

Catholic  
Charismatic  
Renewal

Atlantic Service  
Committee



## Atlantic Renewal

### Newsletter—March 2022

[www.betweenthehearts.ca](http://www.betweenthehearts.ca)

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**To submit newsletter  
articles or comments:**

[news@betweenthehearts.ca](mailto:news@betweenthehearts.ca)

#### **Free – Indeed**

**David Webster**

During my childhood, gathering scrap lumber from around the neighborhood with my friends for the purpose of building a “camp” in the nearby forest is one of my most memorable times. There was a sense of pride and accomplishment for all who took part in the construction. Once built, this camp became a place of refuge and escape, a place where friends could gather without any restrictions, a secret place as if a different world; a place of freedom.

Like everything else in life, freedom can be abused. Admittedly, this freedom which my friends and I experienced allowed things to go on in this camp that, let's just say, did not give glory to God. (That's another story in itself) This freedom gave us a sense of power over our surroundings and allowed us to feel like we could do whatever we wanted. The consequences of this abuse of

freedom, especially as a child, is not something one thinks about in the moment, and in my case, even though it was a long time ago and before I encountered Jesus in my life, I still feel some shame in having taken part in the goings-on that happened in this camp.

These are key words when I say; “Before I encountered Jesus.” Before that moment, I was, as St. Paul states, a “slave” to activities that abused the gift of freedom. In coming to know Jesus I have come to better understand this gift of freedom. Not a freedom that the world gives, but a freedom that comes from knowing the truth and the plan our Heavenly Father has for me and for every person. A freedom that allows me to leave the world behind with no turning back. A freedom that allows me to joyfully suffer the persecution of choosing heavenly things over conforming to the things of the world. There is incomparable freedom in the knowledge that I am forgiven and redeemed in Christ compared to the illusive picture of freedom that our culture draws.

There is concern among Christian communities that we are losing our “freedom of religion.” Persecution is on the rise because we are being seen as discriminatory towards others who live their freedom differently than us. We are being stifled from sharing the “Good News” because society is calling it “hate speech.” Love is taking on the definition: “To accept and support everyone's choice to live as they please.” Every human has the freedom to choose their path in life, however, am I ready to accept the consequences that come with my choice? The Good News has a way of setting one fully free by teaching how to make fruitful choices for their life. As long as I chose Christ over the world, I have true freedom!

In the words of Christ Jesus, “If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed.” Whoever accepts Jesus' invitation to enter His house, where He remains forever, will live with Him in his house for eternity. For those of us who have encountered Christ in our lives, these things are easy to understand, but because the world cannot understand, its exercise of freedom is flawed. Even as the world attempts to live in freedom, it is broken and abused.

As a child back in my “camp”, I exercised freedom in any manner that pleased me. A freedom of no restrictions; of secrecy and hidden actions. But since I have encountered Jesus, I have, and live, a new understanding of freedom. It is a strength that allows me to choose Christ; a power to overcome myself and the powers of deception. It brings a responsibility to exercise freedom for the good of everyone.

The freedom of living in Christ empowers us to desire truth that comes in following Him. It empowers us to be transformed rather than to be conformed to the culture of this world. It empowers us to choose the light over the darkness...even through the persecution!



## Jesus Is Calling Retreat

Ethel Cunningham

On September 25 & 26, the Jesus is Calling Retreat, facilitated by the Halifax/Yarmouth Archdiocesan Service Committee, was held at Between the Hearts Renewal Center.

Attendance was limited to 30 participants to keep it intimate and enhance the quiet prayerful atmosphere. The main focus was to identify one's relationship with Jesus through teaching, personal reflection and group discussion based on three of St. Peter's encounters with Jesus: Jesus calls the fishermen (Luke 5:4-10); Jesus walks on Water (Matthew 14:23-33); Jesus invites the apostles to come have breakfast (John 21:1 to 14); "Feed My sheep."

In following Peter's journey, each explored their own process and growth in discipleship and where God may be calling them. Where may he be calling you?

