

The Flame

May/June 2023



Tending the Sacred Fire

by Tom Mangan

I want to be really drenched in God.” These words of Luci Shaw, a poet, express my sentiment. I want the fire of God’s love within me to burn brightly and intensely. I will not allow this sacred fire to be quenched. I don’t seek a better prayer time; rather, I seek a better relationship with my Lord in prayer, in meditation, in liturgy and in fellowship. I love him and therefore long for him.

If the psalmists teach me anything, they demonstrate what it is like to long for the Lord. I can pray almost any psalm and feel their longing:

“My soul longs, even faints, for the courts of the Lord, my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God” (Ps. 84:2).

“I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight” (Ps. 119:174).

“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you. My soul thirsts for you; my body longs for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water” (Ps. 63:1).

Am I more interested in having my needs met than seeking the Lord? How can I rekindle the waning flame if I don’t long for God? These poets “longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it” (Mt. 13:17).

“Earnestly – not frivolously or lightly – I seek you,” the psalmists say. I am called to constancy in my walk with the Lord. This takes passion if I am going to keep the sacred fire burning.

My prayers are not pious thoughts – they express a longing for God. My prayer times teach me to love Jesus intently.

My search for “divine union” is over. It is here now! I didn’t find it; it found me as I earnestly seek Christ each morning.

Every morning, the Lord meets me at the kitchen table without fail. I sit with him and I gaze upon his beauty. I pray and I extol his holy excellence. I love him so. I want to know him better, therefore I read the scriptures to determine his character and his will. We sit in silence often and just enjoy each other’s presence.

Early will I seek the Lord. My longing will be rewarded with his presence. I wish to know him as well as I can on this side of life. “As a deer longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for you, O God” (Ps. 42:1). I will continually seek whom I have found.

Prayer gives me the ability to see beyond the physical aspects and into the beauty of what I behold. I want the difference between my prayers and the rest of my life to become more and more indistinguishable.

I was made by God to be like him. A Sunday morning tune up is not enough. I need a spirituality that is intentional. I pray as though my salvation is at stake. It has taken me years to shed “a laissez-faire spirituality.”

I take seriously the words penned by William Law in *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life* where he writes: “Many will fail of their salvation, not because they took no pains or care about it, but because they did not take pains and care enough; they only sought, but did not strive to enter in” (p 66).

(Continued on page 7)

Dear Readers of the Flame,

The Holy Spirit has a way of pointing away from Himself. As Jesus said:

He (The Spirit) will not speak on his own, but will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:13b-15)

In these words of Jesus, we have a window into the workings of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit speaks...but only what He hears. And where does the Spirit get this word? From the Son, for Jesus said *He will take from what is mine...* And this Son's Word? *Everything that the Father has is mine...*

From the writings of St. Paul we see the work of the Spirit pointing away from himself and empowering our relationship with the Son and the Father.

No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. (I Corinthians 12:3b)

God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father." (Galatians 4:6b)

Again, the Holy Spirit is anointing our relationship with God so that we can unashamedly profess that Jesus is Lord and speak to God the Father as His children, with intimacy and love. These are the workings of the Holy Spirit.

Make no mistake: The Holy Spirit is a Person, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. The Spirit is not an impersonal force. The Holy Spirit guides (Acts 16:6-7 and in verse seven the Holy Spirit is referred to as *the Spirit of Jesus*), speaks (Acts 13:2), teaches, reminds (John 14:26) and empowers (Acts 1:8). These actions describe the works of a Person, not a force. In all these things, the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus.

Oftentimes, the Holy Spirit is at work without ever being acknowledged. The Spirit is simply the inspiration and grace behind the words and deeds of God's people.

One of my parishes, St. Peter Parish, will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2025. I have been reading the history of the parish that was written for its 100th anniversary in 1975. A tradition in the 1950's was that six first grade flower girls would lead the First Communicants into church. Here is an incident from the First Communion Mass in 1958:

There were dark clouds and heavy rain on May 4 as 39 boys and 27 girls made their First Holy Communion. One of the little flower girls turned to another who seemed a little worried about her dress and the rain and said, "Kathy, your dress isn't important. It's Jesus who is important. If we please him, nothing else matters."

This first-grade flower girl got it right! She was well catechized and brought her fellow flower girl back to what was important: Jesus. What she said and when she said it was certainly a work of the Spirit!

