



But some young adults, who had been members of the youth group as teenagers, generously volunteered to provide leadership and organization. Thanks largely to their efforts, the youth ministry has revived.

Effects of Hurricane Katrina have been felt in other ways as well. For example, attendance at our weekly prayer meeting is 50-75, about half of what it was before the hurricane. Attendance at the Southern Regional Conference in recent years has been 2000-2500; this past conference after Katrina, we drew barely 1000. The Steering Committee felt strongly that we should go ahead with the Conference in spite of early indications of a low turnout. We did so in faith, incurring a deficit of \$37,000. We are trusting the Lord and faithful donors to help erase this deficit.

A bright spot since Hurricane Katrina, however, has been our CCRNO Youth Ministry. Pre-Katrina, we had been struggling to gather 5 to 10 young people each week for our youth meeting. For four months after the hurricane until January 2006, no youth meeting was held. Our youth minister left the area. But some young adults, who had been members of the youth group as teenagers, generously volunteered to provide leadership and organization. Thanks largely to their efforts, the youth ministry has revived. Approximately 400 attended the Youth Retreat in January 2006. Our youth meeting now draws 40-60 each Sunday night.

Mary said at Cana: "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). This is the best possible advice, especially in difficult times when we might be tempted to give up. A practical application of this word for the CCRNO office is

simply to continue doing what we have been doing since 1969. For over 35 years, CCRNO has served the region and intends to continue as long as the Lord allows.

Having endured the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, CCRNO can identify with the words of Isaiah 54:11: "O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsolated..." But we also take comfort and hope from Isaiah 43:2: "When you pass through the water, I will be with you; in the rivers you shall not drown. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not consume you." ♦



Al Mansfield became involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 1968 and since 1970 has served as a leader in the New Orleans area. He is Coordinator of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans Office. Al is married to the former Patti Gallagher and they were appointed Archdiocesan Liaisons in 1995. Al and Patti are recipients of the papal medal, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (For the Church and the Pope).

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Catholic Charismatic Renewal Celebration

by Jim Murphy

As the Catholic Charismatic Renewal celebrates its fortieth anniversary, it is worth reflecting on another 40th anniversary and see what lessons we might learn. Moses, the great leader of God's people in the Old Testament, climbed Mt. Nebo to look out over the Promised Land...the land that lay ahead. Looking in the other direction, he must have been able to recall the last 40 years and all the experiences the people of Israel had gone through. Mt. Nebo was the chance to remember and reflect.

It all began when God spoke to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus, chapter 3). In that encounter God spoke in a powerful way to Moses and commissioned him for the work of liberation of a nation. It was an extraordinary experience. A bush burning, yet not consumed; a voice sending Moses on a mission that would change his life and the lives of those whom he would lead.

We must recall the extraordinary events that launched the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Like Moses, we saw miracles! But the miracles were not for self-serving purposes. The flames of Pentecost were poured out anew for the sake of all of God's people, not just a special few.

After Israel left Egypt, its first big challenge came at the Red Sea (Exodus, chapter 14). With their backs to the water and facing the fury of the Egyptian army, Moses cried out to God. God responded by opening a path in the sea through which the Israelites could go through to safety, but destroyed the Egyptians as they tried to pursue Israel through the seabed. When the situation was hopeless...God acted. When there was no other way...God made a way.

Another challenge presents itself when the people of Israel engage in battle against Amalek (Exodus 17:8-13). As long as Moses held up his hands, Israel was beating Amalek. When Moses grew weary and put his hands down, the battle swung to Amalek. Two assistants helped Moses support his arms, and the battle raged all day, with the outcome going to Israel.

We have been called to the spiritual battle. Like Moses, when we lift our hands up in intercessory prayer, we see victory. When we grow weary and back off our prayer life, well,

we've seen the effect of that too! St Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12 that our battle is not against flesh and blood but spiritual forces. He offers this advice: "With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit" (Eph 6:18). We must be a people of prayer. We must be willing to persevere in the long day of battle, not giving up but continually crying out to the Lord.

