



# CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OFFICE

*in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis*

4714 CENTRAL AVENUE NE ~ MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55421 ~ 763-571-5314 ~ WWW.CCRO-MSP.ORG

June-July 2021

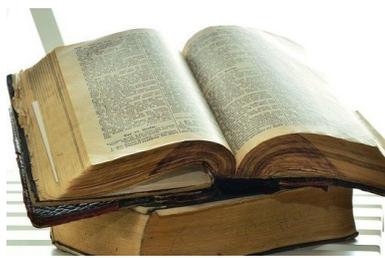
*Mission Statement:* Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel so all can respond to the call to conversion to Jesus Christ, surrender their lives to the Father and experience transformation through baptism in the Holy Spirit.

## Surrendering to the Spirit

By Fr. Paul Sciberras

*In this testimony, Fr. Paul, head of the Department of Sacred Scripture, Hebrew and Greek, at the University of Malta, shares how being baptized in the Holy Spirit at a Life in the Spirit Seminar brought his faith to life in a new way and transformed his understanding of the meaning of his priesthood and the Word of God.*

I have been a priest for thirty years. After my ordination, my superiors asked me to specialize in **Scripture Sciences** in Rome. I was formed to mentally dissect and filter every word in the Bible with the extra-fine toothcombs of biblical scientific-critical methods.



However all of this analyzing, re-analyzing, and re-checking was not satisfying me. Something was missing!

Thankfully, I myself was soaked with the Spirit four years ago, through the Life in the Spirit Seminar, and now I walk and move in the Spirit as a man and a priest. The breeze that sways the wheat field of my life is the Spirit's breath in my heart, my actions, and indeed, my whole life.

Baptism in the Spirit is about being soaked (the basic meaning of the Greek verb from which "baptism" derives) like a sponge, not in water but in the Spirit. What comes out and overflows when one is "squeezed" is then the spirit of holiness of the Father and of Jesus, the Son. Since the Spirit can in no way be separated from its constituents — a father cannot be a father if he doesn't have a son, and a son is a son because he has been



generated — the Spirit is the Spirit of wholeness, integrity, and holiness.

How has this affected the way I experience my faith? Bathing biblical ministry in the Spirit of the Church and for the Church has always meant the world to me. But now it comes more from the heart and makes much more sense. I feel it's becoming more a question of wisdom and knowledge, than of information and scholarship. The **Bible turns out to be always fresh**, like living waters, even when I am teaching the simple basics of Hebrew and Greek!

Additionally, Bible scholarship is no longer mere academic prowess. Thanks to the soaking in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God becomes a *rhema*, truly a Word addressed personally to me. Whilst paying attention to the technicalities of the Hebrew and Greek languages and the historical context of the Scriptures, I now know too well that my academia is not just about producing academics, but about **being a source of nourishment for thirsty and seeking believers.**

Personally, I feel that the **one word** that says it all about Baptism in the Spirit, and indeed about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, is **surrender**. Surrender! At the beginning of the Life in the Spirit seminars, I asked myself how could anyone even surrender? And yet so it was, as Josef

Ratzinger, then prefect of the Congregation of Faith, defined it, **“This profound contact with God, becoming a friend of God: *it is letting the Other work, the Only One who can really make the world both good and happy.*”**



After baptism in the Spirit, I began surrendering more and more to the Spirit. **Mass has become a heavenly experience.** The peace! The joy! After Consecration, I now kneel in adoration: **“My Lord and my God; I surrender to You, Lord Jesus!”** I make mine the prayer of surrender: “I open all the secret places of my heart to You and say: ‘Come on in.’ Jesus, You are Lord of my whole life. I believe in You and receive You as my Lord and my Savior. I hold nothing back. Holy Spirit, bring me to a deeper conversion to the person of Jesus Christ...I surrender my understanding of how things ought to be, my choices and my will.” Life in

the Spirit is not about doing new things but about doing the old things in a new way: **the Spirit’s way.**

Yet another discovery is taking place in my heart: not only how the Holy Spirit inspires and breathes his power into the Bible, but how the **Bible breathes God back to us** — by making it more complete and by making the Bible much more personal!

