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**Arkansas Catholic Charismatic Conference Website**

<https://www.arkcc.org/>

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## THE GREAT LOVE OF GOD

*BY PATTI BRUNNER*

How do I know God loves me? Have you ever seen a sunset that was spectacular? Have you ever snuggled a sleeping baby? Have you ever worn a new outfit that was perfect for you? These earthly things bring joy and a sense of peace. The sunset is there for the viewing. It doesn't mind if you are healthy or bright or generous or talented. It just 'is'. A sleeping baby totally trusts you to hold them in your arms. The baby doesn't mind if your shoes match or if your hair is combed. It doesn't care if the mortgage is paid or if there is food in the refrigerator. The joy of a sleeping, snuggling baby is joy and contentment. When everything seems to fall into place for you and you feel good about yourself you don't mind if the people on the next street are awake or taking out their trash. The peace, joy and contentment of these earthly things are but a taste of the goodness of the Lord and the bliss of heaven that awaits you. When God created the world, with all its beauty, it was to share it with you. His love for you is greater than anything you can imagine.

God gave Adam and Eve a paradise to live in. Their sin separated them from God—in God there can be no darkness and sin is dark. Throughout history man has continued to separate themselves from God through sin. Yet God never stopped loving us. In fact, God loved us so much that he sent his dearly beloved Son to take our sin upon himself and pay the consequences. When he paid the terrible price of death on the cross; suffering the torment and torturing he reopened the gate to paradise by becoming the gate himself. We can be united to him in Baptism to become a part of his body. As he took his rightful place at the Father's right hand, he reunites mankind with God the Father through the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that was promised to us. It is the Holy Spirit that sets us free and restores us to grace in each of the 7 sacraments. Jesus won victory on the cross—he conquered death. To help us understand how we can participate in the forgiveness and love of God, Jesus shared a parable called the "Prodigal Son." The father, like God, never stopped loving his son. The older son didn't realize what he had all along. We, too, might not know 'all along' that we are loved and have all the rights of an heir to the kingdom. Truly as Christ stepped to the side of the Father in heaven all humans who have become one with the body of Christ inherited the kingdom of God with all its benefits and duties. It is the Great Love of God that gave this most generous gift.

Love is more than provision. Earthly fathers choose to do without for themselves to provide for those they love. Our Heavenly Father sacrificed his son for us so that we could be one in the Body of Christ. As earthly fathers continue to love their children despite difficult circumstances so, too, the Heavenly Father's love for us is not hinged on us. We do not have to earn His love. We do not have to fight for his love. All we have to do is accept the gift of his love. By the gifts of freewill we can reject or accept it. There is some confusion in our hearts when we struggle with difficult conditions that cause suffering or death. We might ask, "Doesn't God love me?" Or "Why doesn't God fix this?" All throughout history mankind has chosen to reject God's love to do their 'own thing'. When this happens bad decisions are followed by worse actions and soon the decay and suffering seem to overtake the world. We don't have to look very far to see wars and persecutions.

As is clear in the story of Adam and Eve, our sin affects others sometimes for generation upon

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generation. The good news is that the love of God is triumphant over sin, suffering and death. In the resurrection from death, Jesus was victorious over sin and death. As we join Him at his side in heaven there will be no sting of suffering and death but the glory of God will fill us with everlasting joy. His joy is available now, too. As we surrender, become docile to the Holy Spirit, we use our gift of freewill to accept God's love and as His love enters our heart our life is transformed by his love. When Salvation cleared the way for the Spirit of God to take up "his rest" within man's heart by the grace of the redemption the Spirit set in motion special graces known as charisms; through the sanctification of Baptism, the Spirit once more is one within our hearts.

Whatever path in life you take God loves you. But think about this: He has prepared a better way. He sent Jesus to show the Way and to clear the obstacles; then they sent the Holy Spirit to provide untold riches of the kingdom of God. Mankind who respond, "Come Holy Spirit" "Vene Spiritus" thus choose to allow God to make present His love. Amen.

[You can listen to the **Life in the Spirit** audio teaching on this subject "**Does God Love Me?**" on **Truth of the Spirit** podcast TOS006 or at **PatriarchMinistries.com**

### ***Mission Statement***

**The mission of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Arkansas is to share in and support the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the Church, that is, to stir into flame the grace of Pentecost. We strive to do this by:**

- **Coming together in prayer groups to celebrate and experience the Father's love, grace, and mercy as it comes to us in the person of Jesus Christ and by gift of the Holy Spirit.**
- **Leading others to the release of the Spirit in their lives.**
- **Identifying, fostering, and using the particular charisms each has received.**
- **Serving one another, families, community, Church, and the world.**
- **Evangelizing, sharing the Good News by word and example.**

*The ACCR Newsletter is published bi-monthly in email format only. Please share this newsletter with family and friends. The next newsletter will be published on November 1. The deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter will be October 15. Please contact [accnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:accnewsletter@gmail.com) to send articles. All articles will be reviewed before publication. Your prayers for this endeavor are greatly appreciated.*

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# SAVE the DATE!



