

Who are we?

Charismatics have a unique spirituality (like Franciscans or Dominicans)

Our founder is not a human but the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit “planted” charismatic prayer groups to serve the local Church and community.

Unique characteristics of the renewal:

We participate in constant evangelism (LISS)

Invite both experiential and rational experiences of God

We openly surrender to the gifts and guidance of the Holy Spirit

We need to be formed in our spirituality, trained and sent to do our work

Who are we: a people of :

Conversion

To know the outpouring of God’s love

Sanctification

God makes us a people of one mind and one heart

Empowerment

The Holy Spirit Equips us for mission

Questions For Discussion

The point of this discussion is for each of us to look at ourselves, individually and recall how the Lord has moved and is moving in our lives.

Who are we?

Why am I here?

How was I renewed? What happened? How was I changed?

What has Baptism In The Holy Spirit meant to me?

Why am I in a prayer group?

Why am I in a ministry?

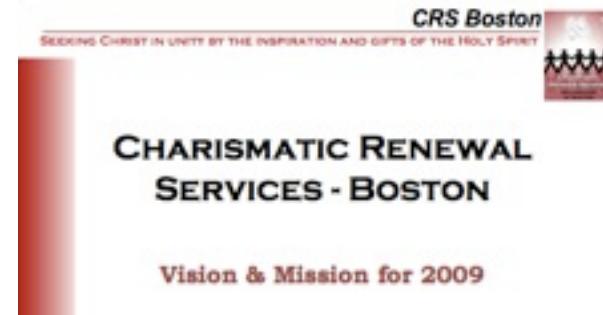
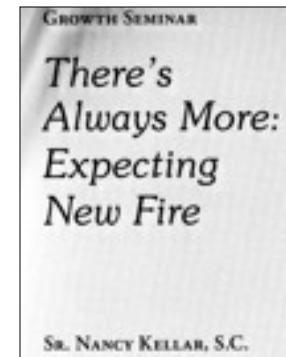
Why am I in CRSB?

Why am I in the Church?

What is baptism in the Spirit?

More Power Through Unified Vision - 1

A workshop based on the Growth Seminar: There’s Always More: Expecting New Fire, by Sr.Nancy Keller, S.C., published by the National Service Committee, Chariscenter USA, P.O. Box 628, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628, 2002
and



Available at <http://www.crsboston.org>

Vision

A big idea of the purpose of something that transcends the immediate details of its accomplishment.

The Annunciation [Luke 1:26 ...]

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Cana [John 2:1 ...]

Do whatever he tells you.

CRS Boston Vision 2009

Unified and led by the Holy Spirit to build and defend the Church

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no vision the people get out of hand
Without prophecy, the people become demoralized.
Where there is no vision the people perish.
Where there is no revelation the people cast off restraint.

Galatians 3:3

Having begun in the Spirit, how can you be so stupid to end in the flesh

Elements of a Common Vision

Clarity of identity – A sense of who we are
Clarity of mission – A sense of why we are

Common Vision In Community

Without a common vision a community may find themselves working at cross-purposes and building up more and more tensions.

A vital reason for Jesus' success was that He came with a divine purpose. He was the possessor and proclaimer of a clear spiritual vision.

Jesus Communicates the Vision of God's Kingdom

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." [Mark 1:14, 15]

He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. ... So they went off and preached repentance. They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. [Mark 6:7...]

Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.

[Mark 10:43...]

What Charismatic Renewal Is

The soul of Renewal -- Baptism in the Spirit -- is a grace of pentecostal refreshment offered to all Christians.

[Cardinal Suenens]

The aim of renewal is the same as the Church: Conversion, Sanctification, and Empowerment of every human being.

It is our conviction that baptism in the Spirit, understood as the reawakening in Christian experience of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit given in Christian initiation and manifested in a broad range of charisms, including those closely associated with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, is part of normal Christian life.

[Grace for a New Springtime - USCCB]

CRS Boston Vision for 2009

CRSB prayer groups are united and led by the Holy Spirit to build and defend the Church

The Holy Spirit has united and equipped us to use our spiritual gifts to help revitalize parishes through evangelization and teaching.

