

Summer 2017

PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

A Pilgrim's Witness
Tammie Stevens

**Pope Francis' Vision for
the Renewal**
Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan

**50th Jubilee
Conference**
Tom Mangan

Fruits of the Renewal

A Family Celebration in Rome
Fr. Dave Pivonka

An Amazing Grace
Bert Ghezzi

New life in Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit



Chairman's Corner

by Johnny Bertucci

Jubilee Graces Continue

“Are we going to be a people of history or are we going to be a people of destiny?” Michelle Moran, President Emeritus of ICCRS

Jubilee graces continue to be poured out! In May and June of this year the NSC partnered with Franciscan University for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome. There were 120 pilgrims who walked where Jesus walked, then journeyed to the heart of the Church in Rome where they attended the Pentecost Vigil in Circus Maximus and Pentecost Mass in St. Peter's Square. Pope Francis concluded his message in Circus Maximus with these words: “Thank you, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, for what you have given the Church in these fifty years! The Church counts on you, on your fidelity to the Spirit, on your willingness to serve and your witness of lives transformed by the Holy Spirit! Share with all in the Church the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.”

In July, the NSC partnered with the Hispanic, Haitian, and Filipino National Service Committees, the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, and the Catholic Fraternity for the 2017 Jubilee Conference “Rivers of Living Water” in Pittsburgh. One of the more touching moments was a video honoring *in memoriam* several pioneers of the Renewal who were integral in the growth and spread of this “current of grace.” Another special moment was the Eucharistic Procession through the streets of downtown Pittsburgh. The procession began by walking through a wall of water on each side symbolically representing a Red Sea moment. It continued over a river symbolically representing a Jordan River crossing moment.

On the final day of the conference, Michelle Moran, President Emeritus of ICCRS, prophetically asked: “Are we going to be a people of history or are we going to be a people of destiny?” May these next 50 years show that we are a people of destiny! ♦

Johnny Bertucci is Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

Jubilee, Unity, Community, Reunion: all words that stand out in this Summer Issue of *Pentecost Today* recounting the Jubilee Celebrations in Rome and Pittsburgh.

Jubilee graces abound. We are called to be a “people of destiny” (p 2).

As at Pentecost (Acts 2:5-11) pilgrims arrived [in Rome] from multitudinous countries (p 3) and celebrated as a family (p 10).

Pentecost continues as Pope Francis exhorts us to stop and reflect and then to go ahead with greater strength (pp 4-5).

In Pittsburgh we prayed, we sang, we walked, we recounted and we encouraged one another (pp 6-7).

Connections are being made as generations share the journey (p 12).

The exercise of the gifts of the Spirit does not reside in prayer gatherings only but in various ministries of service (p 15).

And, as at many family reunions, we honored leaders in our midst and remembered those who have gone before us (pp 13 and 14).

We continue to celebrate the fruit of the Renewal (pp 8-9).

Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we can ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Eph 3:20-21).

Pentecost Today Feedback

We would love to hear from you; please visit our website and fill out our online evaluation www.nsc-chariscenter.org.

PENTECOST Today

Volume 42 Number 3

Executive Director

Walter Matthews

Editorial Board

Jimmy Archer

Tom Mangan

Tammie Stevens

Editor

Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

Production Manager

Jean Beers

© 2017 National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. Not to be reproduced without permission. NSC office: 1-800-338-2445.

For Your Information

The mission of *Pentecost Today* is to serve and be a voice for the National Service Committee's mission “to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.” We do this by publishing articles that instruct and give practical wisdom, with a particular emphasis on strengthening leaders and leader formation, in a visually appealing and inviting format.

A limited amount of advertising space is available. For information call Jean Beers, (360) 730-1740. Advertisements for events not sponsored by the National Service Committee do not imply endorsement by the NSC/Chariscenter USA.



A Jubilee Pilgrim's Witness

Our pilgrimage group, through the journey together, became a community.

by Tammie Stevens

Pilgrimage: a journey (sometimes a long journey) made by a pilgrim, especially to a shrine, holy place, to a place of historical interest. (cf. Webster's New World Dictionary, 4th Ed.)

In May and June of this year I was able to go on a pilgrimage of my own, beginning at Canterbury in England and then joining the Franciscan University/NSC pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome for the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal led by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR. We arrived in the Holy Land on the day before Ascension Thursday and journeyed together to holy sites of our faith, praying a Pentecost novena each day, before transferring to Rome for the Golden Jubilee celebrations leading up to Pentecost with Pope Francis.

My first pilgrimage to Rome was World Youth Day in the Jubilee Year 2000. It was a transformational experience of the worldwide Church. This Jubilee pilgrimage of the Renewal reminded me so much of that first journey.

◆ As I travelled all over Rome, whether by foot, bus, metro, or taxi, it was easy to recognize other pilgrims by their red Jubilee hat or

the white and gold Jubilee scarf provided in the registration pack.

- ◆ Pilgrims came from all over the world: The official statistics listed over 30,000 pre-registered from 127 countries, from Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Oceania. There were 747 priests, 67 bishops, and 5 cardinals in attendance. The primary languages reported were: German, English, Spanish, French, Italian, Korean, Polish, and Portuguese, although many more were spoken as well.
- ◆ As with any journey there were challenges, such as heat, unfamiliar transportation methods, or being unable to get into a venue due to large numbers, but the joy of the Lord was evident when everyone was finally gathered together, worshipping as one body and being filled with the Holy Spirit.

The experience of community is what stands out to me the most. Our pilgrimage group, through the journey together, became a community. Arriving in Rome I spent time with new friends, a reunion of old friends, people that I've ministered with, as well as those I've learned much from, all of

whom are living this life in the Spirit all over the world. There was also a freedom to talk with people you didn't know, ask where they were from, what was their story, simply because we knew that we were all pilgrims together. It all made this pilgrimage special.

