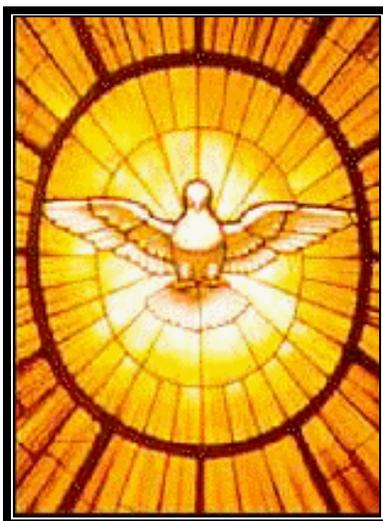


*Archdiocese of San Francisco
Charismatic Renewal*



An Introduction

Visit www.sfspirit.com for more information

*"I am convinced that this movement is a very important component
of the entire renewal of the Church."*

-- Pope John Paul II --

Mission Statement

As a lay organization, the mission of the Charismatic Renewal is:

1. To help all people **come to know the love of God** in their lives as demonstrated through our Lord, Jesus Christ.
2. To help our brothers and sisters **respond to God's love** by loving God in return through a commitment to serve Christ and His Church.
3. To assist them to **listen and follow the movement of the Holy Spirit** at work in their lives.
4. To help our brothers and sisters **recognize the ministry that God has called them to, and accept the gifts that God desires to bestow upon them for His work** in our Church and in our world.
5. To **lead them to a New Life offered to us by the Holy Spirit.**

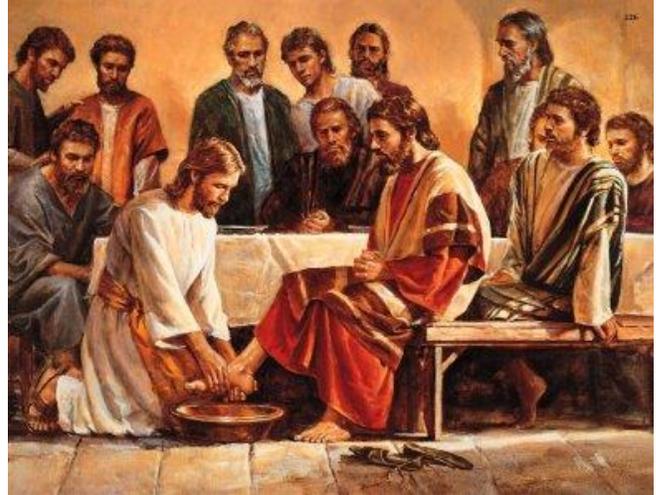


Charismatic Renewal Board

- The Renewal is a lay organization that represents the diversity within the Church. The Board organizes and plans activities to help its members and guests grow in the Spirit.

Archbishop's Liaison to the Charismatic Renewal

- Appointed by the Archbishop of San Francisco, 3 priests serve as liaisons to the Charismatic Renewal to guide, teach and pray with the different prayer groups in the Archdiocese.



Some Renewal Activities:

- **Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS):** to help a person grow in the knowledge of God's love, commit themselves to Christ and His Church, and be open to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- **Holy Spirit Conference:** held annually (usually in September) to help members of the Renewal and attendees grow in the Spirit of God.
- **First Friday Charismatic Masses:** hosted by prayer groups from the different parishes within the Archdiocese, it serves to strengthen a prayer group and to bring a Renewal to each parish.
- **Days of Renewal Workshop:** Given to help participants grow and deepen their Charismatic gifts.
- **Northern California Renewal Coalition (NCRC) Convention:** Held annually during the Memorial Day Weekend in May, it brings together the members of the 7 Northern California Dioceses (Santa Rosa, Stockton, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose & Monterey) to encourage, support and to deepen the faith through worship and workshops.

Prayer Groups

- The aim of the prayer group is to support each other in the journey of faith.
- Through Bible sharing, participants learn from each other how God is at work in their lives, and how to listen and trust God in the different circumstances of their lives.
- The prayer group intercedes not only for its members, but for the parish, the Universal Church and our world.
- It serves as an agent of Renewal in the parish, by introducing others to a deeper relationship with Christ through the Spirit.
- Touched by God's Spirit, members are also to serve the parish in cooperation with the Pastor, to be a Light of love, faith and hope to others.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



1. What's the difference between the Charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit and the ones received at Confirmation?

The gifts received at Confirmation are known as Traditional Gifts (Is 11:1-3), which are: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel (Right Judgment), Fortitude (Courage), Knowledge, Piety (Reverence), Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe). Charismatic gifts, however, are known as Manifestation gifts (1 Cor 12:7) which are used to build up the Body of Christ.

