

# The Flame

March/April 2026

## The Hope That God Pours into Us.

by Fausto Franco

The three theological virtues are FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE. The Holy Spirit infuses every person with these virtues so that they are capable of being in a RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), hope in particular “responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man” (CCC 1818). Some believe that hope is only for the young as they have not yet “lived” and do not have their feet planted on the ground, but this is far from the truth. The hope that God pours into us through the Holy Spirit is to inspire and purify our activities so as to order them to the kingdom of heaven. This keeps us from being discouraged. It sustains us during times of abandonment and opens our heart to eternal beatitude (see CCC 1818).

For the past five years, I have been serving in my community as a catechist, ministering mainly to children and young adults. In this time when things seem hopeless, seeing young adults express a desire to receive the sacraments and journeying with them has been a blessing. I admit that initially I was hesitant to serve in this capacity, feeling I already had enough responsibilities. But having been in youth ministry most of my life and now being told that those seeking the sacraments were young people, I felt a tug at my heart. Journeying with the youth and witnessing

their eyes being opened to God’s love and actually experiencing it has been refreshing. This has given me a deeper hope in bringing God’s message to the youth. The gift of hope does not have to be theological but simply comes from being present: meeting people where they are as Jesus did and pointing them to the truth that they are loved by God and that God desires to be in relationship with them.

In February of 2024, a local community hosted an exposition on Eucharistic miracles and the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis. His relic was made available for veneration.

A group from our parish attended, including many of the youth in our catechism program. While we were there, we talked about Blessed Carlo’s life, and this brought new hope to many of them. Some began to volunteer as altar servers in our community after having received their sacraments. Others serve as lectors and ushers every second Sunday, when our Mass is led by the young people of our community.

Fast forward to December of 2024. Some of the young people who had recently received the sacrament of Confirmation approached my wife about wanting to start a youth group. My wife and I had previously talked about starting a youth group, but we were not sure if the youth would respond and if we had the

(Continued on page 7)

CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES PRESENTS:

# Be **RENEWED** in the **POWER** of the **HOLY SPIRIT**



## EVENT DATE

Saturday  
**July 25, 2026**

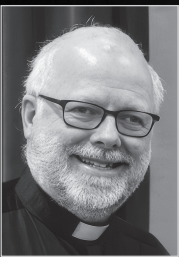
**Doors Open at 7:45am, Close by 9pm**

St. Albert the Great Parish Life Center  
6667 Wallings Rd, North Royalton, OH 44133

## EVENT ACTIVITIES

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

## EVENT SPEAKERS



### FATHER JOHN GORDON

is a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark with 37 years of ministry experience, including roles in various parishes, as a high school chaplain, and as formation director at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He currently serves as the Secretary of Evangelization, over-

seeing the Office for Evangelization and coordinating the Charismatic Renewal and Cursillo movement in the Archdiocese. Fr. John is also on the Board of *Pentecost Today USA / NSC* and the Steering Committee for the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, and is a member of the People of Hope, a Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community.



### MONICA RICHARDS

is a full-time missionary with Damascus, a licensed Doctor of Clinical Psychology, and a mother of five. She excels at addressing deep issues, building trust, and facilitating healing. With a

passion for presenting the Gospel of freedom and dignity, she engages audiences in a direct and entertaining way. Alongside her husband, Aaron, they have over 30 years of combined experience in ministry and have been leaders with Catholic Youth Summer Camp and Damascus since 2001.



### 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 and St. Julie Billiart parishes in North Ridgeville.

MASS  
CELEBRANT



**MOST REVEREND MICHAEL G  
WOOST**

Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland

For more details go to: [www.crmweb.org](http://www.crmweb.org) or call: **440 944-9445** or e-mail: [crmcleland@gmail.com](mailto:crmcleland@gmail.com)

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## March/April 2026

Dear Readers of The Flame,

**Why did Jesus come?** This question can be answered in many ways.

- ❖ God demonstrates his own love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8). Jesus came to show us God's love and die for us.
- ❖ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you may follow in his footsteps. (I Peter 2:21) Jesus came to be our example in every way, especially when we suffer innocently.
- ❖ ...Indeed, the Son of God was revealed to destroy the works of the devil. (I John 3:8b)

I want to reflect on another reason with some detail: **Jesus came that we might live in the Holy Spirit.** St. John the Baptist testified:

*I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whoever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'* (John 1:33)

At Pentecost, St. Peter said:

*Exalted at the right hand of the God, he [Jesus] received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured it forth, as you both see and hear...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord may call."* (Acts 2:33, 38b-39)

St. Paul told Titus:

*...He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior.* (Titus 3:5b-6)

What does life in the Holy Spirit look like? I believe the first characteristic of **life in the Holy Spirit is intimacy with God.** Again, St. Paul reminds us:

*As proof that you are children, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child, then also an heir, through God.* (Galatians 4:6-7)

Many of us who experienced baptism in the Spirit testify to the reality of St. Paul's words. Prayer is not so much saying words to God who is out there. Prayer is talking to One who is near and within our hearts.