*Elements of a True Calling:* According to Webster's dictionary, a call is an exhortation to do something in order to achieve an aim. People telephone us to get our attention, to make contact with us, to draw us closer to them. As it is with God, a call may be a gradual dawning of God's purpose for our lives. It can invoke an accelerating sense of direction. It can emerge from an inner feeling; or it can burst forth as a sudden awareness of a path that God would have us take. In whatever way, God says, "I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." (Ps. 32:8)

God calls us on many levels and speaks to us through the language of every-day events. He gives us an assignment each day if we listen. Unfortunately, we often dismiss the every-day roles in our lives as an actual calling. For example, parenting. We are the first and most influential evangelizers of our children through our words, actions, and deeds. Likewise, we often dismiss the fact that a call is not necessarily a call to DO so much as a call to BE.

Whatever our role, God never stops calling! In fact, he often calls us from one role to another, at different times, for different reasons, at all ages, but are we always ready to listen? The hearing of every call is unique. God summons us in different ways: a restlessness or a dissatisfaction with things the way they are; a sense of longing, yearning, or wondering. We may be at a crossroad in our life wrestling with an issue or a decision. In any instance, we are not to compare ourselves with others or to try to copy them, rather, we are to fully become the people God created us to be; living our own lives in response to him. Hearing one's call is parallel to discovering one's self and although God is always guiding us in decisions we face, sometimes we need to also act upon our own assessment of what is good. In discerning smaller decisions, it can bring us to something much greater – to places where God truly wants us to be.

In gaining an informed decision, there are certain attributes that help us discern God's will: Trust, Listening, Prayer, Knowledge of Scripture, Humility, Patience, Perspective, and most importantly, sitting in Silence!

Equally, we must also be aware of conditions and obstacles that can hinder discernment of God's will such as world culture, prosperity and self-security, self-interest; self-absorption, self-righteousness, setting time frames, and self-doubt. Sometimes a message of fear can confuse us causing us to hesitate in moving forward, so go where God is. Last but not least, another important element before saying yes or no is asking God for affirmation which is often shown through scripture, other people, visions, dreams, or a Word given by the Holy Spirit.

The final test in determining a true calling comes through awareness in signs of Peace, joy, tears, disorientation followed by a calm and serenity; a sudden sense of clarity, and persistence (when a message keeps reoccurring). Extraordinary life experiences can also bring us to a new direction or calling in our lives, which in themselves are unique to each person.

In summary, the ability to discern a true call develops as we live a life in the Spirit and a continuing commitment to abide in Christ. It depends upon our individual personal relationship with HIM, as we become rooted and grounded in the heart of God.

Every true call is a call to obey. The word 'obedience' derived from the Latin word 'audire' means to listen, to do His will, and to be "obedient from the heart."

***We all have an appointed time! Don't miss it.***





## ***Prophetic word during the retreat:***

(Vision of soil falling from the Hands of God) "Fear not, I will be with you as you go out into the fields and preach the good news. I will be spreading a new soil upon your pathways. My word will be heard."

Allow Me to go deeper, my children, into your souls and your hearts. You are becoming my pillars; my pillars that are and will re-build my temple. – renewing this earth according to my desire and my original plan for all of you.

If you give of the fruits I have given you, I will send them. It is not the charisms that you pass on, it is the fruits. I give you everything...everything. I chose you.

## ***Feedback from the Retreat:***

I wanted to make a comment on how powerful this retreat was for me. I have always been blessed abundantly from the teachings every year in the renewal only this time I felt I was in direct contact with God teaching me. Sometimes I find it hard to express my thoughts so I just want to thank everyone so much for putting this silent retreat on. Like Peter I have been cut to the wick something like what Fr. Thibodeau said St. Peter was. God HAS revealed Himself to me!

*Nanette Crowell*

I encourage anyone who is searching for the grace to keep Jesus at the center of our lives among the current Covid distractions, to visit the Between the Hearts Centre for a retreat. Though Covid protocols were followed, its anxiety was not lingering. The Holy Spirit cleared the way for peace, joy, and direction through the speakers and music. This was my 3rd retreat since fall 2020 and each time I left refreshed and grace- filled. The Jesus is Calling weekend was particularly well prepared and used intermittent talks and quiet times of reflection to discover how Jesus was calling and guiding us individually. This was also the first weekend I was able to stay at the center and was impressed at how comfortable and accommodating the facility and team were. It's even nicer than the virtual tour depicted from the website! Many thanks to the team for an amazing weekend! Ethel's talks had beautiful sharing moments and lessons, and complemented Fr. Thibodeau's words of wisdom; music by 'His Voice' was spiritually elevating as ever, and the hospitality, logistics and preparations were made up of a thousand small acts of love.

