

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Celebrating
40
Years!

PENTECOST *Today*

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*Renewing the grace of Pentecost
in the life and mission of the church.*



Chairman's Corner

by Aggie Neck

Blazing a trail

Do we celebrate, do we shout hallelujah? Should we sing for joy, should we lift our voices in praise? Will we bow down in gratitude, will we worship? Yes, yes, yes to everything that will proclaim the deep feelings we feel and the hope that has been given us by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forty years, a time of outpoured love and anointed gift-ness. And we have only just begun.

“It is important that we continue on our course, no matter what stage we have reached” (Phil. 3:16). This is not a time to retire, or to take a leave of absence. What we have experienced in the baptism of the Holy Spirit enabled us to enter into a “way of life.” If ever there was a time that the world needs the proclamation of the truth of the gospel and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, true God and true man it is in these days, this time.

“Open your eyes and see! The fields are shining for harvest!” (John 4:35). It is the time for the evangelization of our nation, our cities, and our families. It is a time to wake from our slumber going forth with zeal to turn the culture of death into a culture of Pentecost. The gifts we have received are to enable us to accomplish this. “The kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.” “The kingdom of God is to be lived, not just talked about” (1 Cor. 4:20).

“When the Father sends his Word, he always sends his Breath. In their joint mission, the Son and the Holy Spirit

are distinct but inseparable. To be sure it is Christ who is seen, the visible image of the invisible God, but it is the Spirit who reveals him.”

Now we are able to look back at the wisdom and experience that has blazed a trail through the wilderness, so to speak, and we have been given every “spiritual gift in the heavens.”

Jesus did not begin his public ministry until the Holy Spirit descended on him in the Jordan River. The apostles and disciples did not go forth from the Upper Room until they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Every follower of Jesus, every Christian needs the power of the Holy Spirit in their life to be witnesses, to bring the truth of the message and the power that is in it.

In the beginning years of the Renewal, there were mistakes made, and lack of full understanding of the awesomeness of the gift that had been given. We were like children excited and rejoicing over every new gift we experienced and every word of Scripture that was coming to life in our hearts as we read the Word. We must not lose this excitement or rejoicing. Now we are more aware of what this gift really means. Now we are able to look back at the wisdom and experience that has blazed a trail through the wilderness, so to speak, and we have been given every “spiritual gift in the heavens,” “we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit who had been promised” (Eph. 1:3, 13). Yes, there is a cause for rejoicing. Let the celebration begin! ♦

Aggie Neck is Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Martha Jean McGarry

I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world (Rom. 1:8).

Pope John Paul II used this scripture quote in addressing participants at the 1998 International Leaders' Conference. What an affirmation for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal! This year as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Renewal we reflect on all that has been, all that is, and look forward to all that is yet to come.

Allan Panozza, Dorothy Ranaghan, and Jim Murphy share from their experiences and perspectives how God has and continues to accompany us on our journey. Their views give us insights into the challenges we face as we continue to move forward in the grace of Pentecost.

Some questions for you do ponder as you read: What is the Lord saying to us about ecumenism? How great is the need to raise up and acknowledge the younger generation of leaders? Are there still some golden calves in the Renewal that we need to let go of so God can bring us into his new springtime? How best can we be both Catholic and charismatic?

The renewal in New Orleans has not only survived Katrina but continues to thrive. Read **Al Mansfield's** article on page 8 to see God at work through a local Renewal Center. Check out **Sister Mary Anne Schaezner's** column on page 15 for more evidence of God's mighty deeds still flourishing in our midst. ♦

Cover: Tammie Krieger & Virginia King at conference, Everett, Washington 2006, photo: Barbara Neiman

CATHOLIC *and* Charismatic

by Fr. John Gordon

Forty years ago Pentecost was renewed unexpectedly in the midst of the Catholic Church. In those early days, in what came to be known as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, participants looked for and received pastoral advice and wisdom from our Pentecostal and neo-charismatic brothers and sisters. They encouraged us in the use of the spiritual gifts; they encouraged us in our own Church. We grew in the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the charisms. As the Catholic Charismatic Renewal matured we sought to place ourselves more firmly within the life of the Church.

The Holy Year of 1975 was a significant time of grace for the Renewal. The international conference was held in Rome for Pentecost. The next day Cardinal Suenens celebrated Mass at the high altar in St. Peter's for all the conference participants. Afterwards Pope Paul VI came and spoke glowingly, enthusiastically and appreciatively of the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit as expressed in the Charismatic Renewal.

