



**DICASTERIUM
PRO LAICIS FAMILIA ET VITA**

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

In preparation for the 2027 Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

(Saturday May 30th, 2026, 9:00am – Aula Paolo VI)

Address by Cardinal Kevin Farrell

Dear brothers and sisters,

I thank you all and greet you all here at the beginning of this very important day in the life of the charismatic movement. It is important because today we gather to listen to our Holy Father as he speaks to us in a few moments.

Listening to the Pope’s words and following his magisterium—not just today, but always and in all its expressions—is very important for all of us. We must recall, in fact, that all members and all expressions of Charismatic Renewal are called to be collaborators in the “Petrine ministry.” This requires that Catholic Charismatic Renewal understand itself as a pastoral instrument in the service of the Successor of Peter and therefore as something that does not belong to its members, but, rather, to the Church. The Renewal was not an episcopal or a pontifical initiative, it has grown from the bottom up, from person to person, through a series of private initiatives, powered by the Spirit, like a forest fire pushed by a powerful wind. Nevertheless, it is a current of grace, a gift inspired by God for the renewal of the entire Church, not for any specific or very narrow form of apostolate; as such, it must always be lived in harmony with the Supreme Shepherd of the Church, the Roman Pontiff.

When we refer to Catholic Charismatic Renewal as a “current of grace,”¹ it is

¹ POPE FRANCIS, *Vigil of Pentecost and Ecumenical Prayer on the Occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Catholic Charismatic Renewal*, Circus Maximus, Rome, June 3rd, 2017 (hereafter *Circus Maximus*); FRANCIS, *Olympic Stadium*.

helpful to recall what the then Cardinal Ratzinger said about the gift given to the Church through the vocation and ministry of Francis of Assisi².

Yes, there are Franciscan orders and communities, but there is a spiritual current that envelops them and goes beyond them and which has become the patrimony of the whole Church. In the same way, Catholic Charismatic Renewal has given birth to specific communities and institutes, but this current of grace goes beyond all of them, and does not belong to anyone in particular. The Renewal, therefore, is called to enter into an ever-deeper ecclesial maturity concerning its identity and its mission, and CHARIS is an instrument given in the service of this process of maturity. Catholic Charismatic Renewal, because of this ecclesial identity, receives the confirmation of its identity from the Pastors of the Church.

The Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life follows with great interest and appreciation the mission of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, as well as the work that CHARIS carries out in the service of all the expressions of renewal, giving support, providing training and formation, helping in discernment, encouraging mission, and assisting those who serve at all levels to avoid the recurrent temptations of seeking diversity without unity or seeking unity without diversity.

During Pope Francis's pontificate, the entire Catholic Charismatic Renewal has traveled an important journey. Pope Francis guided this journey by setting out some priorities for you, which can be summarized as follows: to foster communion within the Renewal and in the Church, to promote ecumenism, to spread the Baptism in the Spirit among all the baptized and to deepen their spiritual life; to be at the service of the poor, to promote the exercise of the charisms in the Renewal and in the whole Church, to be always active and in the mission of the evangelization. Evangelization is the key. It was, after all, on Pentecost, the original Pentecost Sunday, that Christ said:

² J. RATZINGER PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM PRO LAICIS, *Movements in the Church*, Proceedings of the World Congress of the Ecclesial Movements, (Rome, 27-29 May 1998) (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1999) 23-51.

“Go preach the Word of God to all nations”. We must be a missionary group, a missionary organization. And that is what God is calling us to do. I would just like to address briefly a few points that we must always remember in our missionary experience.

Communion. It is important always to seek deeper communion among all the expressions of Charismatic Renewal. It is the role of the various National Services of Communion to lead this work of communion. CHARIS' statutes stipulate that these National Services must be "*as inclusive as possible and open to new and emerging realities* " (Art. 15). Although it is not always possible for each particular expression of Catholic Charismatic Renewal to directly participate in the National Service of Communion; CHARIS recommends, for each country, holding some sort of national or regional gathering of the responsible members of all the charismatic realities, in order to allow the participation of all the realities inside a country which consider themselves part of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, without distinction of size, seniority or even ecclesiastical recognition.

Baptism in the Spirit. The Charismatic Renewal has been entrusted with the task of spreading baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Catholic Church and, more broadly even, to all the baptized. I invite you to pray to the Holy Spirit and to discern how to respond to this call of the Church. What is the place of baptism in the Holy Spirit in your community? What is its place in your apostolate? How can this experience be offered in a new way to the greatest number of people? These are questions that I invite you to ask yourself in prayer in each of your communities. The Church expects a lot from you in this area: The Renewal must be missionary! We must go beyond our own distinct areas, our own distinct groups. We must spread the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

Ecumenism. Pope Francis summarized ecumenism as “Walking, Praying, and

Working Together”³—that is, learning to build fraternal relationships with other Christians through shared work, spiritual growth, and prayer Christians while respecting our differences. In this field, it is undeniable that some charismatic communities have had, and still have, a pioneering role, a true prophetic role. The fact that Christians of different denominations come together in the same fraternal life and that this fraternal life lasts over time is a sign of hope. It demonstrates that «what unites us is far greater than what divides us»⁴. It also shows that baptism in the Holy Spirit is really a bridge that brings Catholics, Pentecostals and Evangelicals together through the same experience. It also indicates that the reality of this "fraternal ecumenism" is a confirmation for all of us to follow the Holy Father, Pope Leo, in his mission that all Christians may be one, as he pointed out: «the followers of Christ are summoned to become artisans of reconciliation: to confront division with courage, indifference with compassion, and to bring healing where there has been hurt».⁵ This, my dear friends, is what it means when the Church requires us to be ecumenical in our outcome.

