



THE FLAME

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

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WELCOME 2021!

About our Retreat: Recognizing and Operating In The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Dear Friends,

What an amazingly blessed time we had on our 2021 Retreat at Trinity Center, Salter Path NC. Our theme, Recognizing and Operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, was realized through instruction and group activities on Prophetic Word gifts as well as Intercessory and Healing prayer teams.

The 'journey' of preparation before our retreat was a learning experience. Nine days prior to our retreat weekend, our retreatants and Intercessory Prayer team began intensifying our prayer and scripture reading. We paid special attention to the sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion with more time in Adoration. We prayed in the spirit, tongues, very purposefully. We fed ourselves daily on the Word by reading our bibles and declaring verses. We definitely saw the results of this preparation by experiencing a cohesive flow throughout the retreat. The Holy Spirit was present especially during prayer, praise and worship. Everyone felt unified and open as they freely and spontaneously gave testimony. We definitely gave room for the Holy Spirit to do His thing.

Thank you to our Intercessory prayer team-Mary Trombetta, Debra Rony, Debi Johnson, Trish, Damaris and all those who prayed for this retreat.

Thank you to all our attendees who were all on fire sharing awesome testimonies and participated wholeheartedly in our activities.

Thank you to Paul and Maureen McInerney for their wisdom and helping to create a great retreat experience. Fr. Ignatious was a delight and had us clapping and singing as he brought so much joy to our Saturday evening Mass.

Thank you Nicole for being our music tech person and jumping in to help out and all your support.

Thank you Wendy, for partnering on my prayer team for hours of pray-overs and your beautiful singing!

The Holy Spirit was present and it was great being together in fellowship even with the Covid restrictions.

I thank God for the Holy Spirit's presence this weekend. I thank Him for His guidance and direction in planning and executing each topic, and the energy needed to pack it all into one weekend.

God surrounded us with awesome people-He truly introduces His friends to one another. Every testimony taught a lesson just as clearly as a teaching would-that's the Holy Spirit's style.

I'm so touched that you shared your thoughts about the weekend and the preparation experience. It means so much to get feedback. It helps to see when and where God is working and how to fix things for next time. We faced many unprecedented challenges with a small skeleton crew and faced many last minute changes. **I hoped that the focus wouldn't be on our lack but on the abundance of God's graces. Don't look at current obstacles because they'll all eventually melt away as the fire of the Holy Spirit burns far greater in comparison.**

We were all touched in unique individual ways as the Holy Spirit came renewing and refreshing us- we surely need it!- Maria Muratore, Director of Catholic Charismatic Services



Thank you Maria! **It was wonderful!** Thank you to those praying and **Thank you to Mary Trombetta for the little gift bags and card.** It was so special. -Stephanie Fallahee

Maria, thanks for all the hard work to make the retreat so beautiful and successful. **Special thanks to everyone who attended and all who helped in so many different ways-** Delia Smith

Just wanted to thank my Mom, Maria - she ran an absolutely beautiful retreat weekend with insightful teachings and **the Holy Spirit was on fire within all of us.** I wanted to put out there to say thank you to everyone who participated and has supported my mom with your prayers for this weekend to go well. I'm so thankful for you mom.

I was listening to Fr. Mike Schmitz on his show talk about how sometimes you come back from a retreat and it feels like you "lose your fire" or are "oxygen insufficient", he said that we need to surround ourselves in our regular life with things and people who might build up faith like it does on retreat. He said don't hang around 'fire extinguishers'. Thankfully the last 2 days I've dedicated my mornings to God and I found a peace the rest of the day. But good thing to keep in mind - stay away from anything that will extinguish your fire for Christ - **Nicole Jungclas**

Hello all!

We have to admit Karen and I were a bit apprehensive about coming as many of our long time members had decided not to participate, but we decided to come anyway. We were only there a few minutes when it all felt like home, the right place to be. **From Friday evenings praise and worship through the presentations and activities of Saturday and Sunday's recap you could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. We were truly blessed to have Fr. Ignatius as our Celebrant, who knew he could dance!**

We want to thank all of you for your help, your guidance, your suggestions but most of all for your prayers as we work to group this ministry here at St. Paul's. Working now to raise awareness of the ministry, to grow our outreach to the community. All of you have energized us in our call to serve. Again, thank you. Love and blessings-**Bob and Karen Zupanek**

I've been struggling for a few weeks with a lot of issues. On retreat I was able to get some clarity and I know it was the spirit and the prayers of our intercessors
I want to publicly give thanks to all those who prayed for us all and especially for my needs
I made a big decision and I quit my job!
I will stay till the end of March or until they can find someone but I feel so much better
Thank you all for your prayers, your support, your love, and my community- Maryjane Wands



Thanks for all your hard work and helping me have a wonderful birthday and a great retreat.

