



The TRUMPET

Newsletter

April/May/June 2008

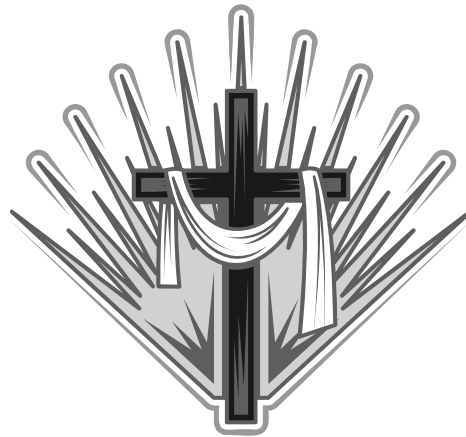
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services

The Mission of The Trumpet is to glorify God by nourishing our intimate relationship with our Lord, encouraging greater openness to the action of the Holy Spirit, and promoting more open sharing of our faith experience of Jesus and the gospel.

Diocese of Rockford, Illinois

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**The joy of the Lord
is our strength!**



He is risen!

Rejoice! Be Glad!

The Trumpet

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YOUR OFFERING IS LOVE

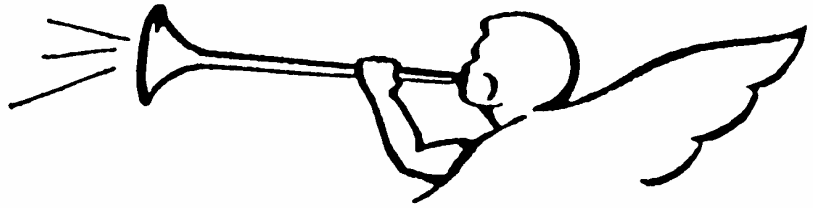
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Like shouting from the mountain tops let's ...
Blast forth that ...



JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ ...

Our cover is simple, as was the message we received at our staff meeting. We were told of Jesus' great love for us and reminded that “the joy of the Lord is our strength.”

Dear friends, I had *The Trumpet* complete to the paragraph above when my mother's health took a turn for the worse on March 3. By that evening she had passed. I can testify that it is indeed true that the joy of the Lord is our strength, as he carried me through the last ten days, and even before her death he had led me in paths that made this time of sorrow easier to walk. We have a savior who is our rock, and we can lean on him and trust him in all things.

Yours in Christ,

Linda

PS. Please note our new email address: trumpet16@verizon.net

To Our Readers,

Linda, the faithful editor of *The Trumpet* for so many years, usually fills this page with her presentation of the contents of each issue, letting us know how the Lord had directed the editorial staff as they prayed together for his guidance and giving us a bit of an insight into how the Lord had wove the articles into a cohesive message for us. But she was unusually “quiet” this month as we approached our printing deadline for this issue, so I called her to see if she was ok. Had she gotten the flu that has been so widely prevalent in the last couple of months? It was not like her to not be gently “bugging” us who write the articles, to get them in to her in a timely manner, but we had not heard from her this time.

The reason became quickly evident. Linda's mother died, somewhat suddenly, on March 3rd after struggling with her illnesses for quite some time. And even in the midst of this difficult time of loss, Linda was dutifully working to get everything put together so that you and I can receive the spiritual benefits this Trumpet issue is bringing to us. Please keep Linda, her mother and her family in your prayers. And don't forget to thank the Lord for the hard work, hours of prayer, and faithful service Linda continues to generously give so that the Gospel message of Jesus can continue to be spread through the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in our diocese.

Thank you, Linda, from all of us you reach through your ministry. Our prayers are indeed with you, your mother, and your entire family.

Blessings in Christ,

Ron

Diocesan Liaison

The Father's Joy

By Linda Daniel

Joy. What is joy? The dictionary definition of joy is, "a condition or feeling of great pleasure or happiness – delight, rejoicing, jubilation, celebration." We remember, too, that joy is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22).

