

Archdiocese Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal

1707 South Flores Street

San Antonio, TX

78204-1926

Phone (210) 226-7545

Fax: (210) 212-9330

E-mail: info@cccrsa.net

Web Site: www.cccrsa.net



*... woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel! 1Corinthians 9:16*

**Y hay de mí si no predicara el Evangelio!**

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# Charisletter

Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal Newsletter  
1707 S. Flores, SA, TX 78204 210-226-7545

Volume 9 Issue 12

E-mail: info@cccrsa.net

Web: www.cccrsa.net

December 2008

## Annual "Advent Washing of the Hands" Service

Saturday, Dec. 6, 9am- 11am

St. Henry's Church 1619 S. Flores

Celebrant: Bishop Flanagan, D.D.

*Washing of the Hands: Service Committee*

*This tradition was started by Bishop Tom 15 years ago, on the first Saturday of Advent. We invite you to come in humility to have your hands washed and blessed by the Service Committee members and followed by a Christmas fellowship at the CCCR. (Info: 226-7545)*

**Cuarto Anual Concierto con Jesús Pablo Castro, Cantante Y Evangelizador reconocido internacionalmente**

(Y otros equipos de música)

**27 de Diciembre, de 6-10pm**

**Avivamiento, Cena, y Concierto**

\$15 por persona

**Salón de St. Henry, 1619 S. Flores St.**

(Entre Flores y Nogalitos), San Antonio

Vengan a disfrutar de este concierto, apoyando la comunidad Cristiana del Centro de la Renovación Carismática.

Cena completa.

Info: Eleanor 432-1509, CCCR 226-7545

# Merry Christmas

## Calendar of Events

### December 2008

- 6** Bishop Tom Flanagan & Service Committee ~ Washing of the Hands, St. Henry's, 9AM to 11AM
- 9** Mass & Anointing of the sick, Bishop Tom Flanagan, CCCR Chapel, 10:30AM
- 27** Concierto con Jesus, St. Henry's Hall, con Pablo Castro, 6 - 10PM con Cena Completa

### January 2009

- 25** Blessing of The Renewal, St. Henry's Church
- 31** City-wide PRAY-A-THON, Convention Center, Ballroom B., 10:00AM - 3:00PM

### March 2009

- 6-7** Annual Charismatic Conference – English & Spanish MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## Annual Blessing of The Renewal

Jan. 25, 2 to 4 pm

St. Henry's Church 1619 S. Flores (Adjacent to CCCR)

Celebrant: Bishop Tom Flanagan, D.D.

*We've had an annual blessing of the renewal every January for over 15 years. Includes praise, worship, report on the state of the Renewal and mass at 2:45 p.m. This will take the place of the Day of Renewal. Let's begin the year with a spirit of unity, as one body moving as the Spirit moves us!*

*We were challenged last year to fill up the church "next year." Lets do it on January 25th! Come Holy Spirit, Come!*

## Regional Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference (Spanish & English)

In the Footsteps of St. Paul; Empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**March 6-7, 2009**

Friday 6:30-10pm & Saturday 8am-10pm

**St. Mary Magdalen Church & Hall.**

1710 Clower St.

Speakers: Jim Murphy, Greg Trainor, Jesus Ramos, Fr. Will Combs, Jose Chamagua & other Missionary evangelists. In this Year of St. Paul let us become even more zealous for the work of the Lord, and for the gift of the Charismatic Renewal in the Church. Register as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly.



Most Rev.  
Thomas J.  
Flanagan



Father Bob  
Hogan, BBD  
Associate  
Liaison



Rosbel  
Hernandez  
Director

### From The Staff

**Merry Christmas! May the newborn King remind us of the reason for the season: celebration of the birth of Christ the Lord . God's blessings to you and your families.**

**There will be no Evenings of Renewal and Revival** in December. Come to the "Concierto con Jesus" on Dec. 27th at St. Henry's Hall. Also, **Our 12th Annual Regional Catholic Charismatic Conference will be on March 6 & 7.** Mark your calendars.

**I (Fr. Bob) just came back from the National Leaders Conference** for Catholic Charismatic Renewal. It was a great weekend. Jim Murphy, who will be speaking at our conference, gave a wonderful teaching and led us in a powerful ministry time. I gave a workshop on strengthening prayer groups.

At an October 6-7 symposium on "Hispanic/Latino Catholics in the U.S." in Washington, D.C., Fr. Alan Deck, director of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church for the U.S. Bishops, explained that the charismatic renewal and other lay movements have profoundly influenced the spirituality of U.S. Latinos, "yet pastoral leaders in the church have simply refused to come to terms with it...It is a major reality that we ignore at our own peril." The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, made the same point on October 31 while speaking at the International Conference of Catholic Charismatic Communities. He said that "it is important that pastors carry out with the [movements] a prudent, wise and benevolent discernment." He hopes that "dialogue between pastors and ecclesial movements intensifies at all levels: in parishes, dioceses, and with the Apostolic See." He concluded by noting that associations like the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have already received pontifical recognition.

Our Charismatic Center is seeking to enter into more conversation about the Charismatic Renewal with our pastors, bishops, seminary, other ecclesial movements (Cursillo, A.C.T.S., etc.) and archdiocesan offices. Please keep this in prayer and let us know if you would like us to meet with you and your pastor (staff) at any time. We are very grateful for the encouragement that the pope has been giving to the charismatic renewal.

Did you know that the word "Christ" comes from the Hebrew word "Messiah" which means "the Anointed One," anointed by the Spirit? Advent is a season to reflect on the Holy Spirit. The three major figures in the Advent readings are:

The **Messiah** as described in Isaiah, the prophet, as the one on whom the Spirit rests, filled with a Spirit of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, courage/fortitude, and the fear of the Lord (Is 11). He is also the one that the Spirit anoints to bring the good news to the poor, liberty to captives, and healing (Is 61).

**John the Baptist** who prepares the way for the Messiah by a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, but proclaims that the messiah will "baptize with the Holy Spirit."

**Mary, the mother of Jesus**, who gives birth to Jesus by the Holy Spirit. She gives herself fully to the Holy Spirit by saying, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word." She also manifests the spiritual gifts of prophecy and inspired prayer as she says, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord..."

We hope to see you at the December 6 "Washing of the Hands" Mass with Bishop Tom. A Christmas fellowship will following.

### CHARISLETTER

is published monthly for the Archdiocese of San Antonio by Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal, 1707 South Flores St. Most Rev. Thomas J. Flanagan, Auxiliary Bishop and Liaison for Charismatic Renewal

E-mail: info@cccrrsa.net  
Web: www.cccrrsa.net  
Phone: (210) 226-7545  
Fax: (210) 212-9330

### Editors:

Rosbel (Ros) Hernandez  
Director, CCCR  
Zulema Maldonado  
Office Manager/Administrator

**CHARISLETTER** is a ministry of the Charismatic Renewal Center. Donations are accepted to defray the cost of the newsletter.

**We gladly send free copies to Pastors to keep them informed.**

**CHARISLETTER** is mailed to all who wish to receive it. An annual donation of \$12.00 is suggested. Additional donations to support the ministry at CCCR are gratefully accepted. Send contributions and/or requests to be placed on the mailing list to: CCCR, 1707 S. Flores St., San Antonio, TX 78204. Phone (210) 226-7545. All contributions are tax deductible.

**DEADLINE:** News or calendar items to be considered for publication in **CHARISLETTER** must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

### Consultants:

Rev. George Montague, SM  
Rev. Einer R. Ochoa  
Deacon Robert Garza

### Archdiocesan Healing Ministry

Pedro & Nelda Palacios  
Josie Gonzales

### Archdiocesan Youth Ministry

Rudy & Delfie Garcia

### Newsletter Staff

Rosbel Hernandez  
Norma Alaniz

### Volunteer Staff

Laura Montoya  
Olga Martinez  
Maria Onzon

Beatrice Koenig  
Sonia Deras

### Book Ministry

Santa Garza

### CTSA TV, Cable Ch 15, Charismatic Programs:

Be sure to tune in to Fanning the Flame on CTSA with Erica and Michael Rodriguez (Channel 15) every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 8 to 9 pm. Repeating following Friday at 11am.

**Hazme Volar (en vivo), Canal 15 del CTSA (por cable)** Segundo jueves del mes a las 8 p.m. Hagan sus llamadas al numero en la pantalla del TV. Anfitriones: Jesús y Evelyn Ramos.

### Prayer Groups at CCCR

**Tuesdays** 9:30 a.m. to Noon

### Mondays 7:00 pm

Mass at 10:30am

Flame of Love (bilingual)  
Leader: Isabel Martin

Upper Room Prayer Group  
Info. Helen, 264-5364, Chapel

Martin Family Music Ministry  
645-6004

CCCR Chapel  
2nd Tues Healing Mass

**Tuesday** 7-9pm, Chapel  
Jesus, La Palabra de Vida  
Info Jesus & Evelyn, 487-0432

**Miercoles**, 7:00 p.m. (Bilingue)  
Tree of Life Prayer Group  
Capilla/Chapel del CCCR  
Healing Mass Every First Wed.  
Leader: Eleanor, 432-

1504

**Jueves** 9:30am  
Sala Alta (Capilla del CCCR)  
Info: Rosie 923-2502

**Friday, 12 Noon**  
Chapel

**Friday 7-9PM, CCCR**

Healing Mass, CCCR Chapel

Mountains of Praise

### WASHING OF THE HANDS CEREMONIAL MASS

The ceremonial washings and purification practices of the Old Covenant were physical representations of the spiritual purification to be offered in the New Covenant. Hebrews 9:23 tells us: "Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens [referring to the tabernacle, altar, priests, etc.] should be purified with these ceremonial purifications." So St. Paul tells us in Titus 2:14 that Jesus "gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people that are zealous for good works". So, as we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, we too need the ceremonial washing to help us recommit ourselves to the New Covenant, Jesus Christ. Our Liaison Bishop Tom Flanagan started this special ceremonial blessing 15 years ago. This is a time for a "New Beginning" as we prepare for the Christmas Season. Bring your Family and your Prayer Community.

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM at St. Henry's Church (adjacent to the CCCR) We will have a Christmas Fellowship after the Ceremony at the CCCR, 1707 South Flores Street SA, TX 78204. For More info call the CCCR, 210-226-7545**

### Visión de el Movimiento Católico Carismático

*Renovando la gracia de Pentecostés en la vida y misión de la iglesia*

**MISIÓN:** *Agitar hasta en llama la gracia de Pentecostés dentro y más allá de la iglesia, extender a lo ancho y profundizar el entendimiento que el bautismo en el Espíritu Santo es una herencia Cristiana de todos, y fortalecer la renovación Carismática Católica.*

## Year of St. Paul (St. Paul & Suffering)

by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR Member, National Service Committee

Fifth in a series of Reflections on the Life of Saint Paul For the

Jubilee Year of St. Paul

June 28, 2008-June 29, 2009

**Why does my mother have to suffer?**

**Why did my child have to get sick?**

**Why does life seem to be so hard?**

**All good questions and questions.**

I am sure we have all asked at one time or another. Life is difficult. It just is. And St. Paul understood this as well as anyone. Paul reminds the community in Corinth of the suffering he has endured stating that his suffering has been more intense than theirs. . . I have far greater labors, far more imprisonments, far worse beatings, and numerous brushes with death. Five times at the hands of the Jews I received forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I passed a night and a day on the deep; on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own race, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many sleepless nights, through hunger and thirst, through frequent fastings, through cold and exposure (2 Cor 11:23-27). So often in our life we try to run away from suffering, we try to keep away from the cross. But St. Paul is very different. He says, when writing to the Colossians, that he rejoices in his sufferings. Think about this for a moment. Do you, do I, rejoice in our suffering? Perhaps in moments of grace I can accept them, but rejoice? That is an amazing step. St. Paul goes on to say to the Galatians that he desires only to boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Gal6:14). There are often times when it is difficult for us to understand suffering and when it is even more difficult to accept. Can we, as Paul did, really boast of the cross or do we believe, as the Corinthians did, that the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing Contrast this to what Paul believed; but to us who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Cor 1:18). It all boils down to this fundamental reality which is that for St. Paul the cross is the power of God! To the world, then and now, the cross makes no sense; it is absurdity and foolishness. But to Paul it is a sign of hope. It is the confirmation that love is more powerful than hate and light defeats darkness. What a tremendous conversion of heart and mind we would experience if we were more able to believe, as Paul did, that the cross is God's power alive in our lives. How different would our spiritual life be if we allowed God to reveal his love and power to us in the midst of our suffering? God is revealed in a very particular way in the cross. We can never lose sight of the self-revelation of God at the cross. At times this is difficult for us to look at and we prefer to look away or ignore our crosses. We must not do this. God is there and desires to show himself in the midst of our suffering and darkness. If we can find God at the cross, if we can find God's love shown to us in the cross, we can find God anywhere. St. Paul reminds us that if we can find Jesus in the darkness of the cross we can find him in the darkness of sickness, pain and even death. This truly is something in which to boast and rejoice.

## ANNUAL PRAYATHON

Saturday, January 31, 2009

10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Convention Center (Ballroom B, down-  
stairs)

We were blessed with a very successful TransformSA Ecumenical conference in October. Let's come together again as one body to pray for our city and one another. This is an opportunity to intercede for the different ministries and one another. We invite all who attended in October to come again and bring someone with you.

**Ecumenical Monthly Prayer and  
Intercession Gatherings at the CCCR**  
First Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 pm.  
**Beginning December 2, 2008**  
(then January 6 and February 3, 2009)  
Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal  
(Upper Room)

1707 S. Flores St. adjacent to St. Henry's

We plan to bring together pastors from different Churches to talk about ways to overcome misunderstandings and misrepresentations of each other. Everyone is welcome. Join us!

### Vision of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

**Renewing The Grace of Pentecost In the Life and Mission of The Church. Being a reminder in the church of the role of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of Catholic life.**

**MISSION: To stir into flame the grace of Pentecost within and beyond the church, to broaden and deepen the understanding that baptism in the Holy Spirit is the Christian inheritance of all, and to strengthen the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.**

### From the Service Committee:

Brothers & Sisters In Christ,

May this Christmas season be a joyful one as we share the love of God with one another. Times are difficult for many but we keep the faith knowing that the King of kings is with us and we trust in Him. I pray all of you take time this Advent Season and prepare a "Joy List" that will help you prepare for the True Joy in this world, our Lord Jesus Christ. May you have a Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year; in Jesus name. Amen!?"

We have been really blessed by Fr. Bob Hogan this year. He has continuously exceeded our expectations in all the different ministries at the Center. Those who attended the workshop on the New Guidelines for the Healing Ministry were fascinated by Fr. Bob's teaching and explanation of the new guidelines. His hand-out was very informative and will be a good resource. You may pick up a copy at the CCCR.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Washing of the Hands Mass and Christmas Fellowship on Saturday, December 6th at St. Henry's church. Praise and worship will begin at 9 a.m. followed by Mass with Bishop Tom Flanagan. Christmas fellowship follows at the CCCR. Bring the whole family. If you would like to bring something for the Christmas fellowship please call Erica Rodriguez @ 210-250-0260.

**Reminder, no Day of Renewal this month. Come to the Concert on December 27th.**

My brothers and sisters, we had a great year, thanks to your continued support throughout the year. We thank God for your generosity in giving of your time, talent and treasure.

Your Brother in Christ, Jerry Syring

## † Healing Masses And, Or Healing Services

**2nd Mon.: St Agnes** (804 Ruiz St) 6pm  
**2nd Mon: St. Bonaventure**, (1918 Palo Alto) 7pm  
**Last Monday: St James**, 907 W Theo, 5:30pm  
**Tues.: CCCR Chapel** (1707 S. Flores), 10:30am. Salt, water, oil & religious articles blessed  
**1st Tues. St. Vincent De Paul's** Chapel (4422 W Loop 410) 7pm  
**1st Tues: St. Jude** (130 S. San Agustin) 7pm  
**Last Tues: St. Cecilia** (125 W. Whittier), 7pm  
**1st Wed. CCCR Chapel** (1707 S. Flores), 7pm  
**3rd Wed. St. Lawrence** (236 E. Petaluma) 7pm  
**3rd Wed., Holy Family** 152 Florencia, 7pm  
**3rd Wed., St. Mark's Day Chapel** (1602 Thousand Oaks Drive) 7pm  
**Last Wed, San Juan de los Lagos** (3231 El Paso St.) 7pm  
**Third Thurs: St. Phillip of Jesus** (131 Bank) 6pm  
**Last Thurs: St Mary Magdalen** (1710 Clower) 7pm  
**Last Thurs: St. Phillip of Jesus** 131 Bank 6pm Children Healing Mass

**Fri.: CCCR Chapel** (1707 S. Flores), 12pm Salt, water, oil & religious articles blessed  
**1st Fri: St. Agnes** (814 Ruiz ) 7pm Exposition 8am-6:50pm  
**1st Fri. St. Dominic's** (5915 Ingram Rd.) 7pm to 4am  
**1st Sat. St. Agnes** 9AM devotion to Our Lady with the four mysteries of the Rosary & Mass at 10 a.m.  
**Sun., The Grotto**, (5700 Blanco Rd) 2-4 pm

### ABOUT THE CHARISLETTER

We thank God for all who volunteer to put the charisletter together, prepare for mailing and delivering it to the Main Post Office on Perrin-Beitel Road. Thank you from the CCCR staff. We couldn't do it without you!

The Charisletter is the main source of communicating with you, our audience and dedicated brothers and sisters in the Renewal. Over 1200 newsletters are mailed each month. Thanks be to God.

The mailing label has a renewal date for each subscription. Please look at it and send a donation if its overdue. Each issue costs us approximately \$1.00, or \$12 a year (12 issues) but any amount would help. God bless you for your generosity and support.

Ros Hernandez, Director

### Actividades en Español

**6 de Diciembre:** Bilingüe, Servicio de "Lavada de Manos" vengán a St. Henry's  
 De 9 a 11 a.m. Obispo Tom Flanagan  
**27 de Diciembre, Concierto con Jesús**, con Pablo Castro, 6-10 p.m., Salón de St. Henry  
**25 de Enero, Bendición de la Renovación**, St. Henry's, de 2 a 4 p.m., Obispo Flanagan  
**6 y 7 de Marzo, Conferencia Carismática**, en Santa María Magdalena. Regístrense.  
**Cada Martes, 7-9 p.m. Grupo de Oración** "Jesús, Palabra de Vida," CCCR  
**Cada Miércoles, 7-9 p.m., Capilla del CCCR** Grupo "Tree of Life"

## CALLING ALL CHARISMATICS!

We invite you to tune in to **(CTSA Channel 15) every 3rd Monday of the month from 8pm to 9pm.** Join the hosts of **Fanning The Flame, Michael and Erica Rodriguez**, as they bring people from our community in San Antonio to share their Life In The Spirit. It's a live program where YOU can call in with questions for the guests, prayer requests, or comments you'd like to share. **GUESTS ON DEC. 15TH : Michael and Erica Rodriguez & Family - A Tribute to the Holy Family.**

### HERMANO PABLO MARIA

Gracias a todos los que participaron y nos ayudaron con los servicios Del Hermano Pablo Maria. Estuvo todo magnifico y esperamos que venga pronto a darnos un día completo de alabanza, Santa Escritura y sanacion. Bendiciones. Ros H.

## Kids Say The Godliest Things

Catholic elementary children [were] tested on questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following statements were written by these children.

1. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple
2. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they [ate] unleavened bread which is bread without ingredients.
3. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
4. The greatest Miricle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
5. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a jezebel like delilah
6. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
7. Christians have only one Spouse this is called monotony.

Submitted by: Ms. Rosalind Valdespino of San Anotonio, Texas

## ARCHDIOSESE HEALING MINISTRY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

*"I Bring You News of Great Joy...*

*A Savior has been born for You" (Luke 2:10-11).*

The birth of Christ heralds our salvation and shows us the depth of God's Love for us. May He dwell in your hearts and pray that God may grant His gift of Peace to all nations, everywhere and in your homes this Christmas and in the New Year 2009.

We thank each and every person who helped the Archdiocese Healing Ministry this last year. Your love, talents and support has made this "Year Of St Paul" successful so far!

*"We can do all things through Christ who strengthens Us." (Phil 4:13)*

We continue to serve you and hope you will continue to serve Him in the coming New Year 2009. We anticipate many miracles & wonders at the Regional Charismatic Conference at St. Mary Magdalen Church on March 6 & 7. We need your help and support so we can continue to bring many to Christ through this Healing Ministry.

*It was not You who chose Me, it was I who chose You, go forth and bear fruit.*

*(Jn 15:16), Believers...shall lay hands on the Sick and they shall recover. (Mk 16:18)*

Hope you will be able to attend Bishop Tom's "Annual Reconciliation and Forgiveness - Washing of the Hands Mass" on Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at St Henry's Church, 9:00 to 10:30 AM with Fellowship to follow at CCCR. Bring a dish or snack to share.

The next Healing Workshop will be on January 10, 2009. Look for the announcement on the January Charisletter.

We Love You Dearly,

Pedro & Nelda Palacios/Josie Gonzalez  
Healing Ministry Coordinators