



# THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

## CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

### THE FLAME

August 2018 issue



## Better Than New

By Maria Muratore

I was asked to give a presentation on brokenness and transition from a Christian perspective. I took time to pray and reflect. I decided to read what scripture says about brokenness.

*The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit**; A broken and a **contrite heart**, O God, You will not despise. For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. Psalm 54:16-17*

*The **LORD is near to the brokenhearted** And saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18*

*Make me to hear **joy and gladness**, Let the bones which You have broken **rejoice**. Psalm 51:8*

*For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order **to revive the spirit** of the lowly And **to revive the heart** of the contrite. And it will be said, "**Build up, build up, prepare the way, Remove every obstacle out of the way of My people.**" "For I will not contend forever, Nor will I always be angry; For the spirit would grow faint before Me, And the breath of those whom I have made. Isaiah 57:14-21*

**When we are broken by a broken world the best place to turn to is our Creator.**

Sometimes He 'cleans the slate' for us. Sometimes He allows demolition in our life to make way for a new work. Sometimes we are open and flexible to change but sometimes we resist letting go to let God have His way with us. The scripture verses show that the Lord is very close to the broken hearted. He's obviously close to his 'work in progress'. He is close as he's molding and remolding us into a useful vessel for His work. He creates the appropriate environment, places us where we need

to be, continues to form us in preparation for what comes next. His ways are so far above our ways.

***What happens when you are broken? You need healing? You need a life repair?***

You are never beyond healing. You are never too broken for restoration. You are never too shattered for repair. Don't be ashamed of your scars, of the deep crevices that line your soul, or the broken places of your life. They have an amazing testimony to tell.

Here is truth. Just because we've been broken doesn't mean that we are thrown away. Just because we've been broken doesn't mean that we are un-usable, set up on a shelf. Just because we've been broken doesn't mean that we are forgotten. Brokenness has the power, unlike anything else, to bring forth new beauty, strength, and inspiration to others. Because it's often in those moments that we've tasted deep suffering, that we noticed, we were made for more. There's more. There's purpose.

The scars of life, the healed wounds, the deep lines, they all have a testimony. We try to hide them, preferring instead to present to the world a safe façade of who we are, a more perfect version.

We have a Healer. One who repairs. One who can fit the broken pieces that no longer seem to fit into a perfect design. He works, often behind the scenes, mending, fitting together, creating a better work of art, more than we ever dreamed possible. He makes all things beautiful. Especially in the broken.

***Our God has plans for us, continuing plans.***

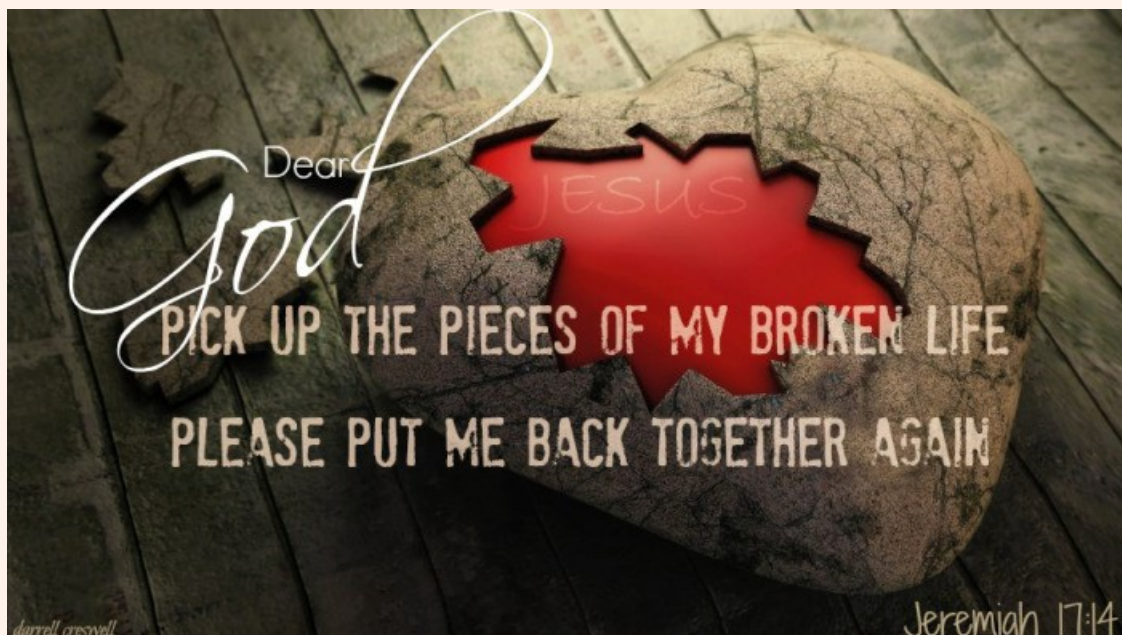
These plans don't stop because we get sick, become old, lose a job or make a bad choice. His plans for us don't end if we make a mistake, fall, or get pushed down. He never gives up on us, although many times we give up on ourselves or Him.

