



# GLEANINGS

January 2007

## The Holy Spirit Brings Life, Freedom, and Unity

by Fr. John Gordon

*The following is an edited transcription of the homily given by Fr. John Gordon. The homily was given at the 2006 NSC National Leaders' Conference in Albuquerque, NM.*

### From Virginia's Desk

by Virginia King,  
WWCCR Executive Director

I am fascinated by the rising and setting of the sun and the moon. There is a website that I check to see when the sun will be rising and setting, and also when the moon will be rising and setting. The scriptures are full of images of the sun and the moon, as are the writings of the saints throughout the centuries.

Recently I was trying to watch the full-moon set over the western horizon in the early morning. The day before I had seen the nearly full moon set during the time of dawn, when there's light in the sky but the sun has not yet risen in the east. But this day I got up to see that the sun was already up and so,

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What a great time it is in the life of the Church! What a wonderful time it is to be in this, the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Third Millennium of Christianity, and to see what we see and hear what we hear! We, who have lived through the graced pontificate of Pope John Paul II, now live in this prophetic pontificate of Benedict XVI. I believe that in Pope Benedict XVI we have a Holy Father, a true *papa*, who loves us and who desires to teach us. His manner and style are very much different from John Paul II. These men are different Popes for the different purposes and needs that the Body of Christ has at this time.

**“Life is a gift we receive, a pure gift from God Himself.”**

Pope Benedict XVI invited all the Ecclesial Movements to come to Rome for a wonderful celebration of the whole Church in 2006. With less than a year's notice, the gathering was announced and on that Pentecost weekend 400,000 people gathered in St Peter's Square, filling the piazza and the whole street, all the way to the Tiber River! It was glorious celebration! During that weekend, our Holy Father led us in a wonderful meditation in which he gave a teaching about the nature of the Holy Spirit. He spoke of three particular expressions or fruits that the Holy Spirit always brings: Life, Freedom, and Unity.

### Life in the Spirit

When Benedict XVI reflected on the *life* that the Creator Spirit breathes upon the earth, he used the image of the prodigal son who thought he had life by taking it. By taking what was his inheritance from his father he thought he had all that life had to offer with all its abundances. He thought life was about possessing and taking, and he ended up in a pigsty. The truth of the matter is that life isn't about possessing and taking; it is about receiving. God tells us "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly, to the full" in John 10:10. Life is a gift we receive, a pure gift from God Himself. Isn't that what we experience in the baptism of the Holy Spirit: the life of God coming within us?

When I was baptized in the Holy Spirit I knew that God was real, not because I read about Him in a book, or that somebody else told me about Him. I knew He was real because He was alive in me! He was alive already in me by that grace of sacramental Baptism in which I was baptized in water and Spirit. But in the baptism of the Spirit, I could say "Yes, Lord! I want this grace! I want this gift! I need your life!" I remember when I was first exposed to this grace it awakened in me a hunger I didn't know I had.

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*Living, Proclaiming, and Nurturing Baptism in the Holy Spirit*

Before, I thought life was all about the dead ends, the struggles, the trials, and the difficulties. Then I discovered people who were joyful and alive—not because everything around them was going great, but because everything *within* them was; it was He who was alive in them. “Greater is He in me than he who is in the world.”

We are familiar with the story of the widow of Zeraheth, where Elijah tells her he wants something to eat. She tells him that she has nothing left. She was about to bake her last loaf of bread and then she and her son were going to die. She thought that life was about what you get, what you have, and what you need. These people thought that the absence of the stuff meant that life was over. Then Elijah invites her, and by the grace of God, somehow she responds positively.

Our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, reminded us at that vigil celebration that the source of life is the Holy Spirit of God. We need to always come to that well and drink deeply from the grace of the Holy Spirit. We need to come often and be refreshed. Let’s be renewed in the grace of charisms, of yielding ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, of the power of the Holy Spirit, and to the Father’s love.

