

# GLEANNINGS

THAT ALL CATHOLICS MATURE IN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS,  
EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.

## A GIFT UNWRAPPED

by Fr Marcin Szymanski OP

Recently, I went to a big Catholic conference called SEEK, where seventeen thousand mostly college-age faithful came together to pray, learn, and grow in their faith. Intercessory prayer was offered as part of the conference. Some of my students went to receive it, bearing in mind the great benefit they received from the intercessory prayer offered by WWCCR back home in Seattle. Some of the students were a bit disappointed, as they were expecting the charisms to manifest as they experienced it at home. Rather amused by their disappointment, I explained to them that they were rather "spoiled" with the experience of the charisms, as not many Catholics receive them. What they regard as the norm is really extraordinary.

That conversation got me thinking about the nature and the needs of the intercessory prayer. I started inviting prayer teams to be part of our Newman Center retreats almost two years ago. I am very grateful to all who came and served, even if that meant driving to the middle of the mountains. From talking to the students I know how some of those prayer experiences were crucial in their conversion and healing. It is often the charisms, especially various forms of the gift of prophecy, that enable the student to face or even discover for the first time the source of their problems. It also leads to greater trust and openness to the healing power of the Holy Spirit. Another effect of the intercessory prayer is awakening to mission, to be more engaged in the life of the Church, and to evangelize.

Seeing all the good fruits coming from the prayer, I see the presence of the charismatic prayer necessary in my ministry. It addresses the need for healing that neither sacrament of reconciliation nor spiritual direction can solve. It also strengthens the faith of the students as they can experience firsthand the power of the Holy Spirit.

That leads me to the realization that we need more people serving the Church. I firmly believe that the Lord will provide the gifts; people need to "unwrap" them. What is this unwrapping? I see it twofold.

First, people need to learn and experience the power of the Spirit themselves. For various reasons, the power of the charisms remains hidden in the Church at large. Inviting others to prayer meetings and healing services might be one of the main ways we can help others experience it in a radical way.

The second step would be proper formation: what the charisms are

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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

BY KATHY MOORE

WWCCR Office Manager



We receive gifts of the Holy Spirit but need to open them. On page one, Fr. Marcin Szymanski writes about experiencing the gifts or charisms of the Holy Spirit in a physical, felt way which helps in a person's conversion and healing. Virginia King's "Appreciating the Gift" on page 3 tells of the advantages of being a member of a charismatic prayer group as a place where the charisms are nurtured and grown. "Renewal of our Baptism" on page 4, by Jean Beers, gives the elements needed for this renewal, which is opening the gifts already received. On page 5 are comments from evaluation forms of last year's Women's Retreat that describe how these women opened their gifts of the Holy Spirit. On page 6, Drea Garcia compares opening the gifts with stirring a favorite beverage. How has experiencing the gifts of the Holy Spirit affected your life? ■

We wish to thank the St. Joseph Foundation of the Archdiocese of Seattle for their generous grant to WWCCR to help people grow their prayer life with the help of the Holy Spirit.

## DONOR SUPPORTED, ARCHDIOCESE APPROVED

Thanks to our donors, in 2024 we were able to offer our Life with the Holy Spirit retreats, our annual Women's Retreat, a Pentecost and an Anniversary Mass, print six newsletters a year, weekly emails about upcoming charismatic events, pay our staff and bills, and much more. Every donation, no matter the size, helps us continue our goal of sharing baptism in the Holy Spirit with others. Please consider supporting us with a one-time or a recurring donation. If you'd like to learn more about our programs or to get involved, please don't hesitate to contact us. We ask God to bless you abundantly for your support and your prayers. For more information:

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# APPRECIATING THE GIFT

by Virginia King

I thank God for the gift of his Holy Spirit unwrapped in my life. I was a reluctant “convert” to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) because I didn’t realize how much I needed the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in order to live a truly Christian life. I thought I was doing OK because I was being a faithful Catholic in terms of going to Mass on Sunday and otherwise trying to be a “good person.” But thanks to the mercy of God, and the prayers of many people who loved me enough to speak the truth to me, I slowly began to open my heart to the truth that I needed something more. And that something more was baptism in the Holy Spirit. That was back in 1976. Since that time, I have been profoundly blessed to be involved in Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

It started as a surrender to the Lordship of Jesus, acknowledging that I could not love and obey God by my own striving. I needed a Savior, to save me from my selfishness. These were not just words that I spoke, but a cry from the depth of my being. “Jesus, I need you!” That was the beginning of my new “life in the Spirit.” The love of God, which had been poured into my heart through the Holy Spirit when I was baptized as an infant, was unwrapped and stirred up through my surrender. I thank God for his mercy and faithfulness. I soon began to attend a charismatic prayer group regularly.