***He is a Creator, a Life Giver, a Healer, a Father, a Redeemer.***

He brings to life what was once broken, abandoned or forgotten. He has taken on the brokenness of the world in exchange for our freedom. Our Beautiful Savior. Jesus. Who sets us free. He makes all things new again.

When God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are invited into our lives we are forever changed.

We are rescued, renewed, redeemed, restored, repaired and forgiven. He makes us 'better than new'. Being broken isn't the end, it just may be the beginning. Wherever you're at on this life journey, He's right there with you. Open yourself up and just let Him in.



## The Gifts of Our Catholic Faith in It's Saints and Devotions

By Trish Miller

Catholics have many spiritual enrichments that feed and nourish us in our daily lives. The greatest is the Liturgy of the Mass. The blessings we receive at Mass cannot be measured, but St. Padre Pio said, "It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do so without the Holy Mass."

Additionally Catholics have spiritual tools in their arsenal called "Devotions." These prayers and practices take their origins from the life of the Church, the Saints, as well as religious orders and their traditions. These practices, when embraced by the Faithful, can assist us to grow in holiness and imitation of Jesus, the Lord.

Devotions have been part of the Catholic tradition since it's earliest days. Yet they are sometimes misunderstood and even stumbling blocks for some Catholics who don't understand how they fit into modern worship. "Why devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Sacred Heart of Jesus, The Divine Mercy, St. Michael the Archangel, the Rosary, or a Patron Saint" one might ask?

These questions are expertly addressed in a statement issued in 2003 by The United States Conference Of Catholic Bishops called, *Popular Devotional Practices: Basic Questions and Answers*. I recommend reading it at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/popular-devotional-practices-basic-questions-and-answers.cfm>.

Devotions are spiritual practices that cultivate a deeper love for God and sow seeds of holiness in the soul. They are usually simple practices and prayers, available to Catholics of all ages. One of the greatest and best loved is *The Rosary*. St. John Paul II had great devotion to the recitation of the Rosary. In his Apostolic Letter, dated October 16, 2002, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, he states:

*The Rosary of the Virgin Mary, which gradually took form in the second millennium under the guidance of the Spirit of God, is a prayer loved by countless Saints and encouraged by the Magisterium. Simple yet profound, it still remains, at the dawn of this third millennium, a prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness. It blends easily into the spiritual*

*journey of the Christian life, which, after two thousand years, has lost none of the freshness of its beginnings and feels drawn by the Spirit of God to "set out into the deep" (duc in altum!) in order once more to proclaim, and even cry out, before the world that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour, "the way, and the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6), "the goal of human history and the point on which the desires of history and civilization turn."*

Such praise by a canonized Saint and beloved Pope is hard to casually dismiss. Described as "simple yet profound" and "destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness" which "has lost none of the freshness of its beginnings" singles out the Rosary above all other Devotions. At Fatima, the Blessed Virgin Mary identified herself as "The Lady Of The Rosary." She asked that we pray the Rosary daily. This endorsement is reason enough to pray it faithfully.

Yet, there are many Devotions in the Catholic Tradition one can embrace. Here are just a few: Reading Scripture, Reciting the Liturgy of the Hours, Praying the Angelus, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, Making Your Daily Offering, Prayer before meals, Daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Wearing the Scapular, Stations of the Cross, Novenas, Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Devotion to the Infant of Prague, Devotion to Saints (to name a few.) Some Devotions are specific to regions of the world in thanksgiving for miracles or favors received. Pilgrimages to these sites and processions at shrines such as Our Lady Of Lourdes, Our Lady Of Fatima and Our Lady of Guadalupe represent Devotions to apparitions of the Blessed Mother.

How we pray is as personal and unique as we are. Some Devotions pick us! Speaking for myself, I have a Devotion to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first canonized Catholic Saint from the United States. Known as the Founder of the American Catholic Schools and Founder of the Sisters of Charity, Mother Seton is dear to me for none of these reasons. Instead, it was her situation as a single mother, like myself some years ago, that attracted me to her. She trusted in God's Providence that He would provide for her as her led her away from her birthplace in New York, (also my home) and brought her to Emmitsburg, Maryland to be the Mother of a new order, while raising her children in difficult circumstances. Her faith inspired me. I felt I could trust Mother Seton, so I confided my heart to her. In turn, I always felt her help. In 2004, when I had limited funds and wanted to buy a house, I found one on "Seaton Drive" and triumphantly knew it was a sign from her that I would be able to purchase it ... and I did! But Elizabeth Seton continued to influence me to grow. Her example beckoned me to trust God and surrender more each day. I wanted to imitate her. I read of her life and discovered she had a great love for the Blessed Mother. I started to pray the Rosary. This led me to a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France and a deep, spiritual conversion. Now I make rosaries and consecrated myself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. There is no question that I have grown in my faith. This, I credit to the Devotion to Our Lady and the help of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

In our daily struggles, we can find help in the rich traditions of the Church. Carve out some time to visit the Blessed Sacrament, close the door and crack open your Bible, Pray the Rosary, or recite your favorite prayer. Little devotions can build a sure road that leads to the Heart of God.