### Freedom in the Spirit

The next thing that Benedict XVI reflected on is that this life leads to *freedom*. He connected freedom with sonship—to be free is to be a son, a daughter of God. He quoted Romans 8:15 that the “Spirit of God is given to us that we might cry out ‘Abba, Father.’” We know that in John 8:36 the Word of God tells us that “if the

Son sets you free you are free indeed.” The Son has set us free, to be sons and daughters of God. Now there’s true freedom. Therefore we have a place in the house of the Lord. But if we are a son or a daughter, a member of the family, we also have what: chores

**“How much of what we have belongs to God? *Everything!* Everything belongs to God—my time, my talent, my treasure, all the gifts, all my life, my children, my parents, my ministry—everything I have belongs to Him because He is my father.”**

and responsibilities. Guests don’t have to clear the dishes, the children do. As a child of God, we are responsible for the ongoing work of the Creator Spirit.

The Creator Spirit is about breathing new life—the new life of God’s love, of God’s mercy, of God’s justice and freedom. It is our task to cultivate and foster that and to encourage it wherever it might be. It is the gift and the freedom of the Spirit that people are receiving today. We have an eagerness to welcome everyone into the home as our brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore everyone who is a son and a daughter is a brother and sister to us without exception.

The widow of Zerapheth gave everything that she had to feed Elijah. How freeing was that! If you have a lot of stuff, you’ve got to worry about it and you can be burdened by it. What do you give a man who has everything? A burglar alarm! If he has everything, he

needs to possess it, he needs to protect it and to hold on to it, he needs to circle the wagons, and he is not free. He does not have his possessions, his possessions have him. If we are not free, we are not sons and daughters.

And I, for one, want to cry out with the Holy Spirit “Abba, Father.” So the freedom that we have as sons and daughters of God is to give everything over to the Lord.

When I hear people speak of tithing, for example, it’s a wonderful, biblical concept. It is an important concept but it’s not a full concept. If we approach tithing as ten percent of what

we have belongs to God, we are far from the Spirit that it involves. How much of what we have belongs to God? *Everything!* Everything belongs to God—my time, my talent, my treasure, all the gifts, all my life, my children, my parents, my ministry—everything I have belongs to Him because He is

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Items for the February 2006 issue are due January 1.

my father. That's freedom! Oh, brothers and sisters, we need this grace for our own lives. I need this grace to grow in the holiness to which God calls me.

I cannot live this kind of freedom, this kind of abandonment, this kind of sonship and daughterhood except in the power of the Holy Spirit. If I try on my own, it's just too strained—I'm measuring, I'm counting, I'm weighing, and I'm balancing. But if I'm a son or a daughter, everything in the house belongs to the Father and everything in the house belongs also to me.

### Unity in the Spirit

The third fruit or grace that the Holy Father spoke of is **unity**. Unity gathers us towards Christ Jesus. We know that the plan of God, expressed in Ephesians 1:3, has been revealed to us: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens." In verse 10, it goes on to say that the purpose He has revealed to us is to gather all things together under the headship of Christ Jesus. The plan of God is unity in Christ Jesus. That's why we proclaim Jesus Christ is Lord—Lord of heaven, Lord of earth, Lord of all creation. It's the plan of God to bring everything under Christ Jesus.

However, we are not there yet, are we? Everything is not yet under the

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Go to [www.wwccr.org](http://www.wwccr.org) and click on the yellow envelope!

## Our Resolutions and the Kingdom of God

by Gloria Soto, Board of Directors member

Around this time, our thoughts turn toward the future. We make resolutions for the New Year for ourselves, our business, our families, and our health. We fool ourselves into thinking that we will keep them—but usually they last about 2 weeks. We can forget that we have



a God that holds the past, present and the future in His Hands. He who knows us better than we know ourselves is more than willing to take us by the hand and show us what he has in store for those who love him (1 Cor. 2:9)

We are entering into the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Renewal and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WWCCR. There is a change in the wind. We

are now entering into the "Promised Land" where new challenges will be encountered, new "territory" to be acquired, and a new way of moving in the Spirit will come forth. As Israel of old, we are a "remnant" called to change the whole world; for the treasure we hold is not just for a few but for the whole church.