Being active in a charismatic prayer group helped me learn to pray from my heart. Whether praying at Mass, in the quiet of my room, or at the prayer meeting, I found that “the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart” began to deepen my love for God; my prayer began to bear fruit in ways that I never would have expected. It was through the mentoring and encouragement of those who were much more mature in their own prayer lives that my own prayer began to authentically become a dialogue with God and an act of worship, not with my lips only but with my whole being.

The praise and worship that is such an integral part of charismatic prayer meetings helped me to articulate my newfound love for God. The words of the songs were an expression of the desires of my heart to “know, love and serve the Lord.” Experiencing this in the midst of the community of many others who also were praying from their hearts brought me great joy. Over the years, opportunities to join in praise and worship, whether with just a few friends or with hundreds of others, continues to bless me and encourage me to love God more. As the saying goes, there’s always more!

Although I had read about spiritual gifts in the Bible\*, it was through CCR that I was introduced to how they are meant to be nurtured and grow in my life. I saw the gifts/charisms at work in the other members of the prayer group, and again was mentored and encouraged to allow the Holy Spirit to work through me for the benefit of others. Understanding the nature of charisms is a long process that includes “trial and error” as well as ongoing discernment and willingness to receive correction. I began to grow in using the charisms that the Holy Spirit has given me, for the “upbuilding of the church.” And again, there is on-going surrender, knowing that I am not in control, trusting that God chooses to use frail humanity to accomplish his purposes on the earth. God is simply asking for my obedience.

These are just a few of the many benefits I continue to receive from the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit. I give thanks to God for leading me, in spite of my reluctance, to the joyful community that I found in CCR. It continues to mentor and encourage me to this day. To God be the glory! ■

\*See 1 Cor, chapters 12-14.

*Virginia King is a parishioner at St. Pius X parish in Mountlake Terrace.*

# REVITALIZATING THE MORE OF OUR BAPTISM

by Jean Beers

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” The gospels of Matthew and Luke use these words to describe the baptism that Jesus gives. In the sacrament of Baptism, we have been baptized with water, we have received the Holy Spirit, we have received his gifts. Each of us is

Let us seek the renewal of our Baptism, desiring the activation of the gifts of the Spirit.

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there is... *more*. This *more* is already within us through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us in the sacrament of Baptism.

The power of the Holy Spirit is there, and we must seek a renewal, a new outpouring to release the gifts and power available to us. The disciples and believers who received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost also received a new outpouring at a later time when they gathered to pray for Peter who had been imprisoned. Once again the house shook and the Holy Spirit came down upon them and they praised God with boldness (Acts of the Apostles 4:31). We, too, can seek a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. How many

times in our lives have we needed renewal? Yearly? Monthly? Daily, even?

The same elements required for the sacrament of Baptism are needed when we seek renewal in the Holy Spirit. The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists the elements: proclamation of the Word of God, acceptance of the Gospel entailing conversion, profession of faith, baptism itself, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, admission to Eucharistic communion.

We have already received the gifts and power to live the Christian life, to be led by the Holy Spirit. Let us seek the renewal of our Baptism, desiring the activation of the gifts of the Spirit. How? By seeking, asking, knocking; by learning about the gifts and power of the Spirit in order to grow in faith; by repentance from sin and anything that keeps us from opening to the Holy Spirit; by praying and drawing closer to the Lord Jesus, who sends us the Holy Spirit. It is Jesus who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Let us ask for the power of the Spirit to ignite the flame of love in our hearts and zeal to spread knowledge of God's love to everyone he sends to us. ■

*Jean Beers is a parishioner at St. Hubert parish in Langley.*

*continued from page 1*

and what they are not. Coming back to my students, I see some of them developing a slightly unhealthy approach to intercessory prayer, relying on the supernatural without seeing clearly the necessity of our own daily effort in prayer and good works.

