

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN EAST ANGLIA



AUTUMN 2019

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Newsletter
For the Diocese of East Anglia

**COME TO A DAY OF PRAYER
AND RENEWAL IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The theme for the day is

**Our
IDENTITY in CHRIST**

Led by

Anne Nolan

Anne is a retired teacher, who has been involved in the Renewal for many years and on the core team of the Celebrate Conference since its beginning. She has a lot of spiritual wisdom and is an engaging speaker

The day includes
PRAYER AND PRAISE
HOLY MASS
ADORATION
RECONCILIATION
PRAYER MINISTRY

Date: Saturday, 19th October 2019

Time: 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Place: Bowthorpe Church Centre

Bowthorpe Hall Road, Bowthorpe, Norwich, NR5 9AA

Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a packed lunch
For further information contact Philip on 07910157584

www.renewaleastanglia.org

Onwards and Upwards

I have been reflecting on the events in Rome during Pentecost of this year and wondering about the significance of Pope Francis inaugurating CHARIS, that new organisation that was to replace ICCRS and The Catholic Fraternity as the new single body that would represent and serve the Renewal.

I began to think again of the ways the Renewal movement has been described by previous popes: St Paul VI said, “The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is a great opportunity for the Church”, while St John-Paul II called it both, “A current of grace for the Church”, and “A current of the grace of the Holy Spirit”.

By joining the two bodies into one and giving CHARIS a new and more significant status within the Church, Pope Francis is seeking to build on the past 50 years and give us all a more effective launch to be channels of that current of grace and that great opportunity for the Church.

His expectations of the worldwide charismatic renewal he has repeated again and they are threefold:

- “to share Baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone in the Church. It is the grace you have received. Share it! Do not keep it to yourselves”
- “to serve the unity of the Body of Christ, the Church, the community of believers in Jesus Christ. This is very important for the Holy Spirit creates unity in the Church, but also diversity”
- “Serve the poor and those in greatest need, physical or spiritual”

Pope Francis goes on to say “these three things are the forms of witness that, by virtue of baptism, all of us are called to give for the evangelisation of the world”

In his address at the inauguration of CHARIS on 6th June he makes a great deal of the need for unity – unity within our church, unity with other renewal groups and unity with brothers and sisters from other churches. I

cannot agree more in my heart with these – it is not only the witness we give to the community in which we live, but I know how hugely encouraging it is when we are working together as one, doing the Lord’s work, acknowledging and supporting each other. The Lord’s Kingdom is primarily a spiritual one and it becomes most evident when we are together, expressing and showing Christ’s love.

Pope Francis often talks about the importance of building relationships in this context, something he himself has made a point of doing. He finished his June 6th speech with these words: ‘Offices for evangelisation can be established, programmes can be carefully planned and implemented, but without love, they are useless! “See how they love one another.” ’

One thing we try to do in this publication is tell people what is going on, when and where. One of the signs of the growth in the renewal is the increasing number of events happening in our diocese and around the UK. We bring several to your attention in this issue.

Also, if you have a renewal event you want publicised do let one of our team know and we will put it on our website - www.renewaleastanglia.org and in the next newsletter when this is being compiled.

Talking of getting together and supporting one another, it is great to see Maria Heath and the NSC organising another national get together for leaders and for those who are keen to move things on. It is a weekend meeting in November 2019, the 23rd and 24th. More information: philipwalters228@gmail.com

Philip Walters

If you desire to know more about CHARIS - Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service go to the website www.charis.international/en/home

Day of Prayer

16th Nov 2019, Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Peter, March

“the coming Marian Catholic revival”

Led by Derek Williams

www.renewaleastanglia.org

Celebrate East Anglia

20th & 21st June 2020, St Benedict’s School, Bury St Edmunds

“a fun, faith-filled conference for all the family”

www.celebrateconference.org/east-anglia

Unbound: Freedom in Christ Conference

9th & 10th Nov 2019, Ursuline Convent High School, Brentwood

“find your freedom in Christ”

www.unboundprayer.com

National Meeting for CCR Leaders led by the NSC

Following on from the “go with greater strength” meetings

23rd & 24th Nov 2019, St Mary’s College, Oscott

“all the believers came together (Acts2:42-47)”

Calling for Intercessors

We believe in the powerful effect of intercession for the events the Diocesan Service Team organises, primarily two Days of Renewal and the Celebrate weekend each year. We currently have a team of people interceding for event needs as they arise, but we are always looking for more people to intercede. If you feel called to this important role and wish to join the team then please get in touch with Rob Smith via email at robsmith01@hotmail.com. We are aware that many of you will already be interceding and will continue to do so without our prompting and we thank you for that and ask that you continue.

“Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received” Pope Francis

Calling for Parish Representatives

The Diocesan Service Team exists to support the Catholic Charismatic Renewal within the diocese of East Anglia. Our diocese covers a large geographic area and consists of over 50 parishes. We have been sending letters to each parish priest informing them of our events and enclosing a poster hoping they display it in their church. For various reasons this approach does not always achieve our desired results. In the light of this we are now using a different approach whereby we have someone in the parish help us promote our events within their parish. This could include liaising with your parish priest, asking for entries to be put into the parish bulletin, putting up posters for events, speaking to people at mass, etc., always with the permission of the parish priest of course. Some people are already fulfilling this role, but we would like to cover more parishes, so if you feel able to help us in this way please do what you can in your parish

Pope Francis and CHARIS

CHARIS, the new single support network for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR), was Pope Francis' own idea, and he has guided the process from day 1.

He himself became deeply involved in the Renewal when he saw the fruit. After he was prayed over by Fr Raniero Cantalamessa and several others and received Baptism in the Spirit, he became emboldened by the Spirit to represent the CCR in Argentina and to work for unity between the churches.

Commentators have explained that, reading the signs of the times, he saw that this work of the Holy Spirit in drawing people to a personal encounter and relationship with Jesus Christ was one of the principal ways forward for the Church, where, in many places, traditional methods were not working and the culture of society no longer upheld and sustained the Christian vision and identity as members of the Church.

Clearly Francis was elected pope by the other cardinals because of the leadership he was showing in Argentina, including the great work he was doing in evangelisation and the example he gave in Christian Unity. Since becoming pope, Francis has been keen to maintain and grow his links with other churches and keen to encourage the Renewal to be all it can be for the Church. This was shown in the way he led the 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2017.

He also wants to 'renew the Renewal' and it has taken 3 years to complete the formation of CHARIS, the single organisation that replaces ICCRS and The Catholic Fraternity in serving worldwide Renewal. At the official inauguration of CHARIS on 8th June this year, Pope Francis said:

“Today in the name of the whole Church I thank ICCRS and The Catholic Fraternity for the mission they have carried out the past 30 years. You have blazed a trail and, by your fidelity, have made it possible for CHARIS to be a reality today. Thank you! Today a new stage of this journey begins. A stage marked by communion between all the members of the charismatic family, in which the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit

is manifested for the good of the entire Church. A presence that makes each one equal, since each has been born of the same Spirit: great and small, old and young, engaged on the worldwide or local levels, all form a whole that is greater than the part.”

Service and accountability are built into the design of CHARIS itself and, unlike its 2 predecessors, it enjoys what canon law calls ”public juridical personality” – it was put in place by the Holy See and has the right therefore to represent the Church. But while put in place by the Holy See, it is independent of it. According to Alexandre de Awi Mello (vice chair of the overseeing Vatican authority), “The status of CHARIS is similar to that of Caritas Internationalis; giving CHARIS a similar place in the Church is a strong gesture by the pope that he wants to integrate the Renewal, to say the Renewal is Church, and that Baptism in the Spirit belongs to the Church in the same way that charity belongs to the Church.”

A similar message comes from the first chairman, or Moderator, of CHARIS, the Belgian Jean-Luc Moens. He explains that the core of what CHARIS will propose is the vision of Pope Francis, who wants every Christian to be baptised in the Holy Spirit and to see this as normal Christianity. The measure of our life is not just the charisms, but are we growing in love and holiness?

Philip Walters

Continuing our commitment to supporting the renewal across our large diocese we are pleased to announce in
Spring 2020

Day of Renewal and Prayer

29th Feb 2020, St Philip Howard, Cambridge

www.renewaleastanglia.org