Over the years the Bishops of the United States have issued pastoral statements regarding the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, culminating in the 1997 document, *Grace for the New Springtime*. [<http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/graceeng.htm>] In all these statements of the bishops there is both praise and gratitude to the Lord for this grace, encouragement to the Church, especially to priests and bishops to be involved in the Renewal, and a word of caution about some concerns that the bishops have had over the years. As we have received these encouragements and directions from the bishops we have sought to implement them in our lives. Thus you'll find people touched by the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit in a wide variety of roles and ministries at the parish and diocesan level, indeed throughout the Church. We are catechists, schoolteachers, religious, deacons and priests and there are some bishops among us. We are involved in healthcare ministry and ministry to the poor. There is no aspect of the life of the Church in which persons touched by this grace are not also present.

We saw in Pope John Paul II an elder brother who has encouraged us in our walk in this grace and has brought us

more fully and more deeply into the life of the Church, and so it is fair to say that the Renewal has found itself a home in the Catholic Church. While there may be some places in which there is tension, in the main, the Charismatic Renewal is received as a grace. Even though individual persons might not choose to be involved with the Renewal it is welcomed in the Church. In addition to our charismatic styles of prayer, we have embraced traditional Catholic piety and devotion. In many places, the rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, novenas and other forms of piety have been infused with a new grace and enthusiasm because of the Renewal.

There is also a grace that has been poured out onto the Church to invite it back to the roots of Pentecost.

Yet at the same time I wonder, have we lost something of the charismatic aspect of our identity? While it is good, important and right that we be fully Catholic there is also a grace that has been poured out onto the Church to invite it back to the roots of Pentecost—back to the Upper Room and the grace and power that come when the gifts of the Spirit are exercised.

Many in the Renewal are fully aware of the teachings of the Church; we are well versed in the Catechism, in the documents of Vatican II and in the encyclicals of the popes. I would like to encourage us to be as well versed in the scriptures and the life that we have in the power of the Spirit, to be as well versed in the practice of leading people to the baptism in the Holy Spirit and helping others yield to the gifts of the Spirit—tongues, prophecy, healing, wisdom, knowledge, indeed all the myriad ways in which the Holy Spirit seeks to work charismatically through the Church, with a power that comes not from human wisdom or training or planning, but with a power that comes from on high. May the grace of Pentecost, that is Catholic and charismatic, bring life to the whole Body of Christ. May this life be faithful to the grace of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God's power from on high. ♦



Fr. John Gordon is currently the Director of the Pre-Theologate Program at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is a frequent conference speaker and a member of the National Service Committee.

The Future of the Charismatic Renewal



Photo: Sr. Mary Anne Schaezler

by Dorothy Garrity Ranaghan

We can't
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We are the
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This past summer, Kevin and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. Our meeting, falling in love, and marrying, seems like it was yesterday. But even a fleeting glance in the mirror shows that we have indeed aged—the fruit of our lives evident in our six children and twelve grandchildren. Very shortly after we were married, we were baptized in the Holy Spirit and began the wild ride that has been our charismatically renewed life together in Christ. Reflecting upon this, I was led to ponder the fruit, the wrinkles and the future of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal at its 40th anniversary.

The fruit of the Catholic pentecostal/charismatic renewal is the stuff of history. It has taken root in more than 100 countries and has touched the lives of over 125 million Catholics around the world. Practically, that means that the Holy Spirit received in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation has come alive in those individuals in conversion, prayer, joy, boldness and the exercise of the charisms once thought to have died out with the end of the apostolic age.

There are some who believe we are witnessing the end of this period of renewal. The purposes of the renewal, however, are not fulfilled. Every

baptized Catholic should experience the fullness of life in the Spirit poured out in every complete baptismal celebration. Charismatic awakening is not just for a few, not just for a “movement,” but for everyone. However, in the face of the “graying” of the renewal in the United States and much of Europe, it is worth looking at the core of what this new Pentecost among us is all about, and what should be happening now to insure a future continuation of this outpouring of the Spirit.

1) The experience of “baptism in the Holy Spirit” with the exercise of the charisms, especially those listed in 1 Corinthians 12, defines the charismatic renewal and why it exists. Yet in some places the charisms have all but disappeared. Only when we keep this “entrustment” at the forefront of our movement will we be faithful to what the Lord has done among us. It saddens me to see some charismatics and some prayer groups investing themselves heavily in non-charismatic devotions and spiritualities. There are many movements and spiritualities in the church. They are all good things, but they are not necessarily “our” thing. For example, every Catholic already has the gift of Mary and the rosary, but not every Catholic

has begun to exercise the charisms. It is our role to foster, teach, lead and bring people into *this* aspect of full life in Christ.

