

# Charismatic Renewal

## A new chapter for diocese's Catholic Charismatic Renewal

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on February 28 recognized the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Bridgeport as a private association of the Christian faithful in the diocese.

“Bishop Caggiano has a fervent desire that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the diocese have an important impact on the Renewal of faith that the bishop has begun through his program, *The One*,” said Father Arthur Mollenhauer, rector of

the Cathedral Parish and recently appointed as the spiritual director of and coordinator of this new association.

Father Mollenhauer hosted the first meeting for youth in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal on Saturday, March 7. Over 80 young people participated.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal was inspired by the words of John the Baptist who told his followers that the Messiah “will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire”

(Luke 3:16). In the Acts of the Apostles, the early Church believed this and saw it come to fruition. They continued to pray for the outpouring of the Spirit.

In the 1960s, a group of students on retreat at Duquesne University began praying for a fresh outpouring of Pentecost. Many of them had profound “baptism in the Spirit.” They had a renewed commitment to prayer and a personal relationship to Jesus, a yearning for more



knowledge in their Catholic faith and to the gospel call to bring the message of Jesus to others, and the use of the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit to bring this about.

Through the years, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) has undergone numerous changes. In 2019, Pope Francis established the Vatican-based international board of CHARIS, an organization to lead and

guide the Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the world.

On May 30, 2026, Pope Leo will meet with worldwide representatives of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Pope Paul VI Hall in the Vatican City. This special meeting is part of a major event promoted by CHARIS, scheduled from May 29 to June 2 in Rome, in preparation for the Jubilee of the CCR in the Holy Land in 2027. ■



**DECREE OF RECOGNITION  
AND APPROVAL OF THE STATUTES  
OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF  
THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL  
OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT (CCRB)  
A PRIVATE ASSOCIATION OF THE FAITHFUL**

**WHEREAS** a group of faithful in the Diocese of Bridgeport have come together by mutual agreement, as per c. 299 §1 of the Code of Canon Law, to establish a private association, and;

**WHEREAS** the private association will bear the name of *The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Bridgeport*, and;

**WHEREAS** proper statutes have been redacted for such purpose, and have been reviewed and are hereby approved by me;

**THEREFORE** in virtue of c. 299, I, Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, by this decree, hereby recognize the *The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Bridgeport* as a Private Association of the Christian faithful in the Diocese of Bridgeport which is to enjoy the same rights as any canonically established private association of the faithful in the diocese in favor of the spiritual and pastoral needs of the People of God entrusted to my care and for the purposes outlined in its Statutes.

With this recognition, I make it known to the Association, in accord with cc. 305 §1 and 323 §2, that it is my responsibility, as Diocesan Bishop, to exercise vigilance so that:

- the goods of the association are used for its proper purposes
- the integrity of faith and morals is preserved in the association
- the dissipation of energies of the association is avoided
- the exercise of the apostolate of the association is ordered to the common good

All the Members of the Association enjoy the right to exercise the forms of piety and pastoral activity defined in the statutes in accord with universal and particular law.

I impart my apostolic blessing upon the members of the Association. I also encourage other members of the faithful of the diocese to join in the apostolic work of the new Association (c. 298 §2).

Given at the Catholic Center, Bridgeport, CT on February 28, 2026

*Frank J. Caggiano*

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport

*Rev. Msgr. Robert Kinnally*

Reverend Monsignor Robert Kinnally  
Vicar General

### BIBLE STUDY FROM PAGE 4

helps the women confront the challenges of life together and strengthen each other with their spiritual camaraderie.

“If you sense someone is going through something, we pray together at the end and lift each other up,” she said. “And if someone asks how it’s going, you can answer honestly because they are always there for you. It’s a very trusting room to be in.”

When their four children were younger, she and her husband Daniel took them to Mass regularly, but later sports and other activities infringed on their commitment. That has changed.

Now, Daniel is also reading the Bible, and the family watches *The Chosen* together, and they discuss life and faith with their children.

“Their faith is growing along with mine,” she said. “Now that I’m reading the Gospels, it helps me understand how much Jesus loves us and what he went through for us. All the miracle stories remind me that I have to trust that God brings good out of everything ... and this Bible study is building a foundation for me to trust God.”

Deacon Toole facilitates a Wednesday class at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull and gets great satisfaction from it.

“As a deacon working in the diocese, I do a lot of things, but there’s just something special about discussing the Word of God with a group of people and immersing yourself in the richness of Sacred Scripture,” he says. “What’s so amazing is that Scripture has been around for thousands of years, going back to the Old Testament, and it is forever new. That’s clearly the work of the Spirit. Even today, the miraculous nature of this sacred text continues to touch people in their daily lives in deeply profound ways.”

The members agree. Thomas Matthews, who attends the sessions, said: “The Bible study program has made the content much more relatable and accessible for me, thanks to the discussions led by Deacon Toole. Before, the words felt distant, but I now find myself connecting with them in a meaningful way. The program has made me recognize the beauty of the language in the Bible.”

*(The St. Jerome Bible study is one of the many programs supported by the 2026 One in Christ Bishop’s Appeal. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano urges the faithful to consider a gift to the Appeal, which has a goal of \$8 million and provides for works of charity, formation in faith, education and catechesis. For more information, visit [www.2026BishopsAppeal.org](http://www.2026BishopsAppeal.org).)* ■