



*A Radiant Church  
Through The Holy Spirit*

**March—April 2012**

# **A VOICE IN THE DESERT**

*A Bi-Monthly Newsletter Of*  
**Catholic Renewal  
Ministries**  
*Of the Diocese of Phoenix*



**20th Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference Held February  
3 and 4 at the Phoenix Convention Center (see stories inside)**

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**CRM Mission: To declare Je-  
 sus is alive through his word,  
 to put the gifts of the Holy  
 Spirit into service for the com-  
 munity, to give testimony to  
 what the love of God has done  
 in our lives, to be united and  
 committed in one spirit of ser-  
 vice to form community.**

**In This Issue**

**Columns**

Father Andrés Arango.....2  
 Marge Chavez.....3  
 Companion on the Journey.....3

**Ongoing CRM Events**

Healing Masses.....4  
 Life In The Spirit Seminars.....4  
 Pilgrimage with the Holy Spirit....4  
 Intercessory Prayer.....4  
 Worship Nights.....4

**Feature Articles**

Fr. Halbing at St. Rose, Anthem...5  
 20th Annual CRM Conference.....5  
 CRM Teen Conference.....6  
 New Prayer Group at Holy Cross..7  
 Healing Masses at St. Thomas.....7  
 Call to Intercessory Prayer.....7  
 Ed Orillo Speaks at St. Steven....7

**Special Upcoming Events**

Women's Healing Retreat.....7  
 Intercessory Prayer.....8  
 Monthly Healing Masses.....8  
 Healing Prayer Rooms.....8  
 Healing Prayer Ministry.....8

**From the Desk of  
 Father Andrés**



Every day is a glorious day in the Lord if we will just allow it to be.

I am certain that many of you still share with me the enthusiasm and energy received at the CRM Conference in February. What a work of God! Thanks are due to all who attended, in addition to all who worked so hard to make it successful. Thank you and praise the Lord.

The theme of the conference, Holiness 20:12, is a theme that we can all embrace, not just for a weekend at a conference, but as a theme for life, and certainly as a life theme throughout this year of 2012.

When we speak of holiness, we don't just speak of the holiness of the individual, but we speak of the holiness of the community. Community holiness is alive and visible in our unity. "It is by your love for one another that everyone will recognize you as my disciples." (John 13:35)

Over the years, brother pastors have shared with me about disunity within prayer groups in their parish, or about hard feelings between the prayer group and other groups in the parish, or even about dissension with the pastor himself.

Regardless of the cause or even of the reality of such reported disunity, it does not reflect positively on the holy men and women that I know to be affiliated with Renewal and to be members of parish prayer groups. I know that their holiness and unity, your holiness and unity, far outshine what others might see and report.

But, our holiness - that is, our love and our unity - must be a bright light shining in the darkness for all to readily see. As we move through Lent toward the glory of Easter and the power of Pentecost, let us love one another as he loved us. Let us be reconciled with one another in this year of Holiness 20:12. Let us humbly submit ourselves to one another in love and unity.

I love you and I pray that the peace of Christ will remain on you and within you during this Lenten and Easter season.

God bless you. I love you.

Fr. Andrés

## From Marge Chavez

**Lord, Keep the fire burning!**

**My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Several years ago we asked the Lord to set Phoenix on fire. Our desire is to keep the fire of the Holy Spirit alive in our lives. We were blessed to be inspired at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual CRM Conference by such speakers as Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo Nevaes, Fr. Bill Halbing, Jim Murphy, Fr. Andres Arango, and Bob Valiante. The theme of "Holiness" has brought us into the Lenten season where we can now go back and reflect on the many talks and the beautiful atmosphere of spirituality that we experienced on this awesome weekend. The presence of the Lord was evident as we experienced His love, joy, peace and healing. As we continue on our Lenten journey let us ask the Lord to continue fanning the flame in Phoenix. We need to give the Lord permission to show us our sinfulness so that we can go to Him with sincere hearts. The power of the Holy Spirit will show us the dark places in our lives that we need to work on; relationships that need healing, anger, gluttony, sins of omission, gossip, grumbling, complaining, etc. Reconciliation is the greatest gift given to us to help us on this journey of "Holiness".

