



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

THE FLAME

October 2021 issue



**DIVINE
USA
October 02
Saturday
Healing
Prayer Service**

Praise the Lord!

Thank you to those who joined us for this year's Virtual Divine Mercy Healing conference October 1st and 2nd. Fr. Sunil and his team in NJ did an amazing job with guiding us in prayer and praise. We had a wonderful inspiring Healing event this past weekend. We were so blessed by Fr. Thomas Sunil's teaching, prayer and beautiful prophetic words of encouragement and healing.

Thank you to all our Intercessors and prayer warriors for praying so diligently for our registrants, their families and all those who interceded on behalf of those who couldn't even be at the event directly. I know many received answered prayers, healings and answers. Thank you to our Charismatic Renewal Board and especially Matt Sebastian for all technical help. Thank you to Wendy Edwards for singing so beautifully and leading us in the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Thank you to all who participated, assisted and prayed with us! Praise the Lord!

We were so blessed to have had so many people all around our Diocese of Raleigh, throughout all of NC including various states NY, NJ, VA, FL, SC, ND, PA and more! Since this has been a virtual event we had a minor difficulty towards the end of the event during Mass and Adoration.

For feedback and testimonies of the last few events, please check out our website: <https://ccsraleigh.weebly.com/testimonies.html>

**Maria Muratore
Director, Catholic Charismatic Services
Diocese of Raleigh**



Fan Club

By Debbie Rony

Football season is here. In a time-honored tradition, people will be getting out all their football fan club gear. Its time for tailgating, painted faces, team logos everywhere, car flags waiving as people drive around on game day and a stadium full of cheering fans. As I was watching one of these college game spectacles on tv while I was working out on the treadmill, I heard the quiet voice of the Lord say to my heart, "Where are all My fans? Why aren't My people cheering like this for Me?" I felt a sudden sadness as I realized the truth of His words and I wondered why this is the case. Why do we, as God's people, fail to give Him the same glory as we do to other things in our life? Where is the fan club for Jesus and how do we express our love for Him?

Like any true fan club, we "congregate" with other people who share our same passion. As Christians, our Christian community should be the ones we spend most of our free time with. Notice that I didn't say "Church" community: It can be very difficult to form close friendships because of the size of modern church communities. Attending church one day a week does not allow us to really get to know our church neighbors. For example, there is one large church in my area that has over fifteen thousand members! However, activities within the church, such as small groups, does foster fellowship and may even lead to close friendships. My observation is that we all need close Christian friends with whom we can journey together **no matter where we might find them**. This is extremely important because we are all part of one Body; the Body of Christ. *"For as in one*

body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another." Romans 12:4-5. Think about it this way: When we come together to pray, worship, and serve with one another we complete the **missing pieces of the Body**. When we are apart, we are severed from the rest of the Body and it is difficult to fulfill the plans the Lord has for us individually and as the Church. We are meant to be in community and in communion with one another even as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are in perfect communion with one another: separate but yet One. I have often noticed during our prayer group meetings that the anointing of the Holy Spirit as well as the gifts of the Holy Spirit are present in greater proportion because we are the complete Body, in unity, working together, striving together, and praising together.

In addition, when we gather together to celebrate the Lord's Day, the church becomes our stadium as all our attention, focus, and praise looks upon the altar and the majestic scene unfolding in front of us. In the Mass we are witnesses to a supernatural, spectacular, and awe-inspiring event that far outweighs anything we could observe in this world. We should spend our time during Mass giving thanks to God for giving us His only Son, to Jesus for His all-sufficient sacrifice, and to the Holy Spirit for leading us and guiding us in our daily lives. If this is not your interior disposition, I suggest you pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you. As a side note, do you know that in Africa many people sing, dance, and shout in joy as they come forward to receive communion? Silent reverence is not the only way to praise God during the Mass my friends. It seems to me that these souls are praising Jesus with all their hearts, minds, souls, and strength.

Fan Club cont'd...