2) As uncomfortable as the fact is for *some* Catholic charismatics, the truth is that in the origins of the movement at Duquesne and Notre Dame, we are direct descendants of the events at Parham's Bible School in Topeka, in 1901 and Seymour's 1906 Azusa Street Revival. The unity that the Lord prayed for is one of his deepest desires. The Pentecostal/charismatic movement is one of the key means he has provided for attaining that unity. Pope John Paul II wrote in "Ut Unum Sint," that: "*Christian unity is not just some sort of "appendix" which is added to the Church's traditional activity. Rather, ecumenism is an organic part of her life and work.*" It is also uniquely part of the purposes of the Lord for the charismatic renewal that we carry the "ecumenical grace" of Pentecost into the new Millennium.

3) In the beginning, prayer meetings were, and in many places continue to be, like classrooms in which we began to learn how to operate with the gifts of the Spirit. In a sense we were "practicing" the gifts on one another. But they are given for more than us. We can't always wait for people to come to prayer meetings or to church for healing masses. We are the ones who have been "sent." We need to [conversationally] speak the word of the Lord and heal wherever we are, in supermarkets, offices and in our homes. The community to which I belong went through a period in which we experienced a fresh release of the gifts, especially healing. As a result, I have witnessed more healings in the last ten years than in the previous thirty years. Just a few examples: The Lord healed a friend of ours who was near death from Churg-Strauss syndrome, another from 50 years of stuttering, several from cancer, and even more from allergies. During that period, we personally saw a girl in our school healed of blindness in both eyes. Just this past year I was scheduled for surgery for a hole in the retina of my left eye, but after prayer for healing, no surgery was needed. If healing is not happening among some of us as regularly now as it was in the

beginning, maybe we all need—in the words of a Pentecostal hymn—to "get [back] under the spout where the glory comes out."

4) It is one of the miracles of the early renewal that people actually listened to and followed young lay men and women, undergraduate and graduate students as leaders and teachers. We "whippersnappers" were found open and willing to serve and so the Lord used us. The Council paved the way for the acceptance of the charisms in our day and empowered the laity to act—and act we did once empowered by the Spirit. Some lay people have chosen service to and within the movement, some within the wider church, and others have taken their new awareness of "being" the church out into the world in prophetic action by serving the poor, tackling some major societal problems, and by working to bring kingdom principles into the marketplace, education, culture and government. We as laity, who form the backbone of this movement, (aging and graying as many of us are,) have great hopes for the future of the charismatic renewal of the church. But to make that hope a reality we need youth. Just recently, a small town in the state of Washington had a Life in the Spirit Seminar for 120 people with a dozen teenagers involved. My own community, the People of Praise, has witnessed an unprecedented explosion of participation and leadership from our high school and college age youth. These and other things are signs of hope. But it will require more.

As Kevin and I celebrate our wedding anniversary this year, we rejoice that we can see our future in our grandchildren. In the life of the Spirit, "God has no grandsons." But unlike our old bodies, the Spirit can continually quicken sons and daughters to do his work. The prayer, the longing, the work and the focus of the renewal must be to draw youth to reach this generation. Right now at this anniversary season, we are fondly remembering an amazing past. But we can't dwell there. It is time both as a couple and as charismatics to renew our first love and look to the future. "To whoever much is given, of him will much be required; and to whom much was entrusted, of him more will be asked" (Luke 12:48). ♦

The prayer, the longing, the work and the focus of the renewal must be to draw youth to reach this generation.

[Abridged and adapted from a talk given by Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan at the International Catholic Charismatic Conference in Fuggi, Italy, 2006]



Dorothy Ranaghan is a founding member of the People of Praise Community and former member of the National Service Committee.



ICCRS chairman Allan Panozza addressing participants at Pentecost 2006

Forty Years of Grace

This “new outpouring” of the Holy Spirit changed the lives of those young people in ways similar to how the Holy Spirit had changed the lives of the apostles at the first Pentecost.

by Allan Panozza

In company with many contemporaries, my life as a Catholic has been lived both before and after the 2nd. Vatican Council. As a Catholic growing up in the Church pre-Vatican II, and then raising a family and carving out a business career during the years following the Council, I think that I can lay claim to a perspective on the Church that spans both generations.