How about helping each other on this journey? If we allow division, separation, and attitudes among "groups" we are contributing to the quenching of the fire of the Holy Spirit. However, if we come together in love, unity and community we just might attract people in our families, communities and those that have never heard the "Good News". Do we have that fire and zeal in Phoenix? We may not know how to go forward with "fire", but the Lord will teach and equip us if we only ask. "Pass the torch on" that others may experience the incredible love, joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:1-4) "When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together, and suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."

## Companion on the Journey

*By Tom Beale*

I recently asked the Holy Spirit, solely at his suggestion and prompting, mind you, to cleanse me of any unforgiveness that I might be carrying, no matter how great or small.

It was a set-up. No sooner had I consented to his insistence to pray this prayer than he began to flood me with names and faces from the past of people to forgive - back to kindergarten and before. Things I had not thought of since childhood. People I have not seen or have to see ever again. Thank you very much.

Interestingly, I vividly experienced the old pain again, while clearly seeing that the words and actions of others, though perhaps insensitive, were not intended to hurt. Even if intentional, I sensed their unawareness of inflicting real hurt. I also saw how I myself had provoked their response. It was surprisingly painful reliving "trivial" hurts from long ago, and it's been more difficult than I could have imagined to forgive those people. I now pray regularly for each of them.

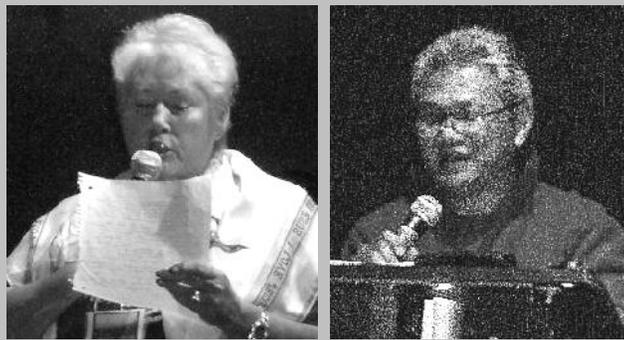
I am convinced that the people whom the Spirit brought to mind were not really aware of how they were hurting me back when. Today, many of them won't even remember me or my name, much less any "traumatic" incident. But, what about the other way around? How many people in my life have I hurt, whether intentionally or unintentionally? Jesus instructed us to leave our gifts, go back and be reconciled if "you remember that your brother has something against you." If one of those people from my past were to come to me to reconcile because he realized he had hurt me, how freeing that would be!

I don't believe the Spirit is telling me to walk on eggs, but I believe he is guiding me to more sensitivity; and leading me to a deeper sense of what Jesus was saying. He has shown me instances of insensitivity on my part that I was unaware of, and he has empowered me to go to the people that I have inadvertently hurt and reconcile with them. It has changed relationships. It has changed me. It has changed those people.

Let's pray: "Holy Spirit, my companion, please guide my speech and actions. Make me into a lover, like you. Show me when I am, or have been, party to hurt or injury, and empower me to be an instrument of reconciliation and love. Amen."

"Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognized as children of God."

Photos from the 20th Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference (see cover and inside articles p 5 & 6)



## Healing Masses

Charismatic masses followed by the laying on of hands for healing are celebrated throughout the year at parish churches in the Diocese of Phoenix.

For information on how to set up a healing mass at your parish contact Marge Chavez at 480-201-6691.

## Life In The Spirit Seminars

Life in the Spirit Seminars serve as an introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. They provide teaching, guidance, and prayer leading to a new and deeper relationship with the Lord. They are an invitation to make or renew a deep personal commitment to Jesus Christ in openness to the Holy Spirit and His gifts. Seminars are given throughout the year at parish churches in the Diocese of Phoenix.

For information about how to set up a Life in the Spirit Seminar at your parish contact Tom Beale at 623-878-6488.

## A Pilgrimage with the Holy Spirit Day of Retreat and Reflection

In this one-day retreat we learn what the scriptures and the church tell us about the Holy Spirit and simple, practical ways to personally experience the Holy Spirit in our lives.

For information on setting up a Pilgrimage with the Holy Spirit Day of Retreat and Reflection at your parish contact Tom Beale at 623-878-6488.

