



THE FLAME

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

April 2025 issue



ABOUT POPE FRANCIS...

By Maria Muratore

Are hearts are heavy as we pray for the repose of Pope Francis. Let's look back at his life and events leading up to his papacy.

Pope Francis was born **Jorge Mario Bergoglio** on December 17, 1936. He was the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign leader of the Vatican City State from 2013 until his death



on April 21, 2025. He was the first pope from the Society of Jesus (the Jesuit Order), the first Latin American, the first from the Americas, the first from the Southern Hemisphere, and the first raised outside of Europe since the 8th-century Syrian pope Gregory III.

Pope Francis was born **Jorge Mario Bergoglio** in Flores, a neighborhood of Buenos Aires. He was the oldest of five children of Mario José Bergoglio and Regina María Sivori. Mario Bergoglio was an Italian immigrant accountant from Piedmont. His mother was a housewife born in Buenos Aires to a family of northern Italian origin. Mario Bergoglio's family left Italy in 1929 to escape the fascist rule of Benito Mussolini. According to María Elena Bergoglio, the Pope's only living sibling, the family did not emigrate for economic reasons.

His other siblings were Oscar Adrián, Marta Regina, and Alberto Horacio. His niece, Cristina Bergoglio, is a well known painter based in Madrid, Spain.

In the sixth grade, He attended Wilfrid Barón de los Santos Ángeles, a school of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Ramos Mejía, Buenos Aires Province. He then attended the technical secondary school Escuela Técnica Industrial N° 27 Hipólito Yrigoyen and graduated with a chemical technician's diploma. He then continued working in that field. He held earlier jobs as a bouncer and a janitor. When he was 21 years old, pneumonia and three cysts, He had part of a lung removed. He was inspired to join the Jesuits in 1958 after recovering from this severe illness. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1969, and from 1973 to 1979 he was the Jesuit provincial superior in Argentina. He became the archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 and was appointed as cardinal in 2001 by Pope John Paul II.

Following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI on 28 February 2013, a papal conclave elected Jorge Bergoglio as his successor on 13 March. He chose Francis as his papal name in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. Throughout his public life, Pope Francis was known for his humility, emphasis on God's mercy, international visibility as pope, concern for the poor, and commitment to interreligious dialogue. He had a less formal approach to the papacy than his predecessors. He chose to reside in the Domus Sanctae Marthae (House of St. Martha) guest house rather than in the papal apartments of the Apostolic Palace used by previous popes. Pope Francis also made women full members of the Roman Curia.

WHAT RECENT POPES HAVE SAID ABOUT THE CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

Pope Francis stated that the Charismatic renewal movement should provide support and advice to bishops and priests by accompanying, guiding and deepening the faith of all those who take part in their initiatives and communities.

Addressing participants at a meeting of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service, also known as “Charis,” the pope thanked them for their service and reminded them to “never forget that your task is not to judge who is or is not an ‘authentic charismatic,’ this is not your task.”-According to an article by Carol Glatz: VATICAN CITY (CNS) —

Messages from the Popes on CCR (Content from the ICCRS – International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services website)

Several times, Popes, both Paul VI and John Paul II, have addressed the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Below you will find some of the most important quotations that have given the Renewal light and strength. ICCRS has published a book with all the messages and addresses which the Popes have given to the CCR: The book, “Then Peter stood up...” – Collection of the Popes’ Addresses to the CCR from its origin to the year 2000.

Pope Paul VI “We rejoice with you, dear friends, at the renewal of the spiritual life manifested in the Church today, in different forms and in various environments. [...] In all that, we can recognize the mysterious and hidden work of the Spirit, who is the soul of the church.” Address of Paul VI on the occasion of the first International Leaders’ Conference
Grottaferrata. Rome, Italy · 10 October 1973

“How then could this “spiritual renewal” not be “a chance” for the church and for the world? And how, in this case, could one not take all the means to ensure

that it remains so? [...] Nothing is more necessary for such a world, more and more secularized, than the

testimony of this “spiritual renewal”, which we see the Holy Spirit bring about today in the most diverse regions and environments. Its manifestations are varied: deep communion of souls, close contact with God in faithfulness to the commitments undertaken at Baptism, in prayer that is often community prayer, in which each one, expressing himself freely, helps, supports and nourishes the prayer of others, and, at the basis of everything, a personal conviction. This conviction has its source not only in instruction received by faith but also in a certain experience of real life, namely, that without God, man can do nothing, that with him, on the contrary, everything becomes possible.”
Address of Pope Paul VI to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal on occasion of the Second International Leaders’ Conference
Rome, Italy · 19 May 1975

