

### **What you can expect to experience at a Catholic Charismatic Meeting, Conference, Healing Service or Workshop:**

You will hear joyful, lively praise music and song. You will hear deep, profound worshipful music and song. You will see women, men and children boldly raising their arms in worship and praise of God. There will be manifestations of words of praise and song in unknown tongues. You will hear leaders encourage the gathering to become aware of the presence of God in our midst and of his mercy and power that can touch, heal and work miracles among us. There will be moments of deep silence often followed by words spoken that are prophecies from God, encouragements and words of Scripture. The people will reflect on the words and give thanks to God for His message to the group.

After the times of praise and worship often people will come forward for individual prayer. Those who pray with people will pray in understandable words of healing and prophecy and words in unknown tongues. Sometimes people will fall back onto the floor. This is sometimes referred to as being 'slain in the Spirit'. Catchers attend to prevent anyone falling unassisted. People experience consolation and healing when prayed for by the power of the Holy Spirit.

You will also hear speakers give inspiring and encouraging messages to assist us in living more fully our spiritual lives in the world.

Mass may also be different in that there will be raising of hands and possibly singing or praying in unknown tongues. These are common manifestations in Catholic Charismatic Renewal gatherings as it was in the time of St. Paul as noted in Col 3:16 and Eph 5:19-20.

(See our Website for a list of Prayer Groups [www.vccrs.ca](http://www.vccrs.ca))

### **What the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is:**

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is part of a modern world wide Christian movement with two primary unique characteristics. The more significant and valued of these two benefits offered in this Christian renewal is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and secondarily but also necessary in building up the community are the charismatic gifts that flow from the experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

### **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

The best way to understand the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is captured in the words "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Acts 1:8)". When Jesus' disciples asked Him about restoring the kingdom of Israel Jesus responded with the quote above and "you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem... even to the ends of the earth." So, he shifted their focus from a kingdom and power in a worldly sense to the Kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit would give them the spiritual power to spread the Kingdom to every creature (Mk 16:15). How do we get this power?

Every Catholic receives the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation and marks of the Spirit are eternally inscribed upon our souls. However, in most cases the gifts of power promised by Jesus remain dormant until a person asks in faith for the release of this power. This is what the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is meant to achieve in a person's life.

The usual means of receiving the Baptism of the Spirit is through the Life in the Spirit Seminars. However, God can bestow this experience in many diverse circumstances. I know a person who received this experience just standing among a group of believing Christians singing in

the Spirit. Nevertheless, people are encouraged to prepare properly for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the Seminars are the best way to achieve this. Check our Website ([www.vccrs.ca](http://www.vccrs.ca)) for a list of upcoming Life in the Spirit seminars.

### **Join a Prayer Group**

The experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit leads to direct changes in one's life. Generally, Scripture is given new life and vitality and the individual finds a growing and a deep hunger to read, explore and understand the Bible. In the beginning changes in a person can be profound and the glow of the presence of God is often obvious to family and friends who may even comment on the change they see. The charismatic gifts will also be manifested in the person's life. Many of those gifts are listed in St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12.

As Jesus promised; when the power of the Spirit is manifested in a person's life there is an increase in the desire to witness and the gift of boldness and strength in one's faith increase. Prayer and especially the Mass become spiritual nourishment beyond anything a person may have experienced in the past. There is also a deep desire to have fellowship with other believing Christians.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit deepens people in their faith and prepares them for a firmer commitment to Christ and His Church. However, direction is necessary to help put this new power into effect in a way consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Faith. For this reason and the need for fellowship it is important for a person who receives the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to be connected to a living growing community of prayer. Prayer groups, conferences and workshops will provide the necessary teaching and encouragement for the newly empowered.

## What the Catholic Church says about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement

Pope John Paul II stated in 1992: "At this moment in the Church's history, the Charismatic Renewal can play a significant role in promoting the much-needed defense of Christian life in societies where secularism and materialism have weakened many people's ability to respond to the Spirit and to discern God's loving call. Your contribution to the re-evangelization of society will be made in the first place by personal witness to the indwelling Spirit and by showing forth His presence through works of holiness and solidarity." *Full text on Website homepage ([www.vccrs.ca](http://www.vccrs.ca))*

Pope John Paul II also stated in an address giving Church encouragement to **ECCLESIAL MOVEMENTS AND NEW COMMUNITIES**: "The institutional and charismatic aspects are co-essential as it were to the Church's constitution. They contribute, although differently, to the life, renewal and sanctification of God's People. It is from this providential rediscovery of the Church's charismatic dimension that, before and after the Council, a remarkable pattern of growth has been established for ecclesial movements and new communities." *Full text on Website homepage ([www.vccrs.ca](http://www.vccrs.ca))*

When the Catholic Charismatic Renewal was less than 10 years old Pope Paul VI addressed 10,000 Charismatic Catholics in Rome May 19, 1975 with these encouraging words: "Nothing is more necessary to this more and more secularized world than the witness of the 'spiritual renewal' that we see the Holy Spirit evoking in the most diverse regions and milieu... How then could this 'spiritual renewal' not be a 'chance' for the Church and for the world? And

how, in this case, could one not take all the means to insure that it remains so?"

When Pope Benedict was Prefect of the Sacred Congregation this is what he said about the Charismatic Renewal: "At the heart of a world imbued with a rationalistic skepticism, a new experience of the Holy Spirit suddenly burst forth. And, since then, that experience has assumed a breadth of a worldwide Renewal movement. What the New Testament tells us about the Charisms - which were seen as visible signs of the coming of the Spirit - is not just ancient history, over and done with, for it is once again becoming extremely topical."

Father Raniero Cantalamessa who is the preacher for the Papal Household for both John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI has said in an interview, "Baptism in the Spirit makes the Catholic Charismatic Renewal a formidable means willed by God to revitalize Christian life." *Full text on Website ([www.vccrs.ca](http://www.vccrs.ca))*

The International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services has an office in Rome and has worked with the Church to develop booklets and newsletters to assist the Charismatic Renewal in the Church and to keep members informed. Check out the ICCRS website ([www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org))



## Vancouver Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services



This leaflet is offered to you to provide a basic understanding of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Conferences, Workshops, The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Prayer Meetings and Prayer Groups



**Be filled with the Spirit addressing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing praise to the Lord with all your heart. (Eph. 5:18-19).**