We sing, "The joy of the Lord is my strength." Let's look at the phrase in the song, "the joy of the Lord." It is the Lord's joy.

What gives God joy? He delights in the repentance of sinners and in our obedience, our work and our faithfulness to carry out his will. In the parables of the lost coin and the lost sheep, Jesus said, "there will be the same kind of joy before the angels of God over one repentant sinner" (Lk 15:10). Then we see in Deuteronomy 30:9-10, that "God will again take delight in your prosperity ... if only you heed the voice of the Lord, your God, and keep his commandments." Also, in Matthew 25:21 we have the parable of the talents. The master says, "You are an industrious and reliable servant ... come share your master's joy!"

Going back to the song, the rest of the verse says that God's joy is our strength. How do we get strength when God is delighted? Habakkuk 3:19 says, "God, my Lord, is my strength," and Deuteronomy 30:9 says, "God will increase in more than goodly measure the returns from all your labors, the fruit of your womb, the offspring of your livestock, and the produce of your soil; for the Lord ... will again take delight in your prosperity." From this I conclude that God pours out His grace and blessings on us when He is delighted.

OK. We gain strength from God, from His joy. But what gives us joy? In 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah prays, "My heart exults in the Lord, my horn [strength] is exalted in my God." We gain joy from God's presence and the strength He gives us. We also have joy in our salvation: "Let my heart rejoice in your salvation; let me sing of the Lord, 'He has been good to me'" (Ps 13:6). Also, Jeremiah 15:16 says, "When I found your words, I devoured them; they became my joy and the happiness of my heart." So we have joy in God's word, the Scriptures. I can relate especially to this thought. I first met Jesus when I was in college, and I began to study Scripture to learn more about Jesus. I loved that time of study and still find joy in studying Scripture. As Psalm 4:8 says, "You put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound."

We are told to rejoice always (Phil 4:4), but that is not always easy in this world. We experience suffering and pain. But James 1:2-4 says, "My brothers, count it pure joy when you are involved in every sort of trial. Realize that when your faith is tested this makes for endurance. Let endurance come to its perfection so that you may be fully mature and lacking in nothing." We do not fully understand how God uses suffering to perfect us, but we know that Jesus suffered (Heb 5:8-9). "Did not the Messiah have to undergo all this so as to enter into his glory?" (Lk 24:26). "It was fitting that when bringing many sons to glory God, for whom and through whom all things exist, should make their leader in the work of salvation perfect through suffering" (Heb 2:10). "If we are children, we are heirs as well: heirs of God, heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so as to be glorified with him" (Rom 8:17).

The Father's plan brings us to glory through Christ and his suffering. We will suffer also in varying degrees, but we must expect this, for the servant is not greater than his master (Mt 10:24-25). "Do not be surprised, beloved, that a trial by fire is occurring in your midst. It is a test for you, but it should not catch you off guard. Rejoice instead, in the measure that you share Christ's sufferings. When his glory is revealed, you will rejoice exultantly. Happy are you when you are insulted for the sake of Christ, for then God's Spirit in its glory has come to rest on you" (1 Pt 4:12-14).

God indeed is my savior;

I am confident and unafraid.

*My strength and my courage is the Lord,
and he has been my savior.*

*With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation, and say on
that day:*

*Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name;
among the nations make known his deeds,
proclaim how exalted is his name.*

Is 12:2-4

Another song comes to mind. It begins:
"And the Father will dance as on a day of joy,
He will exult over you and renew you by His love."
Zep 3:17-18a
(Song by Rev. Carey Landry, ©1977 by NALR,
Phoenix, AZ)✠

Obedience = Blessings = Holiness

The members of the Diocesan Service Team will recognize this title as a clear message we received through prophecy and Scripture in the meeting held in Rochelle on Feb. 16. The message just kept coming; Scripture verse after Scripture verse, prophetic word after prophetic word. But it soon became clear that applying the message to the daily trials and situations we all live with is more difficult than simply acknowledging that this is the way we need to live.