And finally — because I consider it the filter of all that I am going through — with surrender comes joy; the deep-seated joy where I feel so much at peace!

**Surrendering! Yes, it’s possible! It suits me perfectly! It’s the only way!**

About the author: **Fr Paul Sciberras** is the head of the Dept. of Sacred Scripture, Hebrew and Greek, at the University of Malta. Reprinted with permission: February 6, 2020; <https://www.renewalministries.net/surrendering-to-the-spirit/>. Renewal Ministries.

## Summer Speaker Series on Zoom: July 26-27

### Theme: Surrendering to our Lord Jesus

Online only \* Register today! \* More information on our website

(Best way to register: Online at [ccro.msp-org](http://ccro.msp-org))

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ COST: \$20 (\$10/night)

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Monday (7 -9 pm): Bishop Peter Smith

Bishop Peter is part of the People of Praise community and spoke at our **Winter Conference 2021**. He is back by popular demand. Bishop Peter is the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Portland, OR.

#### Tuesday (7-9 pm): Jim Murphy

Jim was the President of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services before the name changed to Charis. He is a gifted speaker and is passionate about how the Holy Spirit is alive in our lives.

**If there are more than one person viewing, you need only purchase one “ticket”.**

**The Zoom link & instructions will be emailed to you closer to the event.**

Mail check to: CCRO; 4714 Central Ave. NE,

Minneapolis, MN 55421 **Call if questions: 763-571-5314**

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 23

Fall Conference  
with  
Peter Herbeck



We were grateful to come together  
and celebrate  
Pentecost 2021 with a beautiful  
outdoor Mass and Prayer Meeting.  
Many were blessed including our  
Bishops in a very special way.



HAPPENINGS

June 29 (Tuesday) HEALING MASS, Church of St. Paul in Ham Lake, (1740 Bunker Lake Blvd. NE, Ham Lake, 55304). 7 pm Mass. **President: Fr. Jim Livingston.** Call Parish at 763-757-6910.

July 6 (Tuesday) HEALING MASS, St. Peter's Catholic Church in North St. Paul. **President: Fr. Benny Mekkatt,** Pastor of Blessed Sacrament. Mass 7:30 pm. Call Peter 651-353-4311.

July 7, 14, 15, 21, 28 (Wednesdays) ZOOM PRAYER GROUP (BREATH OF GOD), Begins at 7 pm (CST). Praise & Worship, Word gifts. A Powerful time. Following the prayer group, prayer for healing is available. Questions and to get the Zoom link, email Josh at [jjj3279@aol.com](mailto:jjj3279@aol.com).

July 13 (Tuesday) PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT, St. Peter's Prayer Group. 7-8:30 pm. Call Peter 651-353-4311.

July 26-27 (Monday—Tuesday) CCRO ZOOM SPEAKER SERIES, Theme: "Surrendering to Our Lord Jesus." Two nights: July 26 and 27. Two dynamic speakers: **Bishop Peter Smith and Jim Murphy.** Only \$20 or \$10/night. More information on Page 2.



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I am an overcomer by the blood of the Lamb  
and the word of my testimony. Revelation 12:11

## WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS AT THE PENTECOST ECUMENICAL VIGIL 2021

Brothers and sisters, tonight can be a prophecy, it can be the beginning of the witness that we Christians, together, have to give to the world: to be witnesses of *the love of God that has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit that has been given to us*. The love to which we, believers in Jesus, have been called. For tonight, thousands of Christians raise together, from the corners of the earth, the same prayer: *Come Holy Spirit! Come Spirit of love and change the face of the earth and change my heart!*

Tonight, I exhort you to go out into the world and make a reality of the testimony of the first Christian community: *"See how they love one another"*. Go out together to infect the world! *Let's allow ourselves to be changed by the Holy Spirit*, in order to change the world. God is faithful, he never withdraws his promises, and for this reason – because God is faithful – I would like to recall today, from Jerusalem, this prophecy of the great proph-

et of Israel:

"Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths'. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore". – Isaiah 2,2-4

To read the entirety of the article, visit:

<https://www.charis.international/en/pentecost-ecumenical-vigil-2021-message-by-pope-francis/> CHARIS International June2, 2021