A number of years ago I composed a short prayer that I sometimes give to penitents. At times I pray it myself and would do well to pray it more often: *Lord Jesus, help me to forget myself, exalt You and serve others.* I believe that short prayer to be inspired by the Spirit because it flows with the mind of the Spirit: *forgetting oneself, honoring Jesus and serving other people.*

How we need the Holy Spirit to do his work in our hearts in our day! Our prosperity has turned many of us in on ourselves. We have become somewhat narcissistic, thinking and acting like life revolves around us. We need the Holy Spirit to draw us out of ourselves and into the Lord Jesus and Abba Father! We are often concerned about what others think about us. The Holy Spirit is working to help us to forget ourselves and think rightly about other people and their needs, whether their needs are material or spiritual.

On July 22 CRM is sponsoring its 40th annual conference. **The theme this year is: *Come...Be Filled with His Holy Spirit.*** The phrase "*Be Filled with His Holy Spirit*" actually comes from Eucharistic Prayer III. After the Consecration the priest prays:

...that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

This is the mind of the Church: that the Eucharist fill us with the Spirit of Jesus and impel us into holy unity in Christ.

As we continue our journey through these years of Eucharistic Revival, let us welcome the empowering Presence of the Holy Spirit with every Holy Communion we receive. Then we will be better able to forget ourselves, exalt Christ and serve the people He brings into our lives.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob Franco

PS: Please check out the information about our upcoming conference and Pentecost Mass Celebration in this issue of the Flame and at www.crmweb.org.

THE FLAME IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES FOR THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND.

FR. ROBERT FRANCO LIASON TO CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES.

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CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES

P.O. BOX 360546

STRONGSVILLE, OHIO 44136

crmweb.org / (440)944-9445



CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES PRESENTS

Pentecost Mass Celebration

WHEN: Sunday, May 28th
2:00 p.m., starting with
Praise and Worship

WHERE: Our Lady of Angels Parish
3644 Rocky River Dr.
Cleveland 44111

CONTACT: CRM at 440-944-9445

All are invited to celebrate Pentecost as a community and join in as we pray, in power, for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Bob Franco will be the celebrant. After Mass, there will be an opportunity for individual prayer for healing, and there will also be fellowship time.

Catholic Renewal Ministries Events



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

Prayer Group Events

Magnificat of Stark County, a ministry to Catholic women, invites you to a **Breakfast** on **Saturday, June 10**, at Walsh University Barrette Center, 2020 East Maple Street, North Canton, Ohio. Please join us for a special time of fellowship and sharing. Pat Higginbotham will be our guest speaker.

Cost: \$25 Mail-in/\$26 Online. Visit magnificatstark.weebly.com for more information about our speaker and to make your reservation. For information about reservations or meal requirements, call Sally Kohring at 330-484-1623. Reservations cannot be accepted after May 27th.

Open seating. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. There will be an optional Mass at 8:00 a.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel at Walsh University.

Holy Family Healing Prayer Group in Stow is conducting **Healing Prayer Classes** in May. Classes are not offered in summer months (June, July or August) but will resume in September. Classes in May are held weekly on Mondays, 10 am-12 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm, are in conformity with the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church and are FREE. We meet in the chapel in the back of the church at Holy Family Parish at 3179 Kent Rd, Stow. We are passionate about intercessory prayer – come join us - experience the healing power of Jesus and witness His healings. Contact Mary for more information: 330-687-8843.

When: Mon, May 1, 8, 15, 22: 10 am – 12 pm and 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Where: Holy Family Catholic Church, 3179 Kent Rd, Stow, OH 44224

The Holy Family Healing Prayer Group in Stow offers **Healing Prayer** the 2nd weekend of every month after the Saturday 5 PM and Sunday 9 AM Masses. We meet for prayer in the small chapel in the back of Holy Family Church, 3179 Kent Rd., Stow. All are invited for healing prayer. We are available for private and home bound prayer, inner, emotional, spiritual and Unbound healing by appointment. Call the Healing Prayer Group, 330-686-0017 to leave a message and schedule a session.