Even though the Lord's Day is essential to our spiritual growth it is important to recognize that this is not the only time we should gather: for one hour, one day a week. If this is all we are doing, it is highly likely that **our spiritual formation and growth will stagnate, our joy will diminish, our fears and doubts will increase and our priorities will get shifted.** You can bet that Satan has been doing a happy dance since the Pandemic began because much of the Body of Christ has not been gathering together much less giving praise, honor and glory to the One who is holding everything together. You can be sure this was all part of Satan's plan. Even before the Pandemic many Christians were too caught up in the world and were spending more time fellowshiping with people who are "worldly" and devoid of the Spirit. It was all too easy when the Pandemic hit to leave the remnant of their faith behind and to be fully engulfed in the world. Jesus Himself gave us a warning in Luke 6:47-49, *"Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep, and laid the foundation upon rock; and when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house, and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But he who hears and does not do them, is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation; against which the stream broke and immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."*

We fail to remember that this life is just a temporary journey and our eternal life is in heaven. This is why St. Paul tells us in Colossians 3:1-2: *"If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."* When we focus on

the world and the things of the world (good and bad) it is easy to forget that **God** is the one who made it all and to give Him the honor and glory due to Him. We must be careful to not give honor and glory to the creation rather than to the Creator. Unfortunately, we sometimes give glory to worldly things that bring us joy, give us a feeling of "belonging", and put us in fellowship with one another. Don't get me wrong... God wants us to enjoy the things in this life up to a point. The problem is when they take the place of God in our lives as a priority and as the recipient the praise that belongs to God alone.

We can treasure good times, a life of pleasure, seeking, an easy life, a life that focused on the things of the world, and a life of thinking mostly of ourselves and our own needs. We can see (and so can others) where our treasure is when we look at how much of our time, talent, and treasure we spend on certain things. Do we have a life where we squeeze God in or do we have a life where God is the center and everything else is less of a priority? One glaring example of this difference is a story I heard from Deacon Ralph Poyo at one of our Charismatic Healing Conferences. There was a Catholic high school student who was a star player on the school's football team. There was a championship game the same day of the school's Confirmation Day for students. The student's father had approached Deacon Ralph to ask him to give his son an exemption from this day and to do the confirmation privately for him. Deacon Ralph stood his ground that the Confirmation was more important than the football game and the father yelled for so long and so loud that the people upstairs from his office called down to check on him because they were afraid he was in serious danger!

Fan Club Cont'd...

The father left angry and disgruntled and sadly his son chose the game over his Confirmation. God warned His people in the Old Testament about the power of our choices. "I call heaven and earth today to witness against you. I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him..." Deuteronomy 30:19-20. This young man and his father didn't treasure the things of Heaven and their heart was not right in the sight of the Lord. They were not members of the Jesus Fan Club. We have an opportunity right now to examine our own hearts and make a decision (if you haven't already) to be an adoring fan of Jesus. How do we express our love for Jesus? Do we deck ourselves out in holiness, wearing our Jesus apparel for everyone to see? "I will rejoice heartily in the Lord. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and wrapped me in a robe of justice..." Isaiah 61:10. Do we proclaim Jesus loudly and express our faith to others like those cheering fans in the football stadium?

One of the things I hear from many Christians is the belief that our faith is a personal thing...that it is ours alone. This is a lie straight from the devil. If the early apostles had believed this then Christianity would have never spread beyond Jerusalem! **The truth** is that Jesus commanded us to not only to live our lives according to the commandments and faith in Him but to spread this saving truth everywhere! Ask Him how you can do your part in this mission. Maybe you are called to tell someone about an answered prayer. Maybe you have your own testimony of how you came to be a Christian. Maybe you have a gift of

generosity and in your giving you tell people about God providing for them. When you become a Christian, you become a disciple of Jesus. As a disciple your job is to proclaim Christ to others by word and deed. Who are you discipling? If no one comes to mind then pray and ask the Lord to send you someone! There are many, many ways you can evangelize for the Lord. The hard truth is that if you are keeping silent *you are not being obedient* and are contributing to a world that is in moral decay. The entire world needs the saving power of Jesus. "This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:3-4. We are the ones who are supposed to be spreading the Good News! "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!" Romans 10:13-15. The United Conference of Catholic Bishops, in their statement on Evangelization and Catechesis, says "Evangelization is the Church's deepest identity. Evangelization brings the good news of the Gospel to all who seek the life-giving message of Christ to the ends of the earth." The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Lay people also fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization, "that is the proclamation of Christ by **word** and the **testimony** of life." For lay people, "this evangelization ...acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world." (CCC paragraph 905)

My hope and my prayer is that each of us takes the time to look into our hearts and examine the life we are living to see if we are truly members of the Jesus Fan Club as we consider the outward expression of our faith in Christ and our love for Him. We can all be cheering, adoring fans of the Lord in this stadium of life. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into this if you are not experiencing this adoration of Him firsthand. Make the necessary changes and repent from not giving the Lord all the praise and honor He deserves in your life. Here is a short prayer (based on the several different scripture verses) to help you:

