

# The Flame

July / August 2023

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Dear Readers of the Flame,



**A man died and came before the Lord for judgement.** The Lord had a bit of a quizzical look and said to the man, “Things are inconclusive, I am deferring judgement on your life for a day. The first part of the day you will be in heaven. The second part of the day you will be in hell. Afterwards, you will let me know which one you prefer.”

Suddenly, the man found himself on a cloud with a harp surrounded by beautiful music. It was nice. However, after about a half hour he was somewhat bored. By the end of the four-hour trial, though very apprehensive about going to hell for four hours, he was ready for a change.

Sure enough, things changed. However, he was pleasantly surprised at hell. He found himself on a tropical island. Island music floated upon balmy breezes. Waitresses served adult beverages to everyone. His taste buds were aroused by a bar-b-que. Everyone was pleasant. Four hours flew by. He thoroughly enjoyed the food, drink, environment and conversation.

At the end of the day the man again stood before the Lord who simply said, “Well?” The man answered, “Heaven was nice. However, I was a bit surprised with hell. I actually felt a bit more at home there.” The Lord responded, “It will be as you have said.” Poof! The man was in hell. However, things were not as he expected. He was in a hot, sulfur pit that made him gag. He commented to an evil looking creature next to him, “I was in hell earlier today and it was a tropical paradise. What happened?” The demon said, “Oh, this is hell. You must have been at one of our recruiting centers earlier today.”

**This story in no way depicts our particular judgement after death. However, it does say something about the workings of the Enemy. He is recruiting.** And he can use many pleasant things to distract and eventually derail us from the ultimate goal in life: heaven.

**It is important for us to remember that we are at war. The Catechism of the Catholic Church #409 puts it this way:**

This dramatic situation of “the whole world [which] is in the power of the evil one” (I John 5:19) makes man’s life a battle: *The whole of man’s history has been the story of our combat with the powers of evil, stretching, so our Lord tells us, from the very dawn of history until the last day. Finding himself in the midst of the battlefield man has to struggle to do what is right and it is at great cost to himself, and aided by God’s grace, that he succeeds in achieving his own inner integrity.* (Gaudium et Spes 37 §2)

**The traditional enemies in this battle are *the world, the flesh and the devil.*** The world (in bible passages dealing with spiritual warfare) is those societies and organizations that oppose, overtly or covertly, Christ, the gospel and the Church. The temptation is to conform to the world and escape the ostracization that takes place when we think, speak and act in the name of Jesus Christ. The flesh is that broken part of our humanity that craves comfort and satisfaction at the cost of breaking God’s commands. The devil is the seducer of humanity from the beginning and continues to present plausible lies to our minds that promise us the world while wresting us from God’s care and providence.

**Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ. Resist is the word that summarizes our stance while engaged in spiritual warfare.**

- *So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* (James 4:7)
- *Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for [someone] to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith* (I Peter 5:8-9a)
- *Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and having done everything, to hold your ground.* (Ephesians 6:13)

**Sometimes resisting means saying “no”** to temptations in mind and body. Sometimes resisting means saying “no” to our fears. Sometimes resisting means saying “yes” when we want to be less than generous with our time and resources. Sometimes resisting the enemy is as simple as saying no to the snooze button and getting up on time!

**Our strength in the battle comes from:** a disciplined life of prayer, ascetism (from Greek word *askēō*: “to exercise” or “to train”, it is the practice of the denial of physical or psychological desires in order to attain a spiritual ideal or goal), celebration of the sacraments (Eucharist and Penance), nourishment from God’s truth, good relationships and service. Almsgiving is also a great spiritual practice that liberates our hearts and brings us more securely under God’s umbrella of grace.

**As Christian morality and ethos are bleached out of our culture, spiritual warfare will become more intense. May our love of the Lord Jesus and one another become more fervent. St. Paul reminds us:**

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Catholic Renewal Ministries Events

## PRAYER GROUP INFORMATION

**Our Lady of Angles Prayer Group** meets each Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00pm. We meet in the auditorium of the Primary School Building - behind Linus Hall - of Our Lady of Angels Parish at 3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH 44111. We praise our Lord through the Holy Spirit with worship, singing, gifts of the Holy Spirit, sharing stories/witnesses and teachings. Refreshments, fellowship, and healing prayer teams immediately follow our meeting. ALL are welcome. We are also on Zoom. Please phone Tom Stamper at **216-536-6495** with any questions.

Looking ahead, save the date for our annual Life in the Spirit Seminar that will take place for 8 consecutive weeks beginning September 5th. Please phone Verna at **216-252-3560** or Tom Stamper at **216-536-6495** for more information on the Seminar.

**SS. Cosmas & 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](mailto: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 the each month year around. We meet from 10am to 11:30 am 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](mailto: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 6:30 pm 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, 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](mailto:rudyfontilla1975@yahoo.com)

## 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 pm.

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

We encourage you to submit your all prayer request needs to [healingprayers@stmaryhudson.cc](mailto:healingprayers@stmaryhudson.cc) St. Mary Church is located at 340 N. Main St., Hudson 44236, Tel: **330-653-8118**.

