



BUILDING UP THE CHURCH

by Virginia King

Twenty five years ago, Pope (Saint) John Paul II addressed members of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, as well as members of other movements in the Church, urging us all to grow in “ecclesial maturity,” which he calls “a challenge, a road to take.” He goes on to explain:

“In our world, often dominated by a secularized culture which encourages and promotes models of life without God, the faith of many is sorely tested, and is frequently stifled and dies. Thus we see an urgent need for powerful proclamation and solid, in-depth Christian formation. There is so much need today for mature Christian personalities, conscious of their baptismal identity, of their vocation and mission in the Church and in the world! There is great need for living Christian communities! And here are the movements and the new ecclesial communities: they are the response, given by the Holy Spirit, to this critical challenge at the end of the millennium. You are this providential response.”

In the years that have passed, how are we doing in responding to this challenge? How far along the road have we traveled?

I recently re-read an article written by Dr. Alan Schreck that was printed in *Pentecost Today* magazine in 2007. Again we were challenged to grow in “ecclesial maturity” which Dr. Schreck says includes recognizing that every Catholic ought to both desire and seek “a fuller grace of the Holy Spirit to deepen and enliven the relationship we have with Jesus and with the Father, a relationship which began at our baptism but must continue to grow.” He goes on to say: “Hopefully, Catholics will also come to understand that this is basically what ‘charismatic renewal’ is really all about—a renewal of something that is essentially Catholic and Christian.”

Again, I ask, how far along the road have we traveled? Dr. Schreck offers five goals that we can all strive for as we travel this road to becoming more mature in living out our vocation and mission in the Church and in the world. First, we strive for holiness and humility. A fruit of holiness and humility is openness to the presence and work of the Lord in others. Related to openness is the respect we must foster for other Catholics and especially for our or-

dained leaders. Maturity will manifest itself in loving service, in imitation of Jesus, who came “not to be served but to serve.” (Mt 20:28) Finally, if we desire to grow to maturity in Christ, we need to become lifelong learners, benefiting from the education that is freely available, education in the true Catholic understanding of God’s revelation as presented in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

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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 notice of events that help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the Church in Western Washington.

Deadline: in order for any articles, news, or calendar items to be considered for publication in **GLEANINGS**, it must be submitted by the 1st of the month before the month of publication. All submissions subject to editing for length, accuracy, and clarity.

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OFFICE NOTES FROM KATHY MOORE WWCCR Office Manager

Many of us have been in the Charismatic Renewal for a long time. How have we grown in our faith? How has the Lord been using us? On page one, Virginia King reviews an article on “ecclesiastical maturity.” The Church needs mature Christian personalities and the Holy Spirit has provided this response through the charismatic renewal. The article lists five goals we can use to strive for and evaluate ourselves as we travel together in community, building up the Church.

Behind the Scenes article on page three covers what it is like to be on the board for WWCCR, written by board president, Cathy Williams. The board needs all of you to join them to help make Holy Spirit experiences happen, to help cultivate the soil in people’s hearts to receive a deeper outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Father Jim Northrop’s article on page five is about the intense joy the Holy Spirit brings to us. Healing and building of friendships and community comes from sharing our gifts and blessings of the Holy Spirit.

My article on page six gives examples of cultivating the soil in other people’s hearts, by bringing hope to others through help and encouragement. Now that we have matured, each of us has a story to share, from hard packed soil to blooming with the love of the Blessed Trinity—so personally invite someone to a Holy Spirit Retreat, Charismatic event, prayer meeting, or Eucharistic Adoration to bring the joy of the Holy Spirit to others. ■



Dear GLEANINGS Reader: We hope that you enjoy this issue! With printing and postage costs going up, would you please consider making a donation this month to the work of WWCCR? Any amount would help! **Thank you!**

You are an important part of fulfilling our mission to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to others—through your prayers, your service as a volunteer, or by your financial support. Consider making an online donation today using this QR code, by mailing a check, or setting automatic withdrawals with your bank. For more information:

206-364-2272 | info@wwccr.org

WWCCR, PO Box 68575, Seattle, WA 98168.

continued from page 1

Notice I said that we strive toward these goals as we travel the road we are on. They are not mileposts along the way where we can achieve one, then move on to the next. They are interconnected, each requiring continual growth, each affecting our growth in the other. And we don't travel the road alone—we do so in community. Our community includes our families, as well as our parish, prayer group, ministry, service organization, etc. In all these situations, our vocation and mission is to love one another, to build up the Church, and to powerfully proclaim the Gospel.

