



B.C. Charismatic

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services of B.C. newsletter Spring 2022

Gathering again!

Fr. Peter Sanders to speak at Kelowna Gathering in the Spirit

Father Peter Sanders of California will be the headline speaker Aug. 7-12 when the annual Gathering in the Spirit returns to Kelowna as a face-to-face event after two years on Zoom.

Theme is The Light of God's Glory for the 14th annual gathering, to take place at St. Charles Garnier Church and Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer. The week-long event is sponsored by Nelson Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services and endorsed by Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services of B.C.

Father Sanders' talks will also be posted on video on the NDCCRS website. If new covid restrictions keep the gathering from going ahead as planned, the entire event will be moved to Zoom.

The gathering will also feature evening prayer events, a healing Mass, and daily morning Mass and rosary. Diocesan covid protocols will be followed.

Father Sanders is director of New Pentecost Catholic Ministries of Monterey, Calif., founded in 2004 under the auspices of the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri. The centre ministers worldwide in evangelization, teaching, retreats, healing, and personal ministry. He has been guest speaker at Nelson diocesan conferences in Penticton and Cranbrook as well as Vancouver archdiocesan conferences.

"I have used Fr. Peter's articles on the Holy Spirit as teaching material for our prayer group

meetings as well as for my own enrichment," says Maria McManus, co-coordinator for the gathering. "Many times, Fr. Peter has been discerned as a possible speaker for the Gathering in the Spirit, but his travels to South America, Central America and Africa have conflicted with it.

"I am very excited Fr. Peter will be bringing his many gifts of the Holy Spirit to share with all those who will be participating this year in our 14th Gathering in the Spirit. I am looking forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones."

Lynne Williams is coordinator for the gathering, with Roy MacIntyre in charge of music, Fr. Obi Ibekwe of evening prayer events, Loree Renwick after-talk sessions, Maureen Watson and Marcia Lawrence word gift ministry, Bev MacIntyre prayer room, and Flo Reid intercessory prayer. Gladys Miller and Richard Dunstan will share duties as MC.

Cost is \$500 including accommodation and meals until June 17, \$550 after that date. Commuter rate is \$275 before June 17, \$350 afterward. To register, contact Maria McManus, 250-707-1423, untamedspirit@telus.net. More information will be available on the Nelson committee website, www.holyspiritbaptizer.com/gathering-in-the-spirit, or from Lynne Williams, 250-489-1702, lynnedwilliams50@hotmail.com.

—Richard Dunstan

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CHARIS Canada coming closer

Canada continues to move forward on the creation of a new national body for the Catholic charismatic renewal, as the national conference of bishops prepares to review interim statutes drafted over the past two months by national English- and French-speaking charismatic leaders.

The statutes will provide a structure for a “national service of communion” as required under CHARIS, the worldwide charismatic body created by Pope Francis in 2019.

The Pope’s CHARIS initiative united two pre-existing charismatic organizations and is intended to bring together all “expressions and realities” of the renewal—not only prayer groups and covenant communities but networks, schools of evangelization, youth ministries, publishing houses, religious institutes, ecumenical initiatives, and any other group or ministry that identifies itself as charismatic and wishes to be associated with CHARIS.

The term “service of communion” is used because the bodies formed under CHARIS are not governing bodies, but will offer service, communication, and fellowship. All charismatic groups and organizations will remain under the authority of their bishops or other Church officials rather than under CHARIS.

Services of communion already exist at the international and continental level, and are currently being formed at the national level. There will also be four regional services of communion in Canada, to be formed at a later date.

Brian Sullivan, chair of Catholic Renewal Services of Canada—the English-speaking wing of the renewal—said the statutes were drawn up at the request of the bishops of Canada and will now be presented to the bishops through Archbishop Gérard Pettipas of Grouard-McLennan in Alberta, chair of the CCCB’s standing committee on relations with Catholic associations and movements.

While the bishops discern their role in the national service of communion, charismatic leaders will organize a national meeting of diocesan charismatic representatives to bring them up to date about CHARIS and begin identifying the expressions and

realities in each diocese. It is hoped to hold this meeting in the fall.

Representatives of the expressions and realities will then be invited to a national general assembly.

Under the statutes, four regional services of communion will be formed, for the Atlantic provinces, Québec, Ontario, and Western Canada. After that, a co-ordinating team will be elected to direct the day-to-day work of the national service of communion.

