



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

October/November/December 2008

IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

These are my children



Such is the kingdom of God

Lord, it is good for us to be here.

see Matt 17:4

The Trumpet

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YOUR OFFERING IS LOVE

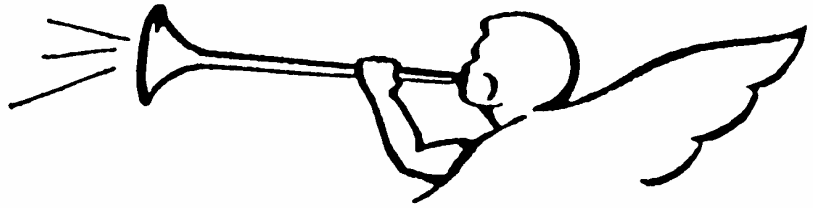
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Like shouting from the mountain tops let's ...
Blast forth that ...



JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ ...

One of the staff at our meeting to discern this issue had a vision of Jesus walking, surrounded by children. This person also heard the words, "These are my children," and "Such is the kingdom of God." Many of our sharings and prophecies seemed to center on Jesus as our light. Another staff member reported hearing at Mass that morning the words, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." Therefore, our cover brings all these elements together.

Our articles begin with "Tug of War," by Nita Neu in which she relates her thoughts, feelings and experiences as she observed a homeless man. Then, we have Ron's article, "The Holy Spirit Is Love ... and Love Heals," in which he relates an important facet of healing learned at the training for the developing diocesan healing ministry. Next, we have more "Reflections, Poems, and Prophecies" from Nita. In my article, "From the Trumpet Staff Meeting," I report in more detail the prophecies and reflections of our staff meeting. I also reported on "An Evening of Renewal & Healing." Finally, Kate Elliott looks at St. Paul and his theology in "St. Paul: 'Living in Christ.'" We hope that you are touched by the Spirit in some way as you read this issue.

This issue completes our offerings for 2008. We pray that you are blessed in the fall and Advent and have a Merry Christmas. The year has passed so quickly that I am reminded of Jesus' words "For the sake of the chosen, however, the days will be shortened." (Mt 24:22) I like to tell myself that the quickly passing time is a blessing. May it also be a blessing for you.

Watch for our next issue in January.

Yours in Christ,
Linda

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name "Linda".

Tug of War

By Nita Neu

Just before I left my house to get a haircut, which seemed like my biggest need this morning, the words “tug-of-war” came to mind. I did not know then the significance they would shortly take on. After I got my haircut, I stopped somewhere for breakfast.

I first spotted him and his bicycle in four lanes of busy traffic. He was quite a contrast to the people hurrying along in their cars. There was no room for him on the bike, for the bike carried two cardboard boxes and three garbage bags. He walked alongside the burdened bike, with his head looking down, and I thought what a labor it must be to walk a bike like that on such a warm day, with the sun beating down on him without mercy. It reminded me of your last walk, loaded down with a beam of wood across your back. I could not stop watching him.

I watched him as he maneuvered the bike off the busy street. I noticed the contrast between his white handkerchief and his black skin, as he wiped the sweat from his face. It reminded me that Veronica offered you a cloth to wipe your face, as you trudged along your hard way.

I watched him as he crossed the street and stopped at a gas station. No, a bicycle doesn't need gas – the gas station was completely boarded up, except for one board which was pushed in to allow him to slip in his two cardboard boxes. Then he left with the garbage bags still on the bike.

I want to help him. Should I give him a few dollars? I don't have much money with me. I keep watching him. I've never done anything like this before. For many years, we have been writing a check every month for a missionary group. But this is different. When I write a check, I don't feel my compassion like this; I don't feel so torn up inside.

I watch him turn into the shopping center in the opposite direction I will take to go home. I start my car, almost dismissing the whole idea, and then I'm not that sure that you aren't telling me to do this.

Then I consider the practical part of giving him the money. If I turn into the shopping center, he will be on the opposite side of the car. I still don't know if I will be able to obey you, but I take five dollar bills out of my purse and fold them over and slip them inside my Bible on the seat next to me, so at least the money will be handy if I stop.