This Jubilee year is an opportunity to celebrate what God has done in the past 50 years, as well as an opportunity to look forward, to be encouraged and empowered for the next 50 years and beyond. If you were unable to participate in the events in Rome, an archive of these events, including videos of all the workshops, theological symposia, and large gatherings, is available online for free at www.ccrgoldenjubilee2017.net (for videos look under Gallery on the menu). Information about audio and video recordings from the 50th Anniversary weekend at The Ark and The Dove, as well as the Jubilee 2017 National Conference in Pittsburgh this year, can both be found at www.somethinglikereal.com.

Our Jubilee year is not yet over. Take an opportunity to make a pilgrimage, perhaps in your local area with your prayer group or community or to The Ark and The Dove, to celebrate this current of grace that our Lord continues to pour out in our day. And most importantly, let's continue to answer the challenge we have heard from Pope Francis to "share with everyone in the church the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit." ◆



Tammie Stevens is a member of the National Service Committee.

Photo courtesy: ccrgoldenjubilee2017office

“Thank you for the witness you are giving here today. It does us all good. It is good for me too.”



Photo courtesy: ccrgoldenjubilce2017office

AFFIRMED and COMMISSIONED

Reflection on the words and vision of Pope Francis to the participants of the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, June 6, 2017 in Rome.

by Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan

The closing words of Pope Francis to the participants of the 37th National Convocation of the Italian Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Rome in June of 2014 were, “I am waiting for all of you, charismatics the world over, to celebrate with the Pope your great jubilee on the feast of Pentecost 2017 in Saint Peter’s Square.” This extraordinary invitation was accepted on the vigil of Pentecost in June of this year as approximately 50,000 of the estimated 125 million Catholic charismatics came to celebrate the Charismatic Jubilee in the Circus Maximus in Rome.

Flags from over 120 countries were waved in the hot, open air gathering as many nations, races and languages gave witness to the international reality of this Renewal in the universal church. Its ecumenical origin and imperative was highlighted as well by the participation of hundreds of Evangelical, Pentecostal and charismatic Protestant leaders. Giovanni Traettino, pastor of the Evangelical Church of Reconciliation in Caserta, Italy, a friend of Pope Francis from his days in Buenos Aires, shared the stage with Pope Francis and addressed the crowd on the unity of the one bride of Christ. Other Evangelical leaders spoke in the many workshops during the weekend as well.

Unity, which Pope Francis calls “reconciled diversity,” was the theme of the entire weekend event. “In a way both creative and unexpected,” Pope Francis said, “the Holy Spirit generates diversity, for in every age he causes new and varied charisms to blossom.

- **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
- **Praise**
- **Service to man**

“The three things are indissolubly joined. I can praise profoundly, but if I do not help those most in need it is not enough.”

Then he brings about unity; he joins together, gathers and restores harmony.” This gift of unity given by the Holy Spirit and fostered in the charismatic renewal was a primary reason behind the planning for the celebration on the occasion of this Jubilee. As Austen Ivereigh, one of the biographers of Pope Francis wrote, “Francis’ outreach to Pentecostals and evangelicals marked his insistence that the *current of grace* represented by the Renewal is fruit of the one Holy Spirit calling the Christian Churches into unity, not through proselytism or purely intellectual dialogue but in revealing their oneness in diversity” (*Cruce*, 6/3/2017).

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher to the papal household, who at times was a most charismatic “cheerleader” for the event, opened the session with a rousing call to focus on this ecumenical reality of the Renewal. In both a theological and personal reflection he stated that, “A renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit will not be possible without a collective movement of repentance on the part of all Christians.” In his homily on Pentecost Sunday in Saint Peter’s Square, the Holy Father repeated this call to repentance and forgiveness. “The Spirit is the first gift of the risen Lord, and is given above all for the forgiveness of sins.... forgiveness... preserves unity [and] resolves everything in harmony.”

It was hard not to notice the personal joy and participation of Pope Francis himself. His hands were often in the open-and-raised pose favored by most charismatics, and he began his remarks with, “Thank you for the witness you are giving here today. It does us all good. **It is good for me too.**”

His message to the Renewal on the Jubilee weekend was one of affirmation and commission. Again and again he affirmed the positive effects of the Renewal. “Thank you Catholic Charismatic Renewal for what you have given the Church in these fifty years! The Church counts on you, on your fidelity to the Spirit, on your willingness to serve and your witness of lives transformed by the Holy Spirit!” Especially for those “old-timers” who have given their whole lives to the spread of baptism in the Holy Spirit and the work of the Renewal, these words of affirmation resonated and were received with deep gratitude.

But though the Jubilee was a time of remembrance, it was more than that. As Pope Francis said: “Fifty years have passed. When we reach this age, perhaps our strengths begin to decline... wrinkles become deeper...the grey hairs increase in number.” “It is a good moment in life to stop and reflect.” More importantly, however, “it is the moment to go ahead with greater strength, leaving behind the dust of time that we have allowed to accumulate...and facing the new with trust in the action of the Holy Spirit.” Noting that this Renewal is a *current* or *tide* of grace for the whole church, not just for a few, Pope Francis reiterated his commission given in 2014 in the Olympic Stadium to “share with everyone in the Church the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.” There, he also encouraged us to remember the ecumenical roots of the Renewal and its importance in the present, recalling the words of the first Malines document (1 Malines 5,3) that “the charismatic renewal is de facto ecumenical in nature... The Catholic renewal rejoices in what the Holy Spirit is accomplishing in the other Churches.”

At this 2017 gathering, our commission went further and took on a new two-fold dimension, consistent with the message of his entire papacy. First he noted that, “Many have come from different parts of the world...to establish bonds of fraternal friendship that encourage us on the path to unity (and) ...to demonstrate...with our witness that peace is possible...only if we are at peace among ourselves.” This echoes a note often heard from Pope Francis who longs for peace within the Church and among nations.