The statutes also call for the current 12 English- and French-speaking charismatic leaders who drafted the document to add additional representatives of charismatic realities and other ethnic groups to bring the total on the national communion of service to 15 to 20. The service of communion will elect a national co-ordinator, for a three-year term, alternating between Anglophones and Francophones. The co-ordinator and all other office holders will serve as volunteers.

“As I reflect on how the process is going for the formation of the CHARIS National Service of Communion for Canada, I am filled with gratitude,” Sullivan said. “First because of the support and enthusiasm of the bishops who are helping us make this a reality; and secondly because of the openness and genuineness of the Francophone committee we have been working with. The Holy Spirit brings unity and we have experienced that throughout the process.

“My hope in the establishment of a service of communion for Canada is that it will support in tangible ways the Church’s call to mission, particularly for the New Evangelization. We know that the Holy Spirit is the principal agent of evangelization, without whom we labour in vain.

“Helping the Church to understand the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and in each of our lives in particular, and assisting the Church to understand and use the charisms the Holy Spirit never ceases to give, will go a long way in making our evangelization efforts more effective and successful for the building up of his kingdom here on earth.”

—Richard Dunstan

...we know Who brings tomorrow

How to find a prayer meeting during a pandemic

At this writing, close to 20 Catholic charismatic prayer groups in B.C., or around 40 per cent of the total, have resumed face to face meetings as COVID-19 restrictions have wound down. A substantial number of others have continued or resumed meeting on Zoom or other online platforms.

Unfortunately, “at this writing” is the key phrase in that paragraph. Covid, in a milder form but more contagious than ever, is still stubbornly on the march across our province and around the world more than two years into the global pandemic.

Here in B.C., public health officials have increasingly been leaving the responsibility for covid risk management up to organizations and individuals. Prayer groups have made their own decisions, within protocols established by their bishops, and those decisions are now face to face with an official “sixth wave” of covid. On the good side, covid waves have been breaking quickly of late, so the latest bad news could mean good news is on the horizon. And then again...

All of which means that a definitive list of which prayer groups are meeting in person, by Zoom, or not at all would most likely have an extremely short shelf life, especially as we return to a print newsletter.

So the best we can do is offer some tools for anyone who wants to check out the availability of

Join BC Charismatic on our Facebook page; visit our website

The BC Charismatic Facebook page is designed to offer communication, fellowship, and inspiration for charismatic Catholics, especially in this time of pandemic.

To see the page: If you are already a Facebook member (or if you join Facebook), you can find the page here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bccharismatic>. A search for “BC Charismatic” on the Facebook site will also find it. The page is visible to any Facebook member, so you will be able to read whatever is posted on the page.

To join the page: If you would like to join the group and take an active role on the page, you can make a request to join via the button on the page, and we will accept your request as soon as we see it.

We welcome posts of edifying or inspiring material that is consistent with Catholic teaching, with Christian charity, and with godly prudence. This includes information on charismatic or other Church events, and inspiring teachings. (No politics, please!)

We also have a website: bccharismatic.ca. Roy MacIntyre of the Nelson diocese is webmaster.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services of B.C.

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If a shepherd loses 97 sheep...

Facing our post-pandemic challenge

By PINO SCAFURO
CHARIS Moderator
(translated by Paolo Zanna)

Humanity has experienced a second difficult year in 2021. The pandemic is an event which hardly anyone would have predicted and on which it was necessary to improvise to find ways to face up to it. Neither the Church, nor CHARIS, at the service of the CCR, imagined that.

In particular, the Church, the community, the group we left in 2019 is not going to be the same in 2022.

For many months the places where one could gather in public were closed and the meetings in church were among the activities most affected. It is a true challenge to keep up community relationships for such a long period of time without face-to-face meetings, especially in our current of grace where bonds, physical contact, proximity and joyful community celebrations are at the centre of our meetings.

For those who had access to the Internet, that enabled the communities wanting to pray to continue to work. Statistics show how, in such cases, most of the groups have survived. Besides, thanks to the convenience of virtual networks, group members were able to join other people, even in other dioceses or other countries.

Some groups have been put on hold, others have ceased to exist, some people have stopped attending group meetings – having moved online – or have stopped going to church in general. Many people have quit their faith, others have embarked on a self-taught spirituality led by their own needs, drawing on different sources. Most people are still believers, yet without a

community that faith can lose its sense of direction and end up being lost.

