

**Mother of God Community**  
**Sunday Night Praise & Worship**  
**April 15, 2018**  
**“Now Words” of the Spirit**  
**Michelle Moran**

I'm very excited to be with you tonight, because I think it's one of those times when we don't plan, but the Lord does everything. It was never in my agenda that one day I would come to the Mother of God prayer meeting here; I've been following you since the 1980's because, you don't know, but your community was very influential in raising up some of the second-generation (I'm second-generation) of leaders in the Charismatic Renewal in England, so I'm profoundly grateful to you and I never thought I'd get a chance to come here, so the Lord knows everything, and it's such a blessing to be here with Peter tonight. It's a great Easter gift for us!

We're inbetween doing parish missions here; that's another surprise of the Spirit, but I won't get into that story. We finished a mission last week in a parish in Bryantown, and we're just starting one in Mother Seton parish for the next three days, so if you've nothing else to do, come along and pray for us as we pray for the people. In the midst of all this, Tom said, please come and share with us at our prayer meeting. Now I could share forever and ever and ever – it's OK, I'm not going to, I am British, I do wear a wristwatch and I keep an eye on the time – but why I could share forever and ever, is because Tom said to me yesterday, he said, what do you think are the “now words” of the Holy Spirit? Now that is a “how long have you got” question!

I don't have too long tonight, so I've been sitting with a lot of “now words” of the Holy Spirit, and thinking, which one of these shall I share tonight with the people? And I think after the prophetic words, I've got an entry point. But I want to put this all in the context of something that certainly I believe, but I know I'm not on my own in this, I believe that we are entering into a new season of the new season of the Holy Spirit. Anybody say an Amen to that? (Amen!) I believe that things up to now have been gradually gathering a momentum, and you know sometimes when things are gathering a momentum, it's not all like up, up, up, up. When you're gathering a momentum, sometimes the tide is coming in and sometimes the tide is going out. I believe in this 50 years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, we've experienced this. There's been times when it's felt like “whoa,” the tide's coming in, the current is growing very strong... well, I don't know about in this part of the world, but there've been times when we've looked from our perspective, from the other side of the pond as they say, and we've felt the tide seems to be going out. But this is all the momentum of the HS, and I believe now we're at a time when, big time, this water of the Holy Spirit is being released, and it's being released in surprising ways, in surprising places, at surprising times. And so the word is “be ready for the surprises of the Holy Spirit.” Amen!

In the lead-up to the Jubilee; as you can imagine; I was working for 11 years in total in Rome as the president of ICCRS, and in that whole lead-up to the Jubilee, we spent a long time getting the world to that moment, and on that journey, there were a lot of what I considered to be very significant prophetic words. Now I'm not going to give a teaching on prophecy tonight, but what is a very significant prophetic word? The way I'm defining this tonight is, it's a word that is given that is bigger than the context in which it is given in. A word that's given that's going to spread to many places, and a word that

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has a particular dynamic, a particular focus. So I’m just going to share some of those words with you tonight in a very simple way. I’m going to begin with this one because of the way the prophecies went tonight.

In November 2013 - so that was part of the journey to the Jubilee for us with the world – we gathered together at the international level, a small group of leaders from around the world, in the Holy Land, we were mainly in Bethlehem; we journeyed very symbolically up to Jerusalem together. When we gathered together, we were 160 people representing people from all over the world, and we came together not for a conference or talks or teaching, but the idea was come together to listen to the Lord, to hear his prophetic word for us as we journeyed towards the Jubilee, so this was November 2013. Now I have to say, everything sounded wonderful in the planning, but when suddenly there’s 160 leaders from around the world gathered, I did begin to panic and think, how is this going to work? But the Lord knows everything, doesn’t he? We gathered on the Thursday, and let’s just say, it was going OK, it was all going OK. Friday morning, it was still going OK, it was really good, things were going well. I can’t remember what happened up to that point, so they were going very well. But then we gathered for our afternoon session, it was 3:00 on a Friday afternoon in a basement room in Bethlehem... so I’m setting the scene for you on purpose here, because I believe God is in the details. And as we met in our basement room, it was a room without any windows, and we’re in Bethlehem, the temperature was quite high, etc. As we gathered, there was a problem with the electricity, so suddenly we were plunged into darkness. And then we had no air conditioning, and then we had no microphones, but we were speaking five-six-seven different languages that were all being translated via microphones, so now nobody can see each other, nobody can hardly breathe, and nobody can understand each other. Praise the Lord! It’s 3:00 on a Friday in a basement room in Bethlehem. So what do you do? Well, as charismatics you do that thing of, “somebody should know how to fix this problem. “ Let’s pray, let’s pray, someone said let’s pray the rosary. That’s a good idea, but just in that moment there was a sense: don’t move into the quick action thing; let’s just wait.