Secondly, the profound heart of his commission to the Renewal was that we are to “Share with all the Church the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, praise the Lord ceaselessly, walk together with Christians of different Churches and Christian communities in prayer and in action for those most in need. **Serve the poorest and the sick, this is what the Church and Pope expect of you, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, but from all of you; all, all of you who have entered in this current of grace!**” These are challenging words to each and to all of us. He reiterated this challenge: “Baptism in the Holy Spirit, praise, service to man. The three things are indissolubly joined. I can praise profoundly, but if I do not help those most in need it is not enough.” Let those who have ears, hear. ♦



Kevin and Dorothy are founding members of the People of Praise, an ecumenical charismatic covenant community and have been in various leadership positions in the Renewal since its beginning.



Gathered at the “Rivers of Living Water”

A Reflection on the Jubilee Conference

by Tom Mangan

It would be normal and expected in this Jubilee Year to recount all of the exciting things that the Holy Spirit has accomplished in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal over these incredible 50 years. An inspired beginning positions us for a flourishing future. It’s like buttoning a sweater. If you get the top button in the first hole, then one button after the other will follow until the sweater is successfully fastened.

We learned that the students on the *Duquesne Weekend* were humble and hungry. They wanted more from their faith; they wanted power that was missing in their lives. In a word, they wanted Jesus. In their humility they found themselves on their faces in the chapel before the Blessed Sacrament waiting to hear from God. It was precisely with this attitude that they experienced the overwhelming outpouring of the Holy Spirit into their lives. Like then as now, I believe this must be our posture, too, if we are to position ourselves for the future.

With great fervor and reverence, more than 6,000 of us gathered to celebrate our anointed history. In Jubilation we praised God for his favor over these 50 years. In tongues and in our native lan-

guages, we lifted holy hands and hearts to the Lord. As Christ-followers from various ethnic groups, we were terrifically alive in our worship of the “Founder of our Feast,” the life-creating Holy Spirit! In this way, we commemorated the past, so as to leap forward to whatever the Lord may have in store for us in the years ahead.

As at any conference, there were highly-inspired teachings and life-changing ministry, but more importantly, our family was united and gathered at the “Rivers of Living Water” for a reunion of reunions. There was laughter, tears of joy, reconciliation and wonderful fellowship. The presence of God was palpable in every corner of the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. What a sight it was to see

animated conversations, hugging and hand shaking everywhere! Surely, it put a smile on the Father’s face.

The Name of Christ Jesus was highly exalted in the workshops, at the Masses, in the homilies, in the plenary sessions by the keynote speakers, in the healing service, and at the Holy Hour Procession. Without a doubt the Lord moved mightily as many people were filled with the Holy Spirit, healed in remarkable ways, and re-ignited for the work of evangelization.

Testimonies and Prophetic Words

We celebrated “the Living Water Poured Out” with the testimonies of the participants of the *Duquesne Weekend* — David Mangan, Patti Mansfield and Marybeth Greene. Then we celebrated the “Living Water for the Generations” with Dave VanVickle and Ralph Martin. It was “Spirit-driven” from beginning to end.

It would be difficult to summarize the various anointed talks, the inspiring testimonies and the many prophetic words that were proclaimed to us. Suffice it to say, we were encouraged and exhorted to lean into “the wind of the

Holy Spirit” and flow with “the living water” toward the future. Clearly, we are called to identify ourselves as “a river, not a pond,” as one speaker put it. That is, we are to flow like a coursing stream and not stagnate like a millpond.

Today we celebrate, but now it is time to move forward with a renewed drive in an effort to reach others for Christ. We are called to “evangelize or die!” These words echo an encouragement given to us by Pope Francis, “This is your identity: to be a current of grace. Let yourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit, by this current of grace, which goes forward always in search of unity. No one is master. There is only one Lord. Who is it? Jesus is the Lord! I remind you: Charismatic Renewal is a Pentecostal grace for the whole Church.” (*Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Renewal in the Holy Spirit Movement, Saint Peter’s Square, Friday, July 3, 2015*)

Sharing the Light of Christ

Thus, we are to share our charism, baptism in the Holy Spirit, with our brothers and sisters in the pews. This newfound freedom and joy we now possess is worth passing along to anyone we can. Clearly, we have “news too good to keep.” What we have received of his love and joy we are impelled to give away. What we have freely received, we must freely give. This is an imperative that must not be ignored.

At this seminal Jubilee conference, we wholeheartedly affirmed the past, but always with an eye ahead. We were so deeply moved by our gracious Lord that we had to “take it to the streets” with a magnificent Holy Hour and candlelight procession. What better way to honor the past and embrace the future!

It was a colorful sight as thousands of us, like a flowing stream in triumphal procession, made our way to the river. In various clothing styles representing

our ethnicity, we reverently followed the Blessed Sacrament with lighted candles. We processed from the convention hall down along the Allegheny River and across the Roberto Clemente Bridge to the Allegheny Landing Park on the North Shore. There we worshiped. In these sacred moments, we were the “Light of Christ” to Pittsburgh.

