



*A Radiant Church
Through The Holy Spirit*

Special Issue June 2012

A VOICE IN THE DESERT

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



**CRM Women's Inner Healing Retreat Held at the Country
Inn and Suites by Carlson in Mesa May 4-6, 2012 (see p.5)**

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

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**From the Desk of
 Father Andrés**



My dear brothers and sisters,

As I write this I am preparing for my departure to Milan, Italy and the 17th international World Meeting of Families. It is a gathering called by Pope Benedict XVI to celebrate, reinforce and support families. I am very excited about this special conference.

Last year I was blessed to travel to Spain with a group of youth from my parish for World Youth Day 2011. Well over 1 million teens from around the world met together and celebrated the Lordship of Jesus our Savior. Alleluia.

The reason I bring these events up is to encourage you to take advantage of opportunities to experience “Church” on a larger scale than what you typically might experience in your local parish or prayer group. It is life-giving to both individuals and to the Church.

Here in Arizona we have opportunities to do that without traveling far. Early next year we will have our 21st annual CRM Conference in Phoenix. Plan now to come and to invite many others with you. People respond to personal invitations. CRM will also be organizing transportation to the SCRC Conference in Anaheim in early September. Both conferences offer opportunities to worship and fellowship with other Believers and to be instructed and renewed in the zeal of faith. Do it and bring others with you.

I also encourage you to participate in at least one personal spiritual retreat or seminar during the coming year. CRM will offer some, like the recent Women’s Healing Retreat. Parishes, the Diocese and retreat centers also offer retreats throughout the year. We all need to step back periodically to refresh our relationship with God.

As we celebrate Pentecost and commemorate the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us resolve to renew that Spirit within ourselves this coming year by each attending the CRM Conference in Phoenix and by having a personal retreat.

May God bless you. I pray for you all.

Father Andrés

From Marge Chavez

Blessings are bestowed upon us!

We were blessed last month to have 85 women at our Women's Inner Healing Retreat. Many of the women came not knowing what to expect; some with heavy hearts and burdened. Friday night was the beginning of an amazing experience for many of us as the "Lamb of God Music Ministry" led us in praise and worship. As it says in Psalm 149: "Sing to the Lord a new song, a hymn in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in their maker, the people of Zion rejoice in their king. Let them praise his name in festive dance, make music with tambourine and lyre". Indeed we raised our voices in song and danced as David danced.

Throughout the weekend as we gathered in our small groups and shared our stories many healings took place. Saturday evening was "very special" — you might say like icing on the cake — as our dear friend Fr. John Shetler celebrated Mass for us. Our spirits were soaring with festivity as we celebrated at the banquet table.

As we observed the room we realized that many of us were strangers to one another when we arrived and now had become sisters in Christ. "But you are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises' of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were 'no people' but now you are God's people; you 'had not received mercy' but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2: 9-10) Yes, we were truly blessed to be given the opportunity to come together as strangers and experience through each other the love, mercy, and healing our Father has for each one of us. We thank you all for this wonderful experience.

Love, joy, peace and blessings!
Your sister in Christ,
Marge

Companion on the Journey

By Tom Beale

A scene in the movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark" satirizes the genre of martial arts films. In the scene, the hero, Indiana Jones, is confronted from a distance by a large warrior who waves a sword menacingly toward him. In something of a surprise to the audience, rather than engaging in the typical martial arts sword/fist fight, Indiana shrugs his shoulders, pulls out his pistol and shoots the warrior. Duh.

Often we too have a procession of warriors waving swords at us: financial woes, physical ailments, family strife, workplace stress, addictions, depression, jealousies, and on and on. These seem unbeatable when we try to fight them with weapons of their own choosing. So why not use our pistols instead? Duh.

What is our pistol then? Not what, but who. He is the Spirit of the living God, the Holy Spirit.