Charisms. The statutes of CHARIS underline the importance of "*promoting the exercise of charisms not only in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal but also in the whole Church*" (Art. 3 § b). We must constantly ask the Holy Spirit to renew his gifts in your communities. They are privileged places where, among brothers and sisters, you can exercise charisms, discern them, encourage them and correct them, for the good of the whole Church. Do not be afraid to go down this path, with the necessary discernment of the competent ecclesiastical authorities. The evangelization of today's world needs you to be open to charisms. People today are in search of signs as were the Jewish People in Jesus' time. Charisms are those signs, those gifts of the Holy Spirit that are

³ POPE FRANCIS, *Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Geneva to mark the 70th Anniversary of the foundation of The World Council of Churches*, WCC Ecumenical Centre (Geneva), Thursday, 21 June 2018.

⁴ POPE LEO XIV, *Message to Participants in the Ecumenical Week in Stockholm on the Centenary of the 1925 Ecumenical Meeting*, Stockholm, 18-24 August 2025.

⁵ Ibid.

given to you for the evangelization of our world. They are part of the promise that Jesus made: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and he will do even greater ones, because I go to the Father "* (Jn 14:12).

Evangelization. Pentecost was the beginning of the mission of evangelization. By thousands, people were converted, and the birth of the Church took place. All the tasks entrusted to you, such as baptism in the Holy Spirit, Christian unity, love in serving the poor, the exercise of charisms and the life of holiness is directed towards a single objective: evangelization. Bringing people to listen, to hear, and to understand, and to practice the Word of God. Your groups and communities have been fully engaged in evangelization since their foundation. I encourage you to continue and intensify your missionary effort, especially with young people. The Church is counting on you to reach young people where they are and to proclaim Christ to them: in schools, universities, on the streets: wherever they are. This evangelization of young people was at the root of Saint John Paul II's intuition when he created the World Youth Day (WYD). I count on the support of all your communities for the next WYD, which will take place in 2027, in Seoul, in South Korea. It will be the first time that World Youth Day in its long history has ever taken place in a country that was not a majority of Christians.

Allow me to add some considerations specifically for those among you who hold positions of authority in Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I borrow several points from Saint John Paul II, speaking in 1981, for they help us understand how, within CHARIS, each of us is called to be a servant.

First, "The role of the leader is, in the first place, to give the example of prayer [...] with confident hope, with careful solicitude, it falls to the leader to ensure that the multiform patrimony of the Church's life of prayer is known and experienced by those who seek spiritual renewal".

Secondly, "You must be concerned to provide solid food for spiritual nourishment

through the breaking of the bread of true doctrine. The love for the revealed Word of God, written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is a pledge of your desire to ‘stand firm in the Gospel’ preached by the Apostles” [...] Take care, then, that as leaders you seek a sound theological formation designed to ensure for you, and for all who depend upon you for guidance, a mature and complete understanding of God’s word. ‘Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. In wisdom made perfect, instruct and admonish one another’ (Col. 3: 16).

Thirdly, “As leaders in the Renewal, you must take the initiative in building bonds of trust and cooperation with the Bishops, who have the pastoral responsibility in God’s providence for shepherding the entire body of Christ, including Charismatic Renewal. Even when they do not share with you the forms of prayer which you have found so enriching, they will take to heart your desire for spiritual renewal for yourselves and for the Church”.⁶

I’ll add one more point to the previous ones. Taking stock of what we have received and looking to what must be done for the future requires of us that we plan for a new generation of leaders. One of the functions of good leadership is the capacity to plan for a time when others must come to the fore and, like the Precursor John the Baptist; we must diminish and make way (John 3:30). In the Church, this is a requirement of good health, and this is why the Statutes of CHARIS include clear references to the renewal of our leadership teams.⁷ My dear brothers and sisters, our hope and our efforts must be directed to the future of humanity.

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for all that your groups and communities are doing for the service of the Church. It is the same Holy Spirit who has awakened all your charisms and who guides the Church. By working in your

⁶ Address of John Paul II to the Participants in the fourth international leaders' conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Thursday, 7 May 1981.

⁷ CHARIS, Statutes, arts. 10 and 14.

communities, the Holy Spirit wants to serve not only the Church but also the whole world. The vast majority of the members of your groups and communities are lay people who are deeply immersed in the secular environments of our modern societies: work, schools, politics, culture and arts, sport. Men and women profoundly transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit can become the evangelical “leaven” that changes society, makes it more human and more in conformity with the Kingdom of God. Do not be afraid of the world: you are in the world without being of the world. But you are not alone. Christ promised to all those who would obey his missionary command: “I am with you always, until the end of time” (Mt 28:20). So let us not be afraid. With Saint Paul, we can say: “I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me” (Phil 4:13).

Thank you for your generous service to your communities, to the whole of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and to the Universal Church. And may God bless you all and thank you so much for what you do every day in preaching the Word of God and the love of God to all people.

Thank you.