

The Flame

January / February 2024

Blessed Elena Gurra: Apostle of the Holy Spirit

By Patti Mansfield

It is a joy for me to write about my friend, Blessed Elena Guerra, whom I first met through my husband in 1991 when I was writing the Silver Jubilee edition of *As By A New Pentecost*. He told me that the story of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal could not be told without Elena! She was the first person beatified by Pope St. John XXIII who called her “the apostle of the Holy Spirit”. Some believe that it was her writings which inspired the Pope’s famous prayer: “Renew your wonders in this our day as by a New Pentecost.”

Blessed Elena, foundress of the Oblate Sisters of the Holy Spirit in Lucca, lived from 1835 to 1914. In 1886 she became aware of her prophetic task to write to Pope Leo XIII, urging him to renew the Church through a return to the Holy Spirit. She wrote 10–12 confidential letters calling for renewed preaching on the Holy Spirit, “who is the one who forms the saints.” She desired to see the whole Church unite in constant prayer, as were Mary and the apostles in the upper room, awaiting the coming of the Spirit. “Oh, if only the invocation *Veni!* (Come)...would become as popular a prayer as the *Ave* (Hail Mary)!” Listen to her words so filled with fire!

“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.” And again, “Who is hungry enough? Who is thirsty enough? Who is humble enough? Who is zealous enough?”

Pope Leo XIII then asked the entire Church to celebrate a solemn novena to the Holy Spirit each year between the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost. Blessed Elena was pleased with the Holy Father’s efforts but disappointed with the bishops’ poor response to the call for an annual novena.

Blessed Elena formed prayer groups which she called “Permanent or Universal Cenacles.” Often, she was heard to exclaim, “Let us go to the Cenacle!”

From her early years as an educator, she wrote many pamphlets and books urging people to return to the Holy Spirit. St. John Bosco told her, “You have a pen of gold.” That “pen of gold” was wielded to compose not only letters

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Dear Readers of *The Flame*,

Charismatic prayer is often associated with loudness. There is joyful song and vocal prayer that acclaims the Lord, at times shouting out of his titles. This vocal prayer and song is adorned with the grateful praises his of name. It is a beautiful way to enter into God's presence. Psalm 100:4 teaches, *Enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.*

This was my first experience at a charismatic prayer group. And it was used by the Holy Spirit to convict me of a number of things. First, that God was present in that room. Secondly, that what these people were doing was good. The Holy Spirit was convincing me that our response to God ought to be wholehearted and joyful. Finally, that if I yielded to the Holy Spirit in this manner (and I wasn't sure at that time if I wanted to!) I would be changed for the better. Eventually, I did surrender wholeheartedly to the Lord. He did change me and it certainly was for the better.

However, I also noticed that the loud prayer and praise at prayer meetings or a conference was often followed by a profound silence. And that God was deeply present in the silence. Sometimes this silence was accompanied by a prophecy or a word that God was doing something in the group at that moment. And sometimes the silence was simply filled with God's presence and that was enough.

As we begin this New Year, amid the confusion of our culture and troubles of our world, I want to encourage you to earnestly seek to deepen your relationship with the Lord by deepening your prayer life. Part of this deepening may simply be revisiting the experiences you have had in prayer and relearning those prayer lessons. Some of the lessons we would do well to relearn are:

- » **The power of praise:** Praise is powerful because it lines us up with the reality of God. When we "magnify the Lord", God does not get any bigger. However, our sense of God's grandeur, His power, His mercy, the victory of His Son Jesus Christ over sin, death and Satan, all become more alive in us.
- » **Gratitude is foundational:** Giving thanks to God is powerful, not because God needs to be thanked. He has no ego issues. Giving thanks to the Lord helps us recognize his providential care in our lives. As we give thanks to God, it helps us see how blessed we really are.
- » **Praying in the Spirit:** By this I mean praying in tongues. This prayer language lifts us beyond our limited understanding and helps us adore "His indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15) as well as intercede for the needs of others and our world "with inexpressible groanings". (Romans 8:26)
- » **Silence:** This is a fruitful practice. It counteracts and cleanses us from the noisiness of our times. We will be able to recognize those times when our train of thought

gets off track, when we become critical, self-righteous, discouraged or simply out of touch with the Lord. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially fruitful in this regard. As we gaze on Him, the Lord can look into our hearts. He is able to console us, convict us and restore to us His peace.