- We are united by the Spirit (love one another)
- We are led by the Spirit (obedient in one faith, one baptism, one Lord)
- We build the Church. (we are missionary)
- We defend the church (we are soldiers)

Lumen Gentium [5...]

When Jesus, who had suffered the death of the cross for mankind, had risen, He appeared as the one constituted as Lord, Christ and eternal Priest, and He poured out on His disciples the Spirit promised by the Father. From this source the Church, equipped with the gifts of its Founder and faithfully guarding His precepts of charity, humility and self-sacrifice, receives the mission to proclaim and to spread among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God and to be, on earth, the initial budding forth of that kingdom. While it slowly grows, the Church strains toward the completed Kingdom and, with all its strength, hopes and desires to be united in glory with its King.

Formation - Grow in the Spirit

- prayer life,
- the use of the gifts
- Learning to trust God and step out into deeper waters
- Growing in love for God and one another

Formation - Grow in Knowledge

- Deeper understanding of the scriptures
- Teachings of the Church
- Deeper knowledge of the Charismatic gifts and how to operate in them
- Deeper knowledge of living life in the spirit
- Know who you are in Christ

Formation - Grow in Strength

- Perseverance in prayer
- Unity of spirit and mind
- The power to share with others and answer questions
- Power to lead and develop leadership

Questions For Discussion

The point of this discussion is remember how our prayer communities have supported our baptism in the Spirit and fostered our growth.

Who is my prayer community?

When was your prayer group formed?

How and why was it formed?

Why do you meet every week (or periodically)?

In what other circumstances do you meet?

Do I meet with members of the prayer group outside of the prayer meeting? What kind of situations. For example, meet for lunch, Sunday parish Mass, ministry meeting, outreach group, phone or email each other

Do I communicate with members of the prayer group outside of the prayer meeting? What kind of situations? For example, Prayer line ...

Am I in ministries that meet outside of the prayer meeting?

More Power Through Unified Vision - 2

CRSB prayer groups are *united* and *led* by the Holy Spirit to *build* and *defend* the church

- We are ***united*** by the Spirit
(***love*** one another)
- We are ***led*** by the Spirit
(***obedient*** in one faith, one baptism, one Lord)
- We ***build*** the Church.
(we are ***missionary***)
- We ***defend*** the church
(we are ***soldiers***)

Moses' Vision

But Moses answered him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets! Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!" [Numbers 11:29]

Missionary - We Build

- We work in the Church
- Work in the local community
- Help each other
- Follow the dictates of the Spirit & Church
(actively pro-life)

CRS Boston Vision 2009

Unified and led by the Holy Spirit to build and defend the Church

Training - We Defend

- Living the daily life with conviction
- Loving the unlovable
- Becoming a disciple
- Discipline to do what is needed and respond to authority

What the Renewal is **Not**

- A movement like other movements
- There are no founders
- No rule of life, no constitution*, it is not spirituality
- There is no precise structure
- It is not a prayer movement or form of prayer
- There are no Particular outward manifestations that are essential
- Being emotional is not essential
- The purpose of the renewal is not to bring the Church into the “renewal”. It is a vehicle for bringing new life into the Church.
- Our groups should be ministering in the Church
- Our groups should bring people into new Life in the Spirit.
- Charismatic Renewal is not limited to the ‘movement’. The movement is important for linking prayer groups, diocesan expressions of Charismatic renewal.
- The movement includes international, national, diocesan offices and prayer groups.
- Many who trace their renewed life in the Spirit to the movement work through other groups or ministries.

Challenges to Renewal

- Balance structure and spontaneity
- Fully charismatic integrated into the Church
- Keep our unique charisms
- Ecumanism - while fully Catholic
- Failing to call new people into service
- New (and old) people open to growth

Mission of Our Prayer Community

The Renewal is at its best when from its internal prayerful reflection it looks outward to the lives of the many, both church and unchurched

.... *Baptism in the Holy Spirit is empowerment of individuals of the Church for its mission in the world.* [Grace for a New Springtime]

Our prayer communities should be leaven, salt and light.