So we waited on the Lord, and we waited on the Lord. And then, in the small light that was coming from the emergency exit signs, one of the brothers went to the back of the room, where there was a crucifix just like here in this room tonight, and he took down the crucifix. And we waited, and we waited. Now it’s getting slightly unpleasant in the room: it’s too hot and people are getting confused. I’d like to say everyone sensed the anointing of the moment, but they really didn’t. Some people were panicking and slightly claustrophobic and wondering how long are we going to be here, should I go and take a siesta. It was not a calm situation, but we were just waiting, praying Lord, you know how to fix this situation. And then, in the midst of all of this, suddenly there was a prophetic word, and the word was (now be ready for this, I don’t want to frighten anybody here): “You have no more power” BOOM all the lights came on, the air conditioning kicked in, and the second part was “Come to me”. Now I’m sharing that word with you tonight in light of the prophetic word that we had. But I think that word was a turning point; we were 160 leaders from around the world; so that word was not just one that I’ll put in my private

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prayer journal and pray about it later. You're going to remember that prophecy if you were there, for the rest of your lives. And you're going to back home and tell it to your friends, you're gonna tell it to your neighbors and you're going to tell it to anybody that you meet. But the important thing is to really enter into that, 2013: You have no more power, come to me. I believe the Lord was saying, not to 160 people in a basement room in Bethlehem, I believe the Lord was saying to his people: Friends, you've been journeying, you've been on this this Life in the Spirit for so long now, but I want you to know – You have no more power, you have no more power. Come to me because this is the season of the new power of the Holy Spirit, the new release of the Holy Spirit, the deeper release of the Holy Spirit, the new empowerment of the Holy Spirit and I could go on all night! The Lord was saying to us just as we've heard tonight: Come powerless, come helpless, come where? to the foot of the Cross of Jesus Christ. And when we come in that way to the foot of the Cross of Jesus, suddenly it doesn't matter that we come in our poverty, because the moment we get there with bended knee, we're the richest people in the world! Amen? And the Lord was telling us, don't rely on all the things you've learned now, don't think you can do all this charismatic stuff. You don't have any power, except the power that flows from my Cross. And I share that with you tonight because maybe that's something the Lord is saying to us tonight – in a slightly different way, that we have the word, but don't fear your powerlessness. And then Tom had the word – resurrection power. This is the season to say, Lord we come to you, and we don't just want to do another Eastertide, we've done plenty in our lives before; we know the script, we know how it goes. We want to come this Eastertide, for this new resurrection power, for this new season of the Spirit, because God is at work more than we can ask or imagine. And I believe there is an urgency in this season of the Spirit and I'm passionate about telling you about it, because I know you're the people who have been laboring in this harvest. Many people in this room for a long time, and I just asked the Lord during the prayer meeting – you might have seen me looking at you, it's not because I'm nosy, but I was saying, Lord give me a revelation for these brothers and sisters, and he says to you: Well done, well done, but know that a new dawn is breaking. Know that a new light is coming; know that there is a new horizon; know that you are going to see it and you are going to bring hundreds, maybe thousands to see this new dawn, and I am doing it, says the Lord. Amen.