Obedience is tied to blessings many places in history and numerous places in the Scriptures. I was recently reminded that in the Book of Deuteronomy, we are told “If you truly heed my commandments ... I will give the seasonal rain ... that you may have your grain ... But be careful lest your heart be so lured away ... For then the wrath of the Lord will flare up against you and he will close up the heavens ...” [Dt 11:1 & 2] Obey and be blessed; disobey and suffer the consequences.

Jesus obeyed his father and went to the cross. No excuses, no disobedience even at the price of his life, no passing the buck to blame someone else — humble obedience to proper authority. Just so was Mary’s fiat, another act of willing obedience to the will of the father.

Paul tells us to obey proper civil authority. How often are the laws of proper civil authority disobeyed? How common is it for traffic to continue through the red light after it turns red? How often do we hear an excuse as to why it was alright to disobey in that particular instance? “I made it, didn’t I? No one was hurt. The police didn’t arrest me so it must be ok.” Did that make it right? How often do we hear attempts to justify disobedience? Our society is greatly weakened by wide-spread lack of respect for proper authority and we buy into it all too often. Right?

The messages came to us in the meeting: “I love you, Lord, with all my strength ...” and it’s all too easy to add: “As long as I agree with everything and deflect any blame that may come.” Not a good response, is it? Here are some more words we received: Obedience and response to the call to obedience = blessings; Dare to be different and look at new life (in obedience to God’s directives) = blessings; Conform to God’s will = blessings; Obedience and humility = blessings.

It is hard to obey proper authority when we “know” that authority is wrong. Now I’m not talking about moral issues such as abortion and the like. I’m

talking about things our leaders, our pastors, our supervisors at work may want us to do. How arrogant are we to think that our opinion is more right or valuable than theirs? “Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Heb 13:17) Do we see our supervisors at work in a spiritual light? As sent by God and having to give an account for our souls? A fact remains true: even if our supervisors make wrong decisions, they are still our supervisors and have proper authority over us.

A few years back while on retreat, at a time of ministry when people were being prayed with for healing, the retreat leader wanted to use blessed oil, the sacramental. But in an attempt to correct a misuse of the sacramental that had occurred, our bishop had issued a directive that blessed oil should not be used by the laity here. It was a hard time for us, but we had to make the decision to obey the bishop. Whether we agreed or disagreed with the bishop was not an issue; the important issue was that he was our bishop and we were called to be obedient to him as one in proper authority, even when he wasn’t watching.

More recently, in the CCRS office I received an e-mail from a man who was questioning his right to lead the prayer meeting he was attending. He wanted to be the leader and was questioning the decision of the leaders of the group (and their authority) requiring that their prayer meeting leaders had to have attended a Life-In-the-Spirit seminar, which he hadn’t. He was apparently new to the group and did not understand that.

When we find it hard to be obedient, maybe we need to conduct an arrogance, pride and self-righteousness check of ourselves to see if we are viewing (degrading) others as less than ourselves. Do we value them and their place of authority?

Holy obedience goes deeper than just following a set of rules and regulations. Obedience is a measure of respect for one another as God’s children. Joyful obedience to proper authority results in blessings; blessings lead to holiness.

How does our decision to obey or not obey stack up as a measure of our respect for the people God has placed over us? Challenging question? It often is for me. †