I invite you to join me in pondering these thoughts further. Twenty-five years ago, Pope John Paul II articulated what the world needs from mature Christians. These needs continue even more today. Together let us discover how we can build up the Church right here in our own communities. I will be presenting "Growing in Christian Maturity", a teaching based on these goals at the St. Hubert Prayer Group in Langley on September 12. See page 4 if you would like to join us.

May the Holy Spirit guide us along the road to maturity in Christ, to the glory of God the Father! ■

Virginia King served as the Executive Director of Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal (WWCCR) until her retirement in 2013. She is a parishioner at St. Pius X Parish in Mountlake Terrace.

**Use these links to read
the documents
mentioned for yourself:**

bit.ly/StJohnPaulAddress1998

bit.ly/Ecclesial-Maturity

BEHIND THE SCENES @ WWCCR

(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 Board of Directors, written by Cathy Williams, our WWCCR Board President.)

Jesus, *I* trust in You.
Jesus, **We** trust in You.
Come Holy Spirit.

Our lives change when we live by the Holy Spirit and desire the will of God in each and every moment of each day. Trying to live doing his will, to my surprise I find myself designated President of the WWCCR Board of Directors. I am a very unworthy soul to lead a group that does such great work in the Holy Spirit on such a large scale as the Archdiocese of Seattle. But...here I am because I was called to this ministry for such a time as this.

We are few in number, but we remember that Jesus had only twelve, and the fruit of the action of the Holy Spirit among those twelve continues to this day.

Our Board of four, soon to be five, meets monthly. We talk about you, dear readers, dream for you to experience joy in each other with Holy Spirit in your daily life, in your prayer, your family at home, your neighborhood, and your parish!

We, the Board, dare to ask you to stand with us, to say, "Here I am, Lord." Join us to make Holy Spirit experiences happen. The Holy Spirit is leading, guiding, and inspiring. The love of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is plowing the furrow before us, preparing the soil, sowing the seed and watering for the harvest.

The WWCCR Board is honored to be called to ministry at this time in our Archdiocese.

Being together as a group is critically important for us to become strong for this great work. We love your company, want to hear your testimonies and share in your joys and sorrows in living your life in the Holy Spirit with us.

You are needed, you are wanted, and you are loved.

I hope to greet you in person at the WWCCR Anniversary celebration in December. See page 4 for more information. ■

Still interested in more?

Growing in Christian Maturity

Presented by Virginia King

We hope to offer this same teaching on Zoom, if enough people are interested. Contact the WWCCR office at 206-364-2272 or info@wwccr.org to let us know.



Journey Together After the Women's Retreat

For those who have attended our Women's Retreat in the past, we have an exciting new encounter for you! We've opened a private Facebook group to reunite with each other, share how we've experienced God, how we've been transformed by those encounters, and what he's continuing to do in our lives! If you're interested in journeying together with your fellow retreatants, join us at:

<https://tinyurl.com/journey-together>



Growing in Christian Maturity

Guest Speaker Virginia King

Tuesday, September 12, 3 pm

St. Hubert Church

804 Third St, Langley, WA 98260

Virginia King served as the Executive Director of Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal until her retirement in 2013. She is a parishioner of St. Pius X Parish in Mountlake Terrace.

Sponsored by the Living Light Prayer Group, St. Hubert Church.
For more information call Jean Beers 360-730-1740

"Here is our challenge, to grow in 'ecclesial maturity' through the pursuit of holiness and humility, with openness to all the Holy Spirit's working in the Church with sincere respect for others and how the Holy Spirit is working in them especially in our ordained leaders, in service to the Church and to our neighbor, and always seeking to grow in wisdom and maturity through ongoing education."

- Alan Schreck, Ph.D, from an article
"How to Strengthen Ecclesial Maturity in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal"

SAVE THE DATE!

EQUIP THE HOLY ONES FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY Eph.4:12

Building up the Body of Christ

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND | 2:30-4:30PM

Followed by the Parish Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Sponsored by WWCCR | 206-364-2272 | info@wwccr.org

INTENSE JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Fr. Jim Northrop

I had the opportunity to attend the School of the Holy Spirit in Boston during the latter part of July. The week was filled with so many blessings and served as a powerful reminder why we should be open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Our God is generous and promised to lavish the grace of the Holy Spirit upon us to help us fulfill the mission of the Church.

