

# CRS Boston



UNITED AND LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BUILD AND DEFEND THE CHURCH

November – December 2011

--- Please make sure this information is shared with your prayer group ---

*Hello friends in Christ and promoters of Holy Spirit renewal:*

In recent editorials, we discussed common-sense and theologically accurate answers to objections that people often have about the renewed life, i.e. common misconceptions about charismatic renewal by folks who have not yet experienced the fuller outpouring and infilling of the Holy Spirit. We must also shine the torch upon those of us living the new Pentecost, to examine our own conscience. **One frequent error is to maintain a posture that is too inward-looking,** focusing only on the ministry of my group, by my group, for my group. A kind of *ghetto* mentality!

Whereas **God is not willing that any person should perish but wants everyone to repent** (2 Peter 3:9), this is not the posture or mindset of most prayer group participants. Once we enter the Holy Spirit life, we become quite content to be the only “kids on the block” who are hearing prophecy or speaking in tongues. We do little to bring the new Pentecost to our families, neighborhood, parish, or city. **We see folks who do not enjoy our intimacy with God and we are tempted to feel superior to them** rather than to evangelize them. “Is it time for you to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies in ruins?” (Haggai 1:4)

Some of us tried a couple of times to invite our families and friends into the Holy Spirit life, but we decided that it was too hard. **We never persisted in our witness or persevered in prayer** until their conversion. Once we face minimal opposition from friends, we tend to give up! “Consider how [Jesus] endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood” (Hebrews 12:3-4). Jesus says: “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17). **Have you caught any fish for Jesus lately?**

We often deceive ourselves that our prayer group should first be perfect or our parish fully revived before it can evangelize. This is an actual *heresy!* As Pope Paul VI reminded us in *Evangelii Nuntiandi* “the Church exists in order to evangelize”. The way a parish or prayer group revives itself is by reaching out. **“He who refreshes others will be refreshed”** (Proverbs 11:25). **Your group exists so as to evangelize and renew people.** It is not a secret society or sorority club! Don’t settle into a false comfort of feeling cozy and chummy with your old or current friends. Constantly win new friends for Jesus! “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and he who wins souls is wise” (Proverbs 11:30; NIV). “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3; NIV)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS / TIDBITS:**

- ✓ The **Christmas gathering** for the CRSB family of prayer groups will take place on **Wednesday December 28<sup>th</sup> 2011** at **St. Mary’s Church Hall** in Waltham, and not at Espousal Center. Please reserve this date and take note of the new venue! There will be joyful praise and worship, Christmas carols and lots of fun! We hope to have other entertaining surprises as well. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Check for details at <http://crsboston.org> and in the flyer that is mailed out with this newsletter.
- ✓ The next **CRSB Leaders’ Assembly** will take place on **Wednesday January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012** at St. Mary’s Church Hall in Waltham, starting at 7:00pm.
- ✓ CRSB leaders’ formation training for the English-speaking prayer groups has been temporarily suspended while a new venue is sourced. The CRSB Director, Mr. Vin Cerasuolo, will communicate the new venue and dates as soon as these are available.

Please e-mail your comments on the newsletter to [staff@crsboston.org](mailto:staff@crsboston.org) or [newsletter@crsboston.org](mailto:newsletter@crsboston.org) . The CRSB Council and leaders extend their best wishes and sincere prayers to you for a Merry Christmas as well as a highly anointed and Holy Spirit-filled New Year 2012!!

**TONY WADDIMBA,**

Newsletter Editor (On behalf of the CRSB Director and Council).