Pope John Paul II I am convinced that this movement is a sign of His action (of the Spirit). The world is much in need of this action of the Holy Spirit, and it needs many instruments for this action. [...] Now I see this movement, this activity everywhere.” Private audience of Pope John Paul II with the ICCRO Council
Rome, Italy · 11 December 1979

“This morning I have the joy of meeting this assembly of yours, in which I see young people, adults, old people, men and women, united in the profession of the same faith, sustained by longing for the same hope, bound together by bonds of that charity which “has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us” (Rm. 5:5). To this effusion of the Spirit we know we owe a deeper and deeper experience of the presence of Christ, thanks to which we can grow daily in loving knowledge of the Father. Rightly, therefore, your movement pays particular attention to the action, mysterious but real, that the third person of the Holy Trinity plays in the Christian’s life.”

Continued ...

First audience of Pope John Paul II with the Italian Renewal-Rome, Italy · 23 November 1980

"The first dimension of renewal consists, therefore, in this: "to live according the Spirit", in this continual growing in the Spirit, resisting the gratifications of the "flesh", opening oneself to the strong, sweet attraction of God. This inner renewal, this healing of the very roots of life and this formation of a mentality dominated by the "promptings of the Spirit" is your vocation as Christians, your vocation as men and women, youths and adults of our time who want to give witness, who want that model to flourish in the world of today, the model of spirituality and even of courtesy..."

Address of Pope John Paul II to the participants in the National Congress of the Italian "Renewal in the Spirit" Rome, Italy · 15 November 1986

"As you celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, I willingly join you in giving praise to God for the many fruits which it has borne in the life of the Church. The emergence of the Renewal following the Second Vatican Council was a particular gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. [...] At this moment in the Church's history, the Charismatic Renewal can play a significant role in promoting the much-needed defense of Christian life in societies where secularism and materialism have weakened many people's ability to respond to the Spirit and to discern God's loving call."

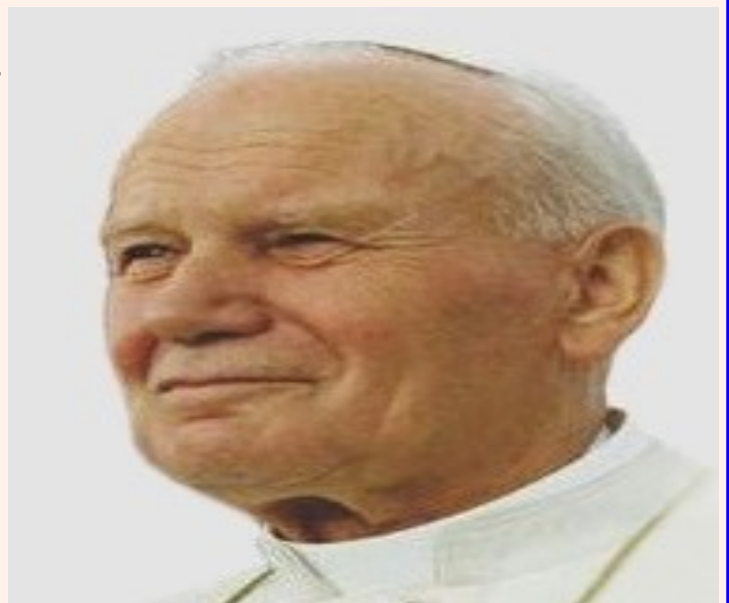
Audience of Pope John Paul II with the ICCRO Council Rome, Italy · 14 March 1992 "How can we fail to praise God for the abundant fruit which in recent decades the Renewal has brought about in the lives of individuals and in communities? Countless people have appreciate the importance of Sacred Scripture for Christian living; they have acquired a new sense of the value of prayer and a profound yearning for holiness; many have returned to the sacraments; and a great number of men and women have achieved a deeper understanding of their baptismal call, and have committed themselves to the Church's mission with admirable dedication."