When Pope John XXIII convoked the Second Vatican Council, he prayed that Almighty God might “send the Holy Spirit upon the Church as in a New Pentecost.” Undoubtedly God has answered that prayer in many different ways. But for millions of Catholics worldwide this prayer was answered in a remarkable way through an event which took place in the United States some forty years

ago in February 1967, when a small group of young people experienced an extraordinary phenomenon as they were praying together before the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel at the Ark and Dove Retreat House in Pittsburg. This event translated into what came to be known as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and this “new outpouring” of the Holy Spirit changed the lives of those young people in ways similar to how the Holy Spirit had changed the lives of the apostles at the first Pentecost.

The Renewal spread like wildfire throughout the Catholic Church. In the year 2000 a survey was conducted by Dr. David Barrett and Dr. Todd Johnson on the status of Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide, and the results were published in the ICCRS publication “*Then Peter stood up...*”

This survey indicated that by the year 2000 just on 120 million Catholics had experienced this “Baptism in the Holy Spirit.” These people were actively participating in what can be termed a “new relationship with Jesus,” which was categorized by prayer and openness to manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit. At the time of this survey Catholic Charismatic Renewal had touched 235 countries of the world, and the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) office in Rome both then and now has direct contact with the National Service Committees in most of these countries.

The Statutes of ICCRS given by the Pontifical Council for the Laity in Rome state very clearly the nature of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

“The Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) is a grace of renewal in the Holy Spirit with a worldwide character and many expressions in the Catholic Church, but it is neither uniform nor unified. It does not have a single founder nor a group of founders, and has no membership lists. Rather it is a flow of grace that allows individuals and groups to express themselves in different ways and forms of organization and activities, often quite independent of one another, in different stages and modes of development, with differing emphases. Nevertheless, they share the same fundamental experience and espouse the same general goals. This pattern of loose-knit relationships is found at the diocesan and national levels as well as at the international level. These relationships are often characterized by free association, dialogue and collaboration rather than by integration into an ordered structure. Leadership is characterized more by offering service to those who want it rather than by governance. In several realities the CCR organizes itself like an Ecclesial Movement, but there are

also structures such as Communities, Networks, Schools of Evangelisation, Television Stations, Associations, Religious Institutes and Seminaries, as well as Publishing Houses, Musicians, Missionaries and Preachers. All of these though not formally associated in a specific structure have a 'charismatic' profile."

This unique nature of Catholic Charismatic Renewal was very obvious at the first meeting of the New Ecclesial Movements which took place on the eve of Pentecost 1998 in St. Peter's Square with Pope John Paul II. The living founders of four Movements spoke in turn concerning their Movements, and were each greeted by the Pope. However, there was no "founder" to be seen for Catholic Charismatic Renewal on that stage, because in fact the Catholic Charismatic Renewal had its origins at the first Pentecost in the upper room 2000 years ago. The prayer of Pope John XXIII in 1958 was a precursor to this fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our time, and it was with the divine promptings of the Holy Spirit that Pope Paul VI was later motivated to say, *"The Renewal is a Hope for the Church."* I was present in the meeting of ICCRS Council members in Rome with Pope John Paul II on 14 March 1992, when he stated: *"The emergence of the Renewal following the Second Vatican Council was a particular gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church... Certainly one of the most important results of this spiritual awakening has been that increased thirst for holiness which is seen in the lives of individuals and in the whole Church."*

Of course Catholic Charismatic Renewal is recognized in the Church today as being one of the New Ecclesial Movements, so beloved by Pope John Paul II and by our present Holy Father Benedict XVI. Although I am actively involved in working with the other

Movements I see the Catholic Charismatic Renewal more in terms of the description given by the late Cardinal Suenens, who described the Renewal as a *"moving of the Holy Spirit..."* and on another occasion as *"... a high voltage current of Grace which is coursing through the Church."* What beautiful words to describe that which I take as a direct gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift unearned which has transformed my life from knowing "about" Jesus into "knowing Jesus."

Another important development is that this same baptism in the Holy Spirit has also been experienced in other denominations, so that across the whole spectrum of Christianity there has been the experience of a "new Pentecost" which has transformed millions of lives. At the 100 years celebration of the Pentecostal Movement held in Los Angeles in April 2006, it was publicly announced that the number of Pentecostal Charismatics now numbers more than 600 million worldwide (including the Catholic Renewal). I think that we should take very seriously the words spoken by Jesus at the Last Supper *"May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me"* (John 17:21). Certainly the heart of the Father desires to see unity through Jesus, and surely we will indeed serve him well by continuing our endeavors to foster understanding, forgiveness, compassion, reconciliation and agape love between all Christians.