Shifting gears: Two people who have been involved in the General Service Committee of CRM passed away at the end of 2023. Sally Hudgins passed away on November 16. She had been the CRM sacristan for a number of years as well as our conference coordinator. Previous to Sally, the conference was often the work of a married couple on the GSC. Sally said that she would embrace this task only if she could form a committee. Her foresight made handling the details of the conference much more manageable and expanded the number of people who assist CRM. Sally was a Third Order Secular Franciscan with a sincere love of Christ and the Church.

On November 12 Denise Calabrese passed away. Denise was known for her heart to serve the needy as well as her desire to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ. She was currently serving on the General Service Committee as the Editor of the Flame. Her passing at the relatively young age of 59 has left a void in her family as well as Catholic Renewal Ministries.

Please commend both of these women to the Lord and pray that the Lord bring consolation to their families.

Also, Catholic Renewal Ministries is looking for someone able and willing to take over for Denise and become the editor of this newsletter, *The Flame*. If you are interested, please contact me at frbobfranco@gmail.com or call me at St. Peter Parish 440-327-2201.

In these times that seem a bit shaky, may our ever-deepening prayer make our roots in Christ unshakable.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob Franco



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Catholic Renewal Ministries Traveling Healing Mass

Friday, January 19th, 2024

St. Peter Parish

Fr. Bob Franco Celebrant

Praise & worship begins at 7:00
Liturgy begins at 7:30 p.m.



St. Peter Parish

35777 Center Ridge Rd.,
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

All are Welcome!

Healing prayer teams will be available after mass for individual prayer, and there will also be a social after mass.

Come, Sing and Praise God with Joy in the New Year!

Contact CRM: 440-944-9445



Healing Prayer teams will be available after Mass for individual prayer.

crmweb.org

Prayer Group Information

Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group welcomes everyone to join us on **Tuesday evenings from 7:30–9:00 p.m.** in the Primary Building of Our Lady of Angels School (behind Linus Hall) 3600 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, 44111. Join us to praise God in song and move in the Charisms of the Holy Spirit. A time of silent prayer follows worship and leads us into Prophecy and Scripture, hearing God speak through His Spirit. Teachings are often presented and we pray for both our own prayer intentions and for healings. For more information contact Tom Stamper at 216-536-6495.

SS. Cosmas and Damian Charismatic Prayer Group meets every **Sunday at 7:00 p.m.** in the church gathering area under the Holy Spirit Dove. The prayer meeting is also streamed live on SS. Cosmas and Damian Facebook page. Come and experience vibrant praise and worship, intercessory and healing prayer, and scripture sharing.

Do you want to know Jesus in a deeper way? Are you looking to go deeper in your faith? Come and check out our church community of believers. To contact us or be on the prayer group email list call 330-310-2595 or email dennycarleton@sbcglobal.net

Holy Spirit Prayer Group meets in the Fairlawn and Akron area. For information about dates, times and locations, please call Jim McGuire at 330-612-5969.

The **Holy Spirit Prayer Group** of St. Mary Church in Hudson is a Charismatic Holy Spirit led prayer group that meets the **first and third Saturdays** of each month year around. We meet from **10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** in the chapel. The main

focus of our meeting is to praise and worship the living God. We ask the Holy Spirit to minister to us and take us to the heart of the Father. We not only offer praise and worship but also periods of silent prayer to seek and hear God's words and His messages to us. We share words of God, share stories, and offer intercessory prayers for hurting and suffering brothers and sisters.