**\*\*\*\*\*Update on The Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Charismatic Renewal**

**October Conference featuring Peter Herbeck**

**Early Registration is now open. Please visit our registration page:**

<https://stmichaelcary.weshareonline.org/HolySpiritFullDayConference-October202018>

**Tentative schedule for the conference:**

**October 20<sup>th</sup>**

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>8:00-9:00 AM</b>   | <b>Packet pick-up; on-site registration</b>   |
| <b>9:00- 9:30 AM</b>  | <b>Welcome; Praise and Worship music</b>  |
| <b>9:30- 10:15 AM</b> | <b>Presentation #1: The Unshakable Kingdom</b>  |
| <b>10:15-10:30 AM</b> | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>10:30-11:15 AM</b> | <b>Presentation #2: New Pentecost</b>   |
| <b>11:15-11:30 AM</b> | <b>1-to-1 shared discussion and prayer related to morning presentations</b>   |
| <b>11:30-1:00 PM</b>  | <b>Lunch; Prayer Teams available for private prayer requests</b>  |
| <b>1:00-1:15 PM</b>   | <b>Welcome back; Praise and Worship music</b>   |
| <b>1:15-2:15 PM</b>   | <b>Presentation #3: Discernment of Spirits</b>  |
| <b>2:15-2:30 PM</b>   | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>2:30-3:00 PM</b>   | <b>Presentation #4: Charisms and Spiritual Gifts</b>  |
| <b>3:00 - 3:10 PM</b> | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>3:10-3:40 PM</b>   | <b>Presentation #4: Forming the Next Generation</b>   |
| <b>3:40-4:00 PM</b>   | <b>1-on-1 shared discussion and prayer related to afternoon presentations</b>   |
| <b>4:00-4:25 PM</b>   | <b>Large Group Prayer Experience: Participants receive prayer for renewed infilling of the Holy Spirit and have opportunity to pray over others for Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Deacon Patrick will invite new participants to join a local charismatic prayer group.</b> |
| <b>4:25-4:30 PM</b>   | <b>Closing prayer</b>   |

## The FLAME - August 2018

**August 11th 2018**

**Unbound Charlotte Conference**

*Healing and Deliverance Conference*

*Saturday, August 11th, 2018*

*Eastside Church, 10132 Harrisburg Rd. Charlotte, NC*

*For more details please email Julie Jahn at [unboundchltnc@gmail.com](mailto:unboundchltnc@gmail.com)*

**August 18th, 2018**

**Generational Healing of the Family Tree and**

**Generational Healing Mass**

*A workshop on healing the family tree including ancestral, emotional, spiritual, physical and interpersonal ailments.*

*Presenter, Ann Franzel.*

*Location, Fallon Center Hall.*

*To register, contact the Parish Office, 919-861-4600*

*\*For information contact [ron\\_annz@yahoo.com](mailto:ron_annz@yahoo.com)*

**September 8th, 2018**

**Regional Charismatic Prayer Gathering**

**New Creation Ministries Presentation**

*Saturday, September 8th 10am-2pm*

*St. Joseph Catholic Church, 2817 Poole Rd. Raleigh NC*

*Bring a dish to share \*\*\*please no desserts*

*For more info contact Wendy Edwards.*

*[Wendy.edwards@allsaintsacademy.info](mailto:Wendy.edwards@allsaintsacademy.info)*

**September 28th-29th**

**Save the Date! Catholic Charismatic Tent Revival**

**"Behold, I Make All Things New"**

**Guest Speaker Deacon Larry Oney(Steubenville)**

*Holy Name of Mary Church, Bedford VA*

*[www.catchingfirerevival.com](http://www.catchingfirerevival.com)*

**October 20th, 2018**

**Save the Date! The Diocese of Raleigh**

**Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference**

**"From a New Pentacost To An Unshakable Kingdom"**

*Saturday October 20th, 2018*

*St. Michael the Archangel Church Cary, NC*

*Featuring guest speaker Peter Herbeck*

**For more information about these events and registration please visit our website at**

**[www.ccsraleigh.weebly.com](http://www.ccsraleigh.weebly.com)**