



The Charismatic Renewal

1 Corinthians 14:26 RSV

26 What then, brethren? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

Definition of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR):

The Charismatic Renewal is an approved movement of God within the Catholic Church.

The movement focuses on leading people to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, using the charismatic gifts of the Spirit and evangelization.

History of the Renewal

The history of the Charismatic Renewal is the beginning of the Catholic Church on the day of Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes called the “Catholic Pentecostal Movement” since the movement is focused on believers experiencing Pentecost just as the Apostles did.

At the first session of the Vatican II Council, Pope John XXIII prayed for a “New Pentecost” to fall upon the Church.

On February 16-17 in 1967 a group of faculty members and students at Duquesne University, PA gathered for a retreat to pray for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. What these young adults experienced quickly spread to Notre Dame University and Michigan State University. It is now a Movement that has reached every corner of the earth and is the fastest growing movement in human history. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) has been supported and encouraged by Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI.



Hallmarks of the Renewal

The hallmarks of the Renewal are: a deep personal relationship with each member of the Trinity; a love to enter into praising and worshiping God; great hunger for the Word of God accompanied by a new gift of understanding the Word; use of the charismatic gifts of the Spirit, especially the gift of tongues; new love for the Mother of God and the saints; greater involvement and service in the life of the Church, and a hunger for souls to know Christ.

Life in the Spirit Seminar

At the heart of the Renewal is the promotion of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit where believers experience their own, personal Pentecost. The main tool for the spread of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit has been a Seven Week course entitled “*The Life in the Spirit Seminar*” (LSS). At LSS believers experience praise and worship music, receive a biblically based teaching on (topics for each week):

- 1) God’s love
- 2) Salvation
- 3) New Life
- 4) Receiving God’s Gift
- 5) Empowerment
- 6) Growth
- 7) Transformation.

The teaching is followed by a witness of how a believer has experienced this truth in their life. The group then breaks into small groups to discuss the topic and sharing based on the assigned daily readings which participants are given to help them further grow in the weeks topic.

Prayer Meetings

The main expression of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is the Prayer Meeting. A Prayer Meeting is usually a weekly gathering which starts with praise and worship music, a time of thanksgiving, sharing from what believers have found in the Word through out the week, quiet listening for words of prophecy, a teaching, concluding with prayers of intercession. There is also usually a time for people to be prayed over.

Pope John Paul II

"Thanks to the Charismatic Movement, a multitude of Christians, men and women, young people and adults have rediscovered Pentecost as a living reality in their daily lives. I hope that the spirituality of Pentecost will spread in the Church as a renewed incentive to prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation." May 29, 2004

Pope Benedict XVI

"...and the Charismatic Renewal ...I think this is a sign of the Springtime and of the presence of the Holy Spirit, today will give new charisms and so on. This is for me really a great hope that not with organization from authorities, but really it is the force of the Holy Spirit present in the people."

Further Reading:

A Key to the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church by Monsignor Vincent Walsh. Go to www.BrendanCase.com and click on the tab "Tools for Growth" and scroll to the bottom of this page.

An Introduction to Catholic Charismatic Renewal by John & Therese Boucher

Hearts Aflame: The Holy Spirit at the Heart of Christian Life Today by Alan Schreck

<http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net>

<http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/>

Personal Reflection

What were your thoughts about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal before you read this?

What do you find most interesting about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal?

How do you think your life would change if you attended a Life in the Spirit Seminar?

How do you think that attending a Prayer Meeting would benefit your life?



Written by Brendan Case, nationally known, dynamic preacher of God's Word who moves in the gifts of prophetic and healing.

Visit: www.BrendanCase.com PO Box 1976 Lakeside, AZ 85929 Saintmaker@cox.net 480.313.3990