A community holds, supports, heals, helps, leads and it is the place designed by God for people's most accomplished lives.

In many a situation, the Church looks like a large railway station which stands kilometres apart from the tracks. Is it because the station moved away from the tracks, the tracks from the station, or a bit of both? In every situation, we need to bring the Church closer to the tracks, closer to life, closer to where and how people are.

In general, in Western countries, only three per cent of people calling themselves Christians attend Church services on a regular basis. It is as if Jesus' parable, adapted to the present situation, said: if one of you had 100 sheep and 97 of them are lost, would he not leave the three and leave in search for the other 97? It sounds strong, doesn't it?

We need to go after the people that seek God or are not aware of how much they need Him. Pope Francis' insistence on the *Church reaching out* makes more sense now.

There is a huge amount of work to do and equally huge is the world's need to hear the Good News being proclaimed to bring hope to the world. For years Pope Francis has been preparing us for this epic moment, by insisting on our call to "share with everyone in the Church the richness of the baptism in the Holy Spirit."

What God has done for us by giving us the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not meant for us to hold on to it but to share it to turn exhaustion into strength and despair into faith.

—CHARIS Magazine, December 2021

For international charismatic news: CHARIS Magazine

CHARIS Magazine, a publication of CHARIS international service of communion for the Catholic charismatic renewal, is published monthly and is now available free on the CHARIS website, <http://www.charis.international/en/> along with a great deal of other material. Articles from the latest edition are on the right partway down the home page, and previous issues are available under "magazine" at the top of the home page.

Holy Spirit, breath of life

By ROY MacINTYRE

In the Old Testament we find two words that illuminate the Spirit as Creator. In Genesis 1 we read. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... which was without form and void. And the Spirit of God was hovering..." The word in Genesis here for Spirit is *Rûah**, a mighty Wind or a storm-Wind. The implication is of a powerful force.

The second word for the Creator Spirit is found in the creation of the first human being. In Genesis 2 we read, "the LORD God formed man from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the Breath of Life". Breath, here in Hebrew is the word *Nišmat** (neshmat) in the Greek text translated as *Pneuma* which is breath or spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Breath of Life, the Breath of God breathed into the man to give life. The implications here are gentleness as in 1Kings 19:12 where Elijah recognizes God in the still quiet voice or whisper*.

In the New Testament we also have the sense of the word *Rûah*, a mighty wind. In the Acts of the Apostles we read, "When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all gathered in one place. Suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind." The Greek word for wind here is *pnoe* and is phonetically similar to the word Spirit, *Pneuma*. The passage goes on to say they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit as a Mighty Wind, a powerful force, is what Jesus promised in Acts 1:8, "you will receive power from on high."

A second New Testament passage is more related to *Nišmat*, the Breath of God. This occurs in the Gospel of John after the resurrection, when Jesus appears to His disciples in the upper room. He breathes on them and says, "receive the Holy Spirit". John uses the same verb from the Greek Old Testament (the Septuagint) as Genesis 2:7, He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.

I would like to point out one thing about each of these events: void or emptiness. In the beginning there was a void, nothing, and God created. In the man formed from the earth there was no life and God breathed into

him the breath of life. In the New Testament, the apostles in the upper room after the crucifixion were empty, in grief at the death of Jesus. And at Pentecost they were also empty with the loss of Jesus, who had ascended into heaven.

All this emptiness is reminiscent of Jesus Himself, who, as the Eternal Word of God, emptied Himself to become a man (Philippians 2:7). And as a man emptied, in a sense, of His godly powers, He relied on guidance from the Father, doing only what the Father directed. He was also filled with the Holy Spirit after being baptised by John in the Jordan.

Mary too was empty. Her humility was so profound that she was completely empty of self, which allowed her to be filled with God, the Creator Spirit who formed the God-man in her womb.

So, my invitation to you and to myself is to find ways to empty ourselves of self and all the clutter and cares of the world so that we can be filled with the Breath of God and even the mighty Wind of God. This will allow the Creator Spirit to accomplish His amazing work in us. Work that is always new, creative and that will surprise us.

Let us pray:

Holy Spirit, Lord of life, come into our hearts as the gentle Breath of God. Empty us of our own intentions and the cares of the world. Give us life and wholeness. And when necessary, be a Mighty Wind to move us in Your power to accomplish Your work and be witnesses to the Truth of Jesus Christ. Bless our four sessions on You as the Mighty Wind and the Breath of God. Thank You Holy Spirit.

