

# The TRUMPET

**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**

**Web site: <http://www.dpsrfd.org/CCRS.htm>**

**Newsletter**

*January/February/March 2007*

## **Rest In My Presence**



I came that you may have life and have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

## **Relax and enjoy my presence**

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## The Trumpet

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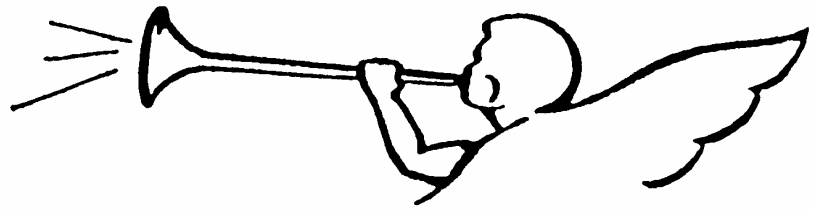
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Like shouting from the mountain tops let's ...  
Blast forth that ...



## JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ ...

Jesus is calling us to his rest. The words received at our meeting in preparation for this issue included the following:

"I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly."

"My dear children, do you not know how much I revel in your love?"

Rest in my presence my little ones. Rest in my presence."

"You try so hard. Relax and enjoy my presence."

Jesus revealed that the Father is warm and loving. He showed us the Father's love. "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9)

The Father wants us to relax and enjoy His loving presence in our lives. He calls us to His rest. However, if we read Hebrews 3:7-4:13 carefully, we can see that this rest is not like a vacation or time off from work. This rest is the peace we enjoy when we are faithfully obedient to God's call and direction in our lives. One of our staff at our meeting had the sense that Jesus was pulling her away from the world, away from busyness, away from daily concerns. Jesus said to us that day, "You try so hard. Relax and enjoy my presence."

I believe Jesus is calling all of us to himself. He says we work too hard; we try too hard. The work is not ours, but his. We need to just turn things over to him and let him do it. When we rest in him, he will renew and refresh us, giving us energy and boldness to go forth as we follow him.

Our articles begin with "Answering God's Call," in which I relate a recent experience of being called to speak to a group and how giving it to Jesus and trusting him was a success. In his article, "40 Years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal," Ron writes about our upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the booklet, "Bishops Speak to the Renewal." Next, in "Do What He Tells You," Mary Barclay recalls how our Blessed Mother instructed the waiters to do what Jesus said, and how we also should do as he says. Then we have a poem/reflection from Nita Neu and also some prophetic words. Finally, Kate Elliott writes about the laity's role as "Priest, Prophet, and King."

As we begin the new year, let us learn to rest in Jesus and trust his faithfulness as we obediently step out in faith.

Yours in Christ,  
Linda

# Answering God's Call

By Linda Daniel

I got it right this time! When my friend asked me to speak to her "Women at the Well" group, my spirit jumped for joy that Jesus was calling me to speak for him. I knew from the start that I would do this, but I didn't want to presume God's will, so I started praying about it. Very soon I had the title of my talk and several ideas floating around in my head. After a few weeks of prayer, I again talked to my friend and confirmed that I would speak.

As we talked, I asked her for details – when she would need me, what subject would they want, how long should the talk be? When she told me the talks usually lasted for 40 or 45 minutes, I felt a quaking inside. It's one thing to talk for 10 to 15 minutes, but quite another to talk 40 or 45! I still fearfully agreed and started praying harder. The ideas kept coming disjointedly. That didn't bother me because I had done a day of reflection in my parish years ago where Jesus gave me all the parts separately and unorganized. When I sat down to organize all my notes, which were on little pieces of paper, they all worked together into a beautiful outline.

When I asked Ron for prayers for this talk, he said, "That's easy. You jot down your ideas and give it to the Holy Spirit, and he'll speak through you."

I argued, "But that's not me! I don't talk that way."

When I sat down to write my talk, I prayed that it would be spontaneous and interesting. I didn't want to wind up reading it – which often happens with me. Then I started writing, and I filled six pages quickly. I had to set it aside for a day or two, and when I picked it up again and read it, I realized that it was dry and boring. There was no spark. So I prayed some more and cried, "Help!" God has such a sense of humor. He gave me a two-page **outline** and peace.

I was nervous at the beginning of the talk, but as it progressed I relaxed. The talk lasted over an hour, and at the end I received several compliments, so I know the Holy Spirit was speaking through me.

So, what was the talk about? Its theme was *we are the bride of Christ*, and it was titled, "Have You Met My Fiancée?" It was basically a sharing of incidents in my life to show how Jesus has courted me and how he is the perfect bridegroom. His gifts, his faithfulness and his healing were among the characteristics that were highlighted. I have written

about several of the incidents that illustrate these characteristics in previous issues of *The Trumpet*.