Like Moses, when we lift our hands up in intercessory prayer, we see victory. When we grow weary and back off our prayer life, well, we've seen the effect of that too!



One would think, that with all of the miracles the Israelites had witnessed they would have been wholeheartedly with God. Alas...fickle human nature! So many times along the way the people complained

and grumbled against the Lord. There were a number of instances when the people wanted to turn around and go back to Egypt. Return to slavery! They even refused to cross the Jordan River and come into the land which God had promised them.

Before we snicker at their obstinacy, we would do well to examine our own hearts. How many times over the last 40 years have we complained and grumbled against the Lord though we had "seen his wonders" on our behalf? How often have we wanted to return to Egypt, to our former slavery when things got tough and we longed for something familiar even if it wasn't good for us? There have even been occasions when we have refused to go ahead with the Lord and follow the lead of the Spirit to cross into new territory. For all the great things God has done for us during these 40 years of Renewal, we have not always shown ourselves to be a grateful and obedient people.

Then there is the issue of golden calves. When times got difficult, instead of trusting the Lord...the people built a golden idol! It gave them something tangible to look at, something they could put their hands on. In our 40 year sojourn, we have built a few idols as well. How many times have we promoted our own programs to the detriment of building up the body of Christ in a truly spiritual way? How many times have we made idols of people or ministries? May God forgive us!

Yet, through it all God indeed has been merciful and kind. He has provided us with quail and manna. He has given us water

Photo: Sr. Mary Anne Schaefer

Anointed for the New Evangelization

by Mary Anne Schaenzer, SSND

I recall the day that we, the planning committee, felt inspired to title the recent Leaders' Conference in Albuquerque, "Anointed." Even on the telephone we could sense the working of the Holy Spirit.

As I walked into the hotel for the conference there was a spirit of excitement and anticipation. The hospitality of the local people drew us into the anointing of the weekend. Even our nametags, also envisioned by the planning committee, called us to enter into the blessing of the weekend with the words, "I am anointed" below each person's name. This then became the response of the

weekend. When asked, "How are you?" The response was frequently, "I am anointed."

We began on Friday evening with a powerful time of prayer and worship led by Wilfred Romero and Friends. Peter Herbeck, evangelist and member of Renewal Ministries gave the Keynote talk on the meaning of being anointed. On Saturday morning we celebrated Eucharist. Again we were blessed by the enthusiasm of Fr. Daniel Balizan, a pastor and the Liaison to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

Opportunities for learning and reflection on various topics were fostered by tracks in the areas of Charisms, Evangelization,

Healing, Intercession, Praise and Worship, Strengthening Prayer Groups, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and Spanish Language Sessions which also dealt with Praise, *Alabanzas*, *Charisms*, *Charismas*, and Healing, *Sanacion*.

A Healing Service, led by Judith Hughes and Fr. Ray Introvigne, provided a time of quieting and receiving the grace and mercy of God. They led us in a reflection on areas that may need the grace of healing in our lives. This was followed by a type of mystagogia experience—a way of asking ourselves, "What happened? What did God do here?" Three people responded to this from the stage. This stirred up a response in the those present and many shared the blessing they had experienced. This empowered all of us to claim the many blessings received individually yet in the context of the community. Grace was abundant and we could all rejoice together.

The evening became a time of rejoicing, dancing, singing, exhorting and empowerment. The main speaker was Marilyn Kramer, Evangelist and Founder of Charisma in Missions. Aggie Neck and Paul George encouraged us to be open to the anointing and empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our

lives. The working of God was abundant.

On Sunday morning, Fr. Tom Forrest, founder of Evangelization 2000, spoke to us on "The New Evangelization." Anyone who has heard Fr. Tom knows that he inspires and exhorts. We concluded the weekend with a celebrative Eucharist

One of the many blessings of the weekend was the presence and service of young adults. Their enthusiasm and dedication was a grace in the midst of a powerful weekend. Caroline Gambale and Aimee Mangan gave workshops and their own witness. The sound system for the entire weekend was run by a group of youth, *Lion of Judah*, from El Paso, Texas.