**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!

**ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES' 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE** to be held on Saturday July 22, 2023 at St. Albert the Great Parish Reception Hall, 6667 Wallings Rd., North Royalton 44133. This year's theme is "Come, Be Filled with His Holy Spirit". Guest speakers will be Sr. Marie Fidelis from the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ Community, Dan DeMatte who is the cohost of EWTN's radio's Encounter program, and Fr. Bob Franco, the Bishop's Liaison for Charismatic Renewal in the diocese. Fr. Joe Menkhous will be the celebrant for the Vigil Mass, and Matt Fafarak will lead us in contemporary praise music throughout the day and evening. Visit the CRM website: [www.crmweb.org](http://www.crmweb.org) or call **440-944-9445** for more information. Advance registration postmarked by Wednesday, July 12th, is \$35, and at the door \$40. Come, experience the healing power and gifts of the Holy Spirit!

**Families in Christ Jesus** Upcoming Speakers  
**July 6: Father Jeffrey Liptak**, newly ordained in May 2023

**August 3: Ken Skilton**

**September 7: Ministry Night – Prayer-Overs**  
Household meetings are generally held on Thursday evenings. Contact Susan Federico at **440-290-7859** or [smfederico78@gmail.com](mailto:smfederico78@gmail.com) for more info.

**VISIT US ONLINE:**  
[crmweb.org](http://crmweb.org)

**\$10 Boxed Honey Ham Lunch** includes Chips & Chocolate Chip Cookie (except GF option):

- Turkey on Baker's Roll, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Honey Mustard and Mayo on the side
- Ham on Croissant, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Honey Mustard and Mayo on the side
- Chicken Salad on Croissant, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Mayo on the side
- Vegetarian on Ciabatta Bread, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Ranch on the side
- Gluten-Free Chef's Salad with Ham, Turkey & Cheese, Dressing on the side

**\$17 Talerico's Dinner** cafeteria style:

- Main: GF Beef Brisket, Chicken Romano (panko parmesan encrusted chicken breast)
- Sides: Potatoes Au Gratin, Roasted Sweet Potato
- Salads: GF House Salad, GF Spring Salad

**Single Registration ONLY.** (Copy form for multiple registrations OR register online with PayPal\*)

PRINT CLEARLY  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Ist CRM conference? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 Lunch (circle one): Turkey Ham Chicken Salad Vegetarian Chef's Salad (GF)

\$17 Dinner (circle one): YES NO

Pre-Registration \$35 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch \$10 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner \$17 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order to: CRM

Mail to: **Sandy Pawlak**  
**6665 Pitts Blvd**  
**North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039**

(online or postmarked by July 12th to meet our deadlines)

\*To register with PayPal go to [www.crmweb.org](http://www.crmweb.org)

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Register by mail or with PayPal  
on our website: [www.crmweb.org](http://www.crmweb.org)

(online or postmarked by July 12th to meet our deadlines)

In advance **\$35** per person

At the door **\$40** per person

Youth (under 20) **FREE**

Options for Lunch (**\$10**) and Dinner (**\$17**) are available for purchase in advance only.

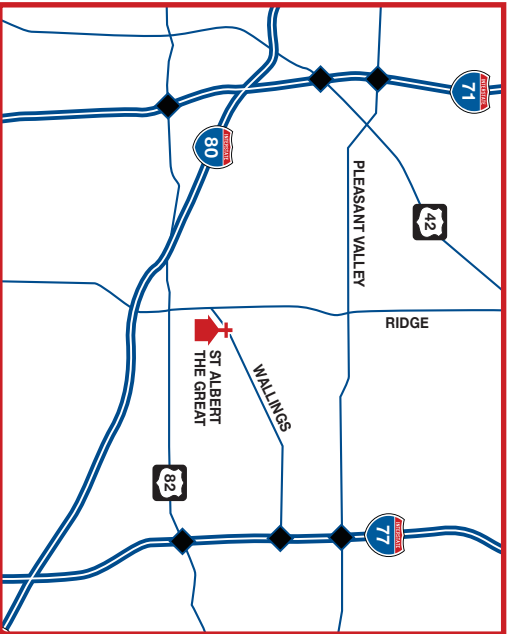
No group or senior discounts are available.