He is farther across the shopping center by now than I would have expected. I stop behind him and try to toot my horn quietly, if that is possible, to get his attention. I motion to him, aware that he must turn his heavy bike around to hear me. I had been too

busy playing tug of war with you to give much thought to what I would say. I say to him, “I don't want to offend you, but can you use a few dollars?” As he takes the money into his hand, I hear myself ask, “Do you know Jesus?”

He answers me that he was saved years ago. I hope so. I hope he does know you and he isn't just thinking he will have to stand there and listen to me talk if he says “no.” I tell him I will pray for him. I hope maybe that will mean something to him, because I know I will be praying well beyond today for him. I wanted so much to give him more, to take him somewhere for a sandwich and a cup of coffee, bring him home with me.

Except for your disciple, John, and your mother, you died alone, fastened to a tree with spikes pounded into your hands and feet. Was there any resemblance at all to the crucifixes we have in our homes? Did your executioners carefully sand down the wood and stain it? You stained it with your precious blood. Did they readjust your crown of thorns to look nicer? Did they cover up all of your bruises? Did they clean up your wounds so as not to be so bloody?

Where were all those you loved and healed and taught, who screamed and shouted their love for you? Were they afraid to come and stand beneath your cross? Maybe they just didn't love you enough. I don't love you enough.

I saw perspiration and suffering on the face of the man with the bike, and I realize now that I was looking at you. †

Radiating Christ

Dear Jesus, help me to spread thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with thy spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of thine. Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus! Stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as thou shinest, so to shine as to be a light to others; the light, O Jesus, will be all from thee; none of it will be mine; it will be thou shining on others through me. Let me thus praise thee in the way thou doest love best by shining on those around me. Let me preach thee without preaching, not by words but by my example, by the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to thee. Amen.

~ Cardinal Newman

The Holy Spirit Is Love ... and Love Heals

Many are aware that we have been working with Father Robert Sears, SJ, for several months now to develop a diocesan healing ministry. Father Sears lives in the Chicago Archdiocese, but has agreed to assist us as we try to listen to the Holy Spirit and follow his direction for the ministry. This is a diocesan ministry being headed up by Msgr. Thomas Brady, Vicar General in the Diocese of Rockford and Spiritual Director for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He was directed by Bishop Thomas G. Doran to develop this ministry.

In a recent training session being presented by Father Sears, I was quite impressed by a comment he made regarding healing: "Healing implies a view of wholeness. Working from Jesus' revelation of God on the cross as the self-giving love of Father ... Son ... and Holy Spirit ... [we see] human wholeness as spiritual growth toward Trinitarian love." I don't pretend to understand the depth of that statement. And it gets a lot more "heady" than we need here. But I heard the part about wholeness, coupled with the "self-giving love of Father ... Son ... and Holy Spirit."

Msgr. Brady has taught for years on the fact that all relationships must be based upon love. Love IS the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit IS the love the Father and Son have for each other. This is what makes the Trinity complete and why we can know for sure that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are, in fact, one. That oneness, wholeness, is LOVE.

Father Sears spoke at length relating healing to nothing more than bringing the person into the wholeness, LOVE, of Jesus Christ. It's simple, God wants all of us completely whole, which means that he wants all of us to be completely encompassed in his LOVE, which is to say that He wants all of us to be encompassed in His Holy Spirit.

The better we understand that, the more we come to realize that we need more of the Holy Spirit alive in us. We need to know more about the Holy Spirit to more fully understand the love of Christ.

One of the areas he used as example involved a stage of healing that helps us to be "truly free." In this instance, he was speaking of spiritual or emotional healing. I don't intend to go into all of the details of that here, but many of us are bound up by not trusting ourselves enough as children of God, and certainly by not trusting enough in God. We need to be healed of those areas of mistrust so that we can be free to have that true Trinitarian love,

wholeness, which is the complete love of the Trinity. "Perfect love casts out all fear." (1 Jn 4:18)

If we could be healed to absolutely, totally trust that God has unconditional love for us, we could enter more fully into the LOVE of the Trinity. The result of that level of trust is that we would never be afraid to accept the responsibility for our actions, would never feel the need to *blame* ourselves or others for our failures, would never fail to fully realize that God loves us even in the midst of our sin. In other words, we would have a complete, true image of God as TOTAL LOVE and would be free of our false images of God which bind us up and prevent us from being free.