Deeply Moved and Equipped for the Future

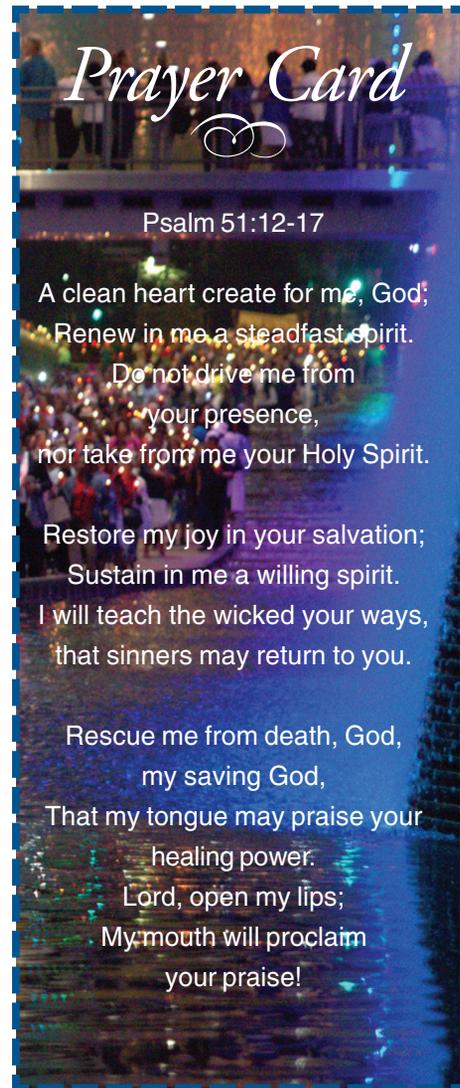
As the “birthplace” of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Pittsburgh was the ideal location for the Jubilee celebration. Therefore, tours were offered to The Ark and The Dove, where the *Duquesne Weekend* occurred. More than 700 of us made a pilgrimage to this historic site. We were able to spend an anointed time of prayer in the chapel where the students in 1967 experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Our time there provided a sacred connection between what was and what is to be.

Many of those who made the pilgrimage gave witness afterward that they sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit in remarkable ways. Some were deeply moved in prayer, some cried and others were filled with profound joy. Hearts were changed; prophecies were proclaimed and praise was on the lips of all. This indeed was a homecoming for those whose roots originated in this “upper room.”

Moving Forward

The greatest way to make progress in our call is to respectfully glance over our shoulders to see where we started, and then rekindle that early fire to move us onward. This is not the fertile 1st century, nor is it the turbulent late 60’s of the 20th century. It is, rather, “a new frontier” for a new generation of young adults baptized in the Holy Spirit.

These enthusiastic young brothers and sisters celebrated the Jubilee with us. They are eager and engaged. We must



Prayer Card

Psalm 51:12-17

A clean heart create for me, God;
Renew in me a steadfast spirit.
Do not drive me from
your presence,
nor take from me your Holy Spirit.

Restore my joy in your salvation;
Sustain in me a willing spirit.
I will teach the wicked your ways,
that sinners may return to you.

Rescue me from death, God,
my saving God,
That my tongue may praise your
healing power.
Lord, open my lips;
My mouth will proclaim
your praise!

welcome and encourage them to help us fan the flame of the “new evangelization” for the whole Church. We are in the midst of passing the torch. I believe the best is yet to come.

In these four Jubilee days we saw a robust witness of charismatic life. God was in the room and we knew it! But an effective witness does more than inform us about the Lord; it calls us deeper into him. We must remain thirsty for the Holy Spirit. In the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins let us pray, “O Thou Lord of Life, send my roots rain.” (From Hopkins’ poem: *Thou art indeed just, Lord, if I contend.*) ♦

Tom Mangan is a member of the National Service Committee and former Overall Coordinator of People of God Community, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

FRUITS OF THE RENEWAL

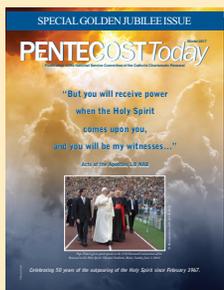
Please pray with the National Service Committee for the following intentions:

*Based on an exhortation by Sr. Nancy Kellar at the Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh, July 21, 2017

Come Holy Spirit!

Let us pray together -

- 🔥 For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in baptism in the Holy Spirit
- 🔥 For the outpouring of the gifts of the Spirit for holiness
- 🔥 For the outpouring of the gifts of the Spirit for unity
- 🔥 For the outpouring of the gifts of the Spirit for a new evangelization
- 🔥 For the outpouring of the gifts of the Spirit to embrace the cross and the final call to see the Lord face to face.



ORDER EXTRA COPIES

Extra copies of the 50th Anniversary Edition of *Pentecost Today* are available for Conferences, Days of Renewal, Prayer Groups, Communities and Ministries for a nominal donation. Call 1-800-338-2445 or email conference@nsc-chariscenter.org.

A Heart Transplant by Virginia King, Everett, WA



The *fruit* of the Renewal in my life is the realization of the *fruits* of the Holy Spirit. When I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, Jesus gave me a “heart transplant” that changed my bitter, angry, wounded heart into a heart that could love with Jesus’ love. Because of this profound experience of “the love of God poured into my heart through the Holy Spirit that has been given to me” (Rom 5:5), I have been able to trust God for every other fruit to be made manifest in my life. Whenever I am tempted to rely on my own efforts to love someone, or to be patient with a difficult situation, I am quickly reminded that “it is the Lord!” who brings joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. For me it is impossible, but for God, all things are possible!



Deep Transformation by Ron Riggins, Fairfax Station, VA

Well into my quest for achievement, worldly success and a comfortable life, I experienced a gnawing emptiness which led me to ask: “Is there greater purpose to life?” My eyes were opened on September 11, 2001, watching in horror the black smoke billowing above the Pentagon. Coming to my senses, I was acutely aware of my mortality and how I had rejected my faith. Overcome with fear, I wept in praying for the Lord’s consoling presence—and then I encountered his profound love. This began a period of deep transformation and fulfillment. With fervor I became Catholic, as I sought intimacy with Jesus, and I was filled with a desire to do his will. Baptism in the Holy Spirit then graced me with a passion to serve and equipped me to evangelize through RCIA, the Renewal, and spiritual healing, so that others might experience his life-changing love and power.