We know there is strength in numbers: don't walk at night alone; don't hike alone; don't swim alone. If there is potential danger, make sure you have someone with you — and you with them. But what about times when we truly are alone, or have to face things alone? Simply, those times never exist. We are never alone, nor do we have to face anything alone. Our battles are not against flesh and blood; they are spiritual battles against powers of darkness (Eph 6:12), and the Spirit is with each of us always and forever (John 14:16).

The Spirit is an ever-present friend and companion, and a deadly weapon to all of our enemies; a loaded pistol on our hips. But, sometimes we forget he is there and we try to engage the enemy alone, on his terms. We lose. We use our pistol. We win.

We want to grow an "interiority" with the Holy Spirit's help: a living, moment-to-moment awareness of God; an inner silence of reflection and introspection; a vital, inner life lived in intimate communion with God. That interiority in the Holy Spirit protects us against the noisy distractions of life and guides us away from using inadequate weapons against disguised enemies.

Let's pray: "Holy Spirit, my companion, be the inner silence and life within me. Keep me always aware of your presence, ever focused on what is truth. Be my weapon in a dangerous, distracting world. Amen."

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Photos from the Women's Inner Healing Retreat.



Praise and worship with the women. So uplifting!



Renee prays for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.



Everyone listened as Renee discussed childhood.



Retreat coordinators 2nd from left Jerianne Bender, to her right Bertha Murillo, and at right Marge Chavez handing each woman a gift of scriptures with their names and a rose on them.



Hugs given and many testimonies shared by the women of having experienced Jesus' healing touch in their lives. What a powerful weekend!

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.

Valley Wide Charismatic Events

Valley Wide Charismatic Events are open to everyone from the entire diocese of Phoenix and are held throughout the year. Events may include praise and worship, teachings, prayer, and fellowship.

For information on setting up an Event contact Marge Chavez at 480-201-6691. For information on upcoming Events visit our website.

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 Marilyn Stewart at 480-969-9956.

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 Night

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.

Women's Inner Healing Retreat

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

With Renee Marazon Was Held May 4-6 at the Country Inn & Suites by Carlson in Mesa



Eighty five women attended the weekend retreat to fellowship and receive healing. Praise and worship for the weekend was provided by Ron and Theresa Clavecilla and the Lamb of God Music Ministry. They were



joined by Renee's friend, Pat Szyperski, who played guitar and sang with them. Worship was powerful and many words of prophecy were received throughout the retreat.

During worship Gloria Asadi danced with flags and flags were distributed among the women who joined her in waving the flags in joyful tribute and praise to our Lord Jesus. There was such camaraderie and warm bonding among the women that you could just feel the beautiful sense of love and joy in the room. At the end of the three days the women did not want to leave and asked how soon we would do it again!



Renee taught us that there are needs and jobs that every child must do at each stage of development. If these are met and done the accompanying virtues for that stage will be acquired and the child will be prepared to go on to the next stage and ready to learn the next thing. If not then the child will have unresolved issues growing up that will hin-

der the receiving of the virtues he/she needs to cope with life as a mature and whole adult.

The first childhood stage is the infant. The infant's only job is to just be, to love and be loved. We are required to love our babies! We need to be rocked and loved into life. We enable the infant to say, "my needs are worthy of being met". They learn contentment, to know how to calm themselves. They learn perseverance, to cry until they get what they want. They learn frustration tolerance, to wait and not expect everything now. They learn to trust, and they receive the virtue of hope.

The next stage is the toddler. The toddler's job is to own, take, possess, and take control of. Mine! They need time to own their world. They learn to choose, to own and let go. The gift is autonomy and free will. The virtue is will power.

The third stage is preschool, the job is purpose, the gift creativity, and the virtue initiative. The preschooler says, "My purpose is mine, I know what I am doing, I'm not a baby, I can do it myself."

The fourth stage is school age, 6-12 years old. They develop self-awareness and awareness of others, want to make the rules for everybody, want to do work things, learn work ethic, learn to produce, set goals. The gift is industry, the virtue competence.