As you prepare yourself and your family for the New Year, ask Jesus to show you where your position in His Kingdom is and how you can best fulfill it. Many of you are called to pray; do so before His Throne on your faces. Others are called to give financially out of their need to support the work our God is doing through WWCCR. Some of you are called to live exemplary lives, not legalistically by following the letter of the law, but through love. Many are called to teach and minister to our psychologically, physically or spiritually "wounded" with your words of encouragement, your deeds, by counseling, or by giving a hug or a smile. And as our "small resolutions" pass through His Hands they are not only multiplied, but increased 100 fold providing for our needs, the needs of the Kingdom, the needs of our friends and even our enemies to the glory of His name alone!

I encourage you to take steps toward God's perfect and promised new land, a land flowing with milk and honey (check out Leviticus 20:24, Number 14:8, Deuteronomy 11:9, etc.) and see what our God of Miracles can, will and desires to do for you, your friends, your families and even your enemies. ■

Lordship of Jesus Christ. I express it this way: For whom is Jesus the *Savior*? Everyone, without fail! Even those who reject His salvation, He is their Savior without exception. For whom is Jesus Christ *Lord*? Everyone? No—only for those who yield to him and accept Him. No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit. Therefore our task and responsibility is that we, as sons and daughters, in freedom have to let the life of God be so pronounced, be so expressed, be so lived that more and more people accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ. So that more and more people can come home and find their place at the table in the house of the Lord.

Therefore we don’t merely run to Jesus, and have a God-and-me relationship. As I’ve experienced the call to be joined to Christ Jesus, I am sent forth to experience the life that is good and the life that needs to be converted out there. I am sent forth to where the brothers and sisters are, so that we can all come back.

Shortly after he became pope, Benedict XVI addressed the Italian Eucharistic Congress. One of the things he said to them was that the challenge of the Eucharist is that most people don’t want God that close. Sometimes we’re guilty

of that ourselves: “God, I’ve got my plan. I’m going to work for you, Lord, and I’ll do all my programs...but don’t get too close, God.”

Beg the Lord for the life, the freedom, and the unity to which our Holy Father summons us to experience in the power of the Holy Spirit. Beg that it might be a truth that so captures us, like the baptism in the Holy Spirit has done, that we are able to bring it to the whole Body of Christ and to the whole people of God. Beg the Lord that this breath of the Spirit might be aroused and alive in all of us. Therefore, do not be surprised if the very thing we’re holding on to is being wrestled out of our hands by God. That’s the life of receiving and not possessing. Don’t be surprised if the responsibility and the work is being raised up, not because there are more jobs to be done, but because we are free as sons and daughters and therefore we have a role to play and a work to be done for building up the Body of Christ.

None of this can happen unless we say yes. And if you say yes, I want to warn you, be careful. If your life is already perfect the way it is, then you don’t need more of the Holy Spirit or more of God. But whatever the Holy Spirit touches, the Holy Spirit changes. If you need that *more*, if you need that life, that freedom, that unity, and if you’re willing to let God have His way fully in you, if you want that and only if you’re willing to say yes to that, I invite you to say yes. ■

*Reprinted with permission. Fr. John Gordon is a priest for the Archdiocese of Newark. He has been active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal since 1975. He has served in various local, regional, national and international ways. Currently he is Vice-Chair of NARSC (North American Renewal Service Committee) an ecumenical umbrella group and a member of the National Service Committee. In 2003, he was assigned to assist in the direction of Franciscan University’s Pre-theologate program.*

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## Grow in the Lord with the Strength of His Power

Ephesians 6:10



A Women’s Retreat  
February 16-18, 2007

at The Palisades Retreat, Federal Way, WA

Flyers are available now. To receive one, contact WWCCR at 206-364-2272 or at [wwccr.org](http://wwccr.org).

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Mark your calendars!

