Celebration at St Thomas parish, empower us to love and serve you so that others will experience you too!

Come Holy Spirit,

renew the discouraged, heal the suffering, and give comfort to those who mourn. Use each of us to encourage and strengthen those around us who need it today.

Come Holy Spirit,

as we prepare for the Archdiocese's Partners in the Gospel strategic plan. May our parishes be ready for the changes to come and please show WWCCR how to support and minister to the people of this archdiocese during this time.

Come Holy Spirit,

bless the volunteers and staff of WWCCR, so that their labors will be fruitful and anointed. Raise up ministry leaders who have the zeal to win souls and equip others. Please provide the people and the resources that we need to serve this Archdiocese.

Come Holy Spirit,

hear our prayer. Amen.



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GLEANNINGS
MAY/JUNE 2023

John 15:4-5

WWCCR Pentecost Celebration

Abiding In Christ
Prepare Your Wineskin For The New Wine!

Sunday, May 28 at 2:00-5:00pm
St. Thomas Catholic Church
4415 S. 140th St | Tukwila, WA

Worship • Message • Healing Prayer

Worship with Gabby Herndon / United Praise
wwccr.org | 206-364-2272

Guest Speaker



Kevin D. Monette
Encounter Ministries