The communal aspect of Charismatic Renewal was strengthened by the element of love that we experienced. We were encouraged and sent forth to continue to be open to the anointing of the Holy Spirit so that we might share the Good News of the Gospel with others. ♦

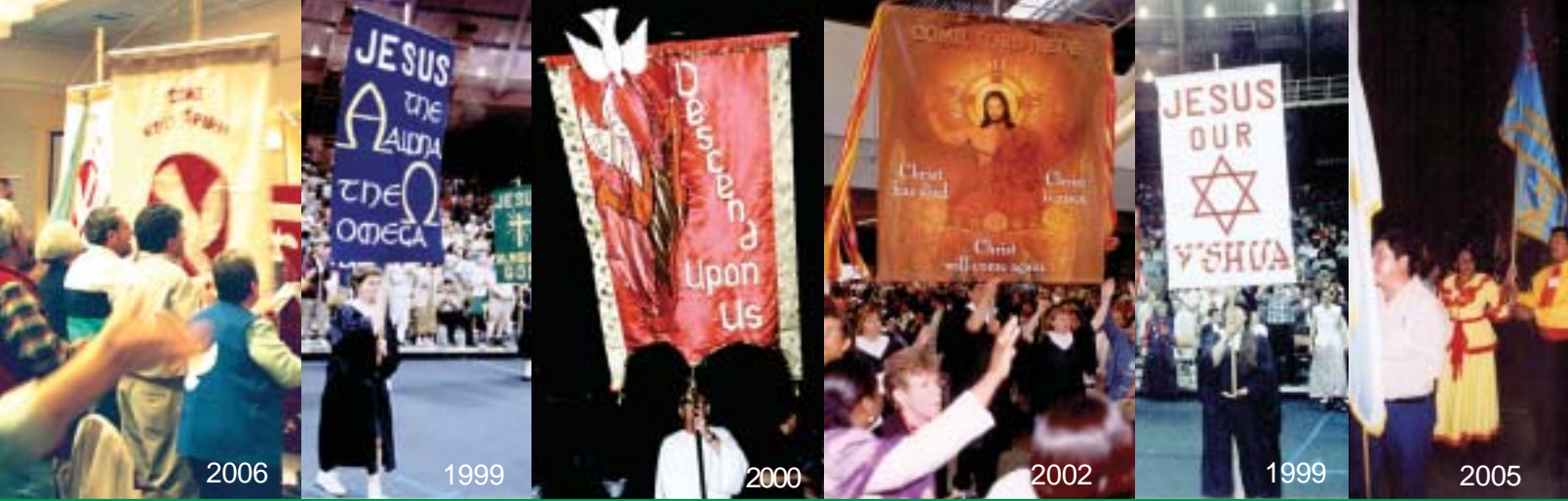
in the desert. Like Exodus...our story is more about God's faithfulness to us rather than our faithfulness to him. Our 40 years must not be a boasting of what *we* have accomplished, what *we* have achieved, or the impact *we* have made. Rather it must be an acknowledgment of what has been done for us, through us, and many times in spite of us.

Like Moses standing on Mt. Nebo, we too have an opportunity to reflect, repent, and especially to celebrate and thank God for his faithfulness. We can look ahead with confidence knowing that "He who began a good work in (us) will bring it to completion" (Phil 1:6). Like the great leader of Israel we can lift our hands and shout from the mountains "The Lord is good! His love is everlasting." ♦



Jim Murphy is founder and president of Vera Cruz Communications. He serves on the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services council. He can be reached at www.veracruzcm.com.

National Leaders' Conference audiotapes and cds are available at Resurrection Events & Tapes 2719 East 42nd St, Suite B Minneapolis, MN 55406 Phone: 612-721-7933 or go to our website www.nsc-chariscenter.org.