For further information,  
Contact CRM at:  
**440 944-9445**  
e-mail: [crmclevealand@gmail.com](mailto:crmclevealand@gmail.com)



**St. Albert the Great Reception Hall**

6667 Wallings Rd, North Royalton, OH 44133



Sponsored by Catholic Renewal Ministries  
Visit our web site at [crmweb.org](http://crmweb.org)

CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES PRESENTS:

**Come, Be Filled**  
with His **HOLY SPIRIT**

EVENT DATE

**Saturday**  
**July 22, 2023**

Doors Open 7:45am, Close 9pm

St. Albert the Great Reception Hall  
6667 Wallings Rd, North Royalton, OH 44133

**\$35** Registration  
plus Lunch & Dinner options for purchase

EVENT ACTIVITIES

- Praise & Worship
- Morning Prayer
- Dynamic Teaching
- Saturday Vigil at 4pm
- Healing Prayer

Conference begins at 8:30am  
with Praise & Worship by Matt Fafrak



Check [www.crmweb.org](http://www.crmweb.org) for details  
call CRM: 440 944-9445 e-mail: [crmclevealand@gmail.com](mailto:crmclevealand@gmail.com)

## CONFERENCE PRAYER

Most Holy Father in Heaven, we love you and thank you for this day. Thank you for bringing us together to give you glory, honor and praise. We humbly come before you to ask for Your love, mercy and forgiveness for the times we have failed You. Heal us in our brokenness and strengthen us in our resolve to turn away from sin and turn toward You always.

We ask You to please send Your Holy Spirit down upon us.

Open our hearts, minds and souls to receive Him. Holy Spirit, come and fill us with all the love, fruits, gifts, graces and talents You know that we need to follow God's will, do whatever work He has for us to do and to be the people of God that He made us to be.

Jesus, be our Light and our Food. You give us all the strength and grace we need for what is asked of us. We trust in You.

Most Holy Mother Mary, please intercede for us.

Be our model and our guide to live our lives loving, adoring, following and trusting in Jesus the way you do.

And we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

Amen.

## CONFERENCE MUSIC



**Matt  
Fafrak**

# Come, Be Filled with His HOLY SPIRIT

## VIGIL MASS CELEBRANT



**REV. JOE MENKHAUS** was ordained a Priest for the Diocese of Cleveland on May 21, 2022. In his free time,

Fr. Joe can be found composing music, leading praise and worship, playing sports, and hanging out with family and friends. He is currently the Parochial Vicar at St. Bernadette Parish in Westlake, Ohio. His favorite saint is St. Therèse of Lisieux, and he has a deep passion for helping others encounter the healing power of the Trinity.

## EVENT SPEAKERS



**DAN DEMATTE** is a Catholic speaker, retreat leader, and youth minister who founded and serves as executive director of the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus. He received a master's degree in theology from Pontifical College Josephinum in 2015. From 2005 to 2011, DeMatte founded and was the program director of Jesus Jams, a monthly event for high school students. He also served as a DRE and youth minister for 10 years at the parish level. He has appeared on EWTN, The Today Show, Larry King Live, and The View. He is the cohost of EWTN radio's Encounter, DeMatte's book *Holiness Revolution* is part of Matthew Kelly's Dynamic Catholic program.



**SISTER MARIE FIDELIS** was 16 when she had an encounter with God. On a youth retreat, Jesus in the Eucharist spoke to her heart: "I am the truth that you are looking for." She studied Theology and Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where she was immersed in Catholic culture. When she was 20 years old she began asking God what He would have her do with her life. In response to Matthew's scripture "The Rich and the Kingdom of God", she "sold all that she had" and decided to follow Jesus. She entered the Franciscan Community, Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, and has had great joy and fulfillment in living as a Bride of Christ!



**REV. ROBERT FRANCO** has been active in the Charismatic Renewal since he was 19 and states that his vocation flowed from it. He has been the Bishop's Liaison for the Charismatic Renewal in the Cleveland Diocese since 1992. He served on the Fraternity of Priests Board of Directors as member, chairman, and editor of the Fraternity's Newsletter, *The Visitation*. He is currently the pastor of St. Peter Parish and administrator of St. Julie Billiart Parish in North Ridgeville.

*Do everything without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the mist of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life (Philippians 2:14-16a)*

**Let's shine bright in our darkened world!**

In Christ,

Fr. Bob Franco

**PS: I hope to see you at this year's 40<sup>th</sup> Conference *Be Filled with His Holy Spirit* on Saturday, July 22 at St. Albert the Great in North Royalton. Information is in this edition of *The Flame* as well as [www.crmweb.org](http://www.crmweb.org)**

**THE FLAME IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES FOR THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND.  
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STRONGSVILLE, OHIO 44136  
[crmweb.org](http://crmweb.org) / (440)944-9445**

CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES PRESENTS:

**Come, Be Filled  
with His HOLY SPIRIT**

**Saturday  
July 22, 2023**

Starts 8:30 am  
St. Albert the Great  
Reception Hall

ACTIVITIES

- Praise & Worship
- Morning Prayer
- Dynamic Teaching
- Saturday Vigil at 4pm
- Healing Prayer

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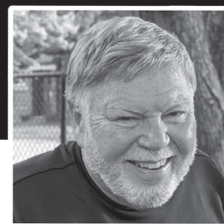
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