Ministry to Youth by Mark Berchem, St. Paul, MN



One of the many fruits of this fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit was the establishment of NET Ministries 35 years ago. Each year, a group of faith-filled young adults travel around the country sharing the love of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit with other young Catholics. In the early years, the most common question we were asked was, “Are you sure you’re Catholics?” The emphasis on a personal relationship with Christ, a prayer form that emphasized expressive praise and worship, and a missionary thrust to give testimony to one’s own faith were “new” to much of the church. It has now become normative to talk about a personal encounter with Christ, to pray expressively, to have a missionary impulse, to want to live and serve in a deeply Catholic community. Indeed, the fruits of the Renewal have penetrated the lives of many of our young people today!

FRUITS OF THE RENEWAL



Preaching and Healing by *Bob Canton, Stockton, CA*

On November 11, 1984, my wife and I experienced baptism in the Holy Spirit. On December 8, 1984, when my wife, Chita, and I were praying together in our bedroom, she rested in the Spirit, praying in tongues. Afterwards, she came up to me and started prophesying, "Robert, my name is Jesus. Do not be afraid. I'm speaking to you through my daughter. My son, you will heal millions in my name. You will preach the Gospel in my name. Healing is good news. You will go far and wide.

If someone needs healing, heal in my name. This will come to pass. Do not be afraid because I am with you."

To date, I've been to 51 countries, preaching, teaching, and healing in Jesus' name. I have witnessed signs, wonders, miracles and most of all conversion of hearts and lives, including mine, toward the Lord. For me this is the best form of healing. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).



Images in Prayer by *Claire Matthews, Locust Grove, VA*

For most of my life, I've been a very visual person, but I remember distinctly the first time I got an image/mental picture, which I now recognize as a spiritual gift that was released or blossomed in me since being prayed over for baptism in the Holy Spirit. I believe that many times the Lord uses our natural gifts and matures them for the benefit of his church.

One Good Friday I clearly saw Jesus crowned head bleeding drops of blood from the thorns into a chalice. I don't ever recall seeing that actual picture, except some 30 years later such a picture hangs on the back wall of our current parish church.

These images/pictures come at random times, generally while in prayer, like when praying over an Asian lady I received a picture of a gravesite. When I shared it through an interpreter to the lady, she wept. She was unable to attend her mother's funeral some 20 years earlier and she still grieved. We were able to pray with the lady to bring healing from the guilt, and closure to the loss.



Love for the Poor by *Marybeth Mutmanský Greene, Bronx, NY*

December, 1966, I went with other student members of the Chi Rho Society (from Duquesne University) to a Christmas party with the homeless in a run-down section of Pittsburgh. It unsettled me, but I received a grace to hear the distressing cry of those crushed in spirit.

Two months later, on the *Duquesne Weekend*, I received that most precious gift of baptism in the Holy Spirit, which gave me spiritual gifts and courage for the journey ahead. Over these 50 years, love for Jesus in the poor has been an abiding grace from the Holy Spirit. It has led me, with others, to consecrate our lives to the movement of Jesus' beating Heart of love for the materially poor through LAMP Catholic Ministries. We proclaim that love on the streets and in the hovels of New York City with the homeless, the voiceless, the ignored, the stigmatized—all for the glory of God!



A Family Celebration in Rome

by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR

There are few things my parents enjoy more than having their children all home. As is the case for so many families today, my family is spread out between Ohio, Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Washington. It's rare that we are all together, but when we are able to work out schedules that have everyone home at the same time it is a wonderful occasion. There is a sense of joy and celebration in which everyone in the family revels.

I wonder if God the Father had a similar feeling on Pentecost weekend this year. I was blessed and was able to be in Rome for the Pentecost Vigil and the 50th Jubilee celebration of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Gathered under a perfectly clear, blue sky tens of thousands of people gathered in Rome in order to worship God and thank him for fifty years of blessings brought by the Spirit of God. It was moving to reflect on the humble beginnings of a few college students gathering in a small obscure retreat center, The Ark and The Dove, to tens of thousands gathering in Circus Maximus in order to celebrate God's goodness. God has indeed done great things.

As I was walking around the grounds of Circus Maximus and seeing people from all around the world I could sense the presence of God. In this diverse

gathering God's presence was being manifested in a powerful way. While I couldn't communicate with most of the people gathered, and I didn't know their story of where they came from I still felt connected with them, I experienced a sense of union with them. There was understanding without the need to communicate. The same Spirit that animates their life animates mine and this created a common language that was more personal than speech. While we all came from different countries, spoke different languages, and danced *very* differently, for a few hours we were united. We sang, worshipped, prayed and danced as the children of God we were.

And all of this was expressed in such great joy. Amidst music, worship, dancing (there was a lot of dancing going on) there was a profound joy. For a moment or two it seemed as if conflict, differences and strife were absent and there was jubilation. St. John XXIII stated that the surest sign of the Holy Spirit was joy and joy was palpable on the Vigil of Pentecost. There was a freedom in everyone's worship that was contagious. We may not have always understood the language of the songs but that didn't dampen people's desire to praise. It was particularly exuberant when the music ministry played the Spanish classic *Alabare* which everyone seemed to know well enough to chime in. It was just really moving to

see so many people worshipping freely and basking in the Lord's blessing.

I was also touched when I reflected on the place where the gathering was taking place. Circus Maximus was a place where early Christians were martyred because they would not worship false gods or the emperor. I had an awareness that the blood that the martyrs shed on the very ground where we were worshipping had an intimate connection to what we were doing. Had the men and women who gave their lives for the love of Christ not been willing to do so, might it have been that our gathering would never had happened. I understood more acutely Tertullian's words, "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." I was filled with gratefulness for the martyrs' total yes to the Lord and at the same time convicted of the times when I have not given everything for Christ. "Lord, may I never hold back anything from you."