What did I learn from this experience? Too much to share it all, but here are a few highlights.

God coordinates everything when He is calling us. He will speak to us both internally and through others. For me one way He spoke was through my scripture study as I was preparing for this talk. Here are some lessons from my studies:

When we make excuses why we can't or don't hear, serve or follow Jesus, we are giving a negative witness and we hinder the action of the Holy Spirit. We need to rather put our faith into action and trust that the Holy Spirit will take us from our weakness to his victory. When we acknowledge our weakness and inability in humility before God and proclaim His greatness and ask for His action through us, we have the right formula for great and surprising things to happen. (*God's Word Today*. Bayard Publications. October 2006. Page 20.) "Every call implies leaving behind the security of the well known to take the risk of the unknown." (*God's Word Today*. Bayard Publications. November 2006. Page 12.) "The Spirit God has given us is no cowardly spirit, but rather one that makes us strong, loving, and wise." (2 Timothy 1:7) "In him who is the source of my strength I have strength for everything." (Philippians 4:13)†

## Morning Offering

O my God, I offer you this day,  
all I shall think or do or say,  
uniting it with what was done,  
on earth by Jesus Christ, your son.

Take my body, Jesus,  
eyes and ears and tongue.  
Never let them, Jesus,  
help to do you wrong.

Take my heart and fill it  
full of love for you.  
All I have I give you,  
give yourself to me.

*I prayed this morning offering when I  
was a child. I still know it by heart.*

**Nita Neu**

## 40 Years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal

February 18, 2007 marks the 40th anniversary of the charismatic renewal in the Catholic Church. Forty Years of grace! Has it made a difference in the spirituality of the Church? Is the Catholic Charismatic Renewal still alive, active and healthy in the Church today? Or was this powerful move of the Holy Spirit just for 40 years ago? Are we in our diocese being faithful to the call we have received to renew our personal lives and our parishes?

In October, 2005, a conference was organized in Minneapolis to address these very questions. Every bishop in the United States was sent a questionnaire and asked for their responses to three open-ended questions, and each bishop was personally invited to be a speaker at the conference. Expectedly, some could make it there and some could not. The responses of the bishops were published in a booklet titled "Bishops Speak to the Renewal." Below are excerpts from summaries of the bishops' comments published in that booklet, followed by the letter from our own bishop, Bishop Thomas G. Doran.

### ***From the booklet:***

"One of the encouraging aspects in reading these letters was the fact that a number of bishops have been personally involved in the Renewal and find it to be a great help to their spiritual life and ministry.

While each bishop highlighted issues based upon their experience and observations, several recommendations were mentioned a number of times.

1. **Youth:** Many bishops commented that the Renewal needs to find effective ways to pass on the fire of Pentecost to the next generation so that grace does not fade away due to the aging and death of current members of the Renewal. ...

2. **Support by the clergy:** Several bishops noted that the Renewal would be stronger if more priests and bishops were taking a greater interest in fostering the Renewal ...

3. **Training of leadership:** Bishops were concerned that Renewal leaders were not sufficiently formed in Catholic theology and practice so they advocated concerted efforts to provide a stronger foundation. ...

4. **Educational outreach to the Church:** Bishops thought that the Renewal would be an even stronger influence in the Church if Catholic charismatics found effective ways to get the message out through education and evangelization to both clergy and lay people. ..."

*(Bishops Speak to the Renewal, ©2005 Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office, Minneapolis, Minnesota)*

### ***Letter from Bishop Doran:***

Mr. Colin LaVergne  
2719 E. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55406-3061

Dear Mr. LaVergne:

I am gratified that the leadership in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal continues to seek direction and advice from the bishops and pastors in the Church, and I am particularly pleased to offer my comments to you in response to your questions regarding the charismatic renewal in the Diocese of Rockford.

It seems important to refer you to previous statements made by the USCCB, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin and our popes. You are, I am sure, aware that the Catholic bishops in the U.S published their comments in 1975 and again in 1984 in "A Statement on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, A statement of the Bishops' Liaison Committee with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal."

### **A. WHAT ARE ITS STRENGTHS?**

In our own diocese, I find that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal bears much fruit, just as described in those previous statements. Solid, dedicated prayer life, spiritual growth and the fruits of holiness are clearly evident. I see in our people, a love of the Mass, daily participation for many, and a distinct love of and dedication to the Holy Eucharist, reflected in part by significant amounts of time spent in Eucharistic Adoration Chapels. I also see a sincere love of Scripture, a dedication to the truth of the Gospel, devotion to the Virgin Mary and a strong desire to maintain ordered life-priorities to God, spouse, family and parish life.