* Jerome Biblical Commentary 1968

(Editor's note: Roy MacIntyre's talk was delivered as an introduction to sessions on the Holy Spirit presented at Nelson diocesan Zoom prayer meetings.)

PROPHETIC WORDS FROM NELSON PRAYER MEETING

(Recent prophetic words from the Nelson diocesan word gift ministry, delivered at the weekly Zoom prayer meeting. See also Pages 3 and 5.)

I had an image of Jesus holding out his hand to us like a parent does when they put out their hand and keep walking expecting the child to catch up. That's how I saw Jesus, and it came to me that if we don't take His hand we might be left behind, but if we take His hand and walk with Him we are safe in his protection.

An image came to me of us being the clay and Jesus being the potter. The clay (or us) was on the potter's wheel and He was working the clay but as the vessel was being formed there was a squirming in the vessel and the potter took the clay off the wheel and threw it back, starting over again. In Jeremiah it says the vessel he was making was spoiled in the potter's hands and he reworked it into another vessel that seemed good to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me saying "can I not do with you, O house of Israel, as the potter has done?" I felt that we need to know that God's promises are real and our confidence needs to be in what He's doing, not what we think He should be doing.

The reshaping of the clay should make us think about reconciliation, forgiveness and surrender.

"For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty saviour. He will take delight in you with gladness. With His love, He will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs." Zephaniah 3:17 NLT

Prayer image: I saw a glowing figure; feeding someone with their right hand and in their left hand a shepherd's staff; I had the word, "Feed my sheep"

Prayer image: A very fast-flowing river; flowing like the "River of Life" flowing through us.

Confirmation: "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the Tree of Life with its twelve kinds of fruits;

producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." Revelation 22:1-2

"On that day living water shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter and the LORD will become King over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and His name one." Zechariah 14:8-9

"Let anyone who is thirsty come, and let the one who believes in Me drink; as the scripture has said, "out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." John 7:37-38

Jesus said, "I do as the Father has commanded Me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way." John 14:31 I felt like the LORD was saying, "This is not a time to delay; get up, let's be on our way. Do all that the Father is commanding us to do."

"I want you to rely on Me. From day to day and moment to moment. I'm a jealous God and I want your attention. There are others who can do other positions but only you can complete the tasks that I have given you. It is important that you be available when I call upon you; this is a crucial time coming up and I want your availability. Be ready with your wicks trimmed and your lamps filled with oil, for the Bridegroom's arrival is imminent."

Our part in this battle is to praise and give glory to Jesus because this battle belongs to Him!

Prayer image: A brilliant sunrise; the rest of the sky was dark. The sunrise was an assortment of gold and yellowish colours and the words that came to me were, "New every morning are God's mercy and grace. God's glory shines upon us; it is the same glory that shone upon Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane in the midst of His anguish where He shed drops of blood. It's the same glory because His desire was to do God's will."

Prophecy: "Remove your cloak of sorrow and see that I cover you in my peace. Watch your despair float away; it isn't yours to carry."

Prophecy and prayer image: "I am raising up a holy army to pray for My people as your
(continued on Page 7)

PROPHETIC WORDS FROM NELSON PRAYER MEETING

(Continued from Page 6)

mother Mary and all the saints in heaven are praying for you. I require holy soldiers, people called by My name, Who humble themselves, pray, seek My face and turn from all wicked ways." I see an image of a person kneeling and above and over them is a wide, thick, stream of pure, cleansing, living water flowing upon them from a large clay jar. The water is flowing outside, over their skin and also inside soaking every part of them; in and out. As it flows it purifies and removes all elements of darkness, illness, anguish, anger, despair, hopelessness, helplessness and much, much more. The water glows with the light of Christ and pours into their heart and I am able to see its glow. The Lord says, "You are the person in the image, you are called to be a foot soldier in the army, you are being cleansed and made pure; I am planting courage in your heart and right words in your mouth so that the same grace I have bestowed on you today will be bestowed on others. March forth so that others may believe and receive as you have believed and received. Pray in the Spirit and speak My truth boldly; share the greatness of My love and mercy. Call upon My Living Water to dispel the darkness that surrounds them. Raise your hands in praise and thanksgiving in the light of My glory, for My love and mercy is being poured out today for the Salvation of all people. March forth and do your part! Let your light shine!

