

Dominica Catholic Charismatic Renewal
Presents

43rd
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

St Alphonse
Parish Hall

MAY 24TH
To
MAY 26TH

THEME

" I WILL MAKE YOU THE LIGHT
OF THE NATION THAT MY SALVATION
WILL REACH THE ENDS OF THE EARTH" (ISAIAH 49:6)



CONFERENCE PRAYER



Lord Jesus we assemble this weekend from different backgrounds and status but most importantly as Your beloved children chosen by You to be here.

We come broken in various ways but not defeated because Your word declares in Isaiah 40:31.

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”.

You gather us Lord to speak to us;

Lord You are clear in Your Word that “I will make you a light to the Nation”.

This suggests Lord and we agree that there is darkness around.

Lord Jesus we admit that on occasions we allow works of darkness to extinguish Your light in us.

For this Lord we ask for forgiveness and the grace to rise again.

Lord You have called us to mission to take Your light to all spheres of life.

Grand us the zeal to embrace the task at hand of being heralds of good news.

We say YES to you Lord as we are mindful that You want to hold our hands and send us out.

Our prayer is that this Conference would be a new start for us all.

We are ready Lord; Go with us as we are confident You will never leave us. AMEN.

Powerful Healing Prayer Attributed to St. Padre Pio

Heavenly Father, I thank you for loving me. I thank you for sending your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, to the world to save and to set me free. I trust in your power and grace that sustain and restore me.

Loving Father, touch me now with your healing hands, for I believe that your will is for me to be well in mind, body, soul and spirit. Cover me with the most precious blood of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ from the top of my head to the soles of my feet.

Cast out anything that should not be in me. Root out any unhealthy and abnormal cells.

Open any blocked arteries or veins and rebuild and replenish any damaged areas. Remove all inflammation and cleanse any infection by the power of Jesus' precious blood.

Let the fire of your healing love pass through my entire body to heal and make new any diseased areas so that my body will function the way you created it to function. Touch also my mind and my emotion, even the deepest recesses of my heart.

Saturate my entire being with your presence, love, joy and peace and draw me ever closer to you every moment of my life. And Father, fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to do your works so that my life will bring glory and honour to your holy name. I ask this in the name of the Lord.

*Co-ordinator's
Message*



The Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide has made a significant contribution to the life of mother Church. This has been recognized by Pope Francis who speaks of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as a "current of grace". Here in the Diocese of Roseau, the annual Charismatic Conference is a landmark annual event which has been used by the Lord as a means of evangelization and a true manifestation of the Catholic faith in one assembly.

I take the opportunity therefore to formally welcome everyone to this 43rd annual Conference. In a special way we welcome Fr. Steve Duncan who is no stranger to Dominica as he has been a past Guest Speaker. Fr. Nigel Karam deserves commendation for accepting to be the local Guest Speaker for the second time. Parishioners from throughout the Diocese are accorded a hearty welcome.

The Conference theme this year is, "**I will make you the Light of the Nation that my Salvation will reach the ends of the Earth**" (Isaiah 49:6). The Service Team pondered deeply when directed by the Lord to that passage of scripture. One would agree that this scripture has great significance to the current state of affairs in Dominica and by extension the world. The Lord through the theme undoubtedly challenges us individually and collectively in many respects. We can identify certain situations in our Country and admit that all is not well in a number of areas. There is evidence that we as a nation have let our guards down. Amidst certain challenges there are signs that we have departed from God's instructions and living ways that are self-destructive. The Lord beckons us to wake up, dispel the darkness around us, let His light shine and redouble our efforts to be missionary disciples. It is Pope Francis who states, "this mission of giving light to the world is so beautiful! We have this mission, and it is beautiful! It is also beautiful to keep the light we have received from Jesus, protecting it and safeguarding it. The Christian should be a luminous person; one who brings light, who always gives off light! A light that is not his, but a gift from God, a gift from Jesus".

We therefore have the gift of light. We should all examine ourselves and ponder whether or not the light of Christ is evident in our lives and if so in what ways are we using that light.

Once again welcome to everyone and my prayer is that at the culmination of this Conference we would turn words into action and plant seeds wherever the Lord directs us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Anthony".

Martin Anthony
CCR Co-ordinator



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*Delegate of
the Apostolic
Administrator's
Message*



Embracing Our Calling

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy and reverence that I share with you a message inspired by Isaiah 49:6: **"I WILL MAKE YOU THE LIGHT OF THE NATION THAT MY SALVATION WILL REACH THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."** These timeless words resonate deeply within the core of our Catholic Charismatic community, igniting a flame of purpose and divine calling within each of us.