With rare exceptions (hermits and some monks), **life in the Holy Spirit is a life of communion with others.** Again, St. Paul says:

*...striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit, as you were also called in one hope of your call...(Ephesians 4:3-4)*

Authentic life in the Spirit means we seek unity over judging others. Real charity covers a multitude of sins (I Peter 4:8). This is not "sloppy agape." There are times when careful discernment for the sake of the truth is necessary. This leads to another characteristic of life in the Spirit.

**Life in the Spirit discerns truth from error.** St. John teaches:

*Beloved, do not trust every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they belong to God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)*

Earlier in this letter, St. John reminded the Church:

*As for you, the anointing that you received from him remains in you, so that you do not need anyone to teach you. But his anointing teaches you about everything and is true and not false; just as I taught you, remain in Him. (1 John 2:27)*

This anointing, the Holy Spirit, will remind us of what Jesus taught (see John 14:26) and assist us in discerning truth from error. However, this does not mean that we become our own authority. We seek discernment from the Catholic Church, which can often be accessed through the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Talking with ordained leaders can be helpful. Being docile and humble to the authority of the Church is necessary. (Even figuring out the authentic Church can take some discernment. In an AI created video on YouTube, Pope Leo XIV praised Ibrahim Traoré, the military ruler of Burkina Faso. This was a 'deep fake'. If you want to know what the Pope is saying, go to [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va), not YouTube.)

Finally, **life in the Spirit is an empowered life.** Jesus gave this promise to the apostles: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) This promised gift of the Spirit and the power to witness is also for us. Our witness to Jesus can take many forms:

- Simply doing the right thing
- Sharing what Jesus means to you with a friend
- Being part of an evangelistic team (Life in the Spirit, Alpha, ChristLife, et cetera) that brings other people into a deeper life in the Spirit
- Under trial, speaking the words that the Holy Spirit inspires in you (Matthew 10:19-20)
- Exercising the charisms (I Corinthians 12-14, Romans 12 and others) of the Spirit for the good of others
- Doing corporal works of mercy (see Matthew 25:31-46)

**Life in the Spirit is an empowered life.**

During these seasons of Lent and Easter, the Church brings before our eyes the saving events of Jesus Christ: his passion, death and resurrection. Let us remember *why* Jesus did this. Yes, he came to destroy the works of the devil, to bring us forgiveness of our sins and to inspire us with his example. Jesus also came so that we would live in the Holy Spirit. **The Easter Season will end with Pentecost. It is not simply the capstone of a liturgical season. Pentecost is an ongoing reality.**

**Let us live in the Holy Spirit every day!**

In Christ,  
Fr. Bob Franco



# Prayer Group Information

**SS. Cosmas and Damian Charismatic Prayer Group** meets on the **1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 7:00 p.m.** in the church gathering area under the Holy Spirit Dove. Come and experience vibrant praise and worship, intercessory and healing prayer, and scripture sharing. To contact us, or be on the prayer group email list, call 330-310-2595 or email [dennycarleton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dennycarleton@sbcglobal.net). We play music highlights, prophecies, and teachings from the prayer group on <https://arkandoasis.net/>.

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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 pm on the second Monday of each month**. The up-coming meeting will be on January 12, 2026. 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 Pffiffner at 330-499-9371 or email: [pffiffner67@gmail.com](mailto:pffiffner67@gmail.com).

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**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!

**Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group** meets EVERY **Tuesday evening from 7:30 - 9:00 pm** in the Primary Building of Our Lady of Angels Parish School (behind Linus Hall) 3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, 44111. Praise and Worship is our main focus allowing the Holy Spirit to speak after a time of quiet, moving in the Word gifts and sharing Holy Scripture. A teaching or sharing follows. Everyone then shares their prayer intentions, lifting our needs or the needs of others to our Loving God. After each meeting, we enjoy time of refreshment and fellowship. A healing team is always available for personal prayer as well. Phone Tom Stamper 216-536-6495 for more information.