We could have never imagined that for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal we would have a Holy Father who knows the grace of the renewal from the inside, because he was part of the Charismatic Renewal in Argentina. We could have never imagined that. Many people in this room can go back over the decades and think of the time when you almost had to apologize for being Catholic and charismatic. Or you had to try and prove it; yes I speak in tongues and yes I can pray the rosary. I'm exaggerating, but you know the kind of thing. And now we have a Holy Father who knows what it is to live in this current of grace that we know as charismatic renewal. We could have never expected that. And we've seen so many historic things; I think with Pope Francis I've got used to putting historic before everything because he just does things in a different way. Sometimes that causes a disturbance;

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sometimes that causes confusion, sometimes it causes blessing. That’s what sometimes things are like in the Spirit, we have to discern don’t we?

In 2014, there was a historic meeting with Pope Francis; why was it historic? Because he came to a charismatic gathering at the Olympic stadium in Rome. Now this is symbolic; we’ve had many gatherings over the years with the various popes – in St. Peter’s Square, in St. Peter’s Basilica, in the Vatican gardens, we go to the Holy Father. In June 2014, the Holy Father came to us – to a charismatic meeting in Italy, in Rome in the Olympic Stadium. And we could never have imagined that event and that the Holy Father would remind us of who we are. And he said this is your identity and he was drawing on the imagery that Cardinal Suenens, one of the early Cardinals, gave us. He said this is who you are: you are a ‘current of grace’ in the church and for the church; and he’s repeated that several times. But this image of the ‘current of grace’ I think is very important because we can think of water, we can think of electricity. It’s something dynamic, certainly. Now I think when Cardinal Suenens spoke about it he was speaking about water, because he said a current of grace that flows in the church and for the church. So that sense of flowing together. What really Pope Francis was telling us at that meeting was that what we experience is mainstream in the church. Amen. It’s not something for those crazy people; it’s not something you have to hide; it’s not something you do in secret, but it’s right at the heart of the church. And he said this is what the pope expects of you; he gave us five things, I’m giving us two tonight. Conversion with the love of Jesus Christ, bringing people to know Jesus Christ personally. Bringing people to experience that profound love of Jesus. And then he said, share with everybody in the church the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Now I know you know that, that’s perfect; but the thing is, how are we doing it, what are we seeing? And I’m so excited that I’m seeing things we could have never imagined – ranging from one elderly lady I met in New Orleans who said to me “Well I heard what the pope said and I thought what can I do? And I thought, well I need to respond. I don’t meet very many people; I go to daily Mass; I drink a coffee with my friends; that’s my life. So I realized I need to get all my friends baptized in the Holy Spirit. So systematically during the coffee after the Mass, she started to share her testimony with the old people who drink coffee after Mass. She asked them if they wanted prayer, and she went round; several of those elderly people came into the grace of baptism in Holy Spirit because one 85 year old lady said, what do I need to do, to do what Pope Francis has asked of us. Amazing, yes!

The parish we’ve just been in, is experiencing more than it could have ever imagined because the priest there, Father Conley, took seriously: I need to do something about this grace of the Holy Spirit. I don’t know anything much about this, but I need to respond in some way. Well the Lord responds when we want to know things, when we want to experience things, the Lord responds doesn’t he? And so in a parish that really has never heard much about charismatic renewal, they’ve been instrumental in 700 people going through the Life in the Spirit Seminars in southern Maryland in these last few months. Amen! God is on the move! We’re seeing surprising things and we should expect it in this season, this is the time. We don’t need this laboring, and laboring, and laboring. We’ve all done that and it was

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important. You know the Lord sends laborers into the harvest; and I’m looking at many laborers here who have been laboring for a long time and the Lord says: Don’t worry now, just keep going, but suddenly things are going to move in a way that you couldn’t imagine.