**Blessings,
Ron**

Reflections, Poems and Prophecies

From Nita Neu

Much More Than This

Easter bonnets, new Easter outfits,
Easter bunnies. The Easter Bunny.
Easter baskets. Easter eggs.
The promise of warm breezes to visit again.
Colorful blooms eagerly pushing up
thru the ground.
The dead brown of winter's grass fades away
to become lush green again.
Kite weather returns.
The days are longer;
the sun is brighter.
Nature frolics and makes merry once again
to greet the Savior Easter morn.
Childhood: a big brown box of
fuzzy, yellow chirping chicks.
Spring mornings that felt extra good
to breathe in the freshness of
another new season.
Lots and lots of sunny yellow dandelions.
New life evident everywhere.
Easter now: my golden years – the grandma years.
Easter is FAMILY.
Easter is LOVE.
Easter is the promise fulfilled.
It is finished, completed.
LOVE OFFERED.
FORGIVENESS OBTAINED.
Eternal life with me ~ my promise to you.
Come walk with me, won't you,
on the road to Emmaus.
We have walked here together
on this dusty road
many times before ~
but now it is different ~
We will walk together forever.
See it is not over,
as some of you had thought.
Yes, it is only beginning ~
a future for you that you cannot imagine.
Go to the tomb and see where I laid.
You need not mourn for me ~
I am not here among the dead.
I AM ALIVE!
I AM LIFE!
I AM RISEN!
The sunrise will appear the same as before ~
but you will see it as never before ~
the dawning of a new morn for you ~
the first of eternity's flow,

a glimpse of my glory.
My life I gave for you.
I gave ALL ~ for you ~ willingly.
I offered my life for you.
I offer my life to you now.
Won't you take it and find the
LOVE, PEACE, JOY
FORGIVENESS, FRIENDSHIP,
HOPE, AND ETERNITY I offer?
I share with you my life
And all that I am.

I went through a very painful dark night. It was as though I was going through a dark tunnel. The most painful part was I did not know if I would be able to go all the way through the tunnel, or even that there was light at the end of the tunnel. To my great surprise and amazement, I not only managed to get through the tunnel, but I found Jesus, in all his light and glory, waiting for me at the end of the tunnel. God had been with me in the tunnel, giving me strength and going before me. He baptized me in his precious Holy Spirit, and "Joy comes in the morning" (Ps 30:6) became one of my favorite Scriptures.

Joy in Your Presence

To sit awed and in silence
before you is my delight,
every part of me that you have created
bowed in profound adoration
of who you are,
in humble gratitude of your love,
mercy and care for me.

It is for you, dear God,
that I ache and thirst,
for you that my flesh pines.
You satisfy me with your presence
until I am full, and your Spirit
floods me with your joy.

Peace, like a river, washing me,
flowing over me and through me.
A profound sense of well being
you give to me ~ despite pain,
fatigue, cares and struggles ~
because I know I belong to you forever.

Your precious Spirit upon me, within me,
around me ~ loving me.

(Reflections continued page 6)

Count It All Joy

By Louise Hall

A contemporary Christian song tells us to count all trials as joy. I find it difficult to be joyful in unpleasant circumstances. Recently our adult son made a poor choice of roads on a snowy morning and slid into a guard rail. While I was happy he was not hurt, I was not happy about our damaged car, especially since we owned it less than one year. How could I feel joy when faced with a problem that requires changes and many decisions?

In Galatians 6:2 we hear, “Bear one another’s burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.” To serve another through love is what Jesus taught. To be joyful in doing that requires supernatural grace. In Colossians 3:12-13, 15, 17 Paul says, “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another ... And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful and whatever you do in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him.”

Okay, the message is stay calm, love and ask for help. I can do that. But to feel joy, how can we do that? In Psalm 68:4 we are told, “the just rejoice and exalt before God; they are glad and rejoice.”

In the November 2007 issue of *The Word Among Us* it is pointed out that there is a divine exchange between man and God. “In Revelation 3:20 ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.’ Jesus shows how deeply he wants to enter into our lives. As we open our mouths to receive him in the Eucharist, we can also open the door to our hearts and let him in. We really can experience Jesus as our living Bread, our strength, our wisdom, our understanding, and our peace and joy.” (p. 17)

When we were dealing with our wrecked car, I did not think of how God was helping. Now I am sure the calm strength my husband and I showed came from the Lord. We weren’t joyful but we were peaceful as we consoled our son and began to make plans to deal with the inconveniences.

