

Week 1

"The Charismatic Renewal"

1 Preparation:

* Pray from your heart. Stop and recognize that the Lord is with you. Ask for the grace to come closer to the Holy Spirit and to realize his plan for your life.

* Look up the "Focus Verse" in your Bible.

* Underline the verse in *Green = Prayer*

* Work to commit the verse to memory.

Focus Verse

Heb 13:15

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

2 Review of Talk:

1895 Mother Elena Guerra of the Oblate Sister of the Holy Spirit delivers her first of eleven letters to Pope Leo XIII. Mother Elena had devoted her life to reminding the Church of the person of the Holy Spirit and inviting the Church to return to the Upper Room/Jerusalem Cenacle where Pentecost occurred.

"Pentecost is not over. In fact it is continually going on in every time and in every place, because the Holy Spirit desired to give himself to all men and all who want him can always receive him, so we do not have to envy the apostles and the first believers; we only have to dispose ourselves like them to receive him well, and He will come to us as he did to them."

In the Apostolic Letter, *Provida Matris Caritate* in 1895 and the Encyclical letter on the Holy Spirit, *Divinum Illud Munus* in 1897, Pope Leo XIII exhorted the faithful to celebrate a solemn Novena (of nine days) to the Holy Spirit, year after year, between the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost.

January 1st, 1901 Rome - Inspired by Mother Elena, stood at the foot of the window of the Holy Spirit behind the main altar in St Peter's basilica and sang: "*Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest*"

January 1st, 1901 Stone's Folly, Topeka, KS - A Methodist minister, Charles Parham, along with nine others gathered at Stone's Folly Mansion to pray that Pentecost would happen in their lives. Agnes Ozman asked that the group lay hands on her. As they prayed over Agnes she broke out into tongues. The Pentecostal/Charismatic outpouring is born.

1962 Pope John XXIII prays:

"Renew Your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost. Grant to Your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of our Divine Savior, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Amen."

February 18th, 1967 Students and faculty of Duquesne Catholic University in Pittsburg, PA came together for a retreat to pray for a new Pentecost in the Catholic Church. Again, the Holy Spirit fell and the Charismatic Renewal began in the Catholic Church.

Saturday, May 29, 2004, in St. Peter's Square for the Celebration of First Vespers of Pentecost, Pope John Paul II stated "I greet in a special way the members of Renewal in the Spirit, one of the various branches of the great family of the Catholic Charismatic Movement. Thanks to the Charismatic Movement, a multitude of Christians, men and women, young people and adults have rediscovered Pentecost as a living reality in their daily lives. I hope that the spirituality of Pentecost will spread in the Church as a renewed incentive to prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation. In this regard, I encourage the initiative known as "Burning Bush", promoted by Renewal in the Spirit. It is about incessant adoration, day and night, before the Blessed Sacrament; it is an invitation to the faithful to "return to the

Upper Room", so that, united in contemplation of the Eucharistic Mystery, they may intercede for full Christian unity and for the conversion of sinners. I warmly hope that this initiative will lead many to rediscover the gifts of the Spirit, whose original source is Pentecost. ...Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love, though the peoples spoke different tongues you united them in proclaiming the same faith, alleluia"

Hallmarks of the Renewal

- A deep personal, relationship with Jesus Christ. Those in the renewal speak of Jesus as one whom they know.
- Great love for other believers in the Lord Jesus and a longing to be with them. Charismatics are known for their fellowship with each other.
- A profound love and new understanding for the Word of God, the Bible.
- A drive to help others meet and fall in love with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Joy! Joy is one of the hallmarks of those who have received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Life in the Spirit Seminar

At the heart of the Renewal is the promotion of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit where believers experience their own, personal Pentecost. The main tool for the spread of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit has been a Seven Week course entitled "*The Life in the Spirit Seminar*" (LSS). At LSS believers experience praise and worship music, receive a biblically based teaching on (topics for each week):

1) God's love 2) Salvation 3) New Life 4) Receiving God's Gift 5) Empowerment 6) Growth
7) Transformation.

The teaching is followed by a witness of how a believer has experienced this truth in their life. The group then breaks into small groups to discuss the topic and sharing based on the assigned daily readings which participants are given to help them further grow in the week's topic.

Prayer Meetings

The main expression of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is the Prayer Meeting. A Prayer Meeting is usually a weekly gathering which starts with praise and worship music, a time of thanksgiving, sharing from what believers have found in the Word throughout the week, quiet listening for words of prophecy, a teaching, concluding with prayers of intercession. There is also usually a time for people to be prayed over.

Lectio Divina

Lectio (To Read) Read the passage slowly, two or three times believing that God is going to speak into your life. Notice the words or phrases that speak to you.

Meditatio (To Meditate) Allow this Word to begin to sift through your life. What is God speaking to you?

Oratio (To Speak) Now that God has spoken to you through His word, what is your response? Use the ACTS of prayer: **A**doration, **C**ontrition, **T**hanksgiving, **S**upplication? Speak to God freely.

Contemplatio (To Contemplate) Read back over the passage and review your dialogue with God. Become quiet and turn your heart to His heart for you. Is there anything that He personally wants to speak to you?

1st Day Ps 150

2nd Day Phil 4:4-7

3rd Day Ac 2:42

4th Day 2 Sam 6:1-16

5th Day Neh 8:10

6th Day 2 Tim 1:6

Review

If you have not begun, start reading "*A Key to the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church*" by Monsignor Vincent Walsh. Go to www.BrendanCase.com and click on "Tools for Growth" for your free copy. Visit International Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) <http://iccrs.org/en/index.php/ccr/> and The Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities <http://www.catholicfraternity.net/>