So our task, when we encounter this kind of a need for healing, is simply to bring that need into the love of God. We pray that the person will know God's unconditional love, that they are able to surrender every situation to His love, that they will be able to trust that God will completely take care of them and that they will allow Him to be in total control of their lives.

This seems quite simplistic and Father Sears certainly did not indicate that this is the sum total of what is involved in praying for healing. This is only one small area a healing ministry may encounter; we have been working with him for many months now, and are realizing every day that we have a long, long way to go to know how to help others be healed. But understanding that healing, wholeness, LOVE, is the target, we have begun to understand a key to healing. We don't need to be concerned about *how* God wants to heal, whether he wants to heal *now or later*, or even *whether or not* he wants to heal. He does! He wants us whole!

If we have love, we have compassion, and if we have compassion, that is an indication that we have love. It's that simple. We have all we need to pray for healing when we bring the person into the presence of God's love. They can then be healed to the extent that they have PERFECT LOVE and therefore have no fear, because they know beyond a shadow of a doubt that He has unconditional love for them, no matter what.

LOVE! All healing boils down to the unconditional love that God has for us. Father Sears' teaching was profound and enlightening, to say the least. †

**Blessings,
Ron**

Reflections, Poems and Prophecies

By Nita Neu

Trees

Fall's trees,
winds blowing so steadily
showing no mercy,
'til again the trees stand bare
of their leaves,
some seeming more reluctant
to let go of their leaves.
Branches alone remaining,
vulnerable, not just to the wind,
but to the cold and ice
and snow yet to come.

Winter's trees,
reminding me of times
I have felt weak, vulnerable,
cold inside from the pain,
Your strength and presence sustaining me
in times of difficulty,
helping me to go on in You.

Winter's trees,
can stand the elements of nature,
even though shaken,
strength coming from roots
deep in the ground.

Winter's trees,
promising hope,
another season to come,
spring coming year after year,
and then the glory as it is realized,
the warmth sure to come again,
the new life evident for all to see,
the triumph, the victory,
sustaining more hope and life,
another endless cycle.



Ring It Out

Christmas bells are ringing,
Heaven's Angels sweetly singing,
God's Gift of love
to the world is come!



Christmas bells peel out with Joy,
Announcing the Birth
of a Baby Boy.



The bells ring out loud and clear
once again Christmas is here!
The bells ring out loud and clear
announcing Good News
the Savior is here.

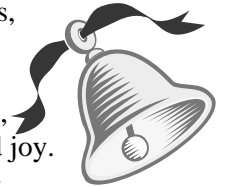
Precious little Baby ~
coming to a world of darkness
bringing all His wonderful Light
making our future bright.



**RING IT OUT ~
J E S U S is born!**

setting free the captives,
the lost, the forlorn.

Such a wondrous Baby Boy,
born to bring us peace and joy.
Such a special Baby is He ~
Savior for the world to see.



Bask in the sunlight, my children, for I have made you to belong to the light. You are children of the light, and I am your light. I am light and truth and beauty, and all you see around you was created by my hand.

I want for you to share my light with everyone. If I am in you, there is light in you, and you must share it in an ever-darkening world. Wherever you see darkness, don't be afraid to share light, for I am with you 'til the end. I send you like lambs among wolves to stamp out darkness.

I rejoice in you, my children, and I rejoice in all the hearts and places where my love and light are welcomed. The reason I came, and the reason I still come, is to overcome the darkness. Happily share my light amongst you and around you. Enjoy my light, little ones.



From the Trumpet Staff Meeting

By Linda Daniel

When our Trumpet staff met to pray for this issue of *The Trumpet*, we had a wide array of thoughts and reflections, and we also received several prophecies. I believe some of this was meant for us to share. Therefore, what I present here is a partial transcription of that meeting –

These words were going through my mind at Mass this morning, “Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world,” and “I have many rooms in my house.”