Our prayer group offers a monthly healing prayer service also. For further information, please contact us at HealingPrayers@stmaryhudson.cc

The Living Word Healing Prayer Ministry at St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick meets face to face on the **first and third Tuesdays** of every month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in our Chapel.

We allow the Winds of the Spirit to flow over us as we praise the Lord through music, sharing, and group reflection. We allow time for God to open our hearts and minds as we listen to His Word both through Scripture and Word of Knowledge. Every meeting ends with healing prayer as we ask Jesus to come to us in a special way to heal our brokenness and touch us with His Love.

All are invited to join us as we praise and worship the Living God!

The **Bukas Loob sa Diyos (BLD)** or in English—**Open in Spirit to God (OSG)**, is a Filipino Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community. While the majority of BLD members are from the Philippines, it also includes other brothers and sisters of many nationalities and heritage backgrounds. We meet every **Thursday, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Mary Queen of Peace Chapel, 4423 Pearl Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109. We hold weekly praise and worship service in-person. Also, on the first

Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., we celebrate a mass followed by a healing service.

We are a communion of families and a community of persons called together as one people through the moment of encounter and a process of renewal to a relationship of faith, hope, and love with God. We conduct marriage encounter programs, solo person encounters, single encounters, family encounters and life in the spirit seminars.

For more information, please contact Rudy and Fe Fontilla at 440-403-5719 or email: rudyfontilla1975@yahoo.com

The **Community of Praise Prayer Group** meets at St. Paul Catholic Church, 241 South Main St., North Canton, OH 44720. Their prayer meetings start at **6:30 p.m.** on the **second Monday** of each month. Upcoming dates are: December 11, 2023 and January 8, 2024. They meet inside the main church in the area of the "old Sanctuary". Parking is behind the Church, and there is an elevator to the upper level where the Main Church is located. For more information contact Don and Rosemary Pfiffner at 330-499-9371 or email: pfiffner67@gmail.com



VISIT US ONLINE:
crmweb.org

CRM and Prayer Group Events

The Holy Spirit Prayer Group of St. Mary Church hosts an in-person **Healing Prayer Service** on the **first Sunday** of each month, except in July and September of this year. For those months the service will be held on the second Sundays. The service will be held in the chapel from **12:30–1:30 p.m.**

Our prayer teams will be available to pray for the healings of your body and spirit. Fr. Larry will, depending on his availability, offer an anointing for those seriously ill, preparing for surgery, or weak with aging.

St. Mary Church is located at 340 N. Main St., Hudson 44236, Tel: 330-653-8118. We encourage you to submit your prayer requests to healingprayers@stmaryhudson.cc

The Living Word Healing Prayer Ministry at St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick offers a monthly **Healing Prayer** event which takes place in the Church **after the 4:30 p.m. Mass** on the **third Saturday** of every month. Healing prayer ministers are available to offer prayer for spiritual, emotional, or physical healing. Please join us so that the Spirit of God can touch you with healing love!

Holy Family Healing Prayer Group (Stow) offers **Healing Prayer** after masses the second weekend of the month (**Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. masses**) and after **Tuesday and Friday 8:00 a.m. daily masses**. Prayer teams will meet you in the back of the church. If you are unable to attend one of the masses, we offer homebound private prayer. Private prayer for physical, inner healing and Unbound can be scheduled by calling 330-686-0017. Jesus is Alive! Come experience His healing power.

Holy Family Healing Prayer Group (Stow) **Classes** are in session and are **FREE**. We meet weekly on Mondays,

10:00–12:00 and 6:30–8:30 p.m., in the prayer room in the back of Holy Family Church, 3179 Kent Rd, Stow. Learn your Identity as a Child of God, Hearing God's Voice and total Healing of the Body, Mind and Spirit. Come, join us and learn about the transforming love of God. For information, please call Mary at 330-686-0017 or email cusack435@gmail.com

Catholic Renewal Ministries' **Traveling Charismatic Mass** for January will be held at St. Peter Parish on **Friday, January 19th, 7:00 p.m.** Fr. Bob Franco will be the celebrant. Praise and worship will begin at 7:00 and the liturgy will start at 7:30. Healing prayer teams will be available after mass for individual prayer, and there will also be a social after mass. The church is located at 35777 Center Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville 44039. For more information, please contact Fr. Franco at 440-327-2201 or CRM at 440-944-9445. Come, Sing and Praise God with Joy in the New Year!