When: Sun, May 13 (after 5 pm mass) and Saturday May 14 (after 9 am mass) Sun, June 10 (after 5 pm mass) and Saturday June 11 (after 9 am mass)

Where: Holy Family Catholic Church, 3179 Kent Rd, Stow, OH 44224

CRM Events

Catholic Renewal Ministries will host a charismatic **Pentecost Mass Celebration, Sunday, May 28th**, at Our Lady of Angels Parish, 3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland 44111. The celebration will start at 2:00 p.m. with praise and worship. Fr. Bob Franco will be the celebrant.

After Mass, there will be an opportunity for individual prayer for healing, and there will also be fellowship time. For more information, please contact CRM at 440-944-9445. All are invited to celebrate Pentecost as a community and join in as we pray, in power, for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

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 Fafrak will lead us in contemporary praise music throughout the day and evening.

Visit the CRM website: 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!



VISIT US ONLINE:
crmweb.org

Prayer Group Information

(Continued on page 7)

\$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

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Register by mail or with PayPal

on our website: 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:

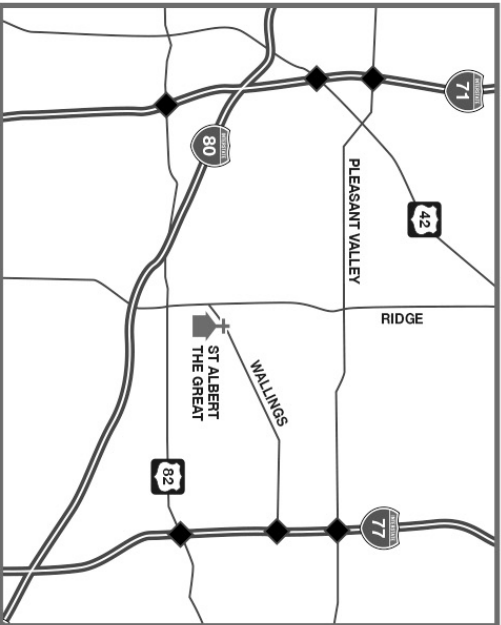
440 944-9445

e-mail: crmclevealand@gmail.com



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

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 for details

call CRM: 440 944-9445 e-mail: 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. Thérèse 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 EWTTN, *The Today Show*, *Larry King Live*, and *The View*. He is the cohost of EWTTN 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!

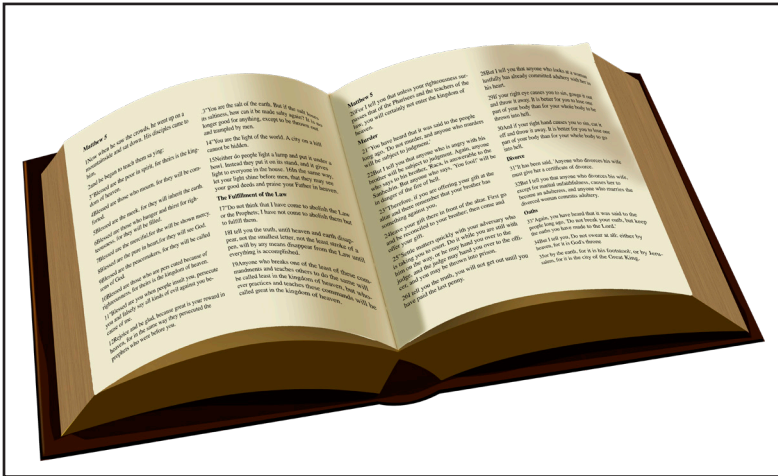


REV. ROBERT FRANCO

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.

For additional information call: 440 944-9445 or e-mail: crmclevealand@gmail.com or go to www.crmweb.org
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In Second Samuel 23, I read that David longed for a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem. But when his three mighty men brought it to him at great risk, he poured it out before the Lord. He was unworthy of such a gift. Like David I long for things that satisfy me, but they never do because what I really long for is the Lord.

Tom Mangan is the Director of The Ark and The Dove, home of Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

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Prayer Group Information

Our Lady of Angles Prayer Group meets each Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. 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. **Looking ahead, our annual Life in the Spirit Seminar will take place for 8 consecutive weeks beginning in September. Stay tuned for more information.** We are also on Zoom. Please phone Don Lawrence, 1-740-424-4707 for updates and more information (leave a message!) or email donlawrence603@gmail.com.

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 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 pm-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 prayer requests to 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 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.



The Flame

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