

Celebration of the Eucharist in openness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit can truly be an experience of the “source of our powers” and of the “summit toward which we are directed.”

by Fr. Art Cooney, OFM, Cap.

Throughout the history of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the celebration of the eucharistic liturgy has been an important part of worship and praise at charismatic conferences, prayer meetings and other gatherings. The sacred liturgy is the “summit toward which the activity of the church is directed; it is also the font from which all her powers flow” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, n. 10). Celebration of the Eucharist in openness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit can truly be an experience of the “source of our powers” and of the “summit toward which we are directed.”

I'd like to share some of the elements that I've found helpful in trying to integrate a charismatic spirituality and facilitate the operation of a greater diversity of spiritual gifts during our eucharistic liturgies.

It should go without saying that it makes a difference if people, especially those serving in ministry, have already spent time in prayer, seeking God's blessing on those who will be attending and asking God's direction and guidance for the message and the music. It is important that those who are ministering should have repented of any sin in their lives and have consciously given to the Lord any burdens or resentments. It is also vital that the presider has already touched base with the other ministers about the flow of the service and their roles in it and is able to pray with the other ministers before the Mass. This could be a time of binding any negative spirit and of coming into a greater unity with all who are ministering and a deeper focus on the Lord and attention to his guidance.

Towards a more spirited celebration of the Eucharist



Photo: Alderson

At every Mass we have the opportunity to offer ourselves with Christ to the Father.

Special care should be given in selecting the songs to be used during the liturgy. If many of those attending are not involved in the Charismatic Renewal, at least some of the music should be songs with which they are already familiar. The most effective music seems to be that which extols who God is and what God does, rather than music that seems to focus on who we are.

Whenever possible I like to have a few songs in the beginning of Mass rather than just one entrance song as it seems to take awhile for many of us to set aside our

own concerns and worries and enter into the Lord's presence. Many of us have experienced coming into a prayer meeting anxious and burdened, but able during the time of praise to gradually shift our attention off of ourselves and onto the Lord. Placing our attention on God's power rather than our weakness helps to lift our burdens. In situations where it is not possible to have a number of songs at the beginning of Mass, music could be provided before Mass, either live or on tape to allow people to start getting into the spirit of prayer. Usually the opening and closing songs at Mass are of a more lively vari-

ety, while those within the Mass are more mellow songs of worship or adoration. After the initial worship is a good time to pause for word gifts such as prophecy or word of knowledge.

In the preaching I try to focus on the *kerygma*; the basic gospel message that Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose from the dead, knows our struggles and is offering us pardon, peace and a new life that begins here and now through the power of

his Holy Spirit. I also encourage people to believe in the power and presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. I encourage eucharistic vigils, holy hours, and healing services which build people's faith and enable them to come to Mass with more devotion and a more expectant faith.

In preparing to receive Holy Communion I often remind people of the prayer, "...only say the word and I shall be healed." As people come forward to receive communion, they

can invite Jesus to be with them in that area of their lives that most needs his healing, his forgiveness or his attention. They can also invite Jesus to be with a loved one who may need his help in a special way. Those who are not able to receive sacramentally for some reason can make a spiritual communion by asking Jesus to live in their hearts through faith. They can also be encouraged to participate in eucharistic adoration and express their love for Jesus in that way.

People can also be encouraged to unite their lives and sufferings to those of Christ. In the Old Testament times, people would bring an animal to the temple in Jerusalem as a sin offering. The priest would examine the animal and if it were acceptable it was declared acceptable before God. We know that Jesus is the perfect Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. At every Mass we have the opportunity to offer ourselves with Christ to the Father. When we are joined to Christ, the Father doesn't look upon our sins. He looks upon the Lamb. Because the Lamb is acceptable, we are declared acceptable in and because of Jesus Christ. I remind people at the Our Father that it is through the perfect sacrifice of Christ that we can now confidently approach the throne of grace.