Stop and listen to the Lord. He is with us always, even if we are not listening. We pray and pray and pray, but never stop to listen. Don’t we expect the Lord to speak?

There are two kingdoms, a kingdom of light and a kingdom of darkness.

There is light for you my children. There is light abundantly. I have given you this light. I have given you my very life. I sacrificed my life for you on a cross. Because of my death, you need not be part of the darkness for you will always be part of me. You will be part of the light my child.

I hear the Lord asking, “Will you go where I go? Are you willing to go where I send you? Are you willing to go in good times and bad times, when it’s convenient and when it’s inconvenient? Are you willing to go when it costs you something? Are you willing to go when you feel my power and my love?”

On the drive here the Lord pointed my attention to two trees along the side of the road. They both looked as dead as dead could be. They weren’t really big trees, but there had been life in them at one time. They grew to just a certain height and then they died for whatever reason. I think the Lord wants us to be light to some of the hurting people in our individual lives. It’s not going to hurt us to extend our hand, extend a little love to those who are experiencing some form of death in their lives.

Be children of my light. I have raised you in my light and I have called you to be my light to the nations.

O ye of little faith, the kingdom is yours. Do you not realize that the kingdom is yours, and as you share my light the kingdom grows larger?

It was at the transfiguration that the Apostles said, “Lord, it is good for us to be here.” Because he died and rose and has given us his Spirit, we can always say, “Lord, it is good for us to be here,” because there is no place where he is not. †

An Evening of Renewal & Healing

By Linda Daniel

“Ask, and you will receive. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you. For the one who asks, receives. The one who seeks, finds. The one who knocks, enters. Would one of you hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf, or a poisonous snake when he asks for a fish? If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to anyone who asks him!” (Mt 7:7-11)

Without a vision my people perish (see Pr 29:18). Do you have a vision? Catholic lay evangelist Bill Richart began with this question. He said we need a vision, a goal, to help us persevere. We should begin each day praying, “Lord, what is my vision for today?”

A gifted musician and song leader, Richart then led about 125 people attending in praise and worship. The songs blended smoothly from enthusiastic praise to serene worship. As the worship went deeper and then went quiet, Richart led the group to pray for a new release of the Holy Spirit. Then he called out those who felt the touch of the Spirit to go around the group and pray for others who had need of prayer.

A spirit of peace and joy encompassed the evening and we knew we had been touched in a new way by God. A sense of the presence of God accompanied us as we returned home. †

An Act of Consecration To the Holy Spirit

O Holy Spirit, divine Spirit of light and love, I consecrate to you my understanding, my heart and my will, my whole being for time and for eternity.

May my understanding be always submissive to your heavenly inspirations and to the teachings of the holy Catholic Church, of which you are the infallible guide.

May my heart be ever inflamed with love of God and of my neighbor; may my will be ever conformed to the divine will, and may my whole life be a faithful imitation of the life and virtues of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom with the Father and you, Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

St. Pius X
June 5, 1908

St. Paul: “Living in Christ”

Pope Benedict has announced that the Church will be celebrating the 2000th anniversary of the birth of St. Paul. This special jubilee year, which began on June 28, 2008, will go until June 29, 2009. Most of us are familiar with this great saint from reading his epistles in sacred Scripture and hearing them at Mass. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians is widely used at Life-in-the-Spirit seminars because it contains a list of the spiritual gifts and the beautiful passage on the greatest gift of all – love.

After Paul’s dramatic conversion, he preached and wrote of his own experience as a sinner who was saved by faith in Jesus Christ. St. Paul’s epistles, or letters, fourteen in all, were written as instructions in the faith to the churches he had visited. Paul’s theology is “based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and cover[s] five areas: 1) Christ our Hope; 2) Life in Christ; 3) Salvation through Christ; 4) The Lordship of Christ; 5) Loyalty to Christ.” (*Jesus Christ, Mary and the Grace of God*, Lesson 13, Rev. Christopher M. Buckner)