Now I feel joyful that it was only the car that was gone and my son is alive and not **hurt**. I am learning that misfortunes will come, but God will be there, leading us and helping us find solutions or ways to cope. Maybe I can show the world what the song “Joy is the Flag” means. It says, “Joy is the flag flown high

from the castle of my heart when the King is in residence there. So let the whole world know ... that the King is in residence there.” (Unknown, *Songs of Praise* #219)✠

Reflections (*Continued*)

Joy in me, my child. Joy is my gift to you. Joy is my gift to all of my children in whom I take great delight. As I delight in you, I wish for my children to delight in me and in each other. In that way there will be more joy – and peace in my world I have created. It only takes a single step, sometimes only a small step, to bring my joy to another. Spread joy.

Joy comes from walking with your God, day by day. Joy is an adventure with me. Spread my joy into the darkness, that there may be joy and peace and goodness for all.

Children are full of joy. Do not lose your joy. You will find joy in my word. Put on a happy face and feel my joy. Things go better in my joy, so stay in my joy, even when things are somewhat less joyful. Always find your way back to my joy, dear child. I want my children to be happy and joyful, even through difficulties. Sing out your joy to me, and I will heal you.

Children, you are vessels of my Spirit, and I pour into you love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness and chastity (Gal 5:22-23).

The Road Ahead

By Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.✠

Know Your Faith

The Evangelizing Catholic – Sharing the Good News

Evangelization has not always been seen as a “Catholic thing.” It seemed to be the work of other religions that sent believers out two by two into neighborhoods to share their faith. However, in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (*On Evangelization in the Modern World*) Pope Paul VI states, “Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ’s sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious Resurrection.” (EV #14) If the Church exists to evangelize then what are we as members of the Catholic Church doing to evangelize? If we are unsure of the answer, then it is important to find out exactly what evangelization is and how we as baptized Catholics evangelize.

Evangelization means “bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself.” (*Go and Make Disciples*, United States Catholic Conference) With this in mind, let us explore some methods of evangelization.

The first means of evangelization is the witness of an authentically Christian life, given over to God in a communion that nothing should destroy and at the same time given to one’s neighbor with limitless zeal. Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” (*On Evangelization*, #41)

When we were confirmed we were sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and told that we were adult Christians in the Church. But what actually does the sacrament of confirmation call us to do? In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* we find the answer: confirmation “gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the cross.” (CC #2044) The sacrament of confirmation completes the sacraments of baptism and Eucharist and the graces of these sacraments give us the strength to witness to our faith, to evangelize others by our words and actions.

Secondly, it is not superfluous to emphasize the importance and necessity of preaching ... so faith comes from what is heard and what is heard

comes by the preaching of Christ.” (*On Evangelization* #42) We may not have the inclination to stand on a street corner and preach, but we can share our own faith story. We can tell others what happened to us when we accepted Jesus, and how our faith came alive through the Mass and the sacraments, especially receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. Share your story and let the Holy Spirit evangelize through you. “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence.” (1 Pt 3:16) “A means of evangelization that must not be neglected is that of catechetical instruction. The intelligence, especially that of children and young people, needs to learn through systematic religious instruction the fundamental teachings, the living content of the truth which God has wished to convey to us and which the Church has sought to express in an ever richer fashion during the course of her long history.” (*On Evangelization* #44)

Passing on the faith at home is an important component of evangelization. Parents are the first teachers of faith for their children. Grandparents can also play an important role in imparting the faith to their grandchildren. Individually we can all learn more about our Catholic faith. Parish adult faith formation programs and diocesan seminars and courses are a great way to evangelize ourselves and to give us the confidence to share what we have learned.

We must remember that “evangelization will never be possible without the action of the Holy Spirit.” (*On Evangelization* #55) The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives will enable us to share the Good News that we have been entrusted with.

“Pray that God’s Holy Spirit will give Catholics in this nation the kind of faith needed to begin evangelizing seriously.” (*Go Make Disciples*, Page 21)✠

Kate Elliott, DRE
Holy Spirit Church, Roscoe

Keep the faith joyfully. ~ Pope John Paul II
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