*Graziella*

The retreat was the "Full-meal" deal; totally packed in a good way. I learned a lot!!! The first time I experienced the ability to be 'silent' and at 'peace' in prayer. I hope to be able to use the exercises I learned here in my prayer life going forward. This was a very good retreat for me; I have grown in faith and have direction to continue going forward. Thank-you to the team. Thank-you Jesus.

Our time here was wonderful as always! The love, fellowship and acceptance were very well felt. The meals were inclusive and well thought out. The week-end program was well thought out. The music was amazing; so grateful for the music choices; well-loved and uplifting songs.

The papers and questions we had to contemplate were enlightening and inspirational. Thanks so much.

*Lee and Antonio*



## Canada Welcomes CHARIS

*(Excerpts from an article by RICHARD DUNSTAN published in the B.C. Charismatic)*

For the Charismatic Renewal in Canada, an important milestone has taken place that connects our nation to the international Charismatic Renewal community. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops invited a number of leaders from the English and French speaking national service committees to come together. The purpose was to begin the process of forming the National Service of Communion for Canada at the request of CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service) which finds its home in Rome (Vatican). Charis is a world-wide organization called forth by Pope Francis. (Website / [charis.international](http://charis.international))

These invited leaders came together on November 16 – 18, 2021 in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec. At this meeting, the participants (two of which are Greg Moulaison and Gerard MacDonald of the ASC) completed a first draft of the statutes which will provide structure for the new Canadian body. A second draft is planned for completion and will be treated as an interim document until the formation of the service of communion itself, probably in late 2022 or early 2023.

Brian Sullivan, chair of Catholic Renewal Services of Canada, for the English service committee, described the meeting as “an overwhelming success.” “Everyone was focused on remaining in the current of grace to do the Lord’s will and accomplish the work He called us to. We were truly blessed as a team,” he said. He went on to say, “the new body will represent all the realities and expressions of the Catholic charismatic renewal who choose to be part of this national service of communion.”

Once the interim statutes are complete, they will be presented to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and then to CHARIS for approval. Names and contact information for these “realities and expressions” in each diocese will be collected. Representatives from these organizations will meet to learn more about the vision and to elect a 16-to-20-member committee to form the National Service of Communion for Canada committee.



As with the previous structure, CHARIS and its services of communion will be service bodies - not governing bodies - and will not have authority over charismatic groups and organizations, all of which will continue to be subject to the authority of their local bishops or other relevant Church authorities.

“I expect to see a Church on fire with apostolic zeal and evangelistic fervour...if we can learn to be attentive to the Holy Spirit and responsive to the gifts the Spirit never ceases to give us,” said Sullivan. “For this to happen, we need all-hands-on-deck working together preparing the Church to embrace her call.”

Let us pray for the work this group is being called to do.

**ASC Executive**

## WHAT'S NEXT LORD

At the request of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the two linguistic organizations of the Charismatic Renewal in Canada, French and English, were invited to meet and assist in determining the best way to move forward in establishing (the) National Service of Communion for Canada. This new organization will be connected to CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service) in Rome (Vatican). On November 16-18, 2021, the two groups convened at the Centre de Priere l'Alliance (Alliance Prayer Center) in Trois Rivieres, Quebec.

As stated in the previous article, the purpose, details, and outcome of the meeting were summarized. However, I would like to focus on how the Holy Spirit moved outside of the actual meeting. I can best describe this movement of the Spirit with the scripture passage, Isaiah 55: 8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts."

This gathering of both French and English national representatives of the Canadian Charismatic Renewal, in the same room for the same purpose, was a first in over thirty years. Our hosts, as limited in English as we were in French, wasted no time in making everyone feel welcome and completely at home.

Upon arriving at the Center, the English representatives were all greeted with open arms and welcoming hearts. It was obvious that the different languages would not become a barrier unless we allowed it to. This definitely set the tone for the next two days. We were blessed to be together, and the Holy spirit showed us that there is 'Unity in Community.'

The entire group, while focusing on the pre-determined agenda, did not realize until after the meeting that the Holy Spirit was working on an equally important agenda of its own. Aside from the meeting, we had meals together, sang songs of praise together, prayed and celebrated Mass together presided by the local Bishop who inspired us with his spirit filled homilies. The Holy Spirit confirmed again and again through these activities that there is unity in community. The French group worked on practicing their English, the English worked on their French, and we all laughed together. There was truly a spirit of acceptance and love as we spent the three wonderful days together.