"Let us eagerly strive for the spiritual gifts that we may experience the joy of the Holy Spirit more intensely."

St. Paul tells us to, "Pursue love, but strive eagerly for the spiritual gifts, above all that you may prophesy" (1 Cor 14:1). The purpose of prophecy is to comfort, to encourage, and to edify. As one of the anointed teachers at the school, Maria Vadia, said, "It is from the heart of the Father." At the end of his teaching on this gift, St. Paul tells us that the ultimate purpose of this gift (and all spiritual gifts) is that the "church may be built up" (1 Cor 14: 5).

The entire week was all about everyone being built up and empowered to return to our parishes with an expectant faith that God is going to be doing amazing things in our future. There will be challenges, especially as we move through the Partners in the Gospel and experience the restructuring of our parish communities. I personally received greater clarity in my own discernment and healing for the loss of my father back in late December 2022.

It was beautiful to see how God worked through the various teachers and participants during the week to help us experience the goodness of God and that we are never lacking when we turn to the Lord and "ask" for a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit to move in our lives and within the Church (c.f. Luke 11:13). I was eager to return to my parish to share the blessings and teachings about how to yield more openly to the grace of Pentecost. I am particularly interested in asking the Lord for the gift of prophecy to help me in my priestly ministry—especially in Confession.

I was also touched and moved at the conversations that transpired during meals. Faith sharing flowed so naturally and I formed new spiritual friendships. The Holy Spirit directs our focus on loving God and loving people.

Lastly, there was also a beautiful ecumenical dimension as a couple of the speakers who came were not Catholic. One was moved to tears by the beauty of the Mass. The Holy Spirit brought healing to the sad divisions we have experienced within Christianity.

I was blessed at the School of the Holy Spirit to remember that the charismatic gifts are necessary in every age in order for us to be dynamic and to go forth in power. Let us eagerly strive for the spiritual gifts that we may experience the joy of the Holy Spirit more intensely. ■

Fr. Jim Northrop is spiritual director of WWCCR and pastor of St. Thomas parish in Tukwila.

Prophecy Builds Up The Church

So with yourselves: since you strive eagerly for spirits, seek to have an abundance of them for building up the church. Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray to be able to interpret.

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit is at prayer but my mind is unproductive.

So what is to be done? I will pray with the spirit, but I will also pray with the mind. I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will also sing praise with the mind.

When you assemble, one has a psalm, another an instruction, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Everything should be done for building up. If anyone speaks in a tongue, let it be two or at most three, and each in turn, and one should interpret.

For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged.

Indeed, the spirits of prophets are under the prophets' control, since he is not the God of disorder but of peace.

I Cor. 14:12-15,
26-27, 31-33

REFLECTION

THE SOIL OF LIFE

by Kathy Moore

On the ranch, I pruned over fifty roses. As I pruned and weeded, paths were made among the roses.

One day I spied a plant trying to spring up through the packed pathway. It didn't look like a weed. Curious, I broke the soil around it, weeded the area and placed a small plant protector to remind me not to step on it. It was a rose plant. I watered, fertilized and sprayed for blackspot and aphids. I wondered what color flower it would produce. It took several years to bloom. I was amazed when the flower opened to a beautiful, rare bronze rose. Even though planted in a hard packed pathway, with help, it was able to grow into something beautiful.

You've probably heard the expression, "bloom where you are planted." But what if we are planted in hard packed soil? Sometimes difficulties in life seem that we are stuck between a rock and a hard place, grief locks us in. Financial difficulties are overwhelming. Relationships leave shattered hearts. Sometimes it's hard to accept help. I am reminded of my little rose that needed my nurturing to grow. St. Teresa of Avila's words come to mind, "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

I remember the rocky time my housemate and I had during Covid. I had pneumonia, and she a replaced hip putting us in pretty hard packed soil, but a friend organized a meal train, others stopped for a short visit bringing ice cream, some drove us to doctor visits, or prayed with us, helping us to recover and grow during that time. Where is God when we are planted in hard packed soil? In the people around us whom he sends to help. Thank you, Lord, for providing for us through others. ■

Kathy Moore is Office Manager for WWCCR and a parishioner at St. Mary Parish in Anacortes.



