

[this letter in Swedish]

*In this letter: Spiritual retreats with p Mihovil Filipovic, Life in the Spirit seminars in many forms, the importance of "the baptism of the Spirit", Neal Lozano's book UNBOUND now in Swedish, Survey to prayer groups and contact persons, Nordic representative in CHARIS European network of prayer groups, CHARIS international's finances, local groups need to contribute*

## Spiritual retreats with Fr. Mihovil Filipovic, member of the CHARIS Service of Communion for Croatia, in southern Sweden



Since 2018, at the invitation of Bishop Anders, Fr. Mihovil has had several missions in Sweden and held spiritual retreats in Catholic parishes, mostly visited by Polish and Croatian people. Now he is visiting Sweden again:  
 27/2-1/3: [S:t Clemens parish in Helsingborg](#), Spiritual retreat.  
 6/3-8/3: [Marie födelse parish in Värnamo](#), spiritual retreat.

The speeches are given in Croatian with interpretation into Swedish. The retreats include prayers to be filled with the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 1:5).

## Life in the Spirit Seminars in many forms, The Significance of "Baptism in the Spirit"

When priests and lay evangelists come for missions to our Catholic parishes, it often includes teaching about life in the Holy Spirit, charismatic gifts, and prayer for participants to be *filled with the Holy Spirit*. P Mihovil Filipovic is one of them. Another priest who regularly visits Sweden is [p Dominic Valanmanal](#).

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is the same as what in the Charismatic Renewal usually is called "being baptized in the Holy Spirit" (cf Acts 1:5). The concept of "baptism of the Spirit" has been carefully investigated by theologians and should be understood in a figurative sense, not as a replacement or supplement to sacramental baptism, but rather as an actualization of the grace already given in baptism. Bishop Sam Jacobs, USA, states that the Baptism in the Spirit is normative for all Christians and not a special spirituality for a few:

*"From the present document and from many other studies, it is clear that this grace of Pentecost, called the baptism in the Holy Spirit, is not reserved for any particular movement, but belongs to the whole Church. This is nothing new. It is, in fact, the same grace that has been intended for God's people ever since the first day of Pentecost in Jerusalem and throughout the history of the Church."* (From the introduction to the scripture "[Fanning the Flame](#) from 1990)

Life in the Spirit seminars in the original form of a 7-week course developed by Charismatic Renewal leaders in the United States have been a common form of offering instruction about life in the Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit. The term "Baptism in the Spirit" is by no means



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obligatory, but has come to be used as a natural consequence of the use of the idiom in NT. What is important is the underlying reality/experience that is referred to and which is just as normative for Christians today as in the early days of the Church. Nor is it necessary to go through a 7-week course to take part in this, it can happen at any time if you are baptized, repent, and receive Jesus Christ as Lord in your life, and pray with an open heart for the gift. Understanding what it is about is of course facilitated by teaching that can be given in more or less systematic forms.

For example, the community The Risen Christ GALILEA gives a weekend course called New Life. It contains essentially the same teaching as the Life in the Spirit seminaries. [On CHARIS internationals homepage is offered an internet course](#) with video-recorded lectures and accompanying documents that are free of charge. It is called New Life and is a further adaptation of the Life in the Spirit seminars. A useful material for local groups and congregations.

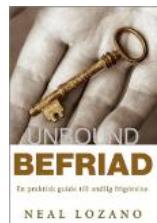
Baptism of the Spirit is not a culmination, but the beginning of a full Christian life in which we use our gifts for the building up of the Church, evangelization and Christian unity, to serve the poor and to promote the common good in society.

Read more: [\[P Raniero Cantalamessa about the meaning of Baptism in the Spirit\]](#) Also [\[Lillemor Hallins books in new editions \(swedish\)\]](#) is good pedagogical teaching on charismatic renewal and the practice of the charismatic gifts.



[The books can be ordered from CHARIS-Nordic's e-shop]

## Neal Lozanos bok UNBOUND now in Swedish translation



The book presents a safe, loving, and effective model of prayer that helps people respond to the gospel and live a true life through the five keys: (1) Repentance and faith (2) Forgiveness (3) Renunciation (4) Authority (5) Father's blessing. Translated into 22 languages, appreciated by both Catholics and other Christians. Imprimatur by bisk Anders Arborelius. [\[Order from CHARIS Nordic e-shop\]](#) [\[More...\]](#)

*"This book wants to help us understand better how Jesus can deliver us deeply, so that we can be more and more transformed by His grace and holiness." / Cardinal Anders Arborelius OCD, bishop of Stockholm*

*"The book is one of the best I've read. It is written for all of Christianity, and will be of great help in the church's ministry in pastoral care and for prayer." / Linda Bergling, pastor, Arken*



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### Survey to prayer groups and contact persons in the Nordic countries

At the meeting with the CHARIS Norden team on January 27, it was decided that an inventory should be made of what resources are available within our groups and communities, what gifts and services are practiced. Such mapping work has been carried out within the European network of prayer groups, and we have received reports from various countries. Some groups practice many of the spiritual gifts, others hardly at all. Most have some form of outreach activity, e.g. Life in the Spirit seminars and renewal days of teaching, prayer and worship. Coordinator Bengt Malmgren was commissioned to make a survey that will be sent out to all prayer groups, communities and contact persons.

### Nordic representative in CHARIS' European network of prayer groups.

The CHARIS Norden team has appointed *Nora Palacios*, Copenhagen as the CHARIS Norden representative in the European Prayer Group Network.

### CHARIS international is dependent on our financial support.

CHARIS International depends on our financial support. Therefore, it is important that every group that is part of the charismatic community takes responsibility for the economy. If each prayer group/community makes a monthly offering of 10 Euro, it would be enough to continue to provide service at the current level. We ask all groups to take responsibility for this and establish routines for giving. Even small sums are better than nothing at all. Individuals can of course also give their support. [[Link to CHARIS contribution page](#)]



CHARIS Norden also depend on individuals and groups to support our work. Contributions can also be given via the attached QR code. In the menu, you can choose whether the grant should go to CHARIS Norden or CHARIS international. In the latter case, we will forward the gift. If the QR code does not work, [[link here](#)].

*Bengt Malmgren/coordinateur CHARIS Nordic NSC*