

# CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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## Mission Statement:



*Our mission is to help people respond to the call to conversion to the lordship of Jesus Christ, to facilitate transformation through Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and to assist in the spiritual renewal of people and parishes.*

### Announcements

#### ANNUAL CCRO CONFERENCE

May 28-29, 2004

#### ***“The Living, Loving Body of Christ”***

*Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Col. 3:12-14)*

Included in this issue of the newsletter, you will find your brochure describing the annual Catholic Charismatic Renewal Regional Conference. Take a few minutes to look it over. Then call a friend and make plans to attend!

The conference is Pentecost weekend when we celebrate the birthday of the Church and the dynamic power of God’s Spirit of Love to heal and dramatically change lives. Love is life-giving. More things are accomplished through love than any other way.

Forgiveness is an important element of love. It’s a unique kind of love: it’s loving someone despite an unlovable act... the way God loves.

It is a never-giving-up love that does not depend on what the other does. It’s a healing and restoring kind of love.

There are many people walking around with unhealed wounds deriving from things that people have said or done to them. True forgiveness can

heal those wounds, relieve the pain and bring true happiness.

We have a great line-up of speakers for this year’s conference: **Bishop Paul Dudley, Jeff Cavins, and R. T. Kendall**. The insights they share will inspire and challenge you. Come to hear **Jackie Millar’s** dynamic witness to the healing power of forgiveness in her own life.

From testimonies of forgiveness to celebrations of the love and healing power of the Holy Spirit, it will be a conference that demonstrates the freedom and joy forgiveness brings to those who risk living it.

The conference will be at:

St. Bonaventure

Catholic Community (school)

(1.8 miles east of 35W on 90<sup>th</sup> Street)

901 E. 90<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, MN

**Register today!**

#### **Fr. Joseph K. Bill To Give Retreat**

Fr. Joseph Bill is a devoted priest and gifted preacher of the Vincentian Congregation. He ministers in Kerala, India and in Africa with a powerful gift of healing.

At the age of 48, Fr. Bill suffered two debilitating heart attacks which left him confined to bed for 40 days. His doctors insisted that this was the end of his active ministry. Later, while convalescing, he attended a retreat where a bishop offered to pray with him. As he was being prayed with, he felt he was being healed, but there was no outward sign of confirmation. Subsequent tests by

medical experts showed that he was once again in perfect health.

Archbishop Flynn has granted approval for Fr. Bill to come and minister in the Twin Cities area this April. He will be conducting Healing Masses at various local parishes and a powerful 6-day Silent Healing Retreat. This retreat has been a life-changing event in the lives of thousands of people all over the world.

Fr. Bill recently appeared as a guest with Fr. Mitch Pacwa on EWTN. Check Fr. Bill's website for further information about him and his ministry: [www.frbill.net](http://www.frbill.net).

For further information about the retreat, call Ms. Kwang Sook Kittelsen at 952-472-3691 or Jean Kottemann at 952-471-7485.

### ***Called to Praise*** by Mary Nawrocki

There is no doubt that the most energizing element of a prayer meeting is vibrant praise. It doesn't take huge crowds or fancy music ministries to engage people in praise. Recently, Jim Murphy was in town for a prayer group leader's seminar to talk about fostering praise at prayer meetings. Several times during the weekend we sampled exuberant praise as Jim led us. Oh, that we could have that in all of our prayer groups! Jim led us through some simple exercises intended to promote praise. In one, he had each of us think of a characteristic of God and vocalize it. What resulted was a beautiful litany of praise. "Praise you, Lord, for you are the creator... praise you, Lord, for you are our redeemer... you are the King of kings... you are our refuge and our strength." Everyone kept adding to the litany as the Spirit prompted. Some naturally progressed into praying in tongues.

The point of the exercise was to show that praise is not a complicated matter. Mainly, it demands that we focus on Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Sometimes our worship becomes static. We find ourselves saying the same things over and over again while our minds are somewhere else. Even when we praise in the Spirit (praise in tongues) our mouths may be making sounds, but we may actually be mentally planning out the next day's activities. While the responsibility falls primarily on the meeting leader to help direct worship, the leader is not the only one who engages in praise. Everyone at the meeting needs to understand and be comfortable with praising God. This is made easier when it becomes a

daily activity in our lives. Jim shared that at least twenty minutes of his prayer time is spent in praise. It is as easy as shutting off the radio on the way to the grocery store or to work and using the time to tell God how great and wonderful He is that helps us make praise a norm in our lives. Once that happens, it naturally is brought into the prayer meeting.

Another exercise to help us learn how to praise involves scripture. Jim asked several people to find a passage and use it as a launching point. Each person was asked to read the passage and draw from it a characteristic of God. For example, Psalm 117, the shortest psalm of the Bible, reads "Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise him, all peoples! His love for us is strong, and his faithfulness is eternal." This Psalm tells us **God is Lord, God is love, God is our lover, God is faithful, God is eternal.** ---all that from a couple of lines!

At our last children's prayer meeting, I took Jim's advice and pulled out about 50 characteristics of God from scripture. I wrote each one on a separate piece of paper and had a couple of the boys distribute them among those present. As music and worship leader for the evening, I encouraged the people and children to speak out their praise at a quiet time following a song. The 50 praises encouraged other praises involving all those present. Even those who normally might sit quietly were encouraged to vocalize their praise, not to mention the children who were eager to share their praises.