As a community blessed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are called to be the radiant light that leads others to Christ. Through our unwavering faith, fervent prayers, and acts of love, we have the profound opportunity to illuminate the path of salvation for all nations, transcending boundaries and reaching the farthest corners of the earth.

In our shared journey of faith, let us embrace this calling with open hearts and unwavering dedication. Let us be steadfast in our commitment to be ambassadors of Christ's love, mercy, and compassion, and to exemplify the transformative power of the Gospel in our lives.

As we gather in prayer and fellowship during this 43rd annual conference, let us amplify the light of our faith, allowing it to shine brightly as a beacon of hope and solace to those in need. In a world that seems to be shrouded in darkness despair, we are reminded of the Gospel imperative: "You are the light of the world," (Mt 5:14), "You are the salt of the earth." (Mt 5:13). Let our community be a reflection of Christ's boundless love, drawing others closer to Him and spreading the message of salvation to the ends of the earth.

May our Catholic Charismatic community continue to be a testament to the enduring power of faith and the infinite reach of God's love. Together, let us fervently pray for the grace to fulfil our divine mission and to be unwavering in our resolve to be the light that illuminates nations, bringing forth the salvation and peace of Christ to all.

In humble solidarity and faith,

Msgr. William John-Lewis
Delegate of the Apostolic Administrator

Spiritual Director's
Message



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"ILL MAKE YOU THE LIGHT OF THE NATIONS THAT MY SALVATION MAY REACH THE ENDS OF THE EARTH" Is 49:6

This verse from Is 49:6 has three God - oriented components: **HOPE, MERCY, MISSION.**

HOPE: God was revealing through the prophet Isaiah to His people who were in exile in Babylon that their time of oppression and estrangement is soon coming to an end, so don't give up. He was keeping their hope alive!

MERCY: God was expressing His unconditional love and mercy to them by promising to take them back. Just as their sins brought them into a strange land, so too His mercy will take them back to their homeland. Sin separates us from God. God's mercy reconciles us back to where we belong in God.

MISSION: Having kept His people's hope alive with His faithful promises, and having shown them His mercy, by releasing them from their burdens of guilt which stripped them from their true dignity and identity, God does even more. He invests in them His radiance and divine light so that as restored "light bulbs" they will shine in such a way that others in darkness will see the light. God does not do the mere minimum. He gives the fullness of life and light.

We are the people that God restores by giving us hope, by showing His mercy, and whom He sends on mission to shine out so that His "salvation may reach the ends of the earth".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Elveau Augustine".

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Fr. Elveau Augustine
Spiritual Director

43rd ANNUAL CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MAY 24th - 26th, 2024

THEME: "I WILL MAKE YOU THE LIGHT OF THE NATION THAT MY SALVATION WILL REACH THE ENDS OF THE EARTH" (ISAIAH 49:6)

FRIDAY 24th May 2024 – Conference Opening

- 4:00 p.m. – Registration
- 4:30 p.m. – Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- 4:45 p.m. – Praise and Worship
- 6:00 p.m. – **Formal Opening**
 - Welcome Remarks - *Fr. Elveau Augustine - Spiritual Director*
 - Address and Formal Opening - *Monsignor William John-Lewis - Delegate of the Apostolic Administrator*
 - Holy Hour - *Eucharistic Adoration*
- **Teaching - "I WILL MAKE YOU THE LIGHT OF THE NATION THAT MY SALVATION WILL REACH TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH"** - *Fr. Steve Duncan*

SATURDAY 25th May 2024

- 8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m. – Praise and Worship
- 9:30 a.m. – **Teaching - "I CALLED YOU BEFORE YOU WERE BORN"** - *Fr. Nigel Karam*
- 10:30 a.m. – **BREAK**
- 11:00 a.m. – Praise and Worship
- 11:15 a.m. – **Teaching - "YOU ARE LIGHT TO THE NATION"**- *Fr. Steve Duncan*
- 12:15 p.m. – Praise and Worship
- 12:30 p.m. – **GUIDED REFLECTION** - (*Recap Central Points from Presentations*)
- 1:00 p.m. – **LUNCH**
- 2:00 p.m. – **HEALING SESSION** - *Presider, Fr. Elveau Augustine*

SUNDAY 26th May 2024

- 9:00 a.m. – Praise and Worship
- 9:30 a.m. – **OBSERVING FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN DAY**
- 10:30 a.m. – **BREAK**
- 11:00 a.m. – **WORKSHOPS**
- 12:15 p.m. – **Teaching: "GO FORTH IN FAITH"** - *Fr. Steve Duncan*
- 1:15 p.m. – **EMPOWERMENT SESSION TO GO FORTH/ COMMISSIONING EXERCISE**
- 1:30 p.m. – **LUNCH**
- 2:30 p.m. – Preparation for the Celebration of the Eucharist (*Worship Songs*)
- 3:00 p.m. – Celebration of the Eucharist - *Presider, Monsignor William John-Lewis, Delegate of the Apostolic Administrator*

I WILL MAKE YOU A LIGHT OF THE NATIONS

This year's Conference Theme was directed by the Lord when the Service Team met in prayer and deep reflection. The Lord is expected to speak to us directly during the weekend on the theme and as always the case He will challenge us both individually and collectively. Two short excerpts from a Catholic perspective are presented to help get a deeper understanding.