Dearest Lord, You who are worthy of all our thanks and praise, forgive me for all the ways in which I have not given You the honor and glory you deserve. I want to live my life for You and for an audience of One. Help me to not grow slack in zeal but to be fervent in spirit and to serve You Lord. Let me rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, and persevere in prayer. Show me how to contribute to the needs of the holy ones, to exercise hospitality. I will bless those who persecute me and not curse them. I will rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. I will do as your Word commands by helping to make disciples in all nations. My nation is whoever you lead me to. Those who may be near and those who may be far away. On those who waver, I will have mercy, saving others by snatching them out of the fire; on others having mercy with fear, abhorring even the outer garment stained by the flesh. Lead me to them Lord and I will follow. I will love you Lord with all my heart, all my soul, all my mind, and all my strength and I will love my neighbor as myself. I will redeem the time because the days are evil. I give you my best and I give you my all. Let me begin anew today. For behold, today is an acceptable time. Behold now is the day of salvation. Amen.

Trust As a Child

By Maria Muratore

In Mathew ch.18, our Lord Jesus set a little child before them, assuring them, that unless they were converted and made like little children, they could not enter his kingdom. Children, when very young, do not desire authority, do not regard outward distinctions or lofty positions, are free from malice, are teachable, and willingly dependent on their parents. It is true that they soon begin to show other dispositions, and at an early age begin to learn. We need to be renewed daily in the spirit of our minds, that we may become simple and humble, as little children, and willing to be the least of all.

During our last Divine Mercy Healing Conference, Romans 11:36 was stressed from the beginning: For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Everything is from God, exists through God, for God. All things are created for His glory and to glorify him. We see this also in Ephesians 1:12: so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. We were reminded by St. Therese Lisieux that God brings extraordinary miracles through the very ordinary. Praise the Lord! That's great news for all of us! Through these verses we've learned why we're created and to what purpose, as well as, that we must come as we are. We need only be willing to be led by the Spirit- meekly, trustingly. We don't need to be special, ordinary is just fine. **God can and will work in your present crisis.** Begin with praise and thanksgiving in advance. Don't complain about where you are but rejoice in where He's taking you. Reflect on this verse: "*For I know the **plans I have for you,**" declares the Lord, "**plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart 14 I will be found by you,**" declares the Lord, "**and will bring you back from captivity.** Jeremiah 29:11*

We have been confused by our worldly view where man is the center instead of God. Make Jesus the center, the main focus, on a day to day, minute to minute basis and see the transformation in your heart. You will see truth and light and be truly converted in all areas of life. Trust in Him as a child to fix all that's wrong and troubling in your life. Allow Jesus to make a way for you. Let's remember in Exodus 14 when God parted the Red Sea creating a passage for the Israelites to escape Pharaoh's army and chariots. God made a way out and fought the battle for them. God can create 'a way' even if you feel it's an impossible task. Remember also, Matthew 19:26 "*This is impossible for mere humans, but for **God all things are possible.**"* In all the testimonies I've received from the past conferences this year, one thing always rings true, the miracles seem to always be evident most clearly to those that have been expecting a miracle. Those who have prayed and trusted in God and in God's most perfect will and timing for their lives. How blessed we are, have been and continue to be. I thank God for allowing us all to share our testimonies and blessings with each other. Praise the Lord! For feedback and testimonies of the last few events, please check out our website: <https://ccsraleigh.weebly.com/testimonies.html>

Upcoming Events

- October 16th** **One Day Life In The Spirit Seminar**
Presented by Our Lady of Lourdes Bread of Life Prayer Group
Fallon Center, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Raleigh NC
Come and be renewed in the Holy Spirit!
To register please email Ann Franzel ron_annz@yahoo.com
In-person registration from 8:45-9:15am
Seminar is from 9am-4:30pm
Breakfast snacks and lunch provided
- December 4th** **Save the Date!**
Magnificat Breakfast (Pending final approval)
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Cary NC
- December 11th** **Save the Date!**
Regional Christmas Party
7pm Fellowship Hall, St. Andrews Catholic Church, Apex NC
RSVP Vita Napoli tamborine777@aol.com

***For more information about upcoming events please
visit our website at:
ccsraleigh.weebly.com***