

Life in the Spirit

Seminar Overview

The Life in the Spirit Seminar is designed as an introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. It provides an opportunity for people to find out more about that life, and to help you in taking the first steps of a new relationship with the Lord. The Seminar is structured to offer help in finding a fuller release of the Holy Spirit to live a deeper Christian life.

The seminar is a series of talks and discussions which take place over a period of seven weeks. In the fifth week of the seminar, there is an opportunity for people to be prayed with, to ask that they be baptized in the Holy Spirit. The four weeks before that time are devoted to an explanation of the basic Christian message of salvation and of what it means to be baptized in the Spirit. During the final two weeks, the teaching is oriented towards further growth in the life of the Spirit.

The Life in the Spirit Seminar is only the beginning, the first step to a completely new way of life in the Spirit.



"The Life in the Spirit Seminar is an opportunity to grow in awareness and openness to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

I encourage every parish to regularly sponsor this seminar as an answer to Pope John Paul II's call for a new evangelization."

**The Most Reverend
David L Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay**

**"Renew in our day,
O Lord, your wonders
as in a new Pentecost"
Pope John XXIII**



Key Scripture

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

1 Corinthians 12: 7-11

Why Should I Attend?

Most of us have heard about the Holy Spirit and most of us have learned about the Holy Spirit, but many times that is as far as our experience has gone. The Holy Spirit is a real person, a part of the Blessed Trinity just like Jesus and the Father. We receive the Holy Spirit through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Through what is called the baptism in the Holy Spirit, a personal conversion experience, the power that is the Holy Spirit is released within us.

A Life in the Spirit Seminar is designed to help us yield to the action, empowerment and the power of the Holy Spirit in our own lives just as He empowered the early church on the day of Pentecost.

If you are at least open to the possibility that you can deepen your personal relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, why not attend a Life in the Spirit Seminar?

What happens at the Seminar?

Each weekly session includes:

- ◆ Praise and Worship
- ◆ Talks and Testimonies from brothers and sisters in Christ
- ◆ Small Group Discussion and Sharing
- ◆ Prayer

In addition:

- ◆ One week will include an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- ◆ One week will focus on prayer for the release of the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Our final week will include social time together

How do I prepare for the Seminar?

There isn't really homework required to prepare for the seminar. In general it will be helpful if you can review the Scripture passages referenced in this handout. We also ask that you be available for the entire seminar as missing any sessions may diminish your experience.

For the seminar to be effective it is important that you can make the following pledges to yourself:

- ◆ I have a willingness to amend my life and to grow in personal holiness.
- ◆ I have a desire to do His will.
- ◆ I am interested in a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit, however He plans to use me.

Key Scripture

- ◆ Mark 16:17 & 18 – Gifts show divine power of God.
- ◆ 1st Corinthians 12:1-11 – Spiritual Gifts.
- ◆ Acts 1:7,8; 2:1-8, 3:1-9 – Manifestations of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Acts 2:37, Acts 2:41, Acts 3:9,10 – What happens when the Gifts of the Spirit are manifested.

Some FAQs

What is Catholic Charismatic Renewal?

It is a movement that has impacted millions over the past 50 years by providing a personal experience of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who brings alive in new ways the graces of our baptism. The Holy Spirit not only enlivens all that we have already received, but comes again in power to equip us with his gifts for service and mission.

What is 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit'?

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an action of God, invited by an individual through prayer, which brings about a deeper conversion to Christ, and which gives the Holy Spirit permission to work in that individual's life in a more powerful way.

This powerful action of the Holy Spirit is often accompanied by the 'charisms' or 'gifts' of the Holy Spirit mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St Paul.

What are these 'gifts' of the Holy Spirit and are they the same 'gifts' I received in Baptism or Confirmation?

At the beginning of the seminar we will review and discuss the Isaian gifts of the Holy Spirit, those are the seven gifts commonly associated with Baptism and Confirmation. In addition we will discuss additional gifts that the Holy Spirit may provide us to assist us in doing God's will in our lives.

These gifts may come in many forms but typically fit into one of these three categories:

- ◆ Vocal Gifts—The power to say and interpret.
- ◆ Revelation Gifts—The power to know.
- ◆ Visible Gifts—The Power to do.

Various gifts in these three areas will be discussed as the seminar progresses.

It is important that as we deepen our relationship with the Holy Spirit we possess an understanding of how He uses these gifts to empower and assist us. Our lack of this understanding and our inability to recognize the Holy Spirit at work in our lives can be an obstacle to our spiritual growth and our ability to respond to His call.