## Weekly Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group Meetings

Weekly charismatic prayer group meetings are held at many parishes throughout the valley where there is praise and worship, teaching, sharing, prayer ministry and fellowship. These meetings provide a place for the formation of close friendships with other charismatic Catholics in a local area and encourage growth in the use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and a life lived in the Holy Spirit.

For more information on starting a prayer group at your parish or to locate a weekly prayer group meeting in your area contact Marge Chavez at 480-201-6691 or JoAnn Duffy at 480-945-2990.

## Intercessory Prayer

Intercessory Prayer Ministry meets every Thursday at the Diocese of Phoenix after the 12:00PM Mass at St Mary's Basilica to pray exclusively for the needs of the Catholic Renewal Ministries. Leaders and prayer group representatives are encouraged to come to pray for their prayer group needs.

For more information contact Manuel and Bertha Murillo at 602-276-9100 or 602-540-3490.

## Worship Nights

To host a worship night— a time of praise and worship especially for youth and young adults (but all ages welcome), contact Jojo Concepcion at 623-229-6902.



## Conference Kick-off at St Rose with Fr. Bill Halbing

The prayer group at St. Rose Philippine Duchesne church in Anthem hosted “An Evening with Father Bill Halbing” Thursday night February 2nd as the kick-off event for this year’s Charismatic Conference.

Fr. Halbing said he came to “scare the Hell out of us”. He gave us the five signs of the end of the world: #1. The whole world will hear the word of the Lord preached, #2. we will see the antichrist come as an answer to all the terrible things happening in the world, #3. there will be apostasy: the three lies that church-goers will believe, that Jesus is not in the Eucharist, that the Pope is just a man, and that Mary is not virgin and conceived without sin, #4. Jews will convert to Jesus, and #5. the coming of the great Tribulation where everything will be shaken beyond imagining. There is a war going on for our hearts, souls and minds and we will have to choose Heaven or Hell.

## 20th Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference

The 20th Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference for the diocese of Phoenix was held February 3rd and 4th at the Phoenix Convention Center. CRM liaison Fr. Andres Arango, Jim Murphy and Robert Valiante from CRM national, Father Bill Halbing from New Jersey, and Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo Nevares were guest speakers.



Fr. Andres said that we have problems, but we have God. We can’t be 1/2 and 1/2; we either live with God or we try to live without Him. God expects us to be renewed in the Holy Spirit. That is why he sent

him. We need the graces of courage, creative faith, hope, persistence, and a spirit of communion. We must not do anything without calling on the Holy Spirit first.

Jim Murphy travels all over the world and all over the world there is a call to holiness. Heb. 12:14 says, “Strive for peace with everyone and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” Holiness is the



high standard of ordinary Christianity. Blessed John Paul II tells us to intentionally grow in holiness through prayer, sacrifice and dying to self, both personally and corporately. At the Last Supper, Jesus did not talk about technique or about ministry. Jesus said, “As my Father loves me, so I love you...love one another as I have loved you.” The Last Supper was about relationships. Without love we are nothing, no matter what gifts we might have. Only God gives us the grace/capacity to love Him. God commands holiness. “Be holy because I your God am holy.” Only God is holy, but he makes it possible for us to be holy. You are most true to your destiny when you are holy.

Fr. Bill Halbing said when you complain you are doubting that God will come through for you. The reasons you are empty is that you don’t have a plan or purpose (get to heaven; be holy). You cannot attain anything without the cooperation of God. Jesus said, “Without me you can do nothing.” Stay with believers or you won’t make it through what is coming—your parish won’t be sufficient. The church is under attack. Pope Leo said, “give me 100 years and I will destroy the church”. Fr. Bill said the 100 years began October 13, 1917 at Fatima with the spinning of the sun and will end October 13, 2017. We are going to see the worst year yet in 2012. God is thinning our ranks. The days ahead are not for the squeamish. Cowardice is not an option.

Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo Nevares said that in the old testament God’s holiness was in certain places. But now God’s holiness resides within us, “I am with you and in you”. We have different missions but we are all united in Love which is God. We are to seek what is above.

We were so blessed to have Bob Valiante with us as speaker and master of ceremonies. His beautiful words of worship, wisdom, prophecy, and exhortation, brought the whole Conference together in such a sweet loving way! What a gift to us!

