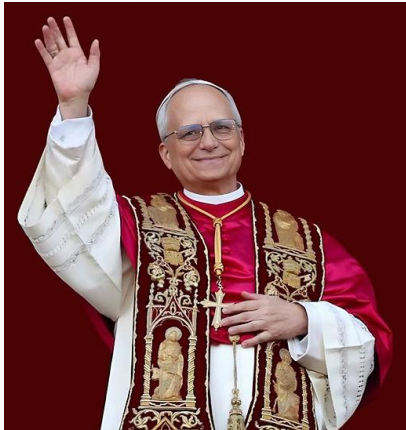


[\[this letter in swedish\]](#)

In this letter: Welcome Pope Leo! Life in the Spirit seminars. Encounter School of Ministry. Lillemor Hallin's books. CHARIS needs your support.

Welcome pope Leo!

Accompanied by prayer from the world's Catholics, we now have a new pope. We welcome Pope Leo XIV.



The significance of his choice of name has already been noted in the fact that his predecessor, Leo XIII, who was pope around the turn of the century 1899/1900, laid the foundations of Catholic social doctrine through the encyclical [Rerum Novarum](#), which recognized the right of trade unions and workers to strike. He also opened the Vatican Observatory to show the Church's positive interest in science (this in an era marked by Catholic anti-modernism and legalism). But **it is also significant that Leo XIII was a pope who was open to the Holy Spirit and the renewal of the Church through Pentecost.**

He listened to a nun, Elena Guerra, who had received a revelation from the Lord that there must be more preaching about life in the Holy Spirit in the church. Elena was a prophetic voice on the threshold of the 20th century, anticipating the Pentecostal charismatic stream of renewal in the 20th century. She wrote twelve confidential letters to the Pope stating that the whole Church must pray for the Spirit to do something great in the 20th century. She called on the Pope to pray for a renewal of the Church, the reunification of Christians, the renewal of society and a renewal of the face of the earth. She imagined Pentecost as something that continues, she said:

"Pentecost is not over. It continues continuously in every time and in every place, because the Holy Spirit has the desire to give Himself to all people, and anyone who wants to receive the Spirit can always do so, so we need not envy the apostles and the early Christians; We only have to make ourselves available in the same way as them in order to receive Him, and He will come to us as He came to them."

Inspired by Elena Guerra, the Pope published an encyclical on the Holy Spirit, [Divinum illud munus](#). He also introduced 9 days of prayer for the Holy Spirit between Ascension Day and Pentecost, and on New Year's Eve at the beginning of the new century, he prayed the Pentecost sequence in the name of the whole Church.

So with the name Leo is associated both with the care of the poor and the openness to the full life of the Holy Spirit. That our new pope finally also emphasizes Christian unity is clear from his motto as bishop: "*In Illo uno unum*" - words spoken by St. Augustine in a sermon on Psalm 127 to explain that "although we Christians are many, we are one in the one Christ".

Let us in the CHARIS community continue to pray for our new Pope and work with him on the foundations laid by Pope Francis. His desire was that the Charismatic Renewal would promote the reception of the baptism of the Spirit throughout the Church, serve the poor and work for the unity of Christians.

The Life in the Spirit Seminars

The Church needs the Holy Spirit to be effective in its evangelism, and it is Charis' mission to reach out to the whole Church and proclaim the necessity for all to receive the full life of the Spirit (be "baptized in the Holy Spirit", "be filled with the Holy Spirit").

Life in the Spirit seminars are one such path. When we boldly give them and advertise them, they gather many people from different backgrounds, young and old, new Christians as well as those who have been Christians for a long time. Life in the Spirit seminars are currently underway in Stockholm, an ecumenical collaboration between the Catholic Cathedral – St. Clara Church that has been going on for many years. More than 40 people are participating, half Catholics, half Protestants. A Swedish-language material with a participant booklet and a newly produced leader manual is used.



Life in the Spirit, team manual and participant booklet can be ordered via [[CHARIS Nordic webbshop](#)].

Setting up Life in the Spirit seminars in congregations is a great way for prayer groups to spread the life of the Holy Spirit. Many would probably like to, but you feel that you do not have the power and resources. Immersing yourself in the material can be a first step. CHARIS is also investing internationally in spreading knowledge about the seminars and has a project [[NEW LIFE](#)] where you can take part in the seminars free of charge via the internet in several different languages. The course is slightly modified compared to the original 7-week version and consists of 9 lectures with testimonies. You can take part individually, or you can do it together, a few people or in a prayer group.

Encounter School of Ministry

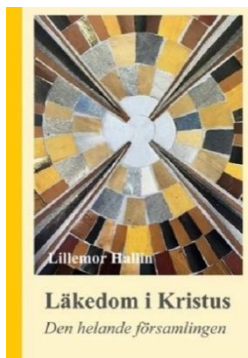
Ulrika Classon, CHARIS Nordic's contact person in Visby, writes about an online training that aims to strengthen our identity in Christ and grow in the spiritual gifts:

[Encounter School of Ministry](#) is an American Catholic education recognized within Charis International. It is founded in the tradition of the Church and unites tradition with the living life of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. It builds up the faithful in the church to evangelize. It involves both lectures and practical activities and you choose to take it online or on site of course.

The training is two years long and starts with strengthening the identity in Christ and then continues with the practice of the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as prophetic word, direct healing, inner healing, team building and leadership. All to equip in a very humble and fine way our own soul to follow Jesus as his disciple and spread the kingdom of God on earth and in the world to which we are called as Christians. It is addressed to "everyone" in the Church, laity, deacons, priests and all denominations to seek the unity and cooperation of the Church. They now also offer a third year where you get the opportunity to really make this a lifestyle. Personally, I have now gone through the first two years and feel so grateful to be built up slowly but surely through God's mercy, into becoming a follower of Jesus.

Ulrika Classon

Lillemor Hallins books



"We should focus on what unites us, not what divides us." This is how Pope Francis expressed himself at the ecumenical meeting in Lund in 2016 – an attitude that also characterizes Lillemor Hallin's life and writing.

Lillemor Hallin (born 1934) is a Catholic, art teacher and textile artist, has for decades been one of the most influential voices in the Catholic charismatic renewal in Sweden, with a special focus on ecumenism, intercession and healing. Three newly republished books (in Swedish):

God calls ordinary people – Stories of prayer, repentance and the work of the Holy Spirit – in an open, ecumenical context.

Rivers of Life - An inspiring book about the presence and power of the Spirit in our day.

Healing in Christ - About the power of intercession and the church's task to carry healing to the world.

[[The books can be ordered from CHARIS Norden's website, e-shop](#)] and are also available as e-books.

Support CHARIS

Contributions are gratefully received, [[link here](#)] or QR code.



/Bengt Malmgren

koordinator CHARIS Norden