1. They are solidly supportive of teachings of the Catholic Church, adhere to the guidance of the teaching Magisterium of the Church and are supportive of the Church teachings as set forth by the Second Vatican Council. The prayer groups in our diocese are solidly committed to the authority of their bishop and parish pastor. I find that individuals in those prayer groups have a deep desire to evangelize, to spread the gospel of Christ and the groups often provide conferences, retreats, and Days of Spiritual Renewal.

2. At my request and direction there is in our diocese, active participation between English-speaking and Spanish-speaking prayer groups. The Office of Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services in our diocese regularly sponsors bilingual Masses and bilingual days of spiritual renewal.

3. Those involved in the charismatic renewal in our diocese are known to provide generous financial support to diocesan, parish and national outreach organizations, and most, nearly 95%, serve regularly in their parishes and are deeply involved in parish life.

4. We have seen that the charismatic renewal has been a prominent influence in the call for many to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

### **B. WHAT ARE ITS WEAKNESSES?**

I am sad to say, there seem to be few resources within the prayer groups to provide ministry to youth. *(Continued 5)*

# “Do What He Tells You”

By Mary Barclay

Jesus' first miracle was at the wedding feast at Cana. We all know the story; the host ran out of wine, and the servants went to Mary for help. Mary turned to her son, and said “Son, they have no wine.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” (John 2:3-5) There were six jars that held twenty to thirty gallons of water, and Jesus told the servants to fill them with water, and instructed one of them to draw some out and take it to the headwaiter. The water had been turned into wine, and when the headwaiter tasted it, he commended the bridegroom for saving the best wine for last. (John 2:10-11)

Now Jesus, being divine as well as human, knew this was all going to happen, and he knew he would solve the problem as only he could. Another thought that entered my mind was, “Why did the servants go to Mary?” This is a thought to ponder. Did the Holy Spirit instruct the servants to go to Mary?

From what little I know from my own life experience of Jewish mothers, they dote on their children, making sure they are well fed, and have the best that money can buy, and expect no less than the best from them. I lived in a Jewish neighborhood in my early grammar school days, and went to school with Jewish teenagers in high school, and they would be upset and some would cry if they didn't have a perfect report card every semester. Perhaps Jewish children are taught not to refuse any requests from their parents. As children, we were taught by Catholic nuns to go to Mary in prayer with our requests, because Jesus cannot refuse anything his mother asks of Him.

We balk when God asks something of us. Our response at first may be, “Who Me?” “You've got to be kidding Lord,” “I can't be a Eucharistic Minister,” “I can't take Communion to the homebound,” “I'm not smart enough to teach a CCD class” – the excuses go on and on. Check out the prophets' excuses in the Old Testament.

When God calls us to a certain ministry, He uses our parish priest and members of our ministries to tell us, “Yes, you can, we can teach you how.” There are classes for all of these ministries, and all we need is to say, “Yes, Lord.” Jesus asks us to “Take up your cross and follow me.” Some of us are given unbearably heavy crosses, and others so small we hardly know they are there. There is a story I once read about a man who dreamed he was in a room full of crosses from very large ones down to the smallest one in the

room. The Lord came into the room, and the man asked Jesus what these crosses were doing in there. Jesus answered, “These are the crosses that are given to mankind.” The man then asked, “Can I change my cross to a smaller one?” Jesus answered, “Certainly, if yours is too heavy to bear.” The man chose the smallest cross in the room, and said, “I choose this one.” Jesus answered, “That's the one I gave you.” The story ends with the man waking up very humbled. He continued his life with his little cross and no complaints.

We just have to remember that Jesus is always there to help us bear our crosses. We get our strength from reception of Holy Communion. Just as he sent his angel to Elijah with a hearth cake and a jug of water for strength for his journey to Mt. Horeb (1Kings 19:4-8), he feeds us for our journey through this life and into the next.✠

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## 40 Years (*Continued*)

1. However, several of those who were previously actively involved in the prayer groups are now heading up youth ministry in our parishes. The Spanish-speaking prayer groups seem to do better at working with their youth than do the English-speaking groups.

2. I find that the numbers of participants in prayer groups has been declining through the years, and I suspect that is at least partially due to the high percentage of charismatics who are now actively involved in ministries in their parishes. Our people sometimes lack the time to be involved in all things and must make choices about where they devote their time.

3. Also sad to say, there are few of our priests who are actively involved in the charismatic renewal. That, I am sure, is at least partially due to their own lack of available time and heavy commitments in their parish assignments.