Let me give you a couple of other prophecies; am I OK for time because I’m not looking, because I’m keeping going anyway. I just want to share two other things. I want to share something that happened in July 2016 when again, leading up to the Jubilee, we brought a smaller group of leaders together in Rome this time to pray with us just one year before the actual Jubilee celebration. We met in the morning like you do and we had a prayer meeting like you do. And we all know those meetings, you come together, you read the scripture, you hear the word of the Lord and you praise the Lord. It was a normal morning. And one of the brothers got up and he said I’d like to share a verse and he said it’s Psalm 24:7; and for those of us in the English language 24:7 means something; every moment of every day, every second, Psalm 24:7, yeah, we love this one. My version of this Psalm is: Gates, lift high your heads! Grow higher ancient doors, let him enter, the King of Glory. And as we prayed, it was just a normal morning prayer meeting to get into the day, but as we prayed in Rome for the Jubilee we just had a sense of the Lord lifting the gates higher, the ancient doors. Rome is full of ancient doors, isn’t it? That the ancient doors were opening wider and that the king of Glory was entering in. And I think that that’s what we’re seeing in this season of the Holy Spirit; I think it is a time when God is opening doors. I don’t know how long they are going to be opened for, but if you see an open door, you have a responsibility, it’s not enough to see it, you need to go through it and you need to bring other people through it with you. It’s a time when we have I believe a moment of opportunity, and in Revelation 3:8 “I’ve opened a door before you that nobody will be able to close.” God is on the move; he’s widening things, he’s broadening things; he’s opening things, and all these are moments of opportunity for us his people, who are the people on the move in the power of the Holy Spirit – to keep moving and to keep bringing people with us.

In the Jubilee year, on the actual Jubilee weekend (February 17-18, 2017), I was with a group of people at the Ark and the Dove Retreat Center in Pittsburgh, and again the word of the Lord was so powerful to us; the same kind of imagery, the same kind of themes. That sense of the Lord calling us deeper – Psalm 42:7 “Deep calls to deep in the sound, the roar of the mighty waters, and the torrents and all the waves have swept over us.” Just that sense of being back in the place 50 years later, where you know on that original Duquesne University weekend, they had a problem with the water – yeah. And 50 years later as we gathered there, the Lord was saying: Deep calls to deep in the roar of mighty waters! This current of grace is gathering a momentum; the torrents of water are gathering a momentum; and the water is for the world. And what we were prompted to pray during that time was, to pray for a double portion. You know that double portion that Elisha asked from Elijah; and I think that the thing with the double portion is, we’re not asking for more of the same. We’re asking for more of the new, it’s something for the future, and I believe when we asked for that in February of the Jubilee year, the Lord heard that cry and there was an escalation in the newness of the things that God was doing.

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So by the time we got to Pentecost 2017, the Lord was certainly moving! And we had so many surprises over that Pentecost Celebration. I think the whole thing was a prophecy. At the international level, where we know how to organize these events, we've known how to organize big international events, but as I've said, Pope Francis does things in a different way. So when we presented everything, you know we'd all come to St. Peter's Square, we'll have the vespers at Pentecost, and all these beautiful things, like we've always done. Pope Francis said: "I don't think that's a good idea". What do you mean you don't think it's a good idea to have Vespers before Pentecost? He said: "I think Pentecost is about moving out. Let's move out from the church; let's go into the city of Rome; let's go into the heart of the city; let's go to Circus Maximus, you know the place of so many martyrs in the past; let's go to the place where blood has been shed for the mighty name of Jesus. Let's gather there in the heart of the city on full view of everybody. Let's have an ecumenical prayer vigil because that's what Pentecost is about. And let our message simply be: Jesus is Lord!" And that's what we did; 52,000 people joined us. It was a severe challenge to organize because the Circus Maximus is basically a sand pit in the middle of the city; a security nightmare, etc., etc. But Pope Francis said it's OK, it's the place of the martyrs. Terrific! But we gathered there, and the whole of the city could see us; we were very exposed, yeah. Because when you go out in the power of the Holy Spirit, you don't go out hiding, you don't go out under cover, you go out and you be who you are! And you gather in a transparent way and you declare things in a transparent way! And we did, and we bore witness to that! And that I think was a prophecy. We were testifying to spiritual ecumenism. There were all sorts of Christian brothers and sisters from many, many backgrounds; sitting with the pope on the stage: there were cardinals from the Vatican, there were poor people, homeless people from the city of Rome. The Holy Father said I want homeless people sitting in the front seats. That was terrific, 'til we had to try to explain to the bishops why they were not sitting in the front seats; it was complicated. We have to be ready for everything, don't we, when the Spirit moves. But that was a testimony; that was a prophecy.