Sometimes at Mass, a deep and worshipful time of adoration can be had at the consecration and at the Great Amen. After communion is another opportunity for worship, adoration and the word gifts. Whenever possible I like to have prayer teams available to give individual attention where needed. This seems best done after the final blessing so that those who desire to go home can. It also allows us to be open ended in our ministry time and avoid having to rush. At times we use taped music during this time of ministry so that the music ministry can also participate or receive ministry.

Of course, every celebration of the Eucharist is different in the sense that we experience it differently. But these suggestions may be helpful in preparing a liturgy which is open to the movement of the Holy Spirit through praise and worship and through the gifts. ♦

Fr. Art Cooney is a member of the National Service Committee. A Capuchin Franciscan priest, he resides in Saginaw, Michigan.

Franciscan U ad,
Catholic Women's Conference
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Leaders challenged to proclaim the Jubilee in unity

Members of the National Service Committee, the Steering Committee of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons and various ethnic national committees, as well as representatives of two communities in the Catholic Fraternity of the Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships, met with Bishop Sam Jacobs, Chairman of the US Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, in Dallas in mid-January. The meeting of nearly forty individuals built on other similar gatherings recently convened by a coordinating Committee of Five in response to the US Bishops' call in *Grace for the New Springtime* for "leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to work to bring the various streams of this Renewal into cooperative unity."

The Committee of Five consists of the chairpersons of the Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee (Bishop Sam Jacobs), the National Service Committee (Fr. Patsy Iaquina), and the Diocesan Liaison Steering Committee (Fr. Richard Loch), along with a representative of the ethnic committees (Msgr. Joseph Malagrega) and the Catholic Fraternity (Bob Cavnar). Cavnar's Community of God's Delight hosted the meeting in a retreat house north of Dallas.

Ethnic Committees participating were the *Comité Nacional de Servicio Hispano*, *Le Conseil du Renouveau Charismatique Catholique des Haïtiens D'Outre Mer*, the Korean Service Committee, and the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities.

The meeting consisted of brief reports on the activities of the various groups since the previous meeting in January 1999 (see *Chariscenter USA Newsletter*, April/May/June 1999, p. 8), small group faith-sharing, affirmation of the Statement of Unity (originally drafted in 1995 and since signed by thousands) and extended time spent in prayer listening to the Lord.

Prayer Summit ushers in Jubilee

In response to the Lord's call to prayer as we neared the beginning of the Great Jubilee, the National Service Committee invited Charismatic Renewal leaders and intercessors to gather in St. Louis, December 3-5, 1999, for a Prayer Summit. Forty leaders and intercessors attended.

"A Call to Intercession," the Prayer Summit focused on prayers of praise, worship and intercession (see *Chariscenter USA Newsletter*, October/November/December 1999, p 10). Each prayer session focused on particular themes or focal points for intercession. These were taken from Pope John Paul II's *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*.

Specific sessions were spent praying for the church, the Charismatic Renewal, the Jubilee Year, the Celebrate Jesus 2000 Congress, our society, the culture of death, poverty in the US and in developing nations, families, youth and conversion, repentance and freedom from the bondage of alcoholism, fear and sexual sins.

Jim Murphy was present for the opening session and gave a moving overview taken from the Scriptures of the call and the cost of intercession. A variety of prayer forms were used: charismatic praise and worship, liturgy, benediction, time at "the wall" and a unique Scriptural rosary led by the brothers of the Intercessors of the Lamb. Bob Garrett of the Alleluia Community was present to lead praise and worship.

As a result of the prayer and discussion several actions were agreed to by those present:

The Leadership Groups will meet again next January, possibly in Alexandria, Louisiana; this gathering will be organized by the Committee of Five;

The list of those invited to this gathering will not be expanded (except as noted below), but all the groups will make a concerted effort to bring the group's attendance to its fullness;

Each group is encouraged to bring one or two youth (age 18-35) as potential national leaders.

In terms of actions related to the Unity Statement, the groups agreed to:

- ◆ Make the first Friday of each month a day of prayer, fasting and almsgiving for unity in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal;

- ◆ Exchange names to pray for one leader on the February 18 Day of Prayer and Fasting;
- ◆ Foster Jubilee events;
- ◆ Study and implement *Incarnationis Mysterium* and *Ecclesia in America*;
- ◆ Work toward bringing 100,000 people to baptism in the Holy Spirit in 2000;
- ◆ Encourage every diocese/community to sponsor an event to pray for the "purification of memory" (John Paul II, *Incarnationis Mysterium*, n. 11) in the Charismatic Renewal and in the church.