**July 26-28, 2019**  
**Arkansas Catholic Charismatic Conference**  
**&**  
**Arkansas Catholic Youth Conference**  
**St. Joseph's Catholic Church**  
**Conway, AR**

Conference Speakers – Dr. Mary Healey and Fr. Jose Maria Castillo



Dr. Mary Healey –

<https://www.shms.edu/content/dr-mary-healy>

<http://www.renewalministries.net/wordpress/tag/dr-mary-healy/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5hx9WLvXuE>

Fr. Jose Maria Castillo –

<https://www.jesuittampa.org/page.cfm?p=597&newsid=54>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5Hx3dpMxmc>



# LIFT HIGH THE CROSS!

Hello, fellow Spirit-filled people!

*The Jesus Bread of Life Magnificat Chapter and St Joseph's Parish in Conway, Arkansas,* would like to invite you to save the date for an upcoming Holy Spirit filled event on **September 14, 2019**.

We know its early, but it's never too early to get excited about having **Deacon Larry Oney** visit our Diocese and energize all of us!



At present, details are still unfolding, but we want you to get on board as soon as possible. This one day event will be for men and women. If you want more of the Holy Spirit in your lives, you won't want to miss this!

We'll keep you posted, but, for now, save the date! **September 14th, 2019**. For more information, visit **Deacon Oney's** website at [hopeandpurpose.org/](http://hopeandpurpose.org/)



## *Mary in Gethsemane*

### *A retreat with Fr. Jose Uppani*

By Rita Edwards

Fr. Jose Uppani journeys to us from Kerala, India. He is the director of the Chittoor Retreat Centre, which ministers to thousands. The youth there walk for miles to attend an Abide Youth retreat, sleeping on pallets on the floors to be able to stay for 5 days of spiritual renewal. The Holy Spirit works mightily during these times.



Our annual retreat with Fr. Jose Uppani was once again a spirit-filled and powerful journey with Mary. Fr. Jose helped us to walk with Jesus, through Mary, from conception to Pentecost. One attendee stated that he felt a deep sense of family, a deep sense of the Holy Trinity, and a sense that the heavens are open and rejoice in even the smallest of gatherings in His Name. He also stated that there was a revelation of how the rosary is a roadmap to the heart of Jesus. Another attendee stated that she felt Jesus telling her that, “she (Mary) will lead you to Me”.

In addition to Father’s teachings, we spent time in an inner healing prayer service where some experienced physical and spiritual restorations. We also made a deep examination of conscience, followed by confession. Although we did not have an additional priest available for the sacrament of reconciliation that weekend, Father Jose heard as many as possible.

Our time together culminated with a teaching on the anointing of the Holy Spirit, followed by the Mass. Each one of us was prayed over for a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit. No one leaves untouched.

Fr. Jose Uppani’s deep spirituality, his humility, and his devotion to Our Lady is a gift from the Holy Spirit to us. We are all so thankful to have Fr. Jose with us every year, and are already anticipating next year’s retreat. Watch for information, and please make plans to join us!



# Integrity

By Dr. Dennis Holt

As Charismatics we realize that the reason Jesus established a church was for the purpose of empowering His children with the Holy Spirit to assist Him in building the Kingdom of God on earth. Accepting Jesus as Lord (which in Hebrew means Owner) and being baptized removes the old sarx or flesh nature and begins our new life in Christ. We no longer belong to ourselves but to Jesus, and as a child of God we receive the inheritance of a child that Jesus won for us on the Cross. His nature was prophet, priest, and king and therefore our nature becomes prophet, priest and king. Think about that. This is what Jesus meant in John 12:24, "...except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone; but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit." Jesus is that grain of wheat that died and now His death brings forth, through His Spirit, millions of grains of wheat fashioned in His likeness. Through our baptism we become like Him, filled with the same Spirit. "And if the same Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you' - Romans 8:11. With that infilling we become ambassadors of the Kingdom of God ( 2 Corinthians 5:20). If you understand the role of an ambassador, then you also understand the responsibility that each of us share. An ambassador not only represents to others the country or kingdom that he/she belongs to, but actually exudes the nature of that kingdom. This is what the Father expects from us as His Kingdom ambassadors to the world. We are in the world but we do not represent the world. St. Peter says it best in 1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." - The King James says "a peculiar people." Why special or peculiar? I think one word explains it best, integrity. With all the darkness, deceit, and dishonesty that represent this world's system, we represent the Kingdom of God with integrity because the Spirit who dwells in us trains us to have that nature.