Leaven

- Keep our focus on baptism in the Holy Spirit and charisms
- We are meant to build the kingdom, not a movement
- Avoid exclusive talk - vocabulary
- Make prayer meetings clinics to bring others to new life in the Spirit

Light

- Bring light through healing
- Bring light through hope
- Bring light through reconciliation

Salt

- Open to moving into uncharted waters
- The exciting flavor of new works of the Lord

Balance

Where is your group in terms of the challenges to find balance in the Charismatic Renewal?

Structure	Balance	Spontaneity
Fully Charismatic	Balance	Fully Catholic
Separatist: Remains apart	Balance	Integrated with parish/diocese
Ecumenically closed	Balance	Ecumenically open
Leaders calling new people forth	Balance	Leaders not calling new people forth
New people responding to the call to service	Balance	New people not respond- ing to the call to service

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is empowerment of individuals and of the Church for its mission in the world: the proclamation of the Lordship of Jesus Christ and of His power to transform society.

...

It is a grace experience which touches every dimension of the Church's life: worship, preaching, teaching, ministry, evangelism, prayer and spirituality, service and community.

[Grace for a New Springtime]

Lumen Gentium 33 ...

Now the laity are called in a special way to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where only through them can it become the salt of the earth. Thus every layman, in virtue of the very gifts bestowed upon him, is at the same time a witness and a living instrument of the mission of the Church itself "according to the measure of Christ's bestowal".

Lumen Gentium 34 ...

For all their works, prayers and apostolic endeavors, their ordinary married and family life, their daily occupations, their physical and mental relaxation, if carried out in the Spirit, and even the hardships of life, if patiently borne—all these become "spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ"

Questions For Discussion

The point of this discussion is to explore how our prayer groups have been building and defending the Church in the past and to help us think about how we will serve this vision in the future.

What is my relation to the larger community?

Am I and/or my prayer group committed to CRS Boston?

Am I and/or my prayer group committed to a parish or church organization? Describe:

What resources of the larger community have I attended or made use of.

How have I found them helpful.

What other resources would I like to see and make use of?

How have I or my prayer group been able to serve the larger community?

More Power Through Unified Vision - 3

Saul's Vision

Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do. [Acts 9:6]

Ananias' Vision

Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is there praying, and (in a vision) he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay (his) hands on him, that he may regain his sight. [Acts 9:11 ...]

Peter's Vision

What God has made clean, you are not to call profane. [Acts 10:15]

Lumen Gentium 30 ...

They [pastors] also know that they were not ordained by Christ to take upon themselves alone the entire salvific mission of the Church toward the world. On the contrary they understand that it is their noble duty to shepherd the faithful and to recognize their miniseries and charisms, so that all according to their proper roles may cooperate in this common undertaking with one mind.

CRS Boston Vision 2009

Unified and led by the Holy Spirit to build and defend the Church

Unidad & Liderado por el E.S. Construye & Defiende la Iglesia

Unidos e guiados pelo E.S. Construir e Defender a Igreja

What can your prayer group do to defend the Church?

- Combat faulty doctrine
- Be an example, be a light
- Homeless ministry
- Prayer and fasting
- People who can't get out can write letters to media representing the Catholic point of view
- Read/study scripture
- Learn how to witness to people who have problems with the Church
- Prayer and sacramentals
- Sacraments are powerful to strengthen us
- Become involved in seasonal ministry
- "filth" TV program showed how one person can get rid of harmful material in media

What can your prayer group do to Build the Church?

- Put links on parish websites to LISS website
- LISS for priests invited by charismatic priests
- LISS retreat for priests, deacons and bishops
- More involvement in life issues for archdiocese
- Intercessory teams of 2-3 available to parishioners
- Pray for priests
- Wholesome books and movies available to youth through parish
- Prayer request bulletin board for parish
- Volunteer more for roles in parish (as prayer group)
- Small group sharing to help involve people with each other (Arise?)
- Promote adoration in parishes
- Conduct scripture study (Little Rock?)
- "tap on the shoulder" to invite people to prayer group