And we were delighted with darling little Veronica Skios who sang God Bless America for us!





## Teen Conference

*By Jojo Concepcion*

Break-out sessions for teens and young adults were held separately from the main conference, with talks

by the main conference speakers. "Simple Praise Worship Team" led worship Saturday morning followed by speaker, Jim Murphy, who shared about his survival from the treacherous sea where he thought he would die; but, instead, gave him a new life. He helped the teens understand God's unconditional love and ongoing invitation to a personal relationship.



The next speaker was Father Bill Halbing. As always, Fr. Bill's words and actions were hilarious, but at the same time very direct to the

point about the Gospel. He acted out Jesus getting into a boat to cross the lake to the other side. In his own funny way, Fr. Bill urged the teens to get into the right boat with Jesus! Then he became serious and told the teens salvation was in that boat. He prayed for the teens to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.



A young adult shared his story of being in a maximum security prison where he had an encounter with Jesus. He shared that this 4 by 8 cold dark cement room, where he stayed for more than two years, suddenly became so bright with light that it filled the entire room while he was praying. He then felt so much peace and joy within his heart that he now shares his fire about Jesus with others. The third talk was by Tom Beale. He asked the teens how serious they were about the acceptance prayer. He asked them to surrender their lives to God so the Holy Spirit could fill them with new life. Prayer teams from the Conference were there to pray over them. Later on Bishop Nevares shared about the new fire burning within our hearts and the river of life in our souls. He encouraged the teens to live a new ongoing and ever deepening spiritual holy life.



## Conference Prophecies

"Trust me, my children, in what I am about to do, for I need each and every one of you to come forward and serve me. Do not delay or tarry, children, for I am about to do a great work among you that no other has ever seen before, a new thing, my children, unprecedented in times before this, but I am bringing about a new era of holiness and power in ministry. I call each one of you to be a part of this new thing that I am doing, says the Lord, for my people will be strong in me when I call them forth to serve in this new era of hope and faith. So do not be afraid, my children, of what I am about to do among you, for I am a great God and I do great things among my people, says the Lord."

"My people, I do not call you children anymore, for the time for being fed milk is over. I clothe you as warriors and feed you on the meat of the gospel. I ask you to see the world, your country, your family as I do, full of love and tender compassion. Oh my people, my heart is breaking for love of them: they turn away. I give you my heart. Clothe yourself in my armor. Prepare for battle. You are empowered with my Holy Spirit. You do not fight alone, for I go before you as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and I give you my angels to fight beside you."

"My beloved people, it does not matter if you are old or young. If you are 98 I want to use you. If you are young, I want to use you, for I will raise up an army of youth. Some of you I will send to the desert, but I will be with you, or to the darkest pits so that you can bring my mercy to those who need it most. Others I will raise up, but do not become proud; always remember that it is I, the Lord, who have placed you there. I love you, my people."



### Ed Orillo Speaks to St. Stevens Prayer Group About Trust in God

February 13 Ed Orillo spoke to the prayer group at St. Steven's in Sun Lakes. He said the opposite of love is not hate but fear. When we worry we are not trusting in God. We must ask the Blessed Mother to bring peace into our heart. "I give you my trials, give me joy. I am peaceful because I trust in God." Plant and let the roots of your faith grow deep. Be grounded in God. Fertilize with humility. Only then can your roots grow deep. Without love there is turmoil. Root yourselves in the love of God. We may lose leaves and branches in turmoil, but the tree stands because the roots are grounded in God. Have abiding love in God and holiness will come. "Lord, it is your will, not mine. Lord, I submit all to you. God will supply all my needs. God will do what needs to be done." Lay your lives down for God. The manifestation of love is trust in God. We are here first to praise and thank God.



### New Prayer Group at Holy Cross

CRM welcomes a new prayer group started January 10, 2012 at Holy Cross Church in Mesa by leaders Jack and Jan Reagor under the authority of Deacon Tom Ferreira who is in charge of small group communities at the parish. The group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00PM in room F and includes Mesa residents as well as snowbirds. We are very pleased that Father John Shetler at Holy Cross and Deacon Tom Ferreira will be joining the group from time to time to give us teachings. Please come and join us!



