

What you can expect to experience at a Catholic Charismatic Conference, Healing Service or Other Events:

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 in becoming aware of the presence of God in our midst and of his mercy and power to touch, heal and work miracles among us. There will be moments of deep silence often followed by words spoken that are prophecies from God. The people will give thanks to God for His messages to the group.

After the times of praise and worship people will come forward for individual prayer. Those who pray with people will pray in understandable words of healing and prophecy and in unknown tongues as the Spirit moves them. Sometimes people will fall back onto the floor. This is sometimes referred to as resting in the Spirit. Marshals 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.

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 benefit offered by this renewal is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and secondarily are the charismatic gifts that flow from the experience of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The best way to understand the Baptism in 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 the world to the Kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit would give them the spiritual power to spread the Kingdom to every creature (Mk 16:15). No doubt you will ask, ‘How do we get this power?’

We receive 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 can achieve in a person.

The usual means of receiving the Baptism in the Spirit is through 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 their Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the Seminars are the best way to achieve this. Most prayer groups in the diocese have regular Life in the Spirit seminars and retreats.

Join a Prayer Group

The experience of Baptism in the Holy Spirit leads to direct changes in ones life. Generally, Scripture is given new life and vitality and the individual has a deep hunger to read and explore 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 as they exercise the gift of faith. Many of those are listed in 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 increases. 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 in 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 in the Holy Spirit to be connected to a living growing community of prayer.

A list of Prayer Groups in the diocese of Nelson is available so that you might find one in a location convenient to your needs. We encourage you to make contact. You will be warmly welcomed!

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.”

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.”

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 milieus... 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.”

In June 2014 Pope Francis said to the charismatic renewal, “In the early years of the Charismatic Renewal in Buenos Aires I did not love the charismatics: and I used to say of them ‘they look like a samba school’... After (that) I got to know them and I began to understand the good (the) Renewal does for the Church... A few months before taking part in the Conclave, I was appointed by the Conference of Bishops as chaplain of the Renewal in Argentina.”

Pope Francis goes on, “The Charismatic Renewal is a great power at the service of the Gospel: you have found the love of God for all his children and the love for the Word... There is no greater freedom than that to let the Spirit lead... allow(ing) Him to guide us where He will, to enlighten us. He knows what is needed most at all times and in every era... the Pope expects of you... the conversion to the love of Jesus that changes lives and makes the Christian a witness of God’s love.”

Father Raniero Cantalamessa who is the preacher for the Papal Household for Popes John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Francis I has said in an interview, “Baptism in the Spirit makes the Catholic Charismatic Renewal a formidable means willed by God to revitalize Christian life. *Father’s full statement on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is on diocesan website: last paragraph first article:* (<http://www.nelsondiocese.org/our-catholic-faith/our-prayer-life-and-spiritual-growth/charismatic-renewal.html>)

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)



Nelson Diocese Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services Committee



This leaflet is offered to you to provide a basic understanding of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the Conference or Workshop you are attending, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Prayer Meetings and Prayer Groups



At your meetings “be filled with the Spirit addressing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your heart.”

(JB Eph. 5:18-19).