## C. HOW COULD THE IMPACT OF THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL IN THE CHURCH BE MORE EFFECTIVE?

My desire would be to provide additional, direct pastoral leadership by the priests in our diocese if they were available. It is not uncommon knowledge that the duties of our priests are numerous, so it is difficult for me as their bishop to assign additional tasks, such as direct involvement in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, to their already full load of assignments. I have no doubt that the charismatic renewal in our diocese could benefit greatly from their additional direct support.

With all good wishes for the success of your conference, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Thomas G. Doran, D.D.  
Bishop of Rockford

(*Continued Page 7*)

# Can You Hear Him?

From Nita Neu

*Shh – can you hear him? Be still and silent and listen.*

*I am his own. I am his beloved.  
I am the apple of his eye.*

*Your name, O Lord, is music to my ears.  
“My spirit sings the music of your name.”  
Lord God, you are the music in my life.  
You are the music in my heart;  
the tempo and the rhythm.  
O God, play your music in me.*

*Mountains immovable, set firmly in place.  
I will go up unto the mountain  
of the Lord.  
Jesus, my rock and my fortress.*

*There is a place where I can go ~  
where I am privileged to go ~ where it is  
only you and me together ~ an intimate  
place of praise, worship, and peace,  
where the longings of my heart are satisfied,  
and all is well, as I rest in your sweet,  
strong embrace.*

*My thankful heart leaps for joy  
and sings to you, my Lord and my God ~  
my friend, my lover, my savior and  
redeemer.*

*A place of light and truth,  
where everything is right and well. Your love for  
me feels good and warm and tender,  
and I bask in the light and love and warmth  
of your wonderful presence.*



*Let my love spill over all of you,  
my dear one.  
Bask in the radiance of who I am.  
Wear my love like a mantle upon you.  
Bask in the radiance of my presence.  
My presence is my gift of strength to you.  
Though the battle rages on outside of you,  
you will not be touched or harmed,  
for I am your God who cares for you,  
who protects you, and who loves you  
to the utmost.  
I would not say so, were it not true.*

*When you find no rhyme or reason for  
those things that perplex and confound you,  
know that I understand, and that is enough.  
Keep your eyes on me and trust me.*

*I am not the God who gives you a tiny  
speck of sunshine. No, indeed,  
I splash sunshine over all I have created.  
Soak up the sunshine, because all light  
is mine, says the Lord.*

*I visit you when you are asleep and when  
you are awake. Always my watchful eye is upon  
you ~ watching out for you, lest you dash your  
foot upon a stone.*

# **Priest, Prophet and King - The Laity's Role**

When we sing the first line of the song “Come and Worship,” we sing the words “Come and worship royal priesthood.” These words remind us of the exhortation in 1 Peter 2:9. “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.” (*New American Bible*) At our baptism we are incorporated into Christ, and share in his mission of priest, prophet, and king. The Code of Canon Law states: “Christ’s faithful are those who, since they are incorporated into Christ through baptism, are constituted the People of God. For this reason they participate in their own way in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ. They are called, each according to his or her particular condition, to exercise the mission which God entrusted to the Church to fulfill in the world.”

How can we as laity in the Church fulfill Christ’s mission in these three roles? We can do this by understanding the function each role performs in the Church and our part in it. “The priestly function is the sacred ministries of liturgy and the sacraments, ordinarily the duty of the clergy.” (*The Vocation and Mission of the Laity*. Rev. Jordan Aumann, OP) As baptized members of the Church, we too are called to exercise that priesthood. “Though they differ from one another in essence and not only in degree, the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood are nonetheless interrelated: each of them in its own special way is a participation in the one priesthood of Christ. The ministerial priest, by the sacred power he enjoys, teaches and rules the priestly people: acting in the person of Christ, he makes present the Eucharistic sacrifice, and offers it to God in the name of all the people. But the faithful, in virtue of their royal priesthood, join in the offering of the Eucharist. They likewise exercise that priesthood in receiving the sacraments, in prayer and thanksgiving, in the witness of a holy life, and by self-denial and active charity.” (*Lumen Gentium – Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*. Page 11) We can also perform this duty by being a blessing to others and respecting each of our brothers and sisters as made in the image of God.

“The prophetic function is the ministry of the word: preaching the Gospel, teaching sacred doctrine, public reading in the liturgy. (*The Vocation and Mission of the Laity*) We exercise this prophetic mission when we give witness to our faith and speak

out the truth despite the consequences. “The Holy People of God shares also in Christ’s prophetic office; it spreads abroad a living witness to Him, especially by means of a life of faith and charity and by offering to God a sacrifice of praise, the tribute of lips which give praise to His name.” (*Lumen Gentium*. Page 12)

“The kingly function pertains to government in the Church, which is primarily the responsibility of the hierarchy.” (*The Vocation and Mission of the Laity*) We also share in Christ’s kingly mission by being a vehicle of God’s love in the world. By our status as children of God and members of the Church we are responsible to make holy the world in which we live. This we know is a tall order and is not an easy task in our present-day society. But with the help and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the graces of the sacraments, and the ministry of the Church we shall prevail.