Peter's Shadow Healing Prayer Ministry invites you to a **Night of Healing Prayer** on **February 5th, 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.**, at St. Mary of the Falls Church. There will be praise and worship, a reflection, and time for individual prayer. The church is located at 25615 Bagley Rd. in Olmsted Falls 44138.

All are welcome—come be transformed by the Healing Power of Jesus Christ. A free-will offering will be taken.

Catholic Renewal Ministries will host an **Unbound: Freedom in Christ Conference** on **Saturday, April 6, 2024**. Matt Lozano will be here in Cleveland to present the conference sessions. He is the director of training for the Heart of the Father Ministries.

Unbound is a ministry of freedom and healing that helps us to release the Power of the Gospel into our lives. We all have areas in our lives where

we don't experience freedom. These can be patterns of habitual sin, addictions, negative thoughts, resentments, and other forms of spiritual difficulty. Jesus came to set us free by breaking the power of sin and revealing the love of God. At the **Unbound: Freedom in Christ Conference**, you will learn how to unlock your prison doors by using the Five Keys to Freedom. The conference involves times of prayer and worship, insightful teaching, and personal ministry from our ministry team. This conference will equip you to cooperate with God as He sets you free.

On Saturday, registration and continental breakfast will start at 8 am, and the program begins at 9 am and ends at 4:30 p.m. The conference will be held at St. Peter Parish, 35777 Center Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville 44039. Attendees can attend Mass at 8:00 a.m. at St. Peter Church, if they wish.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 25, 2024. Here are the details:

- **Early bird, Postmarked by March 1, 2024: \$75** per person, includes continental breakfast and lunch
- **Postmarked by March 25: \$85** per person, includes continental breakfast and lunch
- **April 6: at the door: \$85**, no lunch provided
- **Clergy: \$25**
- **Seminarians and Religious: Free**

Registration is required for all. PayPal registration is available on the CRM website: www.crmweb.org, or you can use the form on the flyer in this Flame, with your check made out to Catholic Renewal Ministries. For more information, call the CRM phone number, 440-944-9445, Marge Zampino, 216-990-0919, or Mary Cusack, 330-687-8843, or send questions to crmunboundconference2024@gmail.com

Please share this information and the attached flyer with the members of your prayer group, family members and friends. Thank you for helping us spread the word about this program that can help each of us become the person God created us to be.

(Continued from page 1)

to the Pope but many beautiful prayers to the Holy Spirit. Elena used the invocation of Pope Leo XIII in a Holy Spirit Chaplet that is used as a Pentecost Novena. It is a plea for each of the seven sanctifying gifts of the Spirit with a prayer that is repeated seven times for each gift: "Father, in the name of Jesus, send forth your Spirit and renew the world." Followed by an invocation to Our Lady, "O Mary, who by the work of the Holy Spirit, conceived the Savior, pray for us." At the end of the Chaplet, there are three additional invocations to Our Lady and a Hail Mary.

In her ninth letter to the Pope on October 15, 1900, Elena begged him to exhort all Catholics to pray for the new century and to place it under the sign of the Holy Spirit. "Most Holy Father, I humbly present with confidence to your Holiness that the new century may begin with the hymn Veni Creator Spiritus to be sung at the beginning of the Mass of the first day of the year."