Message of Pope John Paul II to participants to the Seventh International meeting of the CFCCCF Rome, Italy · 9 November 1996

"The Catholic charismatic movement is one of the many fruits of the Second Vatican Council, which, like a new Pentecost, led to an extraordinary flourishing in

the Church's life of groups and movements particularly sensitive to the action of the Spirit. How can we not give thanks for the precious spirituals fruits that the Renewal has produced in the life of the Church and in the lives of so many people? How many lay faithful—men, women, young people, adults and elderly—have been able to experience in their own lives the amazing power of the Spirit and his gifts! How many people have rediscovered faith, the joy of prayer, the power and beauty of the Word of God, translating all this into generous service in the Church's mission! How many lives have been profoundly changed! For all this today, together with you, I wish to praise and thank the Holy Spirit."

Audience of Pope John Paul II with the National Service Committee of the Italian "Renewal in the Spirit" Rome, Italy · 4 April 1998 "There is no holiness without prayer. In fact, as we see in the lives of the Saints, Christians are worth as much as they pray. [...] This commits that the groups and communities of the Renewal be ever more places of contemplation and praise, where the heart of man is filled with the love of God, opens up to the love towards his brother and becomes capable of building history according to God's design. It is in the Church—home and school of communion—that we which must oppose the culture of hatred and revenge, may the groups and Communities of the Renewal be significant places and models of brotherhood and love, of patience and reciprocal welcoming. May the experience of forgiveness and the value given to every spiritual gift help everyone to build a fellowship nourished by the breath of the Spirit of the Risen Lord."



Continued ...

Address of Pope John Paul II to the participants in the National Congress of the Italian "Renewal in the Spirit" Rimini, Italy · 28 April 2001

"Yes! The Renewal in the Spirit can be considered a special gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church in our time. Born in the Church and for the Church, your movement is one in which, following the light of the Gospel, the members experience the living encounter with Jesus, fidelity to God in personal and community prayer, confident listening to his Word and a vital rediscovery of the Sacraments, not to mention courage in trials and hope in hardship. Love for the Church and submission to her Magisterium, in the process of maturing in the Church supported by a solid permanent formation are relevant signs of your intention to avoid the risk of favoring, unwittingly, a purely emotional experience of the divine, an excessive pursuit of the "extraordinary" and a private withdrawal that may shrink from apostolic outreach." Rimini, Italy · 14 March 2002

Pope Benedict XVI

"What we learn in the New Testament on charism, which appeared as visible signs of the coming of the Holy Spirit, is not a historical event of the past, but a reality ever alive. It is the same divine Spirit, soul of the Church, that acts in every age and those mysterious and effective interventions of the Spirit are manifest in our time in a providential way. The Movements and New Communities are like an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in contemporary society. We can, therefore, rightly say that one of the positive elements and aspects of the Community of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is precisely their emphasis on the charisms or gifts of the Holy Spirit and their merit lies in having recalled their topicality in the Church."