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 Malagrea, 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. ♦



unlock the power

The National Service Committee and the other national leadership groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have designated the Friday preceding Ash Wednesday as a Day of Prayer and Fasting.

day of prayer and fasting feb 16

Renewal participants are encouraged to pray for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States and that the Church in our country might be renewed in the grace of Pentecost.

This will be the sixth year designated for such a day to strengthen the unity of the Renewal and communion in the Church.

NEW!

NSC introduces five Leaflets

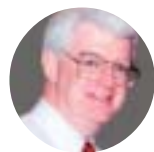
A new resource is now available for Life in the Spirit Seminars and prayer groups.

Leaflet topics are:

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**From the
Executive
Director**

.....
by Walter Matthews

Mission forward: the fire must never go out

As the Renewal stands on this side of its 40th Anniversary the NSC stands eager and ready to move forward into the new challenges and opportunities the Lord will place before us. There are certainly ongoing challenges: financial ones, the graying of the Renewal, and, in the words of Cardinal Francis George, Chicago writing in *Bishops Speak to the Renewal*, the loss of “some of its prophetic voice through the attempts to be more widely accepted.”

The Cardinal challenged us: “It may be that the Holy Spirit wishes to bring forth a new outpouring for the Renewal. In order for that to happen, perhaps present structures need to be simplified, and the past ‘glories’ of the Renewal remembered but not clung to, so that we can all be open to the originality and generosity of the Spirit....I encourage members of the Renewal to be attentive to the Holy Spirit for a fresh outpouring of gifts and graces. *I call you to listen with an openness to structural changes so that the Spirit will have greater freedom to breathe in us....*” (Emphasis mine.)

By the time you read this the NSC may have made decisions that will affect the services it has provided to the Renewal to be more effective in renewing the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the Church.

At the National Leaders’ Conference convened in Albuquerque by the NSC in conjunction with the Association of Di-

ocesan Liaisons, 500 Renewal leaders heard the call and the challenge of being “anointed for the new evangelization.” These Leaders’ Conferences are a significant service that the Service Committee has provided in recent years.

We recently announced the publication of five new NSC Leaflets (see ad on page 13) written for newcomers in the Renewal but could well be read and used by Renewal veterans. If there are funds we hope to produce more this year.

In June the NSC and a number of other national leadership groups will convene the 2007 National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference. The theme is “40 Years of Renewal: Pour out Your Spirit Anew.” These National Conferences have been important in the Renewal since our beginnings and they remain a key service of the NSC.

This leads me to two important calls for prayer and fasting as we go forward in this year of celebration. The first is the Day of Prayer and Fasting on the Friday before Ash Wednesday, February 16. This is the sixth year the NSC and the national leadership groups have proposed such a day to the Renewal. Interestingly this *day* falls on the Anniversary of the Duquesne Weekend often cited as the beginnings of the Renewal.

The second Day is a call to intercede for priests on the World Day of Prayer for Sanctification of Priests, June 15, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart.

The mission of spreading the spirituality and culture of Pentecost must go forward. ♦

Friends of the NSC

As I write we have just mailed our year-end appeal to our faithful donors and to prayer group leader recipients of *Pentecost Today*. Our appeal is stark and to the point:

Unless faithful donors, and the prayer groups we mail *Pentecost Today* to, respond generously the National Service Committee will end the year significantly in the red and will have nearly exhausted its cash reserves making going forward into 2007, this 40th Anniversary of this great outpouring of the Holy Spirit we call the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, difficult.

The Committee is standing in faith and prayer that letting you know our financial need will prompt your most generous response.