WWCCR One-Day Conference  
**Saturday, March 24**

Theme:

“At the Service of the King:  
Hearts Attuned to God’s Mercy”

at **Bellarmino Preparatory School**  
2300 S. Washington, Tacoma, WA

Watch **GLEANINGS** for more information

# You Are My Beloved

by Janelle Bighinatti

The 2006 Leaders' conference, *Anointed for the New Evangelization*, was an amazing weekend filled with grace-filled speakers, wonderful workshops, blessed times of prayer and praise, and even an adoration chapel in a tiny room at the hotel. Albuquerque is a lovely place, with its

**"This conference turned out to be a beautifully refreshing reminder of ...how He has chosen and empowered each one of us to do great things for Him!"**

historic old town, the sunshine, and the starkness of the desert mountains. And being there for this conference reminded me that there is something deeply spiritually symbolic about the desert.

One workshop I attended was on *Overcoming Obstacles to Boldness in Evangelization*, presented by a young woman who teaches law at a secular university. She began surprisingly with quoting the exquisite love poetry of the Song of Songs: 'you have ravished my heart, my beloved.' She spoke of how we are fully known and fully loved by the Lord and she reminded me of the truth that, when it comes to evangelization, the key is not courage or fearlessness, but love! (and besides, 'perfect love casts out fear'!) I know this so well but can never be reminded of it enough. Truly, the very beginning of evangelization is that I know with all of my being that the omnipotent Lord God of the universe is ravished with love for me. How amazing is that!

On a deeply personal level, my presence at this conference was unexpected and last minute, and it was not until well into the weekend that the Lord revealed to me His reason for bringing me there. Especially since I am young and quite new to the Charismatic renewal, I was curious as to why I had been asked to come. One thing that kept coming to me is how the Lord seems to have placed many things on my heart over the years about my vocation and my calling, yet I have sometimes doubted that these callings were real or from Him, lately in particular.

As the weekend progressed, the Lord spoke to me gently through the speakers and the workshops and certain prayers. It was not until the spirit-filled evening session on Saturday, however, that a young woman came up to pray over me, and the words of knowledge and prophecy she

spoke to me directly addressed all that I had been pondering. Her words were a powerful confirmation and a great encouragement for me to keep on trusting that the Lord is guiding me and has great plans for my life. While I still do not comprehend exactly what that entails, I know now with certainty how deeply He is calling me to serve Him.

This conference turned out to be a beautifully refreshing reminder of how dear I am to the Lord and how close He is to me always, and how He has chosen and empowered each one of us to do great things for Him! What a blessing it is to be anointed by the Lord! ■

*Janelle Bighinatti is a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament parish, Seattle WA*

## Calling all Leaders & Helpers!

*Our next gathering  
will be to join the*



## CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

*An Evening of Music and Prayer  
with Fr. Jim Northrop  
Saturday, January 6, 2007; 7PM*

**St. Brendan Catholic Church**  
*10100 NE 192nd St, Bothell, WA*

This is sure to be a very special concert, reflecting on the birth of Christ. It will also be a great way to encourage our friend Fr. Jim and to gather together for inspiration and fellowship.

*All proceeds of the concert will benefit Project Rachel, a post-abortion healing ministry*

Advance tickets are now available:  
\$10/person or \$25/household

For tickets, contact  
Joe Majewski at 425-357-9214

*P.S. Though we are encouraging leaders and helpers to come, this concert is really open to everyone. Bring a friend and enjoy this special evening.*

# A Day of Anointing and Teaching

by Stella Nnanabu

The teaching day started with Fr. Peter Sanders' blessing the 50 people in attendance at St Vincent DePaul parish hall in Federal Way. It was a day filled with anointing as we praised, worshiped and listened to a very inspired teaching. For me, this was more than a day of teaching on the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge. It was also an impartation service. Fr. Sanders was willing to freely give us the anointing he received from the Lord.