2. What is Praying in Tongues?

Sometimes in moments of great sorrow, such as at the death of a loved one, words fail us. We don't know how to pray or even how to express our pain. At times, Catholics use the rosary to pray in such moments. In the repetition and prayers of the familiar rosary, we might find that somehow our hearts are soothed. In a similar way, St. Paul said that sometimes, "*we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groaning*" (Rom 8:26). So praying in tongues and praying the rosary is similar, because in the process of uttering the unintelligible words, somehow the Spirit of God is praying in us and through us. St. Paul continues by saying that "*the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will*" (Rom 8:27)

3. What is the Gift of Prophecy?

Those who receive this gift, can receive an image, or a Word or a series of Words to share with the community. It is used to build up the community. But we are also warned to test every spirit (1 John 4:1). So when these gifts are used at a Charismatic Mass, the gift is checked by someone else to ensure it is consistent with the spirit of God, before it is spoken to the whole community.

4. Is the Gift of Healing possible or is it a hoax?

As Catholics we certainly believe that God can heal us. In the Charismatic Renewal, members sometimes pray for each other and some have experienced miracles and deliverance from cancer. Yet we also believe that God may not always grant us a physical healing. Sometimes the healing may be a spiritual, emotional or psychological one. Even if our prayers for healing seem to go unanswered, just as Jesus' prayer on the cross seemed to have gone unanswered, yet we believe that somehow God uses all our sufferings for a greater good (Rom 8:28).

5. What is Slain in the Spirit or Resting in the Spirit?

Pentecostal Christians usually use the term slain in the Spirit, whereas Catholics prefer Resting in the Spirit. The reason is we believe God never violates our freedom. To be slain sounds like God overwhelms us, whereas what we believe of Resting in the Spirit, is the experience of God's Spirit coming upon an individual in such a beautiful peaceful way, that the individual simply wants to enjoy God's presence and rest in the Spirit. Those individuals who have been prayed over and then "falls to the ground" are simply yielding to the beauty and presence of God. They never lose their freedom and in fact, they can simply choose to walk away and be seated before continuing that wonderful "rest" in the Spirit.

6. What if someone doesn't have these gifts, are they second class Christians/Catholics?

No. In fact, St. Paul encouraged his listeners to seek the greatest spiritual gift which is to love. All these gifts, praying in tongues, prophecy and healing done without love, he compares it to a noisy gong (1 Cor 12:31-13:3). But these Manifestation Gifts are given, alongside the Traditional Gifts for some benefit (1 Cor 12:7). Not all are called to be apostles, not all are called to be prophets, or teachers, so not all are given the gift of healing or praying in tongues (1 Cor 12:28). Each gift is important to the Body and together we form the Body of Christ to serve God, His Church and our world.

7. Is the Charismatic Renewal Movement Approved by the Vatican and the Pope?

When the phenomenon of the Charismatic gifts first appeared across the many Christian churches, some of the mainline protestant denominations didn't understand what was happening. However, because the Catholic Church experienced it and seen it at work in the lives of her Saints, our Church leaders easily recognized and embraced it. Pope John Paul II said *"I am convinced that this movement is a very important component of the entire renewal of the Church."*



1 CORINTHIANS 12:1

Archbishop's Liaison to the Charismatic Renewal:

Fr. Raymund Reyes, Liaison

St. Anne Church, San Francisco, 415-665-1600, fray129@aol.com

Fr. Daniel Nascimento, Associate Liaison

St. Brendan Church, SF, 415-681-4225 x 220, frdan@stbrendanparish.org

Fr. Jose Corral, Hispanic Liaison

St. Timothy Church, San Mateo, 650-342-2468

Parish Prayer Group:

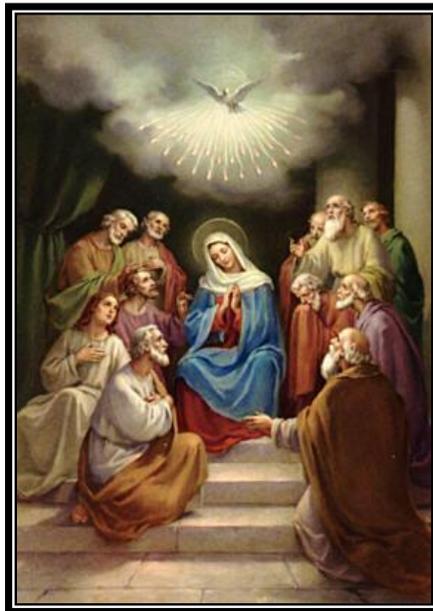
Name of Prayer Group: _____

Meeting Place & Time: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____



*For a calendar of activities, Renewal history, prayer requests and more,
please visit www.sfspirit.com*