They seek guidance expecting that every couple of months or weeks the Lord will point them to the next step or give them consolation. They need to be taught that charisms are a tool of God's grace as much as times of trial. That means they need accompaniment. I already see

the initiatives to answer this need in the community. I pray that the Lord will guide us and bring abundant fruit. ■

*Fr Marcin Szymanski OP is Director of the Newman Center, University of Washington. He was born in Poland. Since 2013 Fr. Marcin has worked in the USA, mainly in the college student ministry.*



# SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

Women will gather on March 7 for the 2025 WWCCR Women's Retreat at the Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center. Here are some comments from last year's retreat evaluation form, responding to the question:

**"Please use these phrases to share your experience:"**

*When I first came here this weekend, I was... Then this happened... Now I am ready to....*

"When I first came here this weekend, I was...tired, stressed and worried and grieving. Then this happened...Friday Adoration Christ's presence calmed me. All the talks by Fr. Jim helped me with tools and methods to go to my inner room, immerse myself in God's word and to renounce anything that isn't of God. Now I am ready to...To go out and bring Jesus to the hungry world by living out His Will for my life and proclaiming His GOOD NEWS in word and deed."



"When I first came here this weekend, I was...tired, just wanted to rest! Then this happened...the talks, music & prayers lifted me up to a new

level of hope and faith. Now I am ready to...to go into family and community."



"When I first came here this weekend, I was...angry and annoyed. Then this happened... I was delivered and peace came over me. Now I am ready to... praise Jesus and radiate His light!!"



"When I first came here this weekend, I was...shy and not connected. Then this happened... the Holy Spirit I received was amazing. Now I am ready to... Grow my faith and learn more about the Holy Spirit."



"When I first came here this weekend, I was...hesitant and didn't know what to expect. I was also in physical and emotional pain with deep sorrow. Then this happened... -I grew more 'comfortable' with praise and worship music and hearing people speak in tongues – and I felt my heart and soul begin to heal. Now I am ready to...face my trials with new found joy and investigate further events with WWCCR."



If you have attended a WWCCR event, please share your experiences with the WWCCR office at [info@wwccr.org](mailto:info@wwccr.org) or 206-364-2272

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### 2025 MONTHLY MASSES

WWCCR Spiritual Director, Fr. Jim Northrop, will offer Mass at 9 am once a month at Sacred Heart Church, Enumclaw, WA

For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit for all those serving and receiving through the ministry of WWCCR.

You are invited to attend the Mass with Fr. Jim or unite in prayer for this new outpouring, which began on February 5, and will continue on the dates below:

- March 3
- April 4
- May 5
- June 4
- July 4
- August 4
- September 4
- October 3
- November 3
- December 4

## REFLECTION

# STIR IT UP!

by Andrea Garcia



As I reflect on these three words it makes me think of Hot Chocolate, with marshmallows! Ahhh... Ok. Focus.

It also makes me think of the Holy Spirit. The comparison has been made that the Holy Spirit received in Baptism is like chocolate syrup poured into a cup of milk. Unless it is stirred up, the chocolate does not permeate the whole cup of milk.

"Stir It Up" is a phrase from the Bible that refers to rekindling the spiritual gifts. In 2 Timothy 1:6 Paul tells Timothy to "stir up the gift of God which is in you." What does that mean? In this verse the Apostle Paul encourages Timothy to nurture the gift of God that he received through the laying on of Paul's hands. The verse compares the gift to a small spark that can grow into a fire. We need to keep the flame burning in our lives so we are better able to strive and thrive in this world.

How can you "Stir It Up" in your walk with the Holy Spirit? Ask, watch and learn. Keep in step with the Holy Spirit by praying for guidance and how to navigate life situations that come your way. And we can encourage others to use their gifts for the good of the community. What are some examples of the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

- ◆ Words of wisdom
- ◆ Making chocolate milk (for others of course)
- ◆ Words of knowledge
- ◆ Healing
- ◆ Miracles
- ◆ Prophecy
- ◆ Discerning spirits
- ◆ Speaking in tongues

**REFLECTION.** Look at the list above and ask the Holy Spirit, "Which gift(s) do you want to "stir up" in my life?"

**ACTION.** Be a child of God. Go make yourself a cup of hot chocolate. ■

*(Did I mention that I love hot chocolate?)*

*Andrea Garcia is WWCCR Board Vice President and a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Seattle.*