And so, where do we find ourselves now? We can't just look back and say that was lovely; round of applause for the Lord. We have to say, what is the Lord saying to us now? I believe the prophecy that we had in the presence of the Holy Father was a very important word and it was a word that Patti Mansfield shared. The pope was placing his hands in front of him and praying for a new Pentecost for the church and for the world. And Patti got a word and I don't have it verbatim here but this is how I remember it:

"Look all around you; look at the fields, already they are white unto harvest. If you would obey my word and come before me with docility of spirit, you will yet see marvels more than you could ever imagine. But I need your obedience and I need your docility." (And you can read that prophecy) It's interesting, but it was a word about the harvest. How many times have we said: we need a new Pentecost for the new evangelization. Hundreds of times, dozens of times, thousands of times, but the problem is then, sometimes we get it in the way and we start trying to do it. And the Lord has said to us 'You don't have any power. (oh) Come to me.' The Lord is the one who is in charge of the harvest. We

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have the responsibility to, as the word says: look, look all around you; because the enemy is trying to tell us we're finished. The enemy wants us to believe, oh, even in America, secularism is advancing, ooh...Christianity is becoming marginalized, ooh. You can do a lot from the margins, my friends. We have to realize that God is on the move, and he says: Look around you, look around you. And be realistic when you look around you; there are many challenges, there are many dark things I see when I look around. But with the eyes of the Spirit, I will see what the Spirit is doing! And I will not be blinded by the darkness. The enemy wants to blind us so that we become inactive. God wants to enlighten us so that we can see the things of His Spirit! So I believe because the word tells us that the harvest is ripe! And I believe that the people of the Spirit, and I'm looking at some great champions of the Spirit in here tonight, that the people of the Spirit do have the capacity to see the things of the Spirit! And if you're very, very old and you can't do anything anymore, you can still pray it in! And if you very, very young and you've got legs on you; you can run it in! We've all got a part to play in this. But the important thing is, that we see what God is doing. And that we move in the way that the Spirit calls us to move, in our powerlessness, in our weakness, but trusting in Him and trusting that he can do more than we can ask or imagine. Shall we pray. I'm gonna ask you to stand if you can.

I think we should simply pray: Come Holy Spirit of God, come Holy Spirit. Fall on us tonight. Veni Sancte Spiritus. Spirit of God, Spirit of God, Spirit of God. Come upon us now, visit us. Enlighten our minds, enlighten our hearts; give us a vision for you, Lord! Come Spirit of God! (Tongues, singing in tongues) [*Peter Moran singing*] Come to me, O come, family of mine, my arms are wide, my arms are long; come to me, O family of mine, let me gather you together, let me hold you now and lead you on!

I have a sense of the Lord gathering us as his people. Yes as individuals, but we find strength in each other; we find protection in each other. We need each other. The Lord uses each one of us as the people we are, with the particular gifts that we have, but he uses us together as his body. So Lord I just want to pray a blessing on this assembly; that you would build this family, that you'd continue to build this family. That you would strengthen what needs to be strengthened, that you would heal what needs to be healed, that you would restore what needs to be restored, and that you would bring a unity in this, your family, a unity that can never be broken. Just as the Lord looks at us tonight, he calls us his beloved people, his beloved family. Thank you Lord that we are family – because you are our Father, thank you Lord that we are family because Jesus is our brother. Thank you Lord that we are family because the Holy Spirit is the one who unites all things. Build your family, build this gathered assembly, build this community.

The Lord says he's strengthening us – sometimes when you've been an athlete for a long time you can get some injuries. I have a sense that the Lord is particularly strengthening legs. Maybe some of us have been on walking this journey or running the race for a long time, and the Lord says I'm strengthening you, in me you will not tire, you will grow stronger.

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Just have another sense of the Lord magnifying our vision – some of us as we get older, need spectacles to see. The Lord says, I’m giving you vision to see supernaturally, so you can see the things of the Spirit. Train your eyes to see the things of the Spirit that I’m revealing to you, because I will enlighten the eyes of your mind, says the Lord. Give us that vision, Lord, so we don’t miss what you’re doing.

Anybody else got a word for us, feel free.