- **From Ada Horton**

Last year when we learned the dates of this year's Charismatic Leaders retreat, I gave my mom the option to decide whether or not we would go, since it was scheduled on her birthday weekend. She immediately said "**There's no place I'd rather be!**" So we got excited about being with the Holy Spirit and celebrating. When I learned that we would have a priest celebrate mass on the Saturday of the retreat, I got more excited because that was the day that Ada would have her birthday. When Fr. Ignatius arrived at the retreat, I asked him to give my mom a birthday blessing. I noticed that when he walked in the room, he brought the Holy Spirit in with him and I instantly felt the glory of God. He was happy to celebrate mass in her honor, praying her several times during mass. He truly brought heaven to earth. I was moved to tears often that day. The weather was perfect. It was the best birthday we ever celebrated!

Be blessed - **Wendy Edwards**

Praise Jesus!



The Retreat at Salter Path was a time of spiritual renewal in the Holy Spirit. Participants took away a good deal of learnings on the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit, especially some of our newer members to the Diocesan group. **Personally I was spiritually sharpened during the sessions by Maria and Paul, refreshed by the fellowship we shared, and renewed in healing by praying with the prayer teams. I have a personal testimony of reduced pain in my neck and easing of numbness on my left hand and shoulder that has been bothering me for quite some time now.** I thank Maria and the intercessory prayer team that has been praying for the healing of the attendees, and pray that our Lord continue to use them for this selfless service for the greater good of His Church!

Peace in Christ-**Matt Sebastian**



What a beautiful retreat!

I was so blessed to attend and get to meet many of the people I have been seeing and speaking with on our online group! You and our group as well as Matt and his group are very special and are in my daily prayers! Your phone call before I left for the retreat was so awesome and I threw myself into the tasks that you gave me. I received many confirmations that your guidance to work on reading healing scriptures and prayers was where I was supposed to be. Also, the recommendation to read my bible rang so true to my ears and receiving messages through readings and from mass. At the end of the retreat I had a chance to talk to Paul M. And he confirmed that we all should be reading our bibles at least 30 minutes per day. I started doing it right after the retreat. In fact, Ascension press just started doing the Catholic bible in a year series with Father Mike Schmidt! Yay! He is doing 2 to 3 readings from different books of the Bible every day and ends with a prayer and a refectio. I am not caught up yet because I started late but on average I am listening to 2 per day and would say it is a beautiful thing and I would highly recommend it. I use my own bible and mark my pages of scripture prior to listening to the podcast. If you get the great adventure bible you can read it easier but I love just using my own bible.

Let me say first and foremost that the work of the intercessory prayer team made our weekend fruitful. I could feel the power of their prayers and it allowed us to be closer to Christ the whole weekend. They opened doors and the doors that were opened were flung open wide. Thank you all for your prayers and intercessions!

One of my favorite moments besides the mass and eucharist was praying over Father Ignatius. What a beautiful soul and so full of Joy. He danced out of the room just full of the Holy Spirit!

I feel like I received spiritual healing/ rejuvenation before during and even after the conference! Praise God! I prayed, I prayed all of the mysteries of the rosary, the divine mercy chaplet and some litanies as well as podcasts on the way to the conference. One of my favorite discoveries was on you tube to listen to soaking prayers for healing of the home, family and protection. They incorporate music with water sounds (river, ocean waves, nature sounds) along with scripture and healing affirmations.

The exercises we did were beautiful and helpful and I was grateful we were able to practice and use our gifts from God. I thoroughly enjoyed every

presentation and speaker!

On 1/24/2021 the readings was from Mark 1: 14-20. After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God. "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel. As he passed by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting nets into the sea. They were fishermen. Jesus said to them, come follow after me and I will make you fishers of men. Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. I thought that this was a timely scripture. Our message from Father Guber was that in order to catch us it seems like Jesus has to think like us. What draws us, what attracts us. What will bring us to him? Jesus just threw out this line to his disciples and hooked them. This applies to everyone. He calls us to a challenge to go on a journey, an adventure, to fall in love with God. To fall in love with God is the promise of transformation. He is going to do something for us that we can't do ourselves. Like the fisherman who let everything behind he invites us into a relationship with him.

It is God that always calls us who always looks for us, who always talks to each of us personally.

What do the disciples have in common? TRUST! They don't know where they are going when they have left everything behind. But just look at what they received! For me, this homily set the tone of the weekend and my life. It is time to leave things, worries, and cares behind and follow him. From the conference we learned to follow him closely, to read his word and pray his word in our lives, to live like Jesus, to claim his promises.

I learned to listen in the spirit, pray and sing psalms, read acts and learn psalm 91 and to declare and decree it over myself and my family. The Tongue has power, the word has power and we need to read the scriptures aloud.

Paul suggested that we put a cross with hold oil over every window and door and put the alpha and omega symbols over every window and door.

I know I grew and holiness and I feel God's plan was for me to have spiritual healing and rejuvenation. I received so much and hope that I gave to others. I continue to grow from my experience, from what I learned and hopefully will share with others.

Praise God for our time together and for the presence of the Holy Spirit in abundance. I feel more joyful and closer to Christ. What better gift could I receive?

Thank you for organizing and for pouring yourself into the preparation for the conference it was beautiful from beginning to end.

Blessings sister in Christ!- **Lisa Arguello**



Walking on the beach and enjoying our time together...

Creating Joyful Memories!