As the meeting concluded there was a great enthusiasm captured in this summarizing prophetic word: "Celebrate the Jubilee, proclaim the Jubilee, experience the Jubilee, let the Jubilee be a door into a new springtime."

Prayer summit, continued

Participants were asked to fast in some way during the weekend, if possible, and to spend time before the tabernacle in silent adoration for an hour during each of the two overnights. There were strong prophetic words and images throughout the weekend calling participants to deeper intercession, more yielding to the Holy Spirit, greater awareness of the presence of the angels in whose presence we go before the throne when we praise (rather than their coming to us).

The evaluations were for the most part very positive with some notable areas for growth. One evaluator responded to the question, "Did the Prayer Summit meet your expectations?" by writing: "More than met them. The way it all unfolded and came together could only have been orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes I stood in awe at what I saw and what I experienced."

Another added, "I am so glad the National Service Committee is seeing and feeling the importance of intercessory prayer ministry." While there are presently no plans for another prayer summit, the National Service Committee is, in light of this first success, open to the Lord prompting it to "blow the trumpet" again.

Of particular note were the number of diocesan and other groups that heard the same call and spent time in intercession, either on that same weekend or at another time. As Fr. Tom Bill of Portland, Oregon, reported: "On December 4 in Portland, thirty of us met for two hours before our eucharistic Lord for a Northwest Prayer Summit—in solidarity with you in St. Louis. The intercessions were based on those you mailed to me. The humble and powerful praise and petitions and the prophetic encouragements gave us an assurance that we were involved in a real ministry for the church. Praise God."

Praise God, indeed! ♦

NSC meets and holds election

The National Service Committee met in Dallas January 14-16, prior to the meeting of Leadership Groups. All members were present except Rudy Pruden who was studying in Paris. The Committee spent an extended time in prayer, listening to the Lord and to one another. Discussion focused on the inner life and relationships of the Service Committee members as well as the status of the Charismatic Renewal.

The Committee then took up its member election. The terms of Deacon Bill Brennan and Dr. Michele Greischar were expiring and the Committee had one vacancy since Dean Condon's resignation in June. After discussion of all of those on the election ballot, the members present voted to re-elect Deacon Bill Brennan and Dr. Michele Greischar and

to elect Josephine Cachia to three-year terms ending January 2003.

After the election, extended discussion was held on the preliminary Financial Report dated December 31, 1999. A formal report will appear in a later issue of *Pentecost Today*.

The Committee then spent time with the members of the Diocesan Liaison Steering Committee. Items discussed included the Joint Subcommittee on Leadership Formation and the idea of encouraging each liaison to approach his/her bishop about designating certain events, such as charismatic conferences, as Jubilee events.

The NSC meeting and the joint meeting with the Liaison Steering Committee ended as the meeting of Leadership Groups began. ♦



Josephine Cachia

Josephine Cachia has been active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Brooklyn since 1982. She has been the Bishops' Liaison to the Renewal for the past 10 years and full time Director of the Charismatic Renewal Office for the last four years.

On the national level, Josephine has served on the Advisory Committee to the National Service Committee since January 1992 and is completing two three-year terms on the Steering Committee of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons.

Josephine is a nurse by profession. She and her husband, Peter, have been married for 31 years. They have two adult children, one of whom is getting married this year.

Josephine brings to the NSC her infectious smile and enthusiasm, her strong trust in the Lord and clear leadership gifts. The NSC is grateful that Josephine has joined the team.

In the presence of Our Lord

Discovering the blessings of Eucharistic adoration

by Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM

It seems that the devotion of eucharistic adoration is bringing new life to the church, the Charismatic Renewal, and individual lives throughout our country and indeed throughout the world. In many parishes, devotions of perpetual adoration, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and holy hours are among the rich sources of grace in a world hungry for salvation