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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 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 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](mailto:rudyfontilla1975@yahoo.com).

**The Families in Christ Jesus** small household-based groups meet in private homes on Thursday evenings (contact Susan Federico for details: cell 216-312-3978, email: [smfederico78@gmail.com](mailto:smfederico78@gmail.com)). All of the households meet together on the **first Thursday of the month** at St. John of the Cross Church at 7:45 pm. Below is the speaker schedule for the first Thursday of the month gatherings for March and May, 2026.

**March 5** - Deacon Chris Loxterman - Deacon, St. John Vianney Parish, Mentor

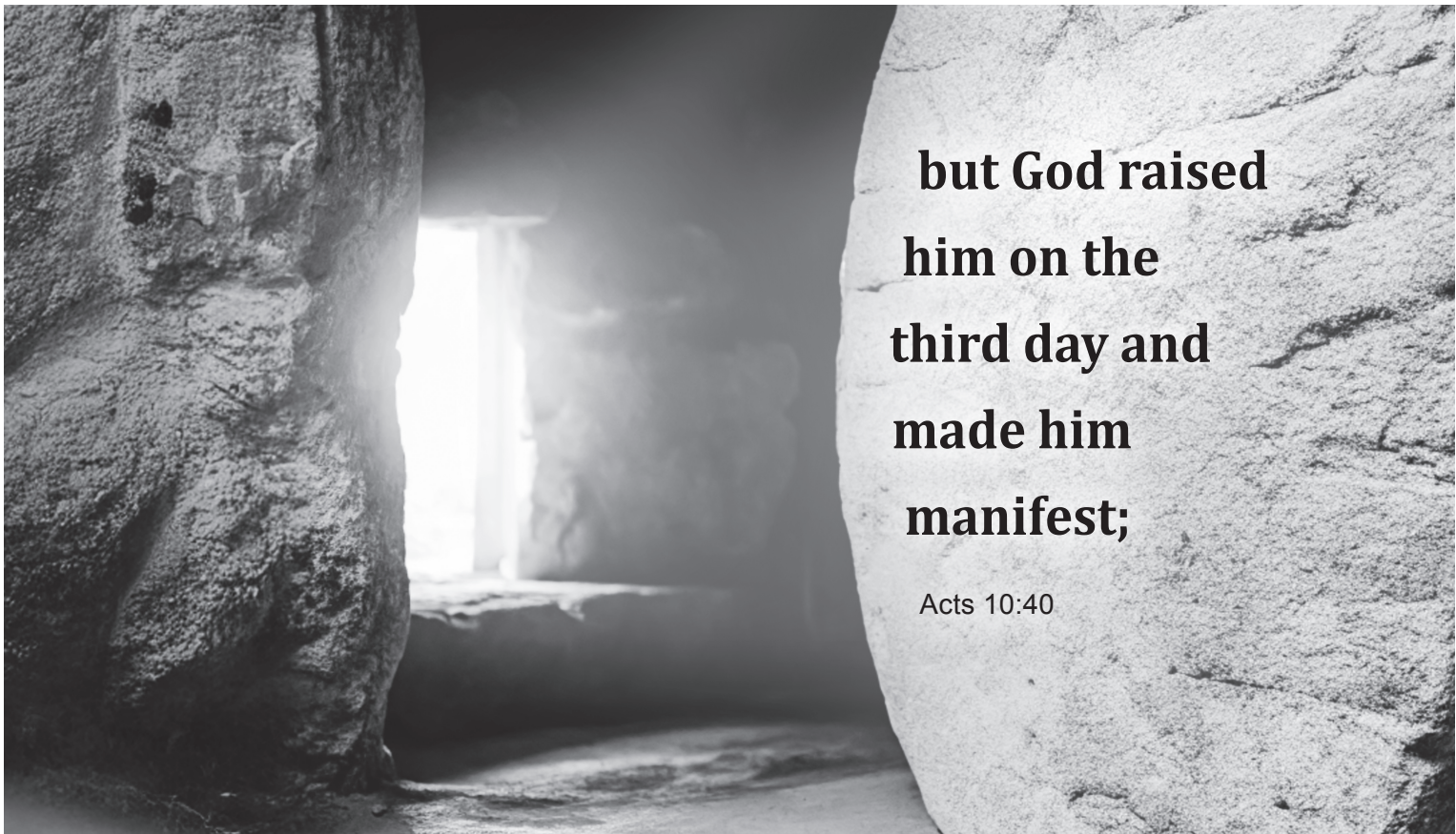
**May 7** - Father Thomas Kowatch - Parochial Vicar, Ss. Robert and William Parish and St John of the Cross.