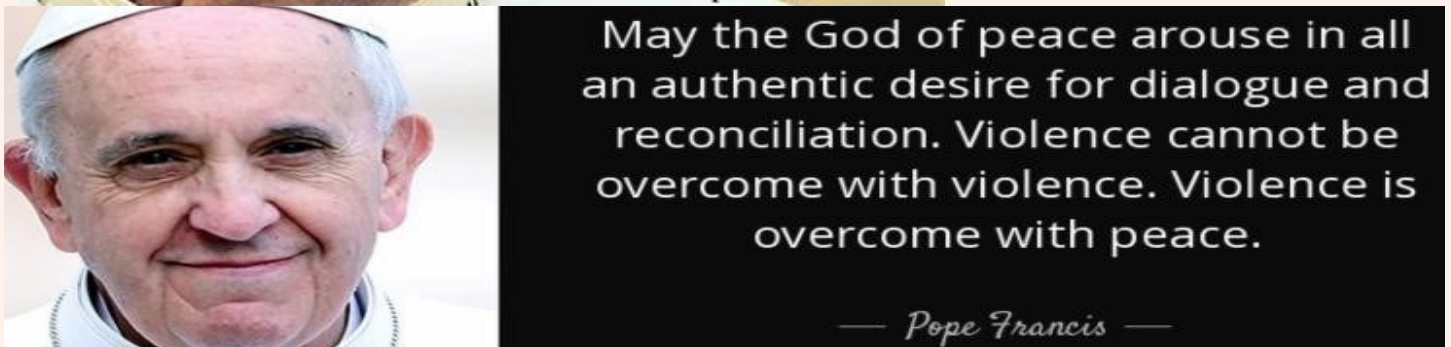
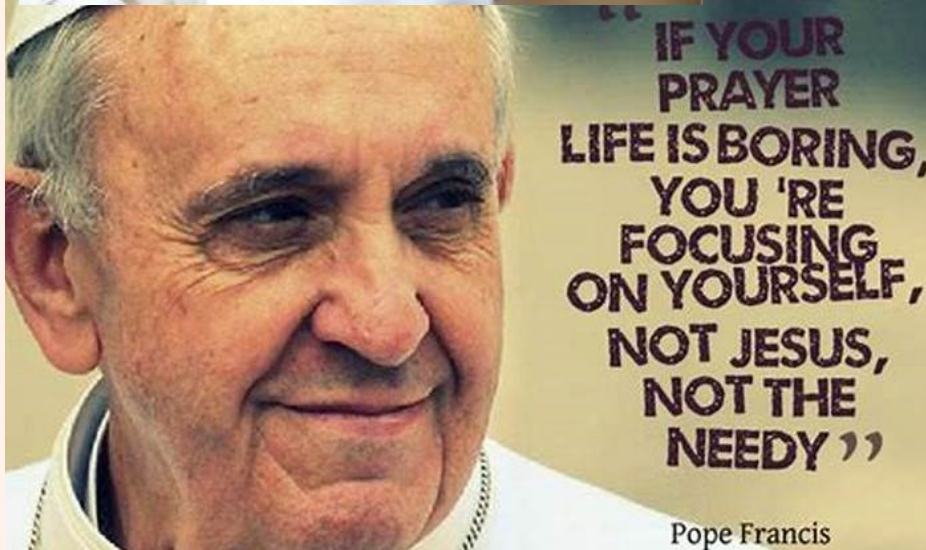
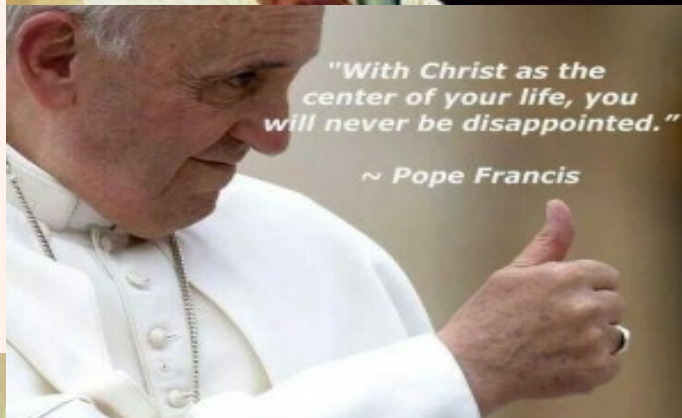
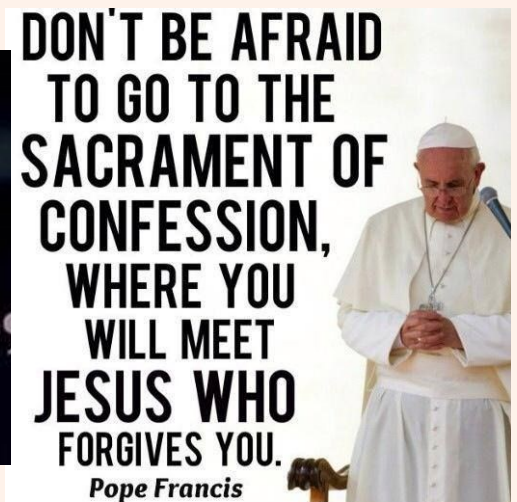
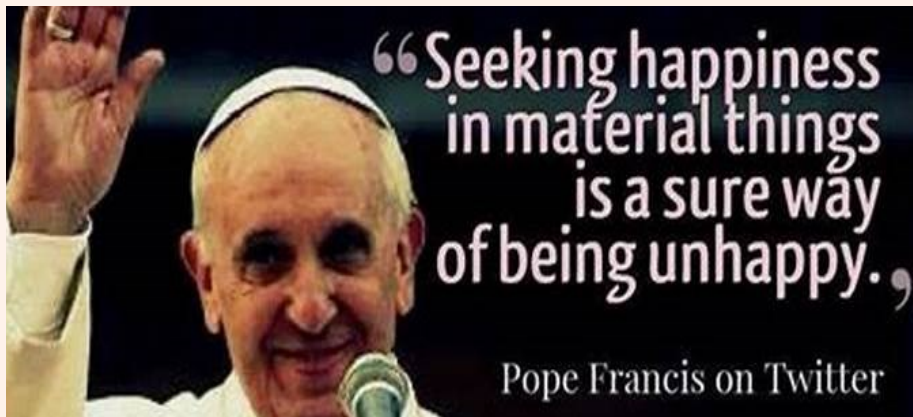
Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI to participants in a meeting organized by the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships

Hall of Blessings. Rome, Italy · Friday, 31 October 2008

"Dear friends of Renewal in the Holy Spirit, do not grow weary of turning to Heaven: the world stands in need of prayer. It needs men and women who feel the attraction of Heaven in their life, who make praise to the Lord a new way of life. And may you be joyful Christians! I entrust you all to Mary Most Holy, present in the Upper Room at the event of Pentecost. Persevere with her in prayer, walk, guided by the light of the living Holy Spirit, proclaiming the Good News of Christ." Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI to participants in the meeting sponsored by "Renewal in the Holy Spirit" St. Peter's Square. Rome, Italy · Saturday, 26 May 2012



Pope Francis...



Save the Date...

June 14, 2025



Fellowship Picnic 2025 at Harris Lake Park

volunteers needed and appreciated

registration information coming soon

Fellowship Regional Picnic 2025 Saturday June 14th 10:00am-4:00pm

Join our Charismatic community for friends/family fun

**beginning with morning coffee, refreshments, BBQ, salads, dessert,
and games for all ages!**

**Location: Harris Lake Park-Longleaf Shelter 2112 County Park
Dr. New Hill NC**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Bring friends and family. Great opportunity to meet up, socialize and
have fun, games and food!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26, 2025 Please join our April 26th Triangle Women's Morning Retreat – "Jesus, Our Risen Lord"

We meet on Saturday, April 26th, 9:30am to 11:30am" at St. Andrew the Apostle Church Care Center, Apex. *Would you bring your journal and invite a friend?*

Please contact Suzanne Rives to RSVP at suzannerives@yahoo.com - (919) 946-3196.

May 3, 2025 Walk To Mary St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Apex 10:00am deliasmith720@gmail.com

May 4, 2025: 2000 Hail Marys Event

Beginning at 8:00AM lasting approximately 8 hours. You may join at ANY time throughout the day either in person OR virtually via *Zoom- **PLEASE RSVP indicating your participation either in person or remotely.** I felt in my heart that this is a great time to kick off Intercessory prayer with a 2000 Hail Marys prayer event. Veronica Clark has generously offered for us to use her Apex Peak Preschool, 412-A East Williams St., Apex NC 27502 as the in-person location. You may also join us virtually on Zoom for a portion of time during the day. *To request Zoom Link email mmuratore@ccsraleigh.org

May 31, 2025 Life In the Spirit Seminar at St. Mary Magdalene Apex, NC

June 7, 2025 Magnificat Meal at St. Andrew the Apostle Fellowship Hall 1:00-4:00pm, Apex with Veronica Clark as speaker!

Register here: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/UYRLZZCNFXSDG>

June 14, 2025 Fellowship Regional Picnic 2025 Saturday June 14th 10:00am-4:00pm

Join our Charismatic community for fun beginning with morning coffee, refreshments, BBQ, salads, dessert, and games for all ages!

Location: Harris Lake Park-Longleaf Shelter 2112 County Park Dr. New Hill NC

Bring friends and family. Great opportunity to meet up, socialize and have fun, games and food!

July 11, 2025 Healing Mass and Service at St. Joseph's Church, Raleigh Celebrant Fr. Alapaty, prayer teams available

Visit our website for more information, on prayer groups, events and more;

<https://ccsraleigh.weebly.com/>