1. Christ our Hope. In the two letters to the Thessalonians, Paul writes that our hope is in Jesus and our destiny is to be with him in heaven. “For God did not destine us for wrath, but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live together with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do.” (1 Thes 5:9-11, *New American Bible*)

2. Life in Christ. This is found in the letters to the Philippians and the two letters to the Corinthians. These churches had fallen into the sin of pride and were fighting among themselves. St. Paul tells the church that they are to conduct themselves differently now that they know Jesus and his teachings. “Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh; even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him so no longer. So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” (2 Cor 5:16-17 NAB)

3. Salvation through Christ. “Saint Paul’s doctrine of salvation is at the heart of the Church’s teaching on Redemption. His epistle to the Romans contains the most beautiful and forceful summary of man’s condition in the world and his need for Christ.” (Buckner, Lesson 13) St. Paul knew from his own experience about man’s fallen nature and his need for a savior. “But God proves His love for us in

that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8 NAB)

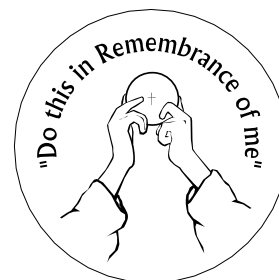
4. The Lordship of Christ. In Paul’s epistle to the Colossians and Ephesians, he establishes Jesus as Lord of all. “St. Paul placed Christ where revelation places him, as Ruler of the universe. With Christ as the ruler, the whole universe was the fullness of Christianity – thus the title Christ the King.” (Buckner, Lesson 13) “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible ... He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Col 1:15-16, 17 NAB)

5. Loyalty to Christ. In all things St. Paul was loyal to Christ. In Timothy he states, “But you, remain faithful to what you have learned and believed because you know from whom you learned it, and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Tim 3:14-15 NAB) Paul encourages Timothy and Titus to reject false teachers and remain loyal to Christ and be obedient to his teachings.

In this year of St. Paul let us take time to read and meditate on some of his letters we are familiar with and on some we may not have read for a while. And as we read and reflect we might want to ask ourselves this question, “Does Jesus Christ mean as much to me as he meant to St. Paul?”✠

Kate Elliott, DRE
Holy Spirit Church, Roscoe

Pray for our priests



Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services
 Diocese of Rockford
 1910 Bracknel Blvd
 Rockford, IL 61103

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

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 (Ministry Center in Room 6)
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AMBOY, IL

*St. Patrick Church
 Sundays – 6:30 p.m.
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AURORA, IL

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

* Sacred Heart Church (Spanish)
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 (630-550-2725)

* St. Therese Church (Spanish)
 Saturdays – 7:00-9:00 p.m.
 (630-264-6908)

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*St. Monica Church (Spanish)
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 (815-756-4125)

ELGIN, IL

* St. Joseph Church (Spanish)
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 (847-289-9280)

FREEPORT, IL

*St. Joseph Church basement
 Thursdays – 7:00 p.m.
 (815-238-6672)

HARVARD, IL

*St. Joseph Church (Spanish)
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 (815-943-6654)

HUNTLEY, IL

* St. Mary Church
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 (847-669-6041)

McHENRY, IL

* Church of Holy Apostles
 Magnificat Prayer Group
 Thursdays – 9:30 a.m.
 (except summertime)
 (815-943-8564)

McHENRY, IL

* Holy Apostles, O'Neill Chapel
 Tuesdays – 7:30 p.m.
 (815-385-LORD (5673))

ROCKFORD, IL

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

*SS. Peter & Paul Church (Spanish)
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 (815-316-8564)

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 (Call for summer schedule)

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Diocesan Healing Services
 Dec. 4, 2008, Jan 29, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
 Cathedral of St. Peter Fellowship Hall
 1243 N. Church St, Rockford, IL
 Information: 815-654-8420

National Leaders Conference
 "A Future Full of Hope"
Nov. 14-16, Nashville, Tenn.
<http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org>

A Day of Renewal
for Leadership Development
 Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008
 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 St. Bridget Parish Center, Rockford, IL
Speakers: Msgr. Thomas Brady, Fr. Chris Kuhn, Fr. Burt Absalon, Ron Bergman
Information: 815-654-8420