



Blessed Pope John XXIII prayed in 1962 for “a new Pentecost”. In preparation for the Second Vatican Council, he prayed for God to, “*Renew Your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost. Grant to Your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of our Divine Savior, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Amen.*”

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal began at a Duquesne University student retreat outside of Pittsburgh, PA in February 1967. The students had spent much of the weekend in prayer, asking God to allow them to experience the grace of both Baptism and Confirmation. The students, that weekend, had a powerful and transforming experience of God, which came to be known as “baptism in the Spirit”. The movement spread rapidly throughout the U.S. and the world.

In 1978, an *office* for the Charismatic Renewal was established *in the Vatican*. Known today as ICCRS, the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, this office assists in the promotion of a “culture of Pentecost” throughout the Church.

In 1997, the bishops of the United States issued *Grace for the New Springtime*, a document on the Charismatic Renewal. They supported the Renewal, encouraging “the whole Church to look

into and embrace baptism in the Holy Spirit” as “part of the normal Christian life”.

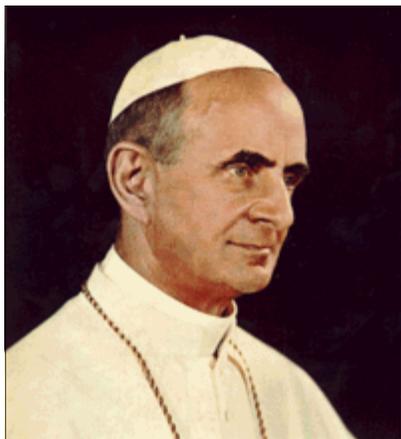
The U.S. bishops connected the Renewal with helping people live the universal call to holiness, saying, “the impact of the Charismatic Renewal on the broader Church has been significant. The Renewal has nourished the call of all to holiness as a gift from the Spirit and helped the Church come to a greater awareness and expectancy of the Holy Spirit and the charismatic gifts of the Spirit. The Charismatic Renewal has led the people of God in a revival of the ministry of healing, encouraging them - laity and clergy alike - to pray for the sick with faith and expectancy. It has renewed the appreciation for the role of praise in individual and communal prayer and enriched the Church with many gifted musicians, music ministries, and song writers. The Renewal has taught a commitment to the Pope, the Bishops, and to orthodox teaching. Vocations to priesthood, diaconate, and religious life have been fostered. It has called forth the gifts of the laity who are today serving in a variety of ecclesial lay ministries; e.g., in the liturgy, religious education, and youth ministry, and ministries for the transformation of the world.”

Today, the Renewal has spread to every continent, received the blessing of the Popes, and has refreshed souls in the Holy Spirit and by bringing people to Jesus, giving many a new start at life. People are healed physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It builds unity among Catholics and Protestants. The Renewal has been a strong means of evangelization bringing people to experience the power and presence of God in a way that for them is new and deeper than what they previously understood. As the Holy Spirit comes and enables people to live an “abundant life” that Jesus said He would give (John 10:10), people are converted, and with newfound joy and peace, fall in love with Christ and His Church.

Vatican II said this about the charisms: “It is not only through the sacraments and Church ministries that the Holy Spirit sanctifies and leads the people of God. He distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. These charismatic gifts, whether they be the most outstanding or the more simple and widely diffused, are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation, for they are exceedingly suitable and useful for the needs of the Church.”



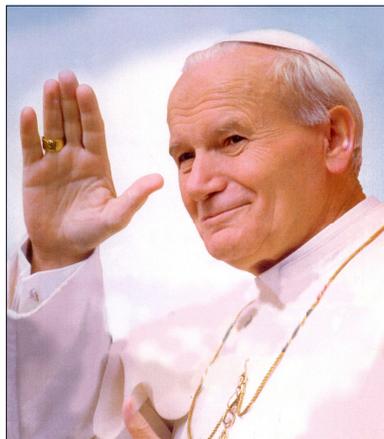
PAPAL QUOTES ON THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL



In May 1975, **Pope Paul VI** welcomed 10,000 Catholic charismatics who were attending an International Conference on the Charismatic Renewal in the Church in Rome.

In his address to them, Pope Paul stated, “As we said last October in the presence of some of you, the Church and the world need more than ever that ‘miracle of Pentecost should continue in history’Nothing is more necessary to this increasingly secularized world than the witness of this ‘spiritual renewal’ that we see the Holy Spirit evoking in the most diverse regions and milieu. How then could this *spiritual renewal* not be *good fortune* (sometimes translated “*a chance*”) for the church and for the world?”

After completing his prepared message, Pope Paul gave a spontaneous word of support. “Have we forgotten the Holy Spirit? Certainly not! We want him, we honor him, and we love him. And you with your devotion, your fervor, your wish to live in the Spirit: this should be. It ought to rejuvenate the world, give it back a spirituality, a soul, a religious thought; it ought to reopen the world’s closed lips to prayer and open its mouth to song, to joy, to hymns, and to witnessing. It will be very fortunate for our time and for our brothers that there should be a whole generation - your generation of young people - who shout out to the world the glory and greatness of the God of Pentecost.”



In December 1979, **Blessed Pope John Paul II** in a private audience with the ICCRO Council said, “I am convinced that this movement is a sign of His action (of the Spirit). The world is much in need of this action of the Holy Spirit, and it needs many instruments for this action. Now I see this movement, this activity everywhere.”

To the Italian National Service Committee in April 1998 - “The Catholic charismatic movement is one of the many fruits of the Second Vatican Council, which, like a new Pentecost, led to an extraordinary flourishing in the Church’s life of groups and movements particularly sensitive to the action of the Spirit. How can we not give *thanks* for the *precious spiritual fruits* that the Renewal has produced in the life of the Church and in the lives of so many people? How many lay faithful - men, women, young people, adults and elderly - have been able to experience in their own lives the amazing power of the Spirit and his gifts! How many people have rediscovered faith, the joy of prayer, the power and beauty of the Word of God, translating all this into generous service in the Church’s mission! How many lives have been profoundly changed! For all this today, together with you, I wish to praise and thank the Holy Spirit.”

To leaders from the Charismatic Renewal Nov. 1996 - “...many have returned to the sacraments; and a great number of men and women have achieved a deeper understanding of their baptismal call, and have committed themselves to the Church’s mission with admirable dedication...”



Address of **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI** to Charismatic Covenant Communities October 2008 - “What we learn in the New Testament on charisms, which appeared as visible signs of the coming of the Holy Spirit, *is not a historical event of the past, but a reality ever alive*. It is the same divine Spirit, soul of the Church, that acts in every age and those mysterious and effective interventions of the Spirit are manifest in our time in a providential way. The Movements and New Communities are like an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in contemporary society. We can, therefore, rightly say that one of the positive elements and aspects of the Community of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is precisely their emphasis on the charisms or gifts of the Holy Spirit and their merit lies in having recalled their topicality in the Church.”

May 26, 2012 address to participants in the meeting sponsored by “Renewal in the Holy Spirit” - “Dear friends of Renewal in the Holy Spirit, do not grow weary of turning to Heaven: the world stands in need of prayer. It needs men and women who feel the attraction of Heaven in their life, who make praise to the Lord a new way of life. And may you be joyful Christians! I entrust you all to Mary Most Holy, present in the Upper Room at the event of Pentecost. Persevere with her in prayer, walk guided by the light of the living Holy Spirit, proclaiming the Good News of Christ.”