We asked Jesus to heal any hurts in our lives that interfered with learning these things and receiving the virtues we needed to succeed in life as a whole person. Jesus says to us, "who told you that you couldn't ...I never said that to you." We affirm that we will not take on guilt, shame, self-condemnation, or regret, but see ourselves as Jesus created us with hope, will power, initiative, and competence!

Jerianne Bender, who knew Renee years ago in Ohio, Marge Chavez, and Bertha Murillo, organized the retreat. As we worshiped, Jerianne's daughter, Barbara, painted



Jesus and the woman in the crowd reaching for his garment. The painting was raffled off.



Father John Shetler Celebrated Mass on Saturday Night During the Women's Inner Healing Retreat

What a wonderful blessing to have Father John Shetler celebrate Mass for us at the Women's Inner Healing Retreat! He is always such a joy to have with us!

He spoke to us about his desire as a young man to become a farmer and he got a degree in farming before he became a priest. His mother always told him faith should be the most important thing in his life. We need to have God at the center of our life.

Father John still loves gardening and has a rose garden. He fertilizes, waters and prays for his roses and he says the blooms are very large and beautiful. He calls it his "Hail Mary Garden" as he has always had a very deep love for our Blessed Mother.

He says the reason we prune roses is so that they will produce many more blooms later. God is like that. He prunes us and we end up looking like a bunch of sticks for a while like his roses after he prunes them, but then, later, after much prayer and growth we put out lush foliage and beautiful blooms. God prunes us so that we produce an abundant harvest.

Jesus is the source for our life. Our sin and pain prevent us from loving and being loved and separate us from God. Father John says that he considers himself a "pruner". He wants to prune us to make us grow more beautifully in God's garden. When he prays for us for healing or speaks to us that is what he is praying for, that God will prune away the wounds and damage to our lives and enable us to grow into spiritually lush, fruitful, and beautiful souls!



Father John Shetler Shares About His Trip to Medjugorje With the Prayer Group at Holy Cross

At the age of three Father John had a very memorable experience with the Virgin Mary while praying

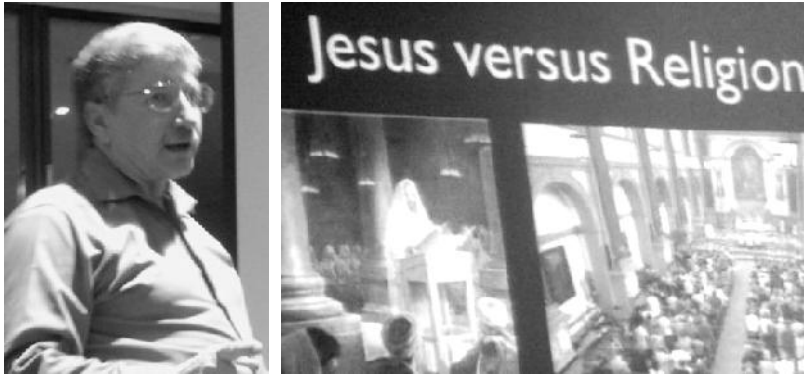
his rosary. He asked for a baby sister and got one! Since then he always has had a deep devotion to Mary. On June 24, 1981 the Blessed Virgin Mary began appearing to six people in Medjugorje and several years later, in 1987, when Father John felt he'd received a call to the priesthood, he sent a rosary to Medjugorje with a friend to have it blessed. While his friend was on the plane trip over to Medjugorje part of his rosary turned to gold.

He believed this was confirmation that he should become a priest and he entered the seminary.

Now, twenty-five years later, in March of this year, he and his sister, Diane, during a last minute flurry of miraculous events, found themselves on their way to Medjugorje. He again had his silver rosary turn to gold right before his eyes. He showed the rosary to us.



The trip was full of wonderful, powerful experiences for him. He climbed the mountain, spoke to Marianna, saw the sun change colors behind the cross, said Mass, heard confessions. They went with a large group of priests and women in community called Legionnaires of Christ. One time there were 600 priests who concelebrated Mass! What an experience! They had a healing service at St. Blaise Church on the feast of St. Blaise which was very powerful. The visit was full of many wonderful experiences!



