



A call to celebrate & crossover

“40 years? We have only just begun!”

The National Service Committee, in conjunction with a number of other national leadership groups, is calling the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US to come together June 22-24 to celebrate the 40 years of the contemporary Catholic Charismatic Renewal and to *crossover* into our future as our mission of renewing the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission the Church continues.

The theme for our coming together is: *40 Years of Renewal: Pour out Your Spirit Anew.*

Attention: Prayer Groups Celebrate the 40th Anniversary

The National Service Committee encourages Prayer Groups to celebrate the 40th Anniversary by planning one or two events this year:

- ✦ the first one would be to invite former members of your prayer group to come to view the new ICCRS DVD *A New Pentecost* and to give thanks for what the Lord has done;
- ✦ the second would be to use Jim Murphy's article in this issue of *Pentecost Today* to reflect on the Renewal's 40 years.

Let's celebrate and give thanks!

We will gather to celebrate but, more importantly, to be empowered anew for the challenges of proclaiming Jesus as Lord in our current cultural and societal context. We will gather with brothers and sisters from various ethnic groups and covenant communities to make this celebratory Conference unique.

In our *salvation history* the number 40 (40 years, 40 days) has a great significance: the period of the flood (Gen. 7:17), giving of the Law (Ex. 24:18), the journey in the desert (Exodus), the fasting of Jesus (Mt. 4:2) and his time on earth after the Resurrection (Acts 1:3). There is, the scholars tell us, in the number 40 a sense of “kairos:” God’s anointed time. Or to put it more simply, in the words of Fr. Tom Forrest, who spoke at one of the International events after the Pentecost Celebration with Pope Benedict XVI this past June: “40 years? We have only just begun!”

Thus while we truly will celebrate what the Lord has done in these 40 years of Renewal we are prayerfully expectant that this Anniversary Conference will mark a crossing over into a new phase

of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US. It was for this reason that we chose a site which is different than we had gathered in the past: the University of Notre Dame where the National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conferences had been held for so many years, and Pittsburgh where the contemporary Renewal began in 1967 and where we gathered in 1992, 1997 and 2002 to celebrate the 25th, 30th, and 35th anniversaries. We chose a site in northern New Jersey, the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey to take us from the familiar to the unfamiliar so that together we might hear the Lord in a fresh way.

Bishop Sam Jacobs, former Chairman of the National Service Committee and the US Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, will be our keynote speaker. We have asked him to challenge us with “What is the Lord saying to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal?”

On Saturday we will gather in a number of language/ethnic tracks convened by the various sponsoring groups.

The NSC sponsored sessions will build on the conference theme and focus in the morning on “Where have we been? What have we learned?” Speakers include Dr. Vinson Synan, a long time friend of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Sr. Nancy Kellar, S.C. active in the Renewal almost from its beginning and Fr. Richard Loch from the Diocese of Scranton and current member of the NSC.

In the afternoon our focus will be “What is the Lord doing now?” Speakers include Fr. John Gordon, Director of the Pre-Theologate Program at Franciscan University of Steubenville and a member of the NSC, Patti Mansfield, a well traveled witness to the beginnings of the Renewal who spoke on behalf of movements to the Holy Father at last June’s eve of Pentecost Celebration, Scott Kaldahl, a Pastoral Minister in a parish in Miami and the newest member of the NSC; and Aggie Neck, Chairman of the NSC.

On Saturday evening we will gather with all the attendees to cry out to the Lord: “Pour out Your Spirit Anew.” Pablo Bayona, a bilingual speaker from the Diocese of Brooklyn, and founder of a Retreat House in the Archdiocese of Newark called “The Father’s House” will proclaim the Good News of our salvation which will be followed by an extended time of prayer ministry invoking the Holy Spirit: *Veni Creator Spiritus*.

On Sunday the Conference will send us forth renewed as we focus on the next generation, the call to be one Body, one Renewal, one Church, and to build the culture of Pentecost in our Church and society. The speakers will be Caroline Gambale, a Lifeteen Youth Minister, Darling Previl a young Haitian leader and Walter Matthews, Executive Director for the NSC. We will conclude our conference with a grand celebration of Mass for the Birth of

John the Baptist. The Principal Celebrant and Homilist will be Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia, a pastor in the Diocese of Brooklyn and a longtime leader in the Renewal, principally working with Haitians and Hispanics.

We hope to see you there and we encourage every prayer group to send at least one representative who will bring home what the Lord has done and said. ♦