On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, a prayer service was held which included uplifting; heartfelt music, laying on of hands for healing and personal petitions. Everyone was touched by the Holy Spirit in a special way. At the conclusion of the three days, I can truly say that I departed with both a renewed spirit and an uplifted heart. A connection was made that had been missing over the past thirty-five years and healing occurred between the French and English groups.

Our Bishops were inspired and are to be commended for calling this meeting. It truly was a movement of the Holy Spirit. Yes, there was a specific plan and agenda, but so much more transpired. Both the French and English groups 'met as strangers but left as friends and companions.' What happened at this meeting is merely a preview of what the Holy Spirit has planned for our Church; presently undergoing renewal.

In conclusion, I leave each of you with the following scripture passage for

reflection: Habakkuk 1:5, "Look over the Nations and see and be utterly amazed! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe, were it told."

To this I can only add as I began, *What's Next Lord?*





### ***Update***

As much as we (The ASC) desire to serve you in this ministry; develop workshops, conferences, retreats and community gatherings for your Spiritual growth, the present health situation makes it very challenging to safely bring people together. We continue to seek and hear what the Spirit is calling us to and in what ways we can be there for you. Know that we long to be with you and continue to pray for you. For now, in these restrictions, we are restrained from serving you in a manner we desire. In the meantime, thank you for your financial support toward the Renewal Centre, and we ask those of you who would financially support it to contact us for ways in which you can do so. Your support helps cover the on-going costs in sustaining the Centre during this closure and in its future ministry.

***Come! Holy Spirit.***

### **Between the Hearts Renewal Center**



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<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://betweenthehearts.ca/">https://betweenthehearts.ca/</a>
<b>Facility Director:</b>	Gerard MacDonald

Despite what you have read above the good news is "WE ARE BACK" & ANNOUNCING!!



### NEW SPRINGTIME RETREAT SERIES

March 18th & 19th, April 8th & 9th, May 13th & 14th, 2022  
21328 Highway 2, Fort Lawrence, NS.  
Phone: 902-667-7179 - Email: [asc@ccrsatlantic.ca](mailto:asc@ccrsatlantic.ca)  
Website: [www.betweenthehearts.ca](http://www.betweenthehearts.ca)



By the grace of God, we are back! It is time to move into the "New Normal" in our journey with the Lord. Time to reflect on the foundations of our relationship with Jesus. Time to deepen and expand it. Time for a deeper outpouring of His Holy Spirit in our lives so that we can see ourselves and others as He sees us and them. Jesus said "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Is your life full or is there room for more?

NOTE: Covid 19 protocols as of March 1, 2022- Masks & Social Distancing Required (Subject to Change)

Come and explore with us what the Spirit is saying to the church in our time. The three retreat weekends will be lead by Greg Moulaison, Ethel Cunningham, Gerard Mac Donald and others yet to be named. Each retreat will have time for music, prayer, presentations sharing, witnessing, and discussion.

#### **Retreat 1: Theme - What has God Guaranteed ? - March 18th & 19th**

"As for me, brothers, when I came before you, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed" (1Corinthians 2:1) What is our image of God, How does He act, is he a Father? Friend? Judge? Stern? Gentle? Harsh? Etc.

#### **Retreat 2: What does God ask of us ? - April 8th & 9th**

"What is good has been explained to you, man; this is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and walk humbly with your God" (Micha 6:8) Are you running in circles trying to please God but not taking time to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit about what he wants of you? Are you running on a treadmill but not getting anywhere. Let us listen together.

#### **Retreat 3: Responding to God as His people. - May 13th & 14th**

"Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me" (John 15:4) Am I to do what everyone else does? What does God want of me and what unique gifts has he given me?

Time: Friday evening Check-in 5pm; start time 7pm – Workshop concludes Saturday at 5pm.

Registration Fee: \$50.00. (includes all workshops, snack, breakfast and lunch).

Accommodation: On Site: \$40.00 per person (double occupancy) - Friday Night  
\$60.00 for Friday & Saturday Night, if you wish to stay over.

Off-site accommodations available at: Wandlyn Inn - (902) - 661-0779, Comfort Inn - (902) 667-0404, Super 8 - (902) 701-9853

**To register contact Rhonda-Lynn Cormier-Clarke @ 902-448-3660**