The first one is written by one Christopher Phillips in a publication named **CATHOLIC BUZZ**. It states, "Through the Prophet Isaiah, God is telling his people, "I will make you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. God's desire is very clear! He does not say, "I may make you a light", or "I think I want to make you a light." No, no! He said, "I will make you a light to the nations. "So if God is going to make us a light to the nations, why is there so much darkness in the world all around us? Here's the problem; He cannot make us a light to the nations if we do not want to be lights. God cannot make us "light to the nations" if we prefer to live in darkness, or we prefer to be indifferent - which amounts to darkness.

God is faithful and true. He never goes back on His promises. He is true to His Word. In Isaiah 49: 6, God is expressing His desire to enter into partnership with us where the task at hand is the salvation of the world. He has given us the easy part; to be His lights in the world. He does the hard part of making it all happen. We must first do our part - be lights to the nations.

A Catholic Commentary in Catholic Loyola Press states, " Light guides us as we travel. Jesus guides us safely through life to our heavenly home. Light promotes growth and life. Jesus brings us everlasting life. Light warms and comforts. Jesus welcomes us and calms us. Light prevents crime. Jesus is goodness itself. Light dispels darkness, which stands for evil. Jesus pierces the darkness of sin and death and conquers them. All the darkness in the world cannot put out one candle flame. Jesus cannot be overcome by evil.

We often think of Jesus as our light. John begins his Gospel with "the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:9). In the Nicene Creed, we call Jesus "Light from Light." Our greatest celebration, the Easter Vigil, opens by lighting a paschal candle from new fire and acclaiming the light of Christ.

A famous poem by Cardinal John Henry Newman begins, "Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,/Lead thou me on." We pray for enlightenment to Christ and his Spirit, who came to us in the form of fire on Pentecost. Following their lights, we look forward to eternal light in God's kingdom where for all God's holy ones, "Night will be no more, nor will they need light from lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall give them light". (Revelation 22:5).

FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

A World Children's Day, in the wake of World Youth Day, will be held in Rome on May 24-26, 2024. Pope Francis made the announcement, "with joy", at the Angelus on the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The initiative responds to the question, what kind of world do we want to leave to the children who are growing up now? "Like Jesus, we want to put children at the centre and care for them". The event will see thousands of boys and girls from all over the world flock to Rome. The idea of a Day entirely dedicated to the youngest among us had been proposed to the Pope by a nine year old child.

The main event will take place in Rome; however the Pope calls on Catholics around the globe to also celebrate this special day in their own Diocese. With this in mind, the leadership of the Renewal thought that some aspect of the Conference should reflect the Holy Father's advice. Based on the programme schedule, an activity will be held on Sunday Morning.

Excerpt s are now taken from Pope Francis's message to mark the occasion which he particularly addressed to children and in instances to adults. He said, "Children everywhere, are a sign of every person's desire to grow and flourish. You remind us that we are all children, brothers and sisters. We would not be alive unless others brought us into this world, nor could we grow without having others to love and from whom to receive love". The Holy Father went on to say to the children that they are a source of joy for their parents and families, but also for our human family and for the Church. Pope Francis in his address reminded us of children who are victims of war and violence, those experiencing hunger and thirst, those living on the streets, those forced to be soldiers or to flee as refugees, separated from their parents, those prevented from going to school, and those who fall prey to criminal gangs, drugs or other forms of slavery and abuse. He appeals to us to listen to their voices. We need according to the Supreme Pontiff to hear those voices, for amid their sufferings they remind us of reality, with their tearful eyes and with that tenacious yearning for goodness that endures in the hearts of those who have truly seen the horror of evil.

Pope Francis ended his message by stating, "God has loved us from all eternity (cf. Jer. 1:5). He looks upon us with the eyes of a loving father and a gentle mother. He never forgets us (cf. Is. 49:15) and every day he accompanies us and renews us with his Spirit".

Matthew 19:14

The phrase "Suffer the little children" is from the Bible, specifically Matthew 19:14. The phrase means to allow children to come to Jesus and not to hinder them, either by word or by a bad example. Jesus encourages children to come to him, for of such is the kingdom of heaven. The passage refers to those who have the loving simplicity, humility, and trust of children.



EVANGELIZATION

"Every Mission of ours is born from the Heart of Christ"

The theme chosen for the Conference this year emphasizes mission as the theme points out that the Lord has endowed us with His light that His salvation may reach the ends of the earth. Mindful of this we present excerpts from Pope Francis' message for World Mission Day which was observed on February 2nd, 2024.

The Holy Father states that both before and after Jesus' resurrection, He told His disciples, "Go!", thus involving them in His own mission (cf. Lk 10:3; Mk 16:15). The Church, for her part, in fidelity to the mission she has received from the Lord, will continue to go to the ends of the earth, to set out over and over again, without ever growing weary or losing heart in the face of difficulties and obstacles. Pope Francis declares, "Let us not forget that every Christian is called to take part in this universal mission by offering his or her own witness to the Gospel in every context, so that the whole Church can continually go forth with her Lord and Master to the "crossroads" of today's world".

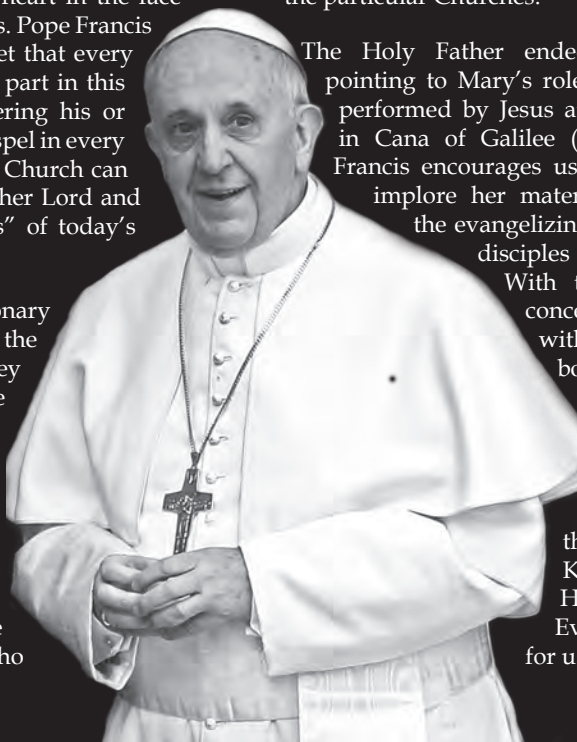
In referencing the missionary zeal of the early Christians, the Holy Father stated, "They sensed the urgency of the preaching of the Gospel" and pointed out that today too it is important to maintain this perspective. According to Pope Francis the urgency of preaching the Gospel helps us to evangelize with the joy of those who

know that "the Lord is near" and with the hope of those who are pressing forward towards the goal, when all of us will be with Christ at his wedding feast in the kingdom of God.

In placing emphasis on synodality and its association with mission, Pope Francis states, "The mission for all requires the commitment of all. We need to continue our journey towards a fully synodal and missionary Church in the service of the Gospel. Synodality is essentially missionary and, vice versa, mission is always synodal. Consequently, close missionary cooperation is today all the more urgent and necessary, both in the universal Church and in the particular Churches.

The Holy Father ended his message by pointing to Mary's role at the first miracle performed by Jesus at the wedding feast, in Cana of Galilee (cf. Jn 2:1-12). Pope Francis encourages us by stating, "Let us implore her maternal intercession for the evangelizing mission of Christ's disciples in our own time.

With the joy and loving concern of our Mother, with the strength born of tenderness and affection (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 288), let us go forth to bring to everyone the invitation of the King, our Saviour. Holy Mary, Star of Evangelization, pray for us!"



Notes

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Peace Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an
instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me
sow love;
where there is injury,
pardon;
where there is doubt,
faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness,
light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I
may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to
understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we
receive,
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are
born to eternal life Lord Jesus
Christ. Amen.

Four (4) Keys to Unlocking the Power of Prayer

- 1. Make Prayer a Priority** - Carve out a portion of time, maybe before you start your day, to center yourself in the presence of God
- 2. Practice Silence and Solitude** - The biggest reason why we should is that as Jesus modeled for us, it builds our relationship with God. Jesus' routine silence and solitude practice concisely: "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (Luke 5:16).
- 3. Lament with the Psalms** - Lament is defined as "a passionate expression of grief or sorrow." This "passionate expression" can unlock the power of prayer and actually lead to deep healing. More than two-thirds of the book of Psalms details some form of lament.
- 4. Pray for Others (Intercession)** - Praying for others also allows us to see past ourselves and gain perspective. That's not to say that our own wants and needs are not important. However, we clearly see Jesus put a high premium on extending our love out to others.