We were made to give God glory and praise---  
**"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Alleluia." (Ps. 150:6)**

### ***Praise Report***

The following report was received regarding a People of Praise (Bloomington) Friday night meeting:

We often don't hear the effects on the people with whom we pray. Recently, one of our meeting regulars, Roberta, reported a healing. She was experiencing a rash that had progressively gotten worse. She was healed after being prayed with; here is her personal witness:

"There was a small but painful rash on my back. Even though it had appeared recently, I was getting a little frustrated and concerned that it wasn't responding to the OTC topical ointment that I had tried. I knew I'd have to do something

quickly because it seemed to be getting worse. On a Friday night at the prayer meeting, I decided to ask for prayer. Right away, it began to hurt less. On Sunday morning I looked and the sores were gone. Praise God!"

**NET Lifeline Mass**

Over eight hundred Catholic teens in a gymnasium, a Mass where everyone loves to sing, and some light snacks. Sounds like Lifeline, a monthly event that turns the NET Center into a hot spot for Catholic young people in the Archdiocese of St. Paul/ Minneapolis and beyond.

Now in its ninth year, each Lifeline evening includes Mass followed by locally and nationally known speakers, musicians, priests, and entertainers who dynamically proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Youth and their parish leaders come to Lifeline events to celebrate their faith so they can be encouraged and equipped to share it within their parishes and schools.

If you have young people in your life— children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews – keep the **first Saturday evening of every month** in mind!

The monthly Lifeline Mass is sponsored by the National Evangelical Team (NET) Center in West St. Paul. The event is designed for students in grades 8-12 and starts at 6 pm. You are encouraged to come early to get a seat. Doors open at 5:30pm.

The NET Center is located at 110 Crusader Avenue West in West St. Paul. For further information and directions to the Center, call 651-450-6833 or visit the website at [www.netusa.org](http://www.netusa.org).

**Fr. Dimitri Evangelism Ministry Series**

**“Casting a Vision for Catholic Evangelism Ministry”** – with Fr. Dimitri Sala, OFM. – St. Olaf Church, 3220 Monroe St. in **Eau Claire, Wisconsin** - 9:00-5:15. Registration: \$35 per person. Pre-registration required. Call for information and to register: 715-834-1324. Sponsored by the People of Praise Prayer Group, Eau Claire, WI.

**PLEDGE PARTNER REGISTRATION FORM**  
**My Commitment to the Ministry of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office**

*I commit myself to provide ongoing financial support to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office.*

Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (including area code): \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check here if you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email instead of regular mail.**

I pledge to contribute the following amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_  monthly  quarterly  yearly

I want to make a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ now.

**Count on me for prayer support!** I will regularly pray and intercede for the ministry of CCRO.

**Prayer request** - please pray for

*Thank you, and may God richly reward you!*

Mail to: **Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office - 2719 East 42nd Street - Minneapolis, MN 55406**  
phone: (612) 271-2543 e-mail: [joleneccro@usfamily.net](mailto:joleneccro@usfamily.net)

**Upcoming Events**

**Healing Masses**

**April 6** – Tuesday – **St. Peter's**, No. St. Paul – 7:30 pm. Contact: Deacon Bob O'Connor at (651) 777-4406 for more information.

**7:00 pm Healing Masses with Fr. Joseph K. Bill:**

**April 12** – Monday – St. Bonaventure, Bloomington

**April 13** – Tuesday – St. Peter's, No. St. Paul

**April 14** – Wednesday – St. Raphael's, Crystal

**April 15** – Thursday – TBA – call 952-472-3691

**April 16** – Friday – St. Andrew Kim, St. Paul

**April 17** – Saturday – TBA – call 952-472-3691

**April 18** – 10:00 am Sunday – St. George, Long Lake (*Divine Mercy celebration and Healing Mass*)

**April 19** – Monday – **St. Therese Church**, St. Paul – 7:30 p.m. in the lower chapel (below church) – Contact Sister Mary Anne at (651) 690-1501.

**Life in the Spirit Seminars**

**Pentecost Seminar** – **April 2-3** – Friday evening (7:00 – 10:00 p.m.) and all day Saturday (8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.) – Members of People of Praise (Bloomington, MN) will host the seminar in their homes. To register call (952) 854-5030 by March 22, 2004.

**Special Events**

**April 17** – Saturday – in **EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN** - "*Casting a Vision for Catholic Evangelism Ministry*"- Fr. Dimitri Sala - \$35 - Call Cyndi at 715-834-1324 for details and to register.

**April 25 - May 1** – **Six-Day Silent Healing Retreat** – **Fr. Joseph Bill** - Powerful healing ministry – Camp Friendship, **Annandale MN** – \$320 includes lodging and all meals. Call to register: (952) 472-3691.

**May 28-29** – **The ANNUAL CCRO CONFERENCE** – "*The Living, Loving Body of Christ*" - **Bishop Paul Dudley, Jeff Cavins, R.T. Kendall, Jackie Millar** – St. Bonaventure (Ambrose Hall) – Bloomington, MN. - Volunteers needed.