Finally, being present with the Holy Father for the Vigil event (and for Mass on Pentecost Sunday) was just so amazing. It was evident that Pope Francis was enjoying the gathering and loved having all of his children home. In his talk at the Vigil he spoke of Circus Maximus being another upper room but this time we gather without fear. He also went on to say that this current of grace cannot be "dammed" and the Holy Spirit can't be enclosed in a cage, which given my work with the *Wild Goose*, I particularly liked! The entire weekend was simply graced. It was an appropriate celebration for a remarkable time. It only causes me to wonder what the Spirit will bring in the next fifty years. Come Holy Spirit, Come. ♦



Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR is the Director of Franciscan Pathways, an evangelistic outreach of his Franciscan Community.

International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services



At the recently held ICCRS Meeting after the Jubilee Celebration in Rome in early June, Jim Murphy was elected President of ICCRS replacing Michelle Moran who had completed her terms.

Jane Guenther, elected at the last ICCRS meeting as the ICCRS representative for North America, replacing Bob Canton, on the completion of his terms of service, attended this as her first meeting.

Both Murphy and Guenther are former members and Chairmen of the NSC. May the Holy Spirit be with them in their new service! ♦

Official Report of Jubilee

The worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal gathered in Rome to celebrate its Golden Jubilee. More than merely a nostalgic look backwards, there was an anticipation for the days ahead. There was also a clearly ecumenical focus, initiated by Pope Francis himself! Present on stage for the Saturday evening event with Pope Francis, were some of our protestant brothers and sisters. It was a visual picture of the ICCRS and Catholic Fraternity commitment to Ecumenism. The Golden Jubilee was described as both an historic and prophetic moment. The Renewal gathered to seek wisdom and the grace of God in order to live and work in a new season of Pentecost.

This was a celebration for the Universal Church. The involvement of the Holy Father gave a deep impression and accountability to the Church hierarchy throughout the World. To see and hear the voice of the Holy Father was very important particularly for those who have a lack of support from their local bishops or priests. It was encouraging to see the Holy Spirit moving powerfully in the hearts of Pilgrims. People came looking for a new dynamic and through the many diverse activities being offered, they found this dynamic. Some Pilgrims experienced the Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit along with His gifts for the first time. Impromptu meetings occurred with the Holy Spirit causing opportunities to happen, in unexpected places. This was particularly evident with Pilgrims who, while initially disappointed in being unable to attend Mass at Saint Mary Major and St John Lateran, were moved to Praise and Worship of the Lord while waiting in line.

Visit <http://www.ccrgoldenjubilee2017.net/official-report-of-jubilee/> ♦

2017 South Carolina Renewal Conference

“Renewal Begins With You!”

Join us in
building
unity among
Christians
through
Gifts of the
Holy Spirit.

JOIN US!

September 29 – 30
North Myrtle Beach, SC

Registration and details: screnewal.org or
Contact Sharon Crocker (803) 309-2480
sharon@screnewal.org.

Young Adult Ministry

by Dave VanVickle
Coordinator



I am about to do a new thing

I have spent about a week thinking and praying about the recent Jubilee conference in Pittsburgh. The whole weekend seemed to mix things up. Different cultures and ethnicities, priests and lay, different religious orders, the young and not so young and, most interestingly, the old and the new.

I had so many conversations with leaders and pioneers of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I wanted to know where they came from and what happened in those early days. In almost every case as I engaged them in conversation it was not long before I got the feeling that they were wondering the same thing from me. I wanted to know where they came from, they wanted to know where we are going. All with incredible excitement and even some urgency. No matter who you talked to the feeling was the same. Something new is happening.

Every moment and every inch of the Renewal feels pregnant with grace and potential outpouring. One of the leaders from the early days posed an interesting question to me, "How do we cooperate with this perceived grace and move forward. How do we advance it? How do we wait?" I took this question to mean, How do we cooperate with the Spirit's desire to bring renewal to the next generation?

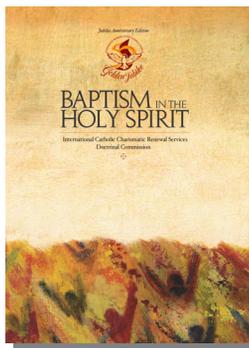
I wanted to know where they came from, they wanted to know where we are going.

I believe the answer could not be more simple. Pray and empower. Be an intercessory warrior for this exact intention and if you are a leader empower the next generation to take on more of the leadership. It is that simple. We

pray for the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the young adult community and then we empower them to lead as the Spirit guides. Tell them where you have been and ask them where the Spirit is leading. ♦

NSC ANNOUNCES:

From International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services
Doctrinal Commission



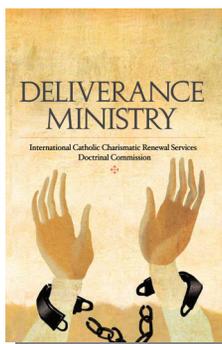
Baptism in the Holy Spirit Jubilee Anniversary Edition

With updated text, including many quotations from Pope Francis. A must read for anyone in leadership in the Renewal and for those in formation.

"Never could I have imagined that the miracle would involve the worldwide outpouring of the Holy Spirit so

beautifully described in these pages." *Patti Mansfield, pioneer of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.*

\$9.95 20% discount for 5 or more (plus s/h).



Deliverance Ministry

The purpose of the document is to show how deliverance ministry is grounded in Scripture and Tradition, and to offer sound guidelines for practicing it in accord with Catholic faith.

"This work shows that deliverance ministry can be a transformative part of parish life that the Holy Spirit can use to bring freedom to God's people." *Neal Lozano, founder of Heart of the Father Ministries.*

\$9.95 20% discount for 5 or more (plus s/h).

To order call 1-800-338-2445

Celebrating my Anniversary with the Renewal

by Sister Damiana Tamez, DLJC

When I professed my first vows as a Sister in 1992 it did not dawn on me that my 25th Anniversary would coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal! I experienced baptism in the Holy Spirit when I was beginning college in my hometown of Monterrey, Mexico, before joining the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. I became active in the Renewal as part of a prayer group and then in a covenant community. God was working out his will for my life. He had to wait for the right time, but the stirrings of grace were strong. God wanted more for my life!