On the positive side, the 2006 National Leaders’ Conference in Albuquerque drew 500 leaders from all across the country gathered for, as one participant described it, “the best weekend of my life!” We entered the Conference needing \$42,000 in on site registrations and collections to break-even for the Conference and yield budgeted monies for the NSC’s other mission outreaches. We met that goal! **The Lord blessed us.** As Fr. Tom Forrest, who spoke at the Conference and took the collection on Saturday night said, describing himself as a “pick-pocket,” it is not just about giving but about responding to the blessings received or will be received. **However, the year-end challenge remains.**

By the time you read this the results of the year end appeal will be in and the Service Committee will have made decisions about how to go forward with less resources. If you can help and haven’t yet, please do so. We need everyone’s participation if we are truly to go forward to celebrate this 40th Anniversary. The mission must continue.

Finally, we are grateful for those of you who responded to the Third Millennium Fund Appeal—to build for the future. However, we did not reach our goal of \$100,000 by year end. So that challenge also continues. ♦

Executive Director

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For Your Information

This is a publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. The mission of the NSC is to stir into flame the grace of Pentecost within and beyond the church, to broaden and deepen the understanding that baptism in the Holy Spirit is the Christian inheritance of all, and to strengthen the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

The National Service Committee-Chariscenter USA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions to defray the cost of this publication are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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What we have seen and heard

.....
by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner



Miami fire



With this issue we are changing the title of this column from “*Ministry Update*” to “*What We Have Seen and Heard.*” Following is the witness of two powerful events, by Scott Kaldahl, most recently elected member of the NSC.

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people, Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.” (Acts 2:17-18, Joel 2:28-29)

For the past two years in my parish in Miami, I have witnessed this scripture portrayed before my eyes. We have had the privilege of hosting what we have called, “*Five Nights of Fire*” in our parish for a week over the summer. Two anointed gentlemen, Eddie Russell and David Harp, of Flame Ministries International, have traveled from Perth, Western Australia for five nights of powerful preaching and a demonstration of God’s power. Eddie and David are powerful Catholic bible teachers and David shares a message of how God healed him from HIV/AIDS.

In preparation for the week, we have also hosted a *Life in the Spirit Seminar* for our children. The first year we hoped the seminar would attract approximately 25 of our young people ages 8-14. What we ended up with was 80 youth from 6-17! The second year, without much preparation time, we held the seminar again for approximately 50 children, ages 8-16. Working with the young people is very ex-

citing as they have greater openness to God’s power and manifestation than the adults to whom we normally minister. As we prayed with them for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives, they very naturally opened themselves up to praying in tongues, receiving prophecy and praying over their peers as well as the adults in the community. We bring this grace into our prayer meeting as the young people give testimony of God’s work in their lives to the larger assembly.

This also feeds into the *Five Nights of Fire* as the children are encouraged not to be dropped into nursery during the five nights but to actively participate. This past year, Eddie Russell, director of Flame Ministries from Perth, used some of the children in the ministry time to pray over the people. During the *Five Nights of Fire* we witnessed many miraculous healings. One woman stood up to say that she had been afflicted with MS and unable to stand and sit during the worship but that during the *Five Nights of Fire*, she had received healing from the pain afflicting her knees! She then proceeded to run with me across the sanctuary, saying to me as she ran, “I can’t run! I can’t run! When we reached the opposite side, I stopped her, concerned that perhaps I had caused her more pain. She looked at me, her face beaming with joy and asked, “Did I just run?!” Indeed the Lord is great!

The 2006 Index of articles can be found on our website:

www.nsc-chariscenter.org

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40 Years of Renewal:

*Pour Out Your
Spirit Anew*

**2007 NATIONAL CATHOLIC
CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CONFERENCE**

*Meadowlands Exposition Center, New Jersey
June 22-24, 2007*

*The speakers to include: Bishop Sam Jacobs, Aggie Neck,
Patti Mansfield, Dr. Vinson Synan, Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia,
Sr. Nancy Kellar, S.C, Fr. John Gordon, Walter Matthews
and many others.*

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We will gather to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal but also to be empowered afresh for the challenges of proclaiming Jesus is Lord in our current cultural and societal context.

We will gather with brothers and sisters from covenant communities, and various ethnic groups to make this celebratory Conference unique.

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