### Monthly Healing Masses Held at St Thomas Aquinas in Avondale

*By Ferrell McNeal*

We have been blessed here at St. Thomas Aquinas to have Healing Masses celebrated by Fr. Charlie Goraieb in October, Fr. Frank Bartel in November, Fr. John Asprec (he is new to our parish) in December, and Fr. Frank Bartel again in January. Prayer teams from St. John Vianney and St. Augustine assisted us, and we had spirit filled music by Ron and Teresa Clavecilla from Lamb of God music ministry and Tom Beale and Friends music ministry from St. Jerome. At our last Healing Mass two parishioners come up and shared how the Lord had done healing in their lives. (see p. 8)



### A Call to Weekly Intercessory Prayer

All prayer group members, leaders and ministry heads are invited to join us in prayer on Thursdays for the needs of Catholic Renewal Ministries. The more we come before the Lord seeking his guidance, the more fruits of success we see in the work we do as a ministry. We pray for the prayer groups each week and it is important for members of the groups to be present to voice their specific needs before the Lord. (Col. 1:9), "...we do not cease praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will..." (Matt 28:18-20), the great commission, sums up what intercession accomplishes, as Jesus says, "go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..." (see p.8)

## Women's Retreat

**May 4, 5, & 6, 2012**

**Registration**  
\$65.00 + Room  
Registration includes meals on Saturday and Sunday Morning

The Healing Touch of Jesus Through the Childhood Stages of Our Lives

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For more information call or e-mail:  
Jerianne Bender (623) 544-1787  
jeribender@aol.com or  
Marge Chavez (480) 201-6691  
mchavez845@hotmail.com

Room reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly. Please mention "CRM Women's Retreat" to get the special room rate before April 6, 2012. Or book online at [www.countryinns.com/womenshealingretreat](http://www.countryinns.com/womenshealingretreat)

**Diocese of Phoenix  
Catholic Renewal Ministries (CRM)  
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**A VOICE IN THE DESERT**

**Newsletters, Event Programs, Calendars and Flyers for the Catholic Renewal Ministries are printed by JMC Publishing. Contact Jojo Concepcion at 623-229-6902**

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**Upcoming Events in Brief**  
March 12, 2012.....(Monday).....Charismatic Healing Mass.....St. Jerome Catholic Church.....7:00-9:00PM  
April 9, 2012.....(Monday).....Charismatic Healing Mass.....St. Jerome Catholic Church.....7:00-9:00PM  
May 4, 5, & 6, 2012...(Fri., Sat., Sun.)... Women's Healing Retreat....Country Inn and Suites by Carlson...(see ad p. 7)

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER**  
Every Thursday at the Diocese of Phoenix following the 12:00PM Mass at St. Mary's Basilica

**MONTHLY HEALING MASS**  
Every 2nd Monday of the Month  
March 12 and April 9, 2012 from 7:00-9:00PM  
St. Jerome Catholic Church  
10815 N. 35th Ave., Phoenix

**MONTHLY HEALING MASS**  
No Healing Masses For March or April Because of Lent and Holy Week  
St. Thomas Aquinas  
13720 W. Thomas Rd.  
Avondale

**HEALING PRAYER ROOM**  
Individual Prayer for Healing And Deliverance  
Every Wednesday  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Queen of Peace Catholic Church  
Madonna Hall  
141 N. Macdonald, Mesa

**HEALING PRAYER ROOM**  
Individual Prayer for Physical And Emotional Healing  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays  
7:00-8:30 PM  
St. John Vianney Catholic Church  
539 Loma Linda, Goodyear

**HEALING PRAYER ROOM**  
Individual Prayer for Physical And Emotional Healing  
Every Friday  
7:00-9:00PM  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
3140 N. 51st Ave., Phoenix

**Healing Prayer Ministry**  
Every Weekend After All Masses  
St. Jerome's Catholic Church  
10815 N. 35th Ave., PHX.

**Healing Prayer Ministry**  
Every 4th Sunday Of The Month After The 11:00AM Mass  
St. Steven Catholic Church, 24827 S. Dobson Rd., Sun Lakes  
(On Dobson just north of Riggs Road)

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For REAL ESTATE needs in the East Valley Call Ed Orillo 480-330-4350