His calling was clear. He knew that I needed that kind of reassurance. Through a series of events he made known to me his desire that I become his bride, which changed my life! That strong experience has carried me through all these years. I knew beyond a doubt that I was called to become a Disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ!

My Community honors the Silver Jubilarians with a special trip to Rome and Assisi; I very much wanted to be in Rome for the Jubilee. I encountered many charismatics that just like me made the big sacrifice for the celebration. I found them everywhere: In the small town of Assisi, in Rome walking or riding the bus, visiting churches. It

was a wonderful gathering of praise, of thanksgiving and expectation for all that God is doing, for what he wants for me personally and for the Renewal. I came back home encouraged and excited. The Holy Father has great expectations. The Holy Spirit is stirring all to take part in his wonderful work of renewing his Church! ♦

Brothers of the Beloved Disciple
 1701 Alamos St.
 San Antonio, TX 78201
 (210) 734-6727
www.brothersofthebeloveddisciple.org
 The Brothers are a Marian and charismatic religious community of priests and brothers.

Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ
 P.O. Box 64,
 Prayer Town, TX 79010-0064
 (806) 534-2312
www.dljc.org
 This is a Franciscan and charismatic religious order of sisters, contemplative with evangelistic apostolates.



IN HONOR

Photo: Something Like Real Pictures.

At the recently held 50th Anniversary Jubilee Conference a number of men and women who have impacted the Renewal over many years were honored and, in the case of those who have died, remembered. The honorings took place on Thursday Evening at the end of Mass, and on Friday morning in the NSC English Sessions.

As was shared onsite it would be impossible to name all those who have impacted the Renewal on the national level let alone those on the international, diocesan or local levels. Renewal leaders of communities, Prayer Groups and Diocesan Renewals are encouraged to do something similar before the end of this Jubilee year.

Honored were:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dominic Berardino | Fr. Tom Forrest, CSsR |
| John and Therese Boucher | Bert Ghezzi |
| Matteo Calisi | Marybeth Mutmansky Greene |
| Steve Clark | Fr. John Hampsch, CMF |
| Joe Difato | Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD |
| Fr. Ralph DiOrio | Bishop Sam Jacobs |

- Honored and remembered:**
- Bill Beatty (1935-2017)
 - Jack Brombach (1930-2014)
 - Bobbie Cavnar (1924-2002)
 - Fr. Hal Cohen, SJ (1928-2001)
 - Fr. Jim Ferry (1931-1989)
 - Fr. George Kosicki, CSB (1928-2014)
 - Marilynn Kramar (1939-2017)
 - Fr. Emile Lafranz (1933-1995)
 - Dennis McBride (1937-2012)
 - Bishop Joseph McKinney (1928-2010)
 - Aggie Neck (1938-2007)
 - Fr. Jake Randall (1928-2011)
 - Fr. Regis Rodda, OFM Conv (1932-2004)
 - Fr. Michael Scanlan, TOR (1931-2017)
 - Fr. Rick Thomas, SJ (1928-2006)
 - David Thorp (1953-2011)
 - Fr. Ralph Tichenor, SJ (1908-1983)
 - Sr. Nancy Kellar, SC.
 - Sr. Linda Koontz, SNJM
 - Francis MacNutt
 - Msgr. Joseph Malagrega
 - David Mangan
 - Patti Gallagher Mansfield
 - Fr. Francis Martin
 - George Martin
 - Ralph Martin
 - Walter Matthews
 - Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM
 - Sr. Briege McKenna, OSC
 - Fr. George Montague, SM
 - Michelle Moran
 - Jim "Butch" Murphy
 - Rudy Pruden
 - Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan
 - Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
 - Vinson Synan
 - Charles Whitehead
 - Bruce Yocum

From the Executive Director



by Walter Matthews

HONORING

Honoring is not something with which I grew up. Yes, of course, the good Sisters of St. Joseph taught us the Fourth Commandment to “Honor your father and mother.” However, at home, because of alcoholism, we did not see it nor experience it. It was only after I came to know the Lord in a personal way empowered by the Holy Spirit (or better, when the Lord revealed himself to me by the power of the Holy Spirit), and through much inner healing, that honoring began to take root. It is still digging into my soul, as in the words of St. Paul, “Nothing is to be done out of jealousy or vanity; instead out of humility of mind everyone should give preference to others, everyone pursuing not selfish interests but those of others” (Phil 2:3-4).

It was about a year ago that the Planning Committee for the NSC Sessions within the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Conference began to discuss, pray about and formulate plans to honor key leaders who had been foundational to the Renewal in the U.S. A list developed. We realized that some of those we wanted to honor had “gone before us marked with the sign of faith.” The list grew. We soon also realized that we could not invite to the Celebration all the living who could/should be honored nor compile a complete list of all those to be remembered. We did our best to be representative. We even added a few international leaders and a Pentecostal historian!

Four of those whom we had named to honor as living died earlier this year. Instead, we remembered and honored them amidst the deceased (see p. 13).

As we approached the Celebration we realized that only doing the honoring in the NSC Sessions would be wrong and deprive the whole community of the opportunity to participate in the honoring and remembering. We approached the Overall Planning Committee about doing some honoring at the Thursday Evening General Session. They agreed. We proposed seven such men and women to honor and remember in the Friday Morning NSC Session. Bill Richart developed a PowerPoint presentation and background music.

In the presentation on Friday morning, a year of preparation came together. I was close to tears, the words of St. Paul in my ears, “In brotherly love let your feelings of deep affection for one another come to expression and regard others as more important than yourself” or, in another translation, “outdo each other in mutual esteem” (Rms 12:10).