## Word of Wisdom

Fr. Sanders described the word of wisdom as the "how" of any ministry. It is very procedural in nature—it gives the order of any ministry. It is received supernaturally and provides understanding on how to deal with past, present and future events. Sometimes, it could be confused with the charisms of prophecy and word of knowledge because of their interrelationships. The procedural nature of the word of wisdom is the purpose of the gift, and it is very important in Christians' decision making. It gives practical ordering of steps in any ministry we are involved in. In healing ministry,

it gives insight and direction on how to pray. In prayer meetings and events, the word of wisdom reveals procedure and order on how to use the other gifts of the Spirit towards

**“But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.”**

1 Cor. 12:11

God's purpose for that particular event. When one receives a word of knowledge or prophecy in a prayer meeting for example, he/she needs the word of wisdom

to know whether the prophecy or word of knowledge is to be declared publicly, prayed over or not declared. James 1:5 tells us to ask the Father explicitly for this charism. It is a assumption of pride to assume that God will automatically give us this gift without our asking.

## Word of Knowledge

Word of knowledge is the "what" of any ministry. It is a supernatural revelation of information from the Holy Spirit. The purpose of this gift is to identify what is transpiring in an event or ministry in order to deal with it naturally or supernaturally, or in order to stir to faith with respect to kingdom issues. This supernatural revelation helps to direct prayer especially for healing or for strategic action on behalf of individuals, families, communities and nations. The word of knowledge can be received as a vision, a conviction, and intuition and sometimes as words engraved in your spirit. When you receive a word of knowledge, discern that it is not your own imagination, agenda, subconscious, or experience. Pray about it and ask for the word of wisdom on how the Lord would use this manifestation. After your own discernment, respect the protocol of your community, by submitting it to those who are in charge of discernment for these gifts.

In both gifts, word of wisdom and word of knowledge, there is a *kingly* anointing and they should be used in an orderly way since our God and King is a God of purpose and order. ■

*Stella Nnanabu is a parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Federal Way, WA.*

## Day of Prayer and Fasting Friday, February 16



# Unlock the Power

The National Service Committee and the other national leadership groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have designated the Friday preceding Ash Wednesday as a Day of Prayer and Fasting.

Renewal participants are encouraged to pray for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States and that the Church in our country might be renewed in the grace of Pentecost.

This will be the sixth year designated for such a day to strengthen the unity of the Renewal and communion in the Church.

though the moon had not yet set, I could no longer see it because of the brightness of the sun.

This is an image of our lives, and especially an image of “life in the Spirit.” When the sun rises, there is no more need for the brightness of the moon. The moon is still there but its brightness is enveloped by the brighter light of the sun. It can be expressed in the words of John the Baptist, “He must increase and I must decrease.” (John 3:30) The whole focus of John’s ministry was to point people to the Son. To an even greater degree, our Blessed Mother, who is sometimes imaged as the moon, is totally focused on leading people to her Son. And each of us fulfills our purpose most completely when we do the same.

- He must increase and I must decrease.
- My self-centeredness must decrease and my God-centeredness must increase.
- Seeking my own way must decrease

and seeking God’s way must increase.

- Relying on my own resources must decrease and relying on God’s resources must increase.
- Trusting in worldly wisdom and power must decrease and trusting in God’s wisdom and power must increase.
- Drawing attention to myself must decrease and pointing to Jesus must increase.

This is the way of joy. This is the way of freedom. This is what “life in the Spirit” looks like. Because it is only by acknowledging and welcoming the presence and power of the Holy Spirit that this “decreasing and increasing” can take place in our lives. It is a work of God that is accomplished through our surrender.

This year of 2007, I pray for myself and for each of you, that we will live more fully this “life in the Spirit” and that in doing so many more people will be drawn to the brightness of the Son of God! ■

## Sponsor a Healing Mass!

We are looking for individuals or groups who would each sponsor one Healing Mass. The expenses for Healing Masses vary depending on location and who the presider is. So the following description of expenses is an *average* based on the Masses we did in 2006.

### Expenses are:

Planning and preparation <i>including about 20 hours of staff time:</i> .....	\$224.80
Parish use donation: .....	\$100.00
Music Ministry stipend: .....	\$100.00
Presider stipend: .....	\$200.00
Travel expenses/meals .....	\$178.20

Total average expenses for one Healing Mass: ..... \$803.00

If you pledge to support one Healing Mass, you may make monthly payments of \$66.92 to fulfill that pledge. **Thank you!**

Check out our Spanish radio evangelization program on:



**Radio Sol**  
KKMO 1360AM  
Saturdays, 8AM

# Healing Masses

**Misa de Sanación  
con el Padre  
Jay DeFolco**

**Viernes, 5 de Enero; 7PM**  
a la Iglesia San Miguel,  
1512 Pine Ave., Snohomish

**Healing Mass  
with Fr. Jim Lee**

**Thursday, January 25; 7PM**  
at St. Rose De Viterbo,  
2571 Nichols Blvd., Longview



WWCCR sponsors Healing Masses in various locations in the archdiocese of Seattle. At these Masses we are focusing our attention on the healing power of God truly present at every celebration of the Eucharist.

**For more information contact**

WWCCR at (206) 364-2272,  
info@wwccr.org or check our website  
at [www.wwccr.org](http://www.wwccr.org)

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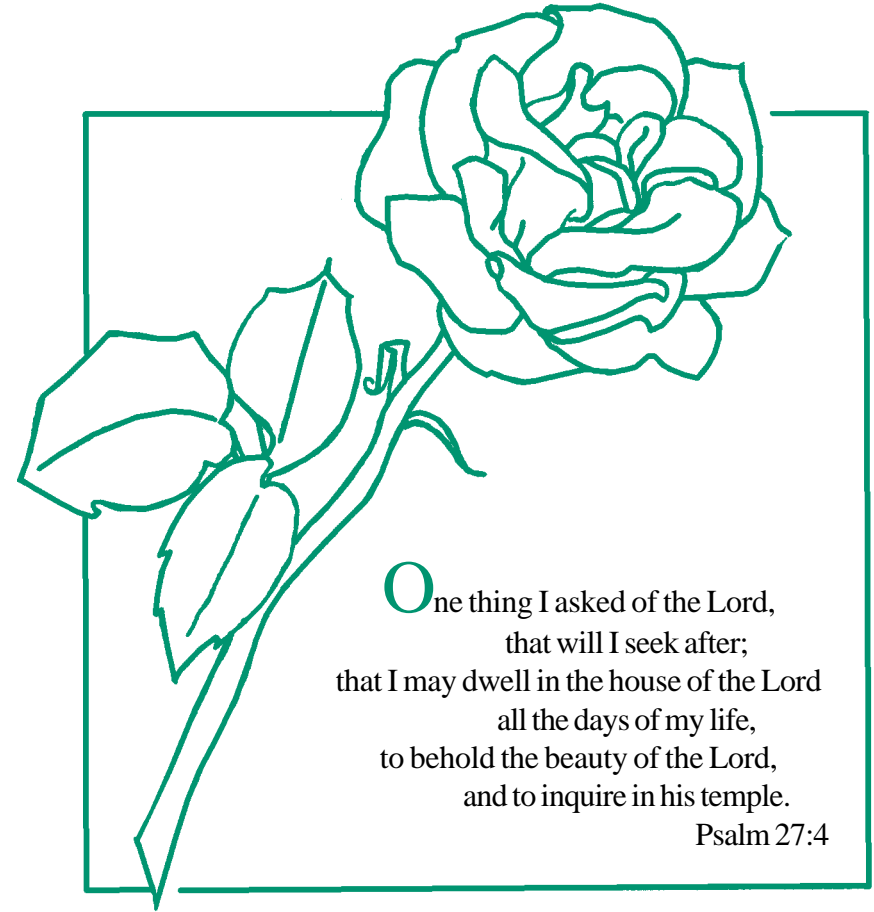
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# GLEANINGS

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Artwork by Jean Beers

***Celebrating 30 years***