

## **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR TESTIMONIALS**

“Before I made a LISS I was a good ‘cradle Catholic’ and loved my faith. After I made a LISS my life changed forever...my faith became alive, I started to know Jesus in a deep personal way, Scripture touched my spirit, and I began to see the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit in my life.” – Carol Hodge

“In 2004, the Holy Spirit placed in my heart the desire to return to the Catholic Church. I had been away for 20 years. With an expectant faith and an open heart, I said "YES" to an invitation to participate in a LISS. The seminar’s music, teachings, faith sharing, and prayers have instilled in me an everlasting love for the Gifts and the Fruits freely given to me by the Holy Spirit.” – Mike Scheper

“The Life in the Spirit Seminar was the beginning of a whole new way of living. I found new joy and peace! The Holy Spirit’s power became real and alive.” Laverne Bessler

“I noticed how the lives of the LISS team had been changed through the power of the Holy Spirit and how they had been touched by the love of Jesus Christ and by a personal relationship with Him.”

“The music was such a blessing. It helped me to understand the importance of praise and worship and prepared us to open up to the Holy Spirit.”

“I learned that the same Holy Spirit that was so active in the early Church is still at work renewing lives now.”

“This was a life-changing experience for me. I felt the presence of God, the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit come alive in my life. I have more peace in my life than I have ever known before and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.”

“The speakers were great, and the faith sharing in our small groups helped me see how God works in our lives.”

“The Holy Spirit had always been a mystery to me. Now He is present to me and his gifts and graces have helped dramatically transform my spiritual life.”

“I’ve never been more excited about my faith and sharing it with others.”

“By being baptized in the Spirit, I’ve learned to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to serve the Church and community.”

“The seminar helped me to grow closer to God through prayer, scripture reading, more frequent participation in the sacraments, learning more about my faith and serving others.”

“I felt so comfortable and at ease thanks to the loving atmosphere and hospitality of the LISS team members. Everyone was so genuine and seemed to care about each other. Making the Life in the Spirit Seminar has affected my life in a big way. One of the most important effects is it made me better equipped to recognize the working of the Holy Spirit within me and thus being able to respond in a positive way.” Sister Mary Helen Joseph, SND

“The seminar was a springboard into a fuller Christian life for me. God is more real for me now.”

“My faith was stagnant. Now I feel like I am on a journey and the Mass, the Eucharist and scripture have come alive for me.” – Mark Linnemann

“It is difficult for me to share, but I was allowed to listen in our small group until I became more comfortable.”

“What I enjoyed most was getting closer to the Holy Spirit. I now understand that he’s always available to me.”

“The LISS helped change my life by intensifying my love for God and neighbor.”

“Being baptized in the Spirit has helped me to pray more and taught me how to pray more effectively.”

“Since attending the LISS, I’ve been able to help draw others into the Church or into a deeper and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ.”

“In 1976 I made a Life in the Spirit Seminar because I could see the wonderful changes in my wife, Laverne, since she had become involved in the Charismatic Renewal. No fireworks went off when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and I thought that nothing had happened. A few weeks later God showed me that He really had heard my prayer. It would take pages to describe how my life and the lives of my family have changed for the better. God really did send His promised Holy Spirit.” - Joe Bessler

“Life in the Spirit brought me into the company of the some of the holiest people I have every met. I do not mean holy, in the sense of very pious and reserved, but in the sense of their calmness, ‘resting in the Spirit,’ seeing God in all things, places and people, their confidence in God being in control of the world, assuredness that all will be okay if we give it to God, and complete and unconditional love for all people no matter what their state in life. Also their recognition that God gives us the gifts of the Holy Spirit to handle whatever life sends our way, and that there are many gifts because there are many people, and each one of us is ‘unrepeatable.’ And finally their understanding that the greatest promise ever given to mankind is, ‘to ask and you shall receive, knock and it shall be opened.’ Praise God and God is Good.” - Dick Maile

“After prayer for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, I began to experience a new joy in awareness of Jesus, and God's deep love in my life. I had a new desire to read and reflect on the Scriptures, knowing that is where I would find Jesus alive. The Scriptures and Mass and Holy Communion brought me deeper into a relationship with the Holy Trinity. My husband and I were provided by God's grace with others who could relate to this newness in our lives. Our Catholic Faith, begun at an early age, now began to blossom and mature, and by that Faith, enlightened by the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been able to serve our wonderful God more effectively and joyfully through the ensuing years. There is always more of the power of the Holy Spirit to experience, and we look forward to it with eagerness.” – Tess Humpert

“All my life I had believed in God and in my Catholic faith. Then about 35 years ago, my religion changed into a love affair with my Savior – Jesus Christ - who took my hand and led me into the love of our Father. This all began when someone shared her powerful experience of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at a private Charismatic mass. From that night on, my main purpose in life was searching for the POWER of the Holy Spirit. From the Scriptures - John 14: 15-16, we learned that when Jesus left and returned to the Father, ‘They sent the Holy Spirit, who would live in our hearts and bring to our remembrance all that Jesus had taught us.

During the Life in the Spirit Seminar, we pray for ‘the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.’ The Holy Father's prayer is ‘Lord, pour out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.’ The Holy Spirit is ‘The Helper,’ ‘The Counselor,’ ‘The Comforter,’ and ‘The Power of the Father’ that can change our lives. Proof that we have accepted the ‘Baptism of the Holy Spirit’ is ‘the Fruit of the Holy Spirit’ - Galatians 5:22. The evidence is that we love all people, have a new peace and when we begin to praise our God, we receive Joy!” – Ginny Scheper

“The Life in the Spirit Seminar helped make real in my life the Holy Father's prayer: ‘Lord, pour out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.’ The seminar has helped teach me that the Holy Spirit is my ‘Helper,’ my ‘Counselor,’ my ‘Comforter,’ and the source of Power in my spiritual life.” – Ginny Scheper

“The Life in the Spirit Seminars have been very important to Jeanne and me. We were Baptized in The Spirit back in the early 70’s, which had a major impact on our lives, and the lives of our family. Giving the Seminars have even been more rewarding, when you see the affect they have had on the lives of the people participating.” – Deacon Tom Nolan

“Looking for a way to deepen my prayer life, I signed up for the Life in the Spirit Seminar. I was richly rewarded not only by lessons in spiritual growth but by the example of a prayerful group of Catholic Christians, deeply committed to living out their faith. They have taught me to be open to the promptings of the Spirit and His gifts and that in order to fully live my Christian vocation, I would need to balance my life of prayer and study with those of service and community. As a community we praise and worship the Lord and we invite Him to enter our lives in a profound way.

The Lord asked us to have faith:

He said to them, ‘Because of your little faith. Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, *Move from here to there*, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’ - Matthew 17:20

True to their name, the Mustard Seed Community unassumingly exemplifies this faith and with this faith they petition the Lord for the needs of those in need of healing.

I believe that my life has been transformed by the Lord’s outpouring of spirit in my life and it is nourished in the company of these men and women who continue to teach me with their example each and every time they welcome me into their community.

In a very busy and distracted world, it is a quiet stream to quench one’s thirst.” - Sepideh Vieth