The tribes of Judah went up with a shout! And the LORD always sent the tribe of Judah in first because they went up with a shout and they were the tribe that praised. Those were singers and they led with praise; even when they entered the Promised Land they went first. Praise and give glory to God.

Give the Lord a shout! Shout the name of Jesus!!!

"They made kings but not through Me, they set up princes but without My knowledge; with their silver and gold they make idols for their own destruction." Hosea 8: 4 "You see child, I'm your deliverer; no man can give you the security you need, for I am your God and you are My child. I set my

people free and choose those to lay bare what is exposed so that My peace covers you."

Prayer image: I saw this clay vessel that was very plain, with no designs on it. It was set in a place of honor where everybody in the house could see it. And I heard the Lord saying: "I am in that earthen vessel, that plain, clay vessel so that all who see what is done will know that it is Me."

I'm struck again by the hand of Jesus the Father reaching out to us; we've been given that image many times over the last couple of weeks in different settings and I feel like the Lord is saying: That there are some here that have no sense of that intimacy, of a Father who would take your hand like a small child, protect you, to lead you, to keep you safe. He is *not* a faraway God...That God is reaching out His hand and saying take my hand and come with Me.

"I saw a beautiful image of a path and someone was walking on it with someone else. But far into the dark forest, if you turned off the path, Jesus was sitting on a rock with the little lambs by Him, and He looked up at that person and He said, "Come," but the trees were really dark and it wasn't on the path, so they were hesitating to go into the bush where the trees are to see where Jesus was. But He's still there waiting for them."

I had a great sense of the Lord waiting for us at the river. When we got to the river he took our hands and said come sit with Me. Let us examine your heart together. I want to look into your heart with you to see what we shall find there. And then He invites us to come into the river and be cleansed. He sees what needs to be cleansed, but also sees the beauty within each of us, and He says, I am pouring clean water over you, I am making you whole. I am going to put out My mercy and My grace upon My people, and I need you to respond fully. I have looked upon you and I have gifted you for just such a time as this. Remember that My grace is sufficient always.

Charismatic family may be beatified

By JEAN-LUC MOENS
 Emmanuel Community
 (translated by Paolo Zanna)

September 23rd 2021 marked the end of the diocesan phase of the process of beatification of a family murdered at the outset of the terrible events of the 1990s in Rwanda: the Rugambas.

Cyprien Rugamba was a great Rwandan intellectual, poet, author, composer, born in 1935. He entered the seminary in 1954 but left it in 1959, having lost his faith after reading the works of existentialist philosophers.

Cyprien was appointed director of the National Institute of Scientific Research (INRS) in Butare. He became one of the greatest specialists of the Rwandan language, Kinyarwanda. He studied the culture of his country, which he loved passionately. Those studies led him to the conviction that Rwanda is only one. One culture, one language and one people: the Rwandans. Cyprien was the apostle of that single people and never let himself be trapped by those who tried to divide Rwandan society into different ethnic groups. Cyprien's work found recognition after his death and in 2018 he was proclaimed witness of unity by the Rwandan Commission for National Unity and Reconciliation.

The Rugambas lived in Butare and had many children. One day his wife, Daphrose,

discovered the Charismatic Renewal through two Evangelical friends. That was how she strengthened her prayers for her husband's conversion.

In 1989, Cyprien lost his job and with his family moved to Kigali where they joined the Jesus' Merciful Heart prayer group. Daphrose soon became its leader. It was in that period that the Rugambas encountered the Emmanuel Community, later making it known in Rwanda. They devoted their final years to evangelization and the service of the poor. It was Daphrose who suggested her husband work with street children in Kigali.

On April 7th 1994, the President's Guard soldiers stormed into their family home. 'Are you still a Christian?' their chief asked Cyprien. 'I am', he answered. The soldiers gathered the whole family in the garden and shot them. Six of their 10 children were killed with their parents: Emerita, Serge, Cyrdy, Dacy, Cyrdina, Ginie as well as their little cousin Gabrielle.

If the Church confirms this family's martyrdom, they will be beatified as a family, which is an extremely rare case. To find similar examples we need to go back as far as the families martyred in Rome. In the fourth century there are Saint Flavian and Saint Dafrosa (Daphrose Rugamba's own patron saint – is that a coincidence?) and their two daughters, Saint Bibiana and Sainta Demitri.

—CHARIS Magazine, December 2021

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