When the check-out lady at Walmart gives us back ten dollars too much in change do we keep it and tell ourselves that "Walmart has more money than it needs" and we keep the ten? No! We don't even consider that thought because that kind of spirit is not in us. As an employee do we give our employer a good day's work for the pay we receive or do we look for ways to loaf and waste time? When a restaurant gets our order wrong, how do we respond?

I believe that next to salvation, integrity is vital to our "getting." As children of God we are being trained by the Holy Spirit to rule and reign with Christ and this world system is our schoolroom. In other words, if you lie, steal, and cheat here you'll do it in the Kingdom of God. Jesus is very emphatic about those who inherit the Kingdom in 1 Corinthians 6. "...do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? "Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men<sup>a</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor

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swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God (NIV).

God cannot let ANY rebellion into His Kingdom, and all sin or missing the mark is rebellion. Like the gifts of the Spirit, integrity must be learned by availing ourselves to the small voice of the Spirit inside us. He teaches us how the Kingdom works and what its expectations are.

I have a good friend who worked for an oil company in Saudi Arabia. He went on a three day R and R to Germany but in the airport in Saudi Arabia he accidentally left his briefcase in the waiting area of the airport. His R and R was ruined by worrying about the briefcase, but when he got back to the airport his briefcase was right where he had left it. Imagine that? How can that be that no one stole it? You might call it forced integrity. In Saudi Arabia they cut your hand off for stealing. The assumption is that "my hand is more important to me than what is in that briefcase." Is your soul more important to you than what is in the world? That is the question that is constantly being asked every day in our lives. The answer to that question determines your position and power in the Kingdom of God. Matthew 25, starting with verse 14, shares God's view very strongly on the reward of a life guided by integrity.

What is unique about the Kingdom of God is that it polices itself. As an ambassador filled with God's Spirit you know what to do. If you have the opportunity to have an affair, it is you that decides to act or not to act. No policeman, no patrolman, no enforcement officer at all; just you (and the Holy Spirit). You think: "No one will know; no one will find out." King David thought the same thing when he took Bathsheba, Uriah the Hittite's wife and then had Uriah killed because David had gotten Bathsheba pregnant. When the prophet Nathan pointed that old accusing bony finger at David and said, "you're the man," everything in David's family changed for the worse from that time forward (2 Samuel 11). Contrast David's life to that of Joseph, the son of Jacob, who no matter what he was put through maintained his integrity and eventually was made the second most powerful man in the land (Genesis 37-45). Integrity has its rewards. The Father sees to that.

Jesus says that the world will know we are His disciples by the way we love each other, but I want to add to that, the world will know we are ambassadors of God's Kingdom by the amount of integrity that we as Charismatics demonstrate. DFH

## ***CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUPS IN ARKANSAS***

| Group Type             | Name                         | City              | Contact                    | Email/Phone  |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Prayer Group           | New Life                     | Conway            | Pat Hoelzeman              | 501-329-6314 |
| Prayer Group           | Heart of Jesus               | Fort Smith        | Phylis Weisenfels          | 479-783-0971 |
| Ministry<br>Magnificat | A Ministry to Catholic Women | Hardy             | Shirley Heuser             | 807-856-2543 |
| Prayer Group           | Light In the Darkness        | Hattieville       | Donna McCall               | 501-354-9786 |
| Prayer Group           | Children of God              | Hot Springs       | Christy Miller             | 501-318-9242 |
| Prayer Group           | Christ the King              | Little Rock       | Fred & Tammy<br>Woell      | 501-225-9287 |
| Prayer Group           | Holy Souls Prayer Group      | Little Rock       | Susej Thompson             | 501-772-2512 |
| Prayer Group           | Living Waters                | Mena              | Dc. Larry Hatch            | 479-394-5655 |
| Prayer Group           | Our God Reigns               | North Little Rock | Jerri Miller               | 501-835-6044 |
| Prayer Group           | The Friends of Jesus         | Pine Bluff        | Jim & Joanne Rin-<br>chuso | 870-879-3555 |
| Prayer Group           | St. Paul                     | Pocahontas        | Dennis & Janet Holt        | 870-892-9473 |
| Prayer Group           | Praise and Worship           | Russellville      | Marion Hotz                | 479-967-4296 |
| Prayer Group           | Glory of Zion                | Subiaco           | Fr. Mark Stengel<br>OSB    | 479-934-1169 |
| Prayer Group           | Merciful Heart               | Rogers            | Rebecca Brandes            | 316-258-2583 |
| Prayer Group           | Holy Family                  | Hot Springs       | Ruth Sliger                | 501-282-5292 |