Pixabay/Rupert B.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER INTERCESSORY PRAYER NETWORK

Please pray for these priests, deacons, and seminarians:

Sept 1	Pope Francis	Oct 1	Pope Francis
Sept 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne	Oct 2	Archbishop Paul Etienne
Sept 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS	Oct 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, MSpS
Sept 4	Bishop Frank Schuster	Oct 4	Bishop Frank Schuster
Sept 5	Fr. Jim Northrop	Oct 5	Fr. Jim Northrop
Sept 6	Fr. Mel Strazicich	Oct 6	Fr. Joseph Dang Hai Vu
Sept 7	Fr. Thomas Suss	Oct 7	Deacon Dick Wallace
Sept 8	Fr. Stephen Szeman	Oct 8	Fr. John Walmesley
Sept 9	Deacon Mirek Sztajno	Oct 9	Deacon Jack Warfield
Sept 10	Fr. Marcin Szymanski	Oct 10	Deacon Richard Werner
Sept 11	Seminarian Joseph Tapia-Beeman	Oct 11	Fr. Edward White
Sept 12	Deacon Ike Tarabi	Oct 12	Fr. Nicholas Wichert
Sept 13	Deacon Mike Teskey	Oct 13	Fr. John Wilkie
Sept 14	Fr. Navy Kumar Thomas	Oct 14	Deacon Steve Wodzanowski
Sept 15	Fr. Brian D. Thompson	Oct 15	Fr. Stephen Woodland
Sept 16	Fr. Francis Thumbi	Oct 16	Fr. Gerald Woodman
Sept 17	Deacon Donald Tillitson	Oct 17	Fr. Horacio Yanez
Sept 18	Fr. John Paul Tomassi	Oct 18	Deacon Jova Pao Yang
Sept 19	Deacon Bill Townsend	Oct 19	Fr. David Young
Sept 20	Fr. Anh Tran	Oct 20	Fr. Reynaldo Yu
Sept 21	Fr. Vu Tran	Oct 21	Deacon Joseph Yuen
Sept 22	Fr. Thomas Tran	Oct 22	Deacon Gary Zellmer
Sept 23	Fr. Anthony Lan Tran	Oct 23	Fr. Gary Zender
Sept 24	Deacon Asipeli Tuifua	Oct 24	Fr. Marlo Abad
Sept 25	Fr. Patrick Twohy	Oct 25	Deacon Stewart Adams
Sept 26	Deacon Sonny Ungco	Oct 26	Fr. Peter Adoko-Enchill
Sept 27	Fr. Thomas Vandenberg	Oct 27	Deacon Scott Aikin
Sept 28	Deacon Gene Vanderzanden	Oct 28	Fr. Joseph Akor
Sept 29	Fr. Lucio Villalobos	Oct 29	Deacon Marco Antonio Albán Galeas
Sept 30	Fr. Marcos Villanueva Ramirez	Oct 30	Deacon David Alcorta
		Oct 31	Deacon Ronald Allen

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 and fast...

For the work of WWCCR

as we strive to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit into the lives of the people in this Archdiocese.

For the Archdiocese of Seattle

as the *Partners in the Gospel* pastoral plan is now presented to our parishes. Together, through the power of the Holy Spirit, may we work to re-invigorate and renew our local Church as we join in praying:

Gracious God, we praise and thank you for the Catholic Church in Western Washington. We praise and thank you for the women and men who have shared the joy of the Gospel here for more than 170 years. Send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might encounter your Son anew and become more effective partners in sharing the Good News of his saving love.

May our partnership in the Gospel empower us to be your missionary disciples, bringing the Good News to all, especially to those who are marginalized or hurting in any way.

Give us the courage, the flexibility and the vision to renew parish life, so that the good work, begun long ago, may continue among us, and one day, be brought to completion in your Kingdom, where you live and reign for ever and ever.

Come Holy Spirit,
hear our prayer. Amen.



**For more information about
Partners in the Gospel:**

bit.ly/MorePartnersInfo-2023



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GLEANNINGS
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

Experience a
LIFE with the
Holy Spirit
RETREAT

**Saturday, October 7
8:00am to 4:30pm**

St. Thomas Parish
4415 S 140th St, Tukwila

**Invite a friend to this personal journey with
Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit!**

Register early!
Online at wwccr.org or by calling 206-364-2272
Suggested donation: \$10