“In this way the Church both prays and labors in order that the entire world may become the people of God, the Body of the Lord and the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and that in Christ, the Head of all, all honor and glory may be rendered to the Creator and Father of the Universe.” (*Lumen Gentium*. Page 17)✠

**Kate Elliott, DRE**  
**Holy Spirit Church, Roscoe**

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## **40 Years (Continued)**

I believe the summaries of the bishops’ statements, coupled with the continuing support and encouragement of our last several popes, including Pope Benedict XVI, make it obvious that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal continues to be a prominent force in the ongoing renewal of the Catholic Church. And in our diocese, I believe the bishops’ responses should both challenge us and encourage us as we begin the new year of 2007 and the 40<sup>th</sup> year of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

We have already begun to plan 40<sup>th</sup>-year celebrations in our diocese. Watch for major diocesan events to occur, probably in April and September of this year. Resolve right now to participate, and bring a friend who may have once been active but who has not been able to attend for a while. Renewal is ongoing; Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church is a call from the Holy Spirit.

May 2007 be a holy, prosperous year for you.✠

Blessings,  
**Ron**

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**Catholic Charismatic Prayer Groups – Diocese of Rockford**

**AMBOY, IL**

\* St. Patrick Church  
 Sundays – 6:30 PM – (815-857-2264)

**AURORA, IL**

\* St. Rita Church  
 Mondays – 7:00 PM (630-466-4168)

\* Sacred Heart Church (Spanish)  
 Saturdays – 8:00 PM (630-898-0564)

\* St. Therese Church (Spanish)  
 Saturdays – 7:00-9:00 PM  
 (630-801-9822) (630-585-0438)

**CARPENTERSVILLE, IL**

\* St. Monica Church (Spanish)  
 Fridays – 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
 (224-210-8133)

**DEKALB, IL**

\* St. Mary Church  
 Wednesdays – 7:30 PM (815-756-3835)

\* St. Mary Church (Spanish)  
 Tuesdays – 7:00 PM (815-756-4125)

**ELGIN, IL**

\* St. Joseph Church (Spanish)  
 Wednesdays – 7:00 PM  
 (847-289-9280)

**FREEPORT, IL** (temporarily dormant)

**HUNTLEY, IL**

\* St. Mary Church  
 Wednesdays – 7:30 PM (847-669-6041)

**McHENRY, IL**

\* Church of Holy Apostles  
 Tuesdays – 7:30 PM  
 (815-363-2898)

\* Church of Holy Apostles  
 Magnificat Prayer Group  
 Thursdays – 9:30 AM (except summertime)  
 (815-363-5585)

**ROCKFORD, IL**

\* St. Bridget Church – Parish Center  
 Tuesdays – 7:30 PM  
 (815-654-8420)

\* SS. Peter & Paul Church (Spanish)  
 Saturdays – 7:00 PM  
 (815-316-8564)

**SANDWICH, IL**

\* St. Paul Church  
 Thursdays – 7:30 PM – Parish Center  
 (815-498-9623)

**ST CHARLES, IL**

\* Private Home  
 Most Sundays following 10:30 Mass  
 (630-584-9374)  
 (Call to confirm day and location)

**STERLING, IL**

\* St. Mary Church – Parish Center Chapel  
 Thursdays – 7:00 PM (815-625-0736)  
 (Call for summer schedule)

**Diocesan Healing Service**  
**Thursday, Jan 25, March 29, May 31,**  
**July 26, Sept 27 and Nov 29, 2007, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Cathedral of St. Peter, Fellowship Hall**  
**1243 N. Church St, Rockford**  
 Sacraments: reconciliation,  
 anointing of the sick & Eucharist  
**Information: 815-654-8420**

**Amazing Grace Conference**  
**February 16-18, 2006**  
 Detroit, Michigan, Cobo Hall  
 Information:  
[www.amazinggraceconference.com](http://www.amazinggraceconference.com)

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
**of the Charismatic Renewal**  
 Separate English and Spanish celebrations  
 being planned for **April**  
 Bilingual celebration in **September**  
**Watch future issues of *The Trumpet***  
**and our web site**  
<http://www.dpsrfd.org/CCRS.htm>  
**for more information**