And on January 1, 1901, the first day of the first year in the twentieth century, Pope Leo intoned the Veni Creator Spiritus in the name of the whole Church. On the same day, an event took place in Topeka, Kansas, that marked the beginning of a great revival in the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit destined to sweep this country and around the world. In February 1967, on the Duquesne Weekend, we sang the Veni Creator Spiritus and, as they say, "The rest is history."

Patti Mansfield was on the Duquesne Weekend and is author of "As By a New Pentecost." She is a recipient of the Papal Medal, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

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CRM Volunteer Opportunities

The Catholic Renewal Ministries Service Committee is looking for volunteers who would be willing to usher at the various events during the year including Charismatic Masses (usually on Friday nights), Healing Services, special events, and the annual Conference. You would not be required to serve at every GSC event during the year but would be called upon to serve as an Usher for various events at your convenience. Prayer groups please ask and encourage your members if they would help out in this ministry of service. If you are willing to Usher, please send your name, e-mail address, and/or phone number and what prayer group you are associated with. Even if you are not currently attending a prayer group, please consider helping out with Ushering.

Thank you,

Carolee and Rich Zentkovich
Prayer Group Coordinators
Usher Ministry
My cell: 440-221-8169
cjzentkovich@gmail.com



WANTED - GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Catholic Renewal Ministries is looking for a few new members for the General Service Committee. We meet once a month, usually the third Monday of the month, to discuss plans and events for the Renewal. Members are encouraged to provide ideas for the growth of the Renewal in the Cleveland Diocese, and to provide help as needed. Current committees are: Conference, Prayer Groups, Healing, Hispanic, Program, Music and Word Gifts.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Ken Posavad at 440.319.9646 or kposa@sbcglobal.net

UNBOUND: FREEDOM IN CHRIST CONFERENCE!

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

EVERYONE IS FIGHTING AN INVISIBLE BATTLE:

- negative thoughts, secret sins and unhealthy relationships
- destructive habits, idols and false identities
- resentments and bitter wounds that never seem to heal

*What if you could reach out and touch God's love,
and never be the same?*

UNBOUND MINISTRY RELEASES THE POWER OF JESUS INTO WOUNDED HEARTS.

Unbound is a ministry of freedom and healing that helps us to release the Power of the Gospel into our lives. We all have areas in our lives where we don't experience freedom. These can be patterns of habitual sin, addictions, negative thoughts, resentments, and other forms of spiritual difficulty. Jesus came to set us free by breaking the power of sin and revealing the love of God.

At the Unbound: Freedom in Christ Conference, you will learn how to unlock your prison doors by using the Five Keys To Freedom. The conference involves times of prayer and worship, insightful teaching, and personal ministry from our ministry team. This conference will equip you to cooperate with God as He sets you free.

LOCATION:

St. Peter's Parish
35777 Center Ridge Rd.,
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

SCHEDULE:

Doors open at 8:00 AM

Program begins at 9 AM (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM)

Presenter: Matt Lozano,
Director of Training -Heart of the Father Ministries

*If you wish, attendees can attend Mass at 8:00 a.m.
at St. Peter Church.*

REGISTRATION:

One-Day Unbound Conference on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at St. Peter's Parish. We will provide a continental breakfast and lunch, included in the cost. **Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 25, 2024**

- **Early bird Postmarked by March 1, 2024: \$75** per person, includes continental breakfast & lunch
- **Postmarked by March 25: \$85** per person, includes continental breakfast & lunch
- **April 6, at the door: \$85**, lunch not provided
- **Clergy: \$25**
- **Seminarians and Religious: FREE**

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL
Register ONLINE via PayPal at CRMweb.org or below:

Name

Address

Phone Number

Printed Email Address

By U.S. mail, send check to:
CRM c/o Marge Zampino
2747 Vincent Drive, Seven Hills, OH 44131

UNBOUND
HEART OF THE FATHER

For more information, call CRM: **440-944-9445** or
Marge Zampino: **216-990-0919** | Mary Cusack: **330-687-8843**

crmunboundconference2024@gmail.com



The Flame

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