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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 10am to 11:30 am** in the Chapel. The main focus of our meeting is to praise and worship the living God. 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 Healing Prayer Service also on the 1st Sunday of each month from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. For further information, please contact us at email: [HealingPrayers@stmaryhudson.cc](mailto:HealingPrayers@stmaryhudson.cc) or call Robert Rodriguez at 440-804-6358.

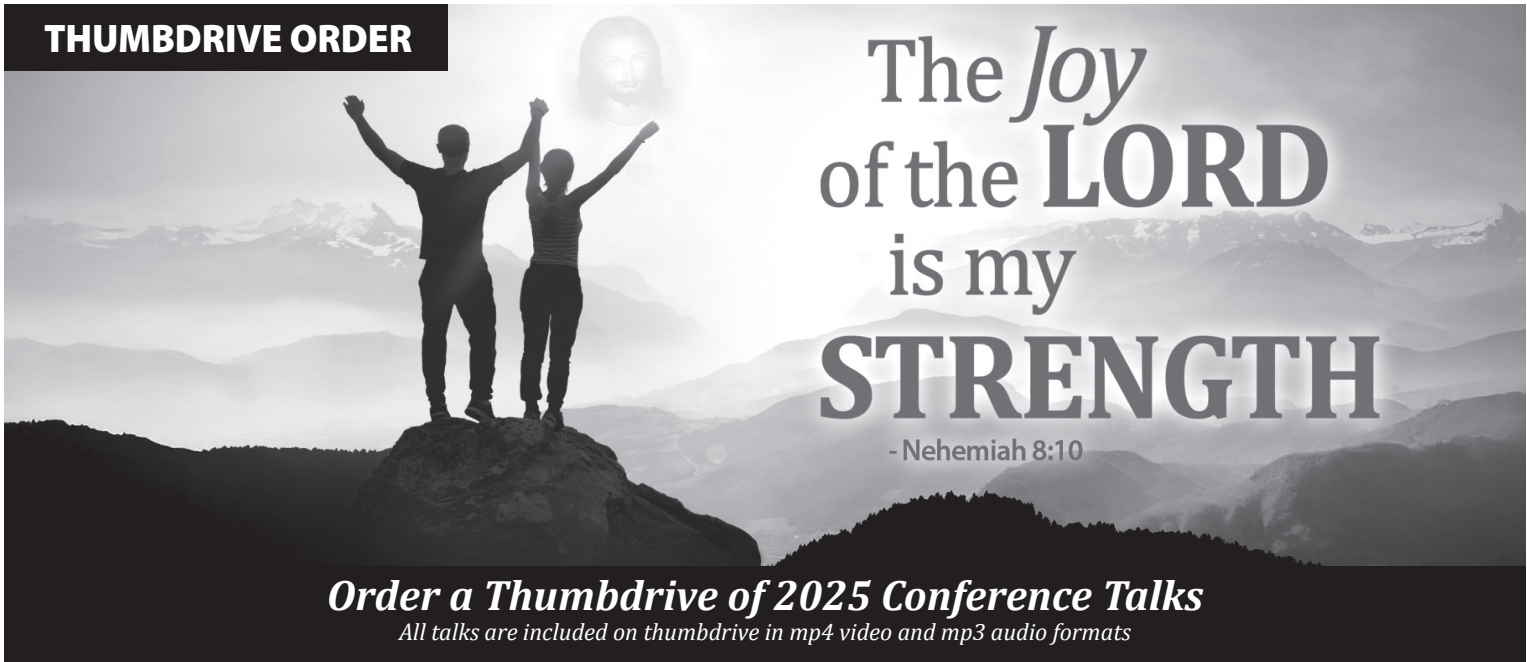
**Visit us online: [www.crmweb.org](http://www.crmweb.org)**  
For other Prayer Group Information and CRM Events



**but God raised  
him on the  
third day and  
made him  
manifest;**

Acts 10:40

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The *Joy*  
of the **LORD**  
is my  
**STRENGTH**

- Nehemiah 8:10

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# CRM and Prayer Group Events

## FIRST SUNDAYS

The **Holy Spirit Prayer Group of St. Mary Church** hosts an in-person **Healing Prayer Service** on the **first Sunday** of each month. The service will be held in the chapel from **12:30-1:30 pm**. We encourage you to submit your prayer requests to [healing-prayers@stmaryhudson.cc](mailto:healing-prayers@stmaryhudson.cc). St. Mary Church is located at 340 N. Main St., Hudson 44236, Tel: 330-653-8118.