If Jesus Is All We Need Why Do We Need Religion?

“What if I told you Jesus came to abolish religion?”

That is the opening line of a recent 4-minute youtube video (“Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus”) which has now been viewed by over 20 million people. The video is a polished presentation of a poem which expresses the author’s love for Jesus as well as his resentment for certain, hypocritical aspects of religion. The video is provocative, as is a 3-minute answering video by a Catholic priest. Both videos, plus related teaching based on the Vatican II document Lumen Gentium (LG) and on the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), are included in a 1 hour presentation that Tom Beale has made at several-gatherings, most recently at prayer meetings at St. Steven, Queen of Peace and St. Daniel the Prophet.

We know that Jesus established the Church, but is the Church today what Jesus intended? To answer that we need to understand what the mission of the Church is, and how that mission has been borne out in the past 2000 years. Consider what the Church has to say about herself today: “basing itself upon Sacred Scripture and Tradition, [this Sacred Council] teaches that the Church, now sojourning on earth as an exile, is necessary for salvation. He Himself explicitly asserted the necessity of faith and Baptism, and thereby affirmed at the same time the necessity of the Church which men enter through Baptism as through a door.” (LG 14) and “Outside the Church there is no salvation. How are we to understand this affirmation, often repeated by the Church Fathers? Re-formulated positively, it means that all salvation comes from Christ the Head through the Church which is the Body.” (CCC 846)

Were you surprised to hear that “the Church is necessary for salvation?” Well, it is the Church which brings us to Christ and the Church which sustains us in Christ.

Learning the faith is enlightening, empowering and motivating. Contact CRM or Tom Beale, (602-942-3460, or tbeal@stjerome.org) to arrange for this presentation at your gathering, large or small.

A Prayer for Holy Priests

My Dear Jesus, you desire that we pray the Lord of the harvest that He send zealous laborers into His harvest. Deign to raise up in your Church, and especially in this diocese, numerous and holy priests who, taking your Divine Heart as their Model, will, in the exercise of their holy priesthood, promote the glory of your heavenly Father and the salvation of those souls whom you have redeemed with your Precious Blood. Give us truly holy priests who, inflamed with the fire of your Divine love, seek nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls.

“LET GOD ARISE!”

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND
THE 21ST CATHOLIC
CHARISMATIC
CONFERENCE TO BE
HELD IN PHOENIX IN
FEBRUARY 2013
AT THE PHOENIX
CONVENTION CENTER**

**SEPARATE
SESSIONS FOR TEENS
AND YOUNG ADULTS**

**For more information see
updates on our website at
CatholicRenewalMinistries.org.**

**Or call: Marge Chavez
(480) 201-6691**

Retract Statement

We apologize for a misquote printed on p. 5 in the March-April Newsletter which read, “Pope Leo said, ‘give me 100 years and I will destroy the church’”. It should have read, “In a vision Satan said to Pope Leo, ‘give me 100 years and I will destroy the church’”.

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

Upcoming Events in Brief
 June 11, 2012.....(Monday).....Charismatic Healing Mass.....St. Jerome Catholic Church.....7:00-9:00PM
 July 9, 2012.....(Monday).....Charismatic Healing Mass.....St. Jerome Catholic Church.....7:00-9:00PM

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
 June 11, 2012
 from 7:00-9:00PM
 St. Jerome Catholic Church
 10815 N. 35th Ave., Phoenix

UPCOMING VALLEY WIDE PRAISE AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE REVISED
 We will be having Praise and Worship four times a year now instead of every month. New times and places to be announced.

HEALING PRAYER ROOM
 Individual Prayer for Healing & 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
 2nd and 4th 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)

Listen to 1310 AM Immaculate Heart All Catholic Radio Station

For REAL ESTATE needs in the West Valley Call Jojo Concepcion 623-229-6902

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