We encourage the Renewal in all the expressions of ethnic groups, covenant communities, prayer groups, ministries and Diocesan Renewal to find a time and a way in this Jubilee Year to do something to honor and remember those who were and are the stones upon which this Renewal has been built.

Finally, in the interest of full disclosure, on Thursday night the Overall Planning Committee not only honored the seven leaders we had suggested to them to be honored/remembered, they added an eighth, me. I was humbled and grateful, hearing inside in the words that we all hope to hear, “well done good and faithful servant.” ♦

FRIENDS OF THE NSC

We want to thank all those who, through their generosity, enable this ministry of “bringing baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church” (Pope Francis) and of building unity with all the expressions of the Renewal, to continue. We encourage those of you who receive *Pentecost Today*, but who are not active donors, to consider becoming one. **We need you.** We can do so much more when we work together.

Thanks especially to those who contributed in memory of Aggie Neck, former Chairman of the NSC. May she rest in peace. Thanks too for those who have responded to our “Legacy of Fire” Planned Giving Program mailing and who have let us know that they have named the National Service Committee in their wills. If you would like to receive more information about our Planned Giving initiative please call or write us. We will be happy to talk with you or send you the brochure. As Reader Joseph and Mrs. Maureen Bernard wrote, “We have been blessed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the grace of baptism in the Spirit. Since the NSC has served well in fostering this grace, we have contributed life insurance to see this grace touch future generations.”

Finally, we thank the many who at the recent Jubilee Conference made a pledge to the Toward the Jubilee and Beyond Campaign. We have special gifts for those who make a one year pledge of \$360, a two year pledge of \$720 or a three year pledge of \$1080. Contact us!



Jubilee Procession, Photo: Something Like Real Pictures.



An Amazing Grace

My wife, Mary Lou, and I were among the first group baptized in the Spirit at Notre Dame in 1967. Along with many of the early responders to the move of the Holy Spirit we expected a powerful renewal of the church. We had observed how the Liturgical Movement of the early 20th century had prepared the way for Vatican II to establish renewed worship for the whole church. We thought that the same thing should happen for the Charismatic Renewal—integration of the Pentecostal experience throughout the worldwide Catholic community.

Well, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) *has* had a powerful effect on the church, but in ways we did not anticipate. The Lord did it his way, not our way. Here's what has happened. At the outset of the Renewal tens of thousands of people were baptized in the Spirit in hundreds of prayer groups. The core results in their lives were common: they entered an intimate relationship with Jesus, they experienced his presence daily, they began to live an enriched life in the Spirit, the Spirit activated his seven gifts and fruit of the Spirit for them and they grew in holiness.

Being baptized in the Spirit has also meant, for most, learning how to receive and use spiritual gifts for serving the Lord and the church. Just as rain sustains a great diversity of plants, grasses, vegetables, flowers, and trees, so the Holy Spirit showers his magnificent diversity of spiritual gifts among us. He gives some prominent charisms like healing, prophecy, miracles and the like. Others he equips with gifts such as evangelization, teaching, encouragement, administration, care for the sick.

Now after five decades many have decided to invest their gifts in some parish or other ministry service. They still identify as charismatic, but they devote themselves to a Spirit-led calling. You will find them in parish RCIA programs, in the permanent diaconate, teaching in local schools and colleges, working in programs to house the homeless, serving in national and local ministries and so on. They are bringing renewal to the Church God's way.

More than 120 million Catholics worldwide have been baptized in the Spirit. Many millions more hunger and thirst for a full life in the Spirit. We all must share our experience of the Spirit

with joy to draw others to seek baptism in the Spirit, to share in the amazing grace the Lord is giving in the charismatic renewal. ♦

Bert Ghezzi served on the original National Service Committee and was the editor of New Covenant magazine from 1974 to 1985. He has written twenty books, including most recently Prayers to the Holy Spirit. Bert chairs the evangelization team in his parish. He lives in Altamonte Springs, Florida.



Planned Giving Program

“Legacy of Fire”

Your planned gift to the NSC will bless others and extend the legacy of your baptism in the Holy Spirit for generations to come. We ask you to please consider a gift to the National Service Committee when you make your will or update it. Making a gift to the NSC can be as simple as adding a codicil to your existing will or estate plan.

You may use this or a similar statement: “I/we bequeath \$ _____

(or % of my residual estate) to the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. P.O. Box 628, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628.”

Please let us know if you have included us in your will so that we can properly thank you.

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.

Please mail to:

National Service Committee
Chariscenter USA
PO Box 628
Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628

Tel. (540) 972-0225

www.nsc-chariscenter.org

National Service Committee members:

Johnny Bertucci (Chairman)
Jimmy Archer
Jane Barz
Jim Beckman
Bp. Sam Jacobs
Sr. Lucy Lukaszewicz, DLJC
Tom Mangan
Bill Marcotte
Ron Riggins
Casey Sprehe
Tammie Stevens

PENTECOSTToday

PO Box 628 • Locust Grove, VA • 22508-0628

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
National Service
Committee

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Published by the National Service Committee of the
Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc.

The Vision Statement of the National Service Committee

Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all people to experience the Holy Spirit who opens us to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and the love of the Father.

The Holy Spirit empowers us for personal holiness, renewed Catholic life, and evangelization.

- **Subscribe today! Call 1-800-338-2445**
- or visit www.nsc-chariscenter.org.
- \$10 suggested annual donation requested.
- *If you have received more than one copy of this publication, please return all the mailing labels and we will make the necessary corrections.*
- *Note: we send Prayer Group contacts a copy. If the contact is also a donor you will receive an individual copy. There is no need to send us your two labels.*

The National Service Committee

rejoices with all those baptized in the Holy

"But grace was given to each of us

Spirit in our day and is grateful for the

according to the measure of Christ's gift.

gift and charisms of the Holy Spirit.

And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the

body of Christ." Ephesians 4:7, 11-13 NAB