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.

## SECOND WEEKEND OF THE MONTH

On the **SECOND WEEKEND OF THE MONTH**, **Holy Family Healing Prayer Ministry** (Stow) offers Healing Prayer after all masses (**Saturday 5:00 PM, Sunday 7:30, 9:00 and 11:30 AM masses**) and after **Tuesday and Friday 8:00 AM 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.

## MONDAYS

**MONDAYS, SEPT 15TH - MAY 18TH, Holy Family Healing Prayer Ministry.** When someone approached Jesus for healing, He only asked, "What do you want Me to do for you" (Mk 10:51)? If He can calm the sea and make a path, He can heal you. You are His beloved child with a plan just for you! Learn more about your Identity as a child of God, praying for Healing and Inner Healing, Prophecy and

developing an Intimate Relationship with God. Classes for the 2025-2026 year are starting! *No charge/no free will offering.* Join us **Mondays, Sept 15th - May 18th, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM or 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3179 Kent Rd., Stow, 330-687-8843.**

## TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS

See **Holy Family Healing Prayer Group (Stow)** under **SECOND WEEKEND OF THE MONTH.**

## THIRD SATURDAYS

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!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
July 25, 2026

All are invited to attend **Catholic Renewal Ministries' 43rd Annual Charismatic Conference** to be held on **Saturday July 25, 2026**, at St. Albert the Great Parish Life Center, 6667 Wallings Rd., North Royalton 44133. This year's theme is "Be Renewed in the Power of the Holy Spirit". Guest speakers will be Monica Richards, a missionary with Damascus in Columbus, who has developed, from her work with the John Paul II Healing Center, a passion for presenting the Gospel of freedom and dignity in an engaging and entertaining way; Fr. John Gordon, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, a dynamic preacher and evangelist, who is the Coordinator of the Office of Evangelization for his diocese and is also a council member of *Pentecost Today USA*; and Fr. Bob Franco, the Bishop's Liaison for Charismatic Renewal in the Cleveland Diocese and pastor of St. Peter and St. Julie Billiart Parishes in North Ridgeville.

Auxiliary Bishop Michael G. Woost will be the celebrant for the Vigil Mass, and Matt Fafrak will lead us in contemporary praise music throughout the day and evening.

Visit the CRM website: [crmweb.org](http://crmweb.org) or call 440-944-9445 for more information. Advance registration postmarked by Wednesday, July 15th, is \$40, and at the door \$50. Come, as we praise and exalt Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.



(Continued from page 1)

time to devote to this ministry. These young people expressed a desire to grow in their relationship with God and to learn more about their faith. God gives people these desires and hopes of happiness and equips others with gifts to respond to that hope. We have responded, and this has birthed ideas among them.

This hope from God also deepens faith and fortifies the bonds of love. Amidst all the confusion going on in the world, young people are searching for truth. They are looking for happiness that goes beyond “likes” and influence that the world offers. The Holy Spirit shines as a beacon of light during these times, touching hearts with this hope and desire. God offers true hope and the gifts of the Holy Spirit to guide us on the path to that “hope that does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5). It brings us to God’s love. Like Joshua, Moses’ young successor, a young generation is rising, anchored in hope through the Holy Spirit. May God grant us the grace to respond to His call.

In this jubilee year, may the light of hope bring all to the path of life and joy. May we be missionaries of faith, hope and love.

Fausto Franco is a Pentecost Today USA council member. He is an adjunct professor at Catholic International University and a former coordinator for the Hispanic Catholic Charismatic Renewal for the youth and young adults for the USA and Canada. He is a member of the national Hispanic Catholic Charismatic Renewal formation team.

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## WANTED - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



**The Catholic Renewal Ministries Service Committee is looking for volunteers who would be willing to serve as ushers and greeters 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 or greeter 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 or greet, 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 or greeting. Thank you!

Carolee and Rich Zentkovich | 440-221-8169 | [cjzentkovich@gmail.com](mailto:cjzentkovich@gmail.com)  
Prayer Group Coordinators Usher/Greeter Ministry



# The Flame

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** Catholic Renewal Ministries is the officially designated office for charismatic renewal activity in the Diocese of Cleveland that unites all prayer groups under the authority of the Diocesan Bishop and his appointed delegate to the renewal. Catholic Renewal Ministries, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in the power of Pentecost, fulfills the command of Jesus to evangelize all people, to make disciples of everyone, to accept the challenge of the gospel and to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives.