



Families Matter

Catholic, Charismatic, Evangelistic & Family-Oriented

Families in Christ Jesus Community

October 2009



Spiritual Power

by Arch Tunnell

In today's Christian communities we see a lack of power compared to early Christian communities. Why is this so? Let's look at an early community

of gentile Christian origin. Let's look at a city from which Christianity burst out like a torrent. The city was Antioch. This was a rich, powerful capital of the Roman province of Syria. It was the third largest city in the world. It was multiracial, militaristic, libertarian, wealthy and sex-mad. Sounds like a modern city of today. In its time, Antioch was a very modern city. Yet its Christian community became one of the greatest spiritual powerhouses in the world and launched the first Christian mission into Europe. Where did this power come from? We will cover a number of sources that always accompany spiritual power. You can read about them in chapters 11 & 13 in the book of Acts.

This community was not founded by the apostles but by early Christian believers. The pressure and persecution on the believers in Jerusalem was so great, they moved up the Phoenician seaboard until they came to Antioch. To start with they spoke only to the proper people, the Jews. However, they found they could not keep quiet about Jesus and they told outsiders about the good news of the Lord Jesus. Remember, there was not a minister among them; just ordinary Christians, full of Jesus, just like us. Just ordinary Christian men and women full of Jesus sharing their faith, which is still a powerful way of spreading the good news. Witnessing to the Lord is a powerful tool.

A second aspect of the Christian community at Antioch was the power of their fellowship. The first believers broke the kosher barrier down. They witnessed not only to their Jewish friends but also to the Gentiles. They found it ridiculous to tolerate any man-made barriers, because they were united with brothers in Christ. An example of this kind of fellowship is in Washington D.C. when senators and prisoners sit down together in Christian fellowship at Fellowship House and share our Lord Jesus. It raises eyebrows, however, the Kingdom moves forward. Our community must show a quality of love and caring

which surpasses anything in contemporary society.

We must be ready to share our faith with whomever the Lord brings into our path. If we want spiritual power in our community we must pay attention to the quality of our fellowship. It must be totally open, caring, honest and sacrificial.

There is power in dynamic worship. In Acts 13:1-2 the believers were worshipping the Lord with such great intensity that someone broke in with a prophecy saying that they should send their two best leaders off on a mission for which the Lord had called them. They fasted and prayed, and sent them off on the first mission into Europe. Think of the quality of worship that set that up.

The unity, the intensity of the worship, should get us into God-centeredness. You never get spiritual power in a community unless the worship is mighty and God-centered, unless unity and sacrifice and prayer and fasting are part of the life of that community. People are converted through the sense of God that comes through the worship.

The power of consistent biblical teaching should be in every community. A lively community should teach, teach, and teach. Teaching for agnostics, for new converts, for leadership, for personal relationships, and for missions. Teaching by proclamation, by discussion, by study, by joint activities of members and leaders - all these are valuable. A community where there is little grasp by the ordinary members of the dynamic Word of God is not going to display spiritual power.

The power of the Holy Spirit is what was noticeable in the community of Antioch. The Spirit would be seen flowing from their leaders in their faith, their teaching, and their encouragement. The Spirit was clearly seen in the power of their worship services as evidenced in the prophecy to send two of their leaders out on mission. The fascinating thing was that these men at Antioch did not oppose the Spirit, as we often do, by disobedience, unbelief, or theological prejudice. They were open to the leading of the Spirit, open to His gifts, open to obey Him. That made for power. When we are willing to allow the Spirit to change our plans in worship, to drive us out in service, and to give us spiritual gifts, then we may well see

Continued on page 2

Dates to Remember

- Sept. 17: Start of LCS at St. Clare
 Oct. 1: "Special" October Gathering
 Oct. 17: MCR II at Borromeo

Spiritual Power

Continued from page 1

something of the power that was apparent at Antioch.

I see many of these five pathways present in our community. The challenge we face is to improve in those areas in which we are lacking. This cannot be done on our own. It CAN ONLY be done through the power of the Holy Spirit, by prayer and by fasting. Therefore, let us move forward and surrender to the Spirit, so He can guide us and make us into the community that He wants.



Gathering Reminder

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| October Set up | Mcllroy, Del Valle & Federico |
| October Clean up | Rihtar |
| November Set up | Cavolo, B/C Roach & Erickson |
| November Clean up | Powall |
| December Set up | Bennett, Finomore & Skilton |
| December Clean up | J/B Roach |

Questions? Please call Bob Perusek @ (216) 731-5531

Life in Christ Series

A Life in Christ Series is being held at St. Clare Church, 5659 Mayfield Rd., Lyndhurst. The series runs for 9 weeks with each session consisting of prayer, a teaching, group discussion and time for fellowship. The LCS began on Thursday, Sept. 17th from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. There is still time to join in!



For more information, please call

Arch or Marlyn Tunnell at 440-442-7538

Ross and Susan Federico at 440-646-2556.

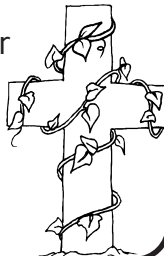
In Loving Memory of

Stefanija Vidmar, mother of Justine Novak

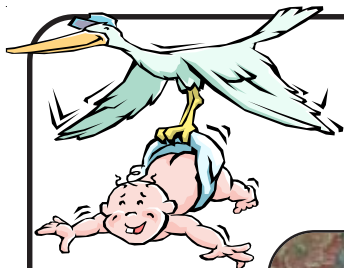
Herb Thoma, father of Nancy Fraser

I have fought a good fight,
 I have finished my course,
 I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7



Precious Bundle of Joy



Jared & Becky Roach, along with big brothers Anthony & Tobias welcomed **Caleb James** on July 30th, weighing 9 lbs. 9 oz and 21" long.



Our Sincere Thanks

The Roach family would like to thank everyone for their loving support and generous gifts of meals. We feel very blessed to be a part of such a giving community! The meals also served as a wonderful witness to many of our neighbors - they wanted to know who all the people were that kept coming in and out of our home!

THANK YOU so very much.

Jared & Becky Roach

Catholic Renewal Ministries



Catholic Renewal Ministries' **Traveling Charismatic Mass** for October will be held at Assumption Parish, 9183 Broadview Rd., Broadview Hts., 44147, on **Friday, October 23rd, at 7:30 p.m.** Fr. Pascal Petcavage will be the celebrant. For more information, please contact Fr. Bob Franco at 440-934-4227.

Come and bring a friend! This will be a time to truly encounter the Lord.

Marriage in Christ Retreat II *Save the Date!*

If the MCR I blessed your marriage then do not miss the MCR II! The MCR II will be held at Borromeo on Saturday, Oct. 17th. Additional details will be forwarded soon to the households. All married couples are welcome, but those who have not previously made this one day retreat are highly encouraged to attend.

"Where Your Treasure is, there Your Heart will be"

... the theme of this year's National Prayer Gathering. Please keep those hosting, attending and facilitating the Gathering in your prayers. It will be held in Sacramento, CA on Oct. 2-4.

Great Gatherings!

If you miss the monthly Gathering then you are missing a lot!. September's tremendous Gathering featured Fr. Larry Richards and it was surely life-changing for many. Please join us for the one time each month when we are able to all come together as the NE Ohio community of Families in Christ Jesus.

The **October** Gathering will be a very special night of empowerment that you will not want to miss!

For the **November** Gathering we will once again welcome special guest and amazing worship leader Bill Reichart. Come prepared to enter into a powerful night of praise & worship and much more!

Did you know?

by Jerry Cleland

Did you know even someone not baptized, can baptize an individual into the Catholic church?

CCC 1256 " In case of necessity, any person, even someone not baptized, can baptize, if he has the required intention. The intention required is to will to do what the Church does when she baptizes, necessity of Baptism for salvation."

We are called to Evangelize

By Ross Federico

Spreading the gospel draws us into a deeper union and relationship with Jesus Christ. We should integrate prayer, fellowship with other Christians, and the study of God's word into our lives. We should be witnesses to others about Jesus. Personal evangelism deepens our relationship with the Lord; it is a crucial, life-giving ingredient in the spiritual life. Through this we learn how to draw closer to God, rely on his help, and be led by his Spirit. As we show concern for others our hearts are transformed into the heart of Christ who came to seek and save the lost.

We need to consider how desperately the world needs to hear about Jesus. War, crime, divorce, loneliness, murder, and poverty are some of the afflictions of our brothers and sisters. God's answered prayer is life through his only Son.

The needs of the world cry out to each of us – in our neighborhoods, families, schools, cities and workplaces. We have only to open our eyes and hearts to see the desperate needs of those around us.

According to Ephesians 2:1, Men and women without Christ are dead. We need to bring life to those who may be experiencing life without Christ.

Take the next step, open your heart to others and share the good news of Jesus Christ.



Kid's Korner

Kids for Christ

Ages 4 -12

Next Meeting

Join us for Kids For Christ on
Fri Oct 2 at 6:30 - 8:00pm at
Euclid Creek Reservation.
**We are going to a fall hike and
a marshmallow roast!**

Please call Bob or Chris Roach at
216-531-4377 to RSVP

Spiritual Awareness

by Greg Kozar

Here are a few books, study guides, and websites to help us in our walk. Please e-mail Greg Kozar at skikool@prodigy.net with your recommendations so they can be include in future editions of "Families Matter".

"Conversing with God in Scripture"
By Stephen J. Binz

"Trustful Surrender To Divine Providence
The Secret of Peace and Happiness"
Father Jen Baptiste Saint Jure, S.J.
Saint Claude De La Colombiere, S.J.

"An Introduction To The Devout Life"
St. Francis DeSales
Bishop, Confessor and Doctor of the Church

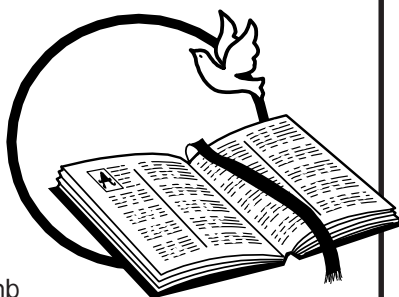
"The Fulfillment of all Desire"
By Ralph Martin

Web sites

The Word among Us
www.wau.org

Spiritdaily
www.spiritdaily.com

Intercessors of the Lamb
www.bellwetheromaha.org



Try this experiment today. Before you begin your daily routine, choose four different times when you will stop what you are doing, turn your heart to God, and listen for his Spirit. Take a look at the activity you were involved in and ask, "Can I see Jesus here? How might he want to speak to me right now? Is there some way he wants to work through me?"

Don't look for the spectacular. Instead, just relax and know that God is with you. Then listen quietly for a minute or so. What is God saying to you right now? How is he ministering to you? Don't be surprised if, during this ordinary, simple exercise, you sense something extraordinary happening to you.



Jesus, I commit my life to you. It may seem plain and ordinary, but I know that you can lift me up and fill me with heavenly grace. Come, Lord, and have your way with me.

Youth Calendar

September Schedule

3rd – Gathering @ St. Williams 8 -10 pm
6th – Leader's Meeting @ Roach's 7-9 pm
13th – General Meeting: More than Words
27th – General Meeting: Cut it Off?

October Schedule

1st – Gathering @ St. Williams 8 - 10 pm
4th – Leader's Meeting @ Roach's 7-9 pm
11th – General Meeting: Wisdom
25th - Parent Appreciation Dinner

November Schedule

1st – Leader's Meeting @ Roach's 7-9pm
5th – Gathering @ St. William's
8th – General Meeting: Called by God
21st – POSSIBLE -Guy's Retreat Day (9am-10pm)
Girl's Service Project
29th – General Meeting: Revelations 1:8

For more info call Becky Roach @ 216-407-4629

General Meetings are held at Borromeo.

Schedule subject to change - please call for updates.

Saint of the Month

St. Clare

Virgin & Foundress of Poor Clares



St. Clare was born at Assisi in 1193. She followed her fellow citizen, St Francis, in a life of poverty and became mother and foundress of an order of nuns called the Poor Clares (EWTN order). She led a life that was austere yet rich in works of charity and piety. She died in 1253.

God of mercy, you inspired Saint Clare with the love of poverty. By the help of her prayers may we follow Christ in poverty of Spirit and come to the joyful vision of your glory in the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Joy in our Household

by Debbie Finomore

The Finomore Household has had its share of peaks & valley, but I would like to share one of the greatest blessings we have experienced together. Many of you heard Joy Bakunas' testimony a few months back, but I would like to tell her story and a bit more from my vantage point.

I met Joy when she attended the St. Helen's Christ Renews His Parish weekend back in 2006. She was reluctant to attend but nevertheless, she was there. I have since learned that her typical M.O. is to come kicking and screaming and dragging her feet until the Lord grabs a hold of her and knocks some sense into her. Oh, my dear Joy, when will you ever learn?

It was that way for Renewal and it was that way when she and her husband, George attended the LCS and subsequently joined our household. I was quite surprised they joined, partly because of her resistance and partly because of her intense experience when she received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Lord revealed to Joy that she would get cancer and she acknowledged it and accepted his plan for her life.

In the summer of 2008 Joy was diagnosed with pancreatitis but it was later revised to pancreatic cancer. After undergoing surgery and chemotherapy Joy eventually ended up in the hospital due to pneumonia, a heart attack, stroke and finally congestive heart failure which led to all treatment being halted. After spending a few weeks in the hospital she came home in January of this year with little hope of anything other than the miracle of a happy death. Her one desire was to make it to the springtime to see the leaves on the trees one more time. Little did she know that the Lord had much more for her to see and experience.

In April Joy attended her first household meeting in months and at the conclusion of praise and worship we asked if we could pray over her. When she was first diagnosed she was not very willing to be prayed over... again just dragging her feet. But this time, she welcomed it. We prayed earnestly for the Lord's healing touch and the Holy Spirit was truly present that night. The following day she went to get a CAT scan and when the results came back the following Monday they were "unremarkable"... meaning there was no visible sign of cancer present.

Joy just had another scan done at the end of August and it too was "unremarkable".

In addition, the scar tissue on her lungs from the bout with pneumonia is almost gone and her once enlarged heart is back to normal. On the day of her scan he also lead her to the evening prayer of the Divine Office (Psalm 29-30) entitled "Thanksgiving for Rescue from Death". There is no doubt that God's love and mercy has touched Joy in a miraculous way.



All praise be to God! The Lord probably figured she'd be kicking and screaming all the way up to heaven so he left her here to get more work done.

The work he has given her, George and another wonderful couple from St. Helen's is to start a cancer support group. They have been obedient and God has been faithful. Recently, Joy & George asked me and household member, Kelly Majetich, to come to the home of a cancer patient with stage 4 lung and bone cancer to pray with her and her family. Kelly and I were a bit nervous since we did not know the family or what to expect. However, what we experienced was one of the most emotionally raw, honest, and beautiful displays of the true familial love and support.

We prayed extensively for the woman and then for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for her husband and adult daughter. It was an absolutely amazing evening that started off with fear, sadness and tears but ended up with laughter, joy and the assurance that the Lord had been faithful in meeting this family in a fresh and loving way. We thought we were going over to serve this family but they gave us even more in return.

A couple of days later at our household meeting we tried to share the wonder of that meeting but words simply could not do it justice. In addition to our experience, we had great sharings that night: 3 had visited the sick, 2 had participated in prison ministry, 1 had put aside work four times that day to lend an ear to co-workers in need, and 1 had taken two young boys being raised by their grandparents on a camping trip. It was no wonder scriptures were read during praise and worship of Jesus' command to tend to the needs of the hungry, sick, imprisoned, widowed and orphaned. As a household we were encouraged to continue to reach out to those in need and to share the love of Christ with everyone we meet.

To finish up Joy's story... you see God was not done with her when he healed her body and set her on a new course. Unfortunately Joy was never convinced that God had truly healed her. She figured that her previous chemo treatments prevented the cancer from showing up in the test results. In her mind, the cancer was still there and for months this lie kept her bound up and unable to experience the true freedom and joy that the Lord had intended for her. That is until we attended the miracle healing service at the Charismatic Conference at Franciscan University in July. Because of her stubbornness, the Holy Spirit had to literally knock her flat down and as she rested in the Spirit he completed the healing by letting her know with utter certainty that she was indeed healed. The joy is back.

Psalms 30 was read at our household meeting this week and Joy and I just looked at each other in awe and with a smile as we knew that God was putting an exclamation point on this story. Thank you Lord for rescuing Joy from death! Now I am hoping and praying that maybe, just maybe, Joy will finally learn to stop all the kicking, screaming and dragging those feet.

Families Matter Profiles

Jane & Gary Coffey



Children: Jimmy 18, Bryan 15, John 10 and Kelly 7

City Residence: Willoughby
If married/years: 23 years as of 9/13/09

Occupation (s): Consultant/DRG Auditor

Parish: Christ Community Church

Years in FCJC: 7

How has FCJC affected your life? We started Couples for Christ and now Families, mainly as a way to do something together as a couple and quickly became our weekly "date night" that we looked forward to and still do today. We paid babysitters for years and it was one of the best things we have done in our marriage and in our walk with God.

I have really learned a lot from FCJC. I have always been Catholic and went to church all my life. But when I started Families I didn't even know what praying in tongues and what tithing was. It was never mentioned in the churches I attended. I learned how to pray from my heart and not using the written prayers all the time. I learned from watching others and hearing others share their testimonies and stories and learned how to care for those in need and how to pray for many. I learned to reach out to my

"sisters" through women's retreats and was able to establish many friendships and I was able to find ways to touch others like they touch me.

Praise and Worship was another aspect that has changed for me. I love Christian music and just love our praise and worship. I learned what praising God means and not just to ask God for my wants and needs, but to thank him for everything I have. I enjoy praise and worship so much that I joined the Praise and Worship team at my church. When I first started Families, I had a funny experience! Many know that my feet feel like they are on fire when I am in praise and worship and it still happens today. My walk with the Lord is so strong because of what I learned from so many.

I love the fellowship that we have maintained throughout the years. It amazed me how many people have the same values and thoughts as Gary and I do and we can have so much fun with so many. Some people we don't see very often but when we do it seems like we just pick up and enjoy each others company.

Our household has experienced many changes and many difficulties, but the leadership of Mike and Connie has been extremely important to us. They are awesome leaders and have been through so much with us and has helped us in our walk with God. We appreciate all that they do to prepare, lead our household, and help us individually when we need prayer and help too.

Wan't speak enough of our Families experience and just enjoy it so very much!

Theresa Ann Cash



City Residence: Willoughby
(Originally from Bronx, New York)

Single

Occupation: Alcohol and Drug Counselor 2 for the Ohio Department of Mental Health. (Other various jobs in my career: Program

Coordinator, Crisis Intervention Specialist, Community Support Worker/ Case Manager, Social Worker 2 and Residential Specialist)

Parish: St. Williams since 1998

Years in FCJC: Wow—It has been 7 years!

How has FCJC affected your life?: Indescribable. FCJC has shown me how to grow in my faith as well as provided me with the fellowship needed to grow closer to our Lord. I have had the great pleasure of being a part of 3 great households these past 7 years: Handmaids from 2002 to 2005; Tunnell/ Erickson Household from 2005 to 2007 and Erickson/ Schemp Household from 2007 to current. Each household has shown me how to use prayer to grow closer to the Lord, showed me different ways to evangelize and taught me how to use the gifts the Lord has given me in different ways. I still have a lot to learn and more growing to do. You might say I am a work in progress, but FCJC has accepted me for who I am. FCJC is definitely a part of my family as I have come to feel a part of your family. May the Lord continue to use the members of FCJC to inspire others to use the gifts the Lord has given them to help others! May God bless each and every member of FCJC and their families.

Interior Desire for God

by Greg Kozar

I recently read a book entitled "Conversing with God in Scripture, a contemporary approach to Lectio Divina" written by Stephen J Binz. In the next three issues of "Families Matter" I will share some of the highlights.

The term "lectio divina" is a Latin expression that is best translated, although incompletely, as "sacred reading". Lectio divina honors that most basic source of all real prayer - an interior desire for God.

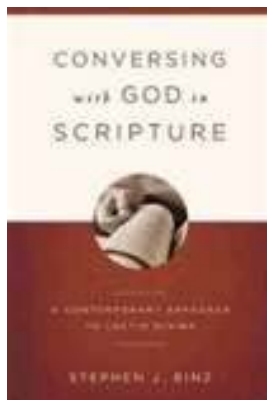
There are many reasons for reading the Bible. Many Christians read the Bible with an intellectual mindset, while others read Scripture with a scholarly bent, while others are more interested in the theological issues. However, the supreme reason for reading the Bible is to encounter God.

In Christianity's earliest centuries, it was understood that a daily reading of Scripture nourished Christian life. Unfortunately, this unified and personal way of prayerful reading declined in later centuries and went into virtual oblivion after the Reformation. From the Reformation to the Second Vatican Council it was assumed that the purpose of the Bible was to communicate a doctrinal or moral message.

Lectio divina helps us to return to the more ancient understanding of the sacredness of the inspired text. This book helps explain how the Bible is a means of joining us to the story of God's people.

The author points out there are essential characteristics that make the common practice of Bible reading an authentic experience of lectio divina. He explains to us how lectio divina establishes a dialogue between the reader of Scripture and God, that lectio divina is a personal encounter with God through Scripture, that through lectio divina you establish heart-to-heart intimacy with God and that lectio divina leads to contemplation and action.

The encounter of the two disciples with the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus is an experience of lectio divina. In reflecting on their encounter, they said to each other, "Were



not our hearts burning within us" (Luke 24: 32)

The author shares with the reader how the word of God and its power to transform us are gifts from God that we must accept into our lives.

At the heart of lectio divina is the belief that the Scriptures are filled with God's Spirit and through this same spirit, the words of the Bible can lead us into a personal encounter with Jesus Christ that can transform our lives.

The theologians and spiritual writers of early centuries saw the Bible as a lamp to light our path, a letter written to us by God, a sea of deep mysteries, a table set for us by God, and a deep well full of refreshing water.

Lectio divina is not so much a matter of interpreting a book as of seeking someone. Thus, when you read the Bible, expect that Jesus will speak to you and nourish you with his presence. As people of faith we become personally involved and we cannot escape without a response.

The most important thing to keep in mind when practicing lectio divina is that it is meant to lead us to a personal encounter and dialogue with God. Lectio divina is a way of developing a love relationship with God. We need to listen with our hearts, to step out of our "comfort zones."

Mary listened to the word of God in Jewish tradition. Her attentive listening to the Divine Word prepared her to receive the new divine revelation brought by the angel Gabriel. Mary's whole life with Jesus, from Nazareth to Cana to Jerusalem, was a careful reading of the Word, an attentive listening to the Word. Mary teaches us how to pray the lectio with receptive and expectant devotion.

In the next issue I'll share how the book moves from lectio (what does the text say?) to meditatio (meditation.)



Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth.




Mary Beth O'Neill
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I'll work hard for you & I appreciate referrals too!



Please send Families Matter articles/contributions & advertisements to Debbie Finomore preferably by e-mail to deb@finomore.com or mail to 12115 Burlington Glen, Chardon OH 44024.



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