The previous Holy Father Pope John Paul II saw clearly that Christian unity is not merely an option, but is a necessity for which we must earnestly strive. However it is also timely to recall his words given in the Apostolic letter 'Novo Millennio Inuente': *"The ecumenical journey is certainly still difficult, and will perhaps be long, but we are encouraged by the hope that comes from being led by the presence of the Risen*

Prayer Card



To you, our Paraclete God,
we send up
our supplication.

Pour out your charisms
upon us,

Fill us with knowledge of
your teaching;

Make us temples of
your glory,

Let us be overcome by the
wine of your grace.

*from the Syriac rite
Office for Pentecost*

One and the inexhaustible power of his Spirit, always capable of new surprises."

A former Prime Minister of Australia was once quoted as saying that *"life wasn't meant to be easy."* Maybe that was true then and maybe some would say that it is even more so today. But for we who know Jesus, and have experienced the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, I would rather build my existence around the words spoken by the Angel Gabriel to a little girl in Nazareth 2000 years ago, *"...for nothing is impossible to God"* (Luke 1:37). ♦

Allan Panozza is the Executive Director of CCR in Melbourne, Australia and has served as president of ICCRS for the past six years.



Please pray for the following initiatives, activities and concerns of the National Service Committee:

- ◆ For the preparations for and full participation in all events that celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

- ◆ For all CCR leaders in the United States, that they will be faithful to the mission they have been given and will have the heart of a servant that Jesus showed us.

- ◆ For the Regional Leaders Gatherings scheduled in:
 - Nashville, TN March 9–10
 - Sioux Falls, SD March 9–11
 - Greensburg, PA April 27–29
 - Las Vegas, NV September

- ◆ For the Day of Prayer and Fasting on February 16th to bear abundant fruit.

- ◆ For the next generation to experience baptism in the Holy Spirit.

A Call to Intercede for Priests

The National Service Committee calls the Renewal to set aside the **World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, June 15**, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, as a Day of Intercession for Priests, for all the priests in your (Arch) diocese including those in religious orders and seminarians.

We encourage Renewal groups to organize formal times of prayer and intercession. A simple format would be to gather for 45 minutes of charismatic praise and worship followed by the reading of priests' names followed by a minute or two of prayer (in tongues, etc.). In large (Arch) dioceses the names could be read in groups of 3 or 5.

Let us pray that priests might experience in a deeper way the Lord's love for them, and for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives and ministry.

CCRNO: Storm-battered Renewal Center

We are also grateful that we were able to resume our prayer meetings only five weeks after the hurricane.

by Al Mansfield

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the New Orleans area began in April 1969 when Fr. Harold Cohen, S.J., chaplain at Loyola University, was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Fr. Cohen's office at Loyola became the office of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans (CCRNO), the central office for coordinating Catholic Charismatic Renewal ministries. Although it has relocated several times since then, the CCRNO office has always been a regional renewal center.

The CCRNO office administrates the following:

- ◆ weekly prayer meeting with Mass, teachings and prayer ministry;
- ◆ youth ministry with a weekly meeting and other activities;
- ◆ ministry to leaders through Regional Leaders Gatherings;
- ◆ Days of Renewal with guest speakers;
- ◆ Retreats: (Youth, Women's, Men's, General);
- ◆ Southern Regional Conference;
- ◆ Life in the Spirit Seminars in seminaries and parishes.

There have been certain "spin-offs" from CCRNO through the years, such as Magnificat Ministry to Catholic Women, founded by Marilyn Quirk.

CCRNO has been the source of much apostolic ministry as well. Fr. Cohen traveled widely to countries in Central and South America, to Europe and Australia, spreading the good news of renewed life in the Holy Spirit. Patti Mansfield has continued this tradition of apostolic mission with worldwide travels, especially to Brazil, Europe and Southeast Asia.

The CCRNO office, which occupied the entire second floor of a three-story brick building, suffered severe damage from Hurricane Katrina. Thanks to the kindness of the pastor, we were able to relocate the CCRNO office to St. Benilde Parish in Metairie, where we have held our weekly prayer meetings since 1981. We are also grateful that we were able to resume our prayer meetings only five weeks after the hurricane.

Another great loss to us was a Baptist retreat facility on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, which we had rented since 1984 for four retreats yearly. Although this facility had been constructed specifically to withstand hurricanes, it proved no match for Katrina and was rendered unusable.

We were blessed to be able to relocate our retreats to the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux and the Diocese of Lafayette. We are very grateful to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal offices in those two dioceses for their welcome and help to us.