## MARCH/APRIL INTERCESSORY PRAYER NETWORK

**Please pray for these priests, deacons, and seminarians:**

Mar. 1	Pope Francis	Apr. 1	Pope Francis
Mar. 2	Archbishop. Paul D. Etienne	Apr. 2	Archbishop. Paul D. Etienne
Mar. 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.	Apr. 3	Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.
Mar. 4	Bishop Frank Schuster	Apr. 4	Bishop Frank Schuster
Mar. 5	Fr. James Northrop	Apr. 5	Fr. James Northrop
Mar. 6	Fr. James Dalton	Apr. 6	Fr. Andrzej Galant, SChr.
Mar. 7	Fr. Thanh X. Dao	Apr. 7	Fr. Naresh Gali
Mar. 8	Fr. Arulandu David	Apr. 8	Fr. Richard Gallagher
Mar. 9	Fr. Anthony Davis	Apr. 9	Dcn. Leon Garcia-Martínez
Mar. 10	Fr. Joseph "Jay" DeFolco	Apr. 10	Fr. Emilio Gonzalez
Mar. 11	Fr. John Patrick DePalma	Apr. 11	Dcn. Jose Gonzalez
Mar. 12	Fr. Fr. Bryon Dickey	Apr. 12	Dcn. Lawrence Gorman
Mar. 13	Fr. Michael Dion	Apr. 13	Dcn. Gerald Graddon
Mar. 14	Sem. David Do	Apr. 14	Fr. Chad Green
Mar. 15	Fr. William Dodoma	Apr. 15	Dcn. Jeffrey Greer
Mar. 16	Fr. Bryan Dolejsi	Apr. 16	Fr. Armando Guzmán
Mar. 17	Dcn. Reuben D'Sa	Apr. 17	Fr. Mark Guzman
Mar. 18	Dcn. Jim Decker	Apr. 18	Fr. Bradley Hagelin
Mar. 19	Dcn. Jose DeLeon	Apr. 19	Dcn. Bill Hamlin
Mar. 20	Dcn. Frank DiGirolamo	Apr. 20	Fr. W. R. Harris
Mar. 21	Dcn. Vu Do	Apr. 21	Fr. Richard Hayatsu
Mar. 22	Dcn. Denny Duffell	Apr. 22	Dcn. Thomas Hayward
Mar. 23	Fr. James Eblen	Apr. 23	Fr. William Heric
Mar. 24	Dcn. Bill Eckert	Apr. 24	Fr. Bryan Hersey
Mar. 25	Dcn. Jon Elshaw	Apr. 25	Fr. Chad Hill
Mar. 26	Dcn. David Field	Apr. 26	Fr. Phuong V. Hoang
Mar. 27	Dcn. Brian Freeze	Apr. 27	Fr. Christopher Hoiland
Mar. 28	Fr. Patrick Freitag	Apr. 28	Dcn. Del Hoover
Mar. 29	Sem. James Fuchs	Apr. 29	Fr. Timothy Ilgen
Mar. 30	Fr. Ronald Gajettan, H.G.N.	Apr. 30	Fr. Tyler Johnson
Mar. 31	Dcn. Cesar Galindo-Legaria		

Let us pray, 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...*

For the Lord to lead more people, like you and me, to serve in the Church and that we will say yes to the gifts that the Lord provides and learn day by day how to "unwrap" them.

For all priests and parish families in the archdiocese, that this Lenten season will draw them together in new ways so that their first Triduum celebration together will be filled with a new joy and a future full of hope.

For the Life with the Holy Spirit retreat on April 5th at St. Brendan's in Bothell, that the Holy Spirit will fill them with a new zeal and desire for the more that God has for them. May they become missionary disciples sharing their testimony with others.

For the work of WWCCR, that all Catholics mature in a personal relationship with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father.

For the WWCCR Board, Committees and staff as they discern and serve the needs of charismatic renewal in this archdiocese.

*Come Holy Spirit,  
hear our prayer. Amen.*



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**GLEANNINGS**

**MARCH/APRIL 2025**

**Come Holy Spirit!**

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

*Save the date!*  
**Saturday, April 5**  
9:00am to 4:30pm  
St. Brendan Church Narthex  
10051 NE 195th St, Bothell  
Register online at [wwccr.org](http://wwccr.org)