

In this letter: Charismatic retreat in Visby, Ecumenical Life in the Spirit seminars in Stockholm. CHARIS Nordic is planned to be formed in August. Summer conference of the OAS movement.

Charismatic retreat in Visby, Gotland with f Dominic.

"Worship, encouraging and supportive conversations animated the whole retreat..., the Holy Spirit's comfort and deep understanding of people's lives where they are was very tangible..." writes Ulrika Classon in this report from the Catholic parish of Christ in Visby. *"This will have an extremely positive impact on our congregation in the future,"* Charles Talley, vicar in the Catholic parish in Visby said. May His words be prophetic.

Ulrika writes:

This weekend we in the Catholic Church of Christ had a Liberation and Healing retreat in the Catholic tradition with f. Dominic Valanmanal from India and his team who helped with, among other things, worship. The retreat began on Saturday, which consisted of Sacramental adoration during the day along with a review of the confessional mirror mixed with worship while f. Dominic had conversations with those who had signed up for this at agreed times.

We had the Rosary and Vespers in the afternoon with many participants. On the evening when we celebrated Vigil Mass and after that the voluntary reception of the laying on of hands, the church was packed and many were deeply affected by what happened. One of our parishmembers described the evening with exuberant joy that he had not experienced before. This was repeated at Sunday's High Mass followed by the laying on of hands in a crowded church.

The serenity and the Holy Spirit's comfort and deep understanding of people's lives where they are was very evident during the retreat and also reflected f. Dominic's calm, warm personality and his team in the service of the Holy Spirit.

Life in the Spirit seminars in Stockholm, jointly Catholic Cathedral - St. Clara Church (lutheran).

Right now, between Easter and Pentecost, Life in the Spirit seminars are taking place in Stockholm. About 40 people, Catholics and Protestants mixed, undergo this 7-week course with lectures interspersed with group discussions and daily Bible studies as well as intercession for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on everyone, what Jesus calls being "baptized in the Holy Spirit". The Holy Spirit works in each one so that it becomes evident to every one. A new joy in celebrating the mass, worship, bible reading, serving one's fellow human beings and spiritual graces in abundance for building up yourself and the community! These seminaries have been a proven method of introduction to the full life of the Holy Spirit ever since the beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US in 1967 and have been spread ecumenically. Ecumenical life in the Spirit seminars in St. Clara during Easter is a tradition that has existed since the 1990s in the collaboration between the St. Clara Community with Director Carl-Erik Sahlberg and AKKS (Working Group for Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church in Sweden). When the current director of St. Clara, Hans Hertnberg, contacted Bengt Malmgren of the Catholic Cathedral's prayer group and suggested to start joint Life in the Spirit seminars again, it was obvious to say yes," says Bengt. Another important reason is that Pope Francis has commissioned CHARIS (the body of the Vatican that promotes the worldwide Charismatic Renewal) to actively work for Christian unity. Cooperating with other Christians in areas where possible is not only recommended, but necessary and obligatory.



Pictured: Parts of the leadership team for this year's Life in the Spirit seminars gathered for planning in St. Clara's Church. From left: Anette Berg, Jesper Neve, Inga-Maria Neve, Johan Norén, Hans Hernberg, Gunnar Berg. Above it all is Carl-Erik Sahlberg from his heaven (the portrait at the top right). Photo: Bengt Malmgren.

The experience so far of the seminars, which run until 15 May, has been very positive. It means multiple enrichment that we work together and share in each other's gifts. The collaboration is praised by the priests Hans Hernberg and Johan Norén in St. Clara.

CHARIS Nordic is planned to be consolidated in August.

Ludwig Gelot, a member of the prayer group at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Järfälla, is the interim coordinator while waiting for a CHARIS community to be formally formed in the Nordic countries, which is planned to take place at a meeting via the internet that is planned to take place in August. All groups in the Nordic countries that we know of that define themselves as charismatic are invited to this meeting. You can already now register your group on the website: <https://www.charisnordic.com/en/about>

Oas' summer meeting with the participation of, among others, Cardinal Anders Arborelius and Sebastian Stakset

The Oasis movement's summer meeting, which has always had an ecumenical character and has been attended by many Catholics, will be held this year in July 31-August 4 at Gullbrannagården south of Halmstad. Participants include Cardinal Anders Arborelius, Berit Simonsson, Sebastian Stakset, Hans Weichbrodt. [Summer Oasis 2024 – The Oasis Movement \(oasrorelsen.se\)](https://oasrorelsen.se)