

From the Director

The Charism of Tongues (part 2)

The charism of tongues can also be used in intercession: "the Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness, for, when we do not know how to pray properly, then the Spirit personally makes our petitions for us in groans that cannot be put into words" (Rms. 8:26). It was said of Pope John Paul II by many who had the privilege of attending his private Mass that he often could be heard groaning in the Spirit prior to Mass. No wonder he once told a group of Renewal leaders, "I like tongues!"

The third dimension builds upon the second, for when we are ministering to others in healing, the charism of tongues becomes "God's marvelous way of helping us in our hour of need." In moving from prayer in one's language to praying in tongues one is "allowing God to make up for everything you don't understand about the sick person's condition" (Francis MacNutt).

Finally, a fourth exercise of the charism of tongues is in the assembly - sometimes in song - as a prophetic word given in conjunction with an interpretation, (see 14:13, 27-28). "The interpreter does not 'translate' the message in tongues, but rather is moved to say something (a word of encouragement or a word from scripture) that he or she and the assembly as a whole feel is linked to the message and that conveys its general meaning" (Come, Creator Spirit, p222).

To conclude, the charism of tongues is to be valued, used and encouraged. It opens the recipient to deeper prayer and many other charisms. However, it is neither the sign of being baptized in the Spirit nor is it the only way to yield to the charisms of the Spirit, for "all the charisms bring a new docility to the Spirit" (Fanning the Flame, p12).

Let us pray for docility to the Holy Spirit that opens us to the charism of tongues and the many other charisms.

By Walter Matthews

Pentecost Today
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What does it mean to be Charismatic?

Catholic charismatics are people who are living life in the power of the Holy Spirit. Their minds and hearts are open to the full release of the Spirit which brings to fruition the graces of the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

Daily they humbly seek the guidance and power of the Spirit through his many gifts (*sanctifying - Isaiah 11:2, service - 1 Cor. 12:4-11*) and manifestations.

Led by the Spirit they boldly share the good news of Jesus Christ with their families, friends and those whom they meet.

"By their fruits you will know them". Matthew 7:16



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*Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of
Thy faithful and
enkindle in them
the fire of Thy love.
Send forth Thy Spirit
and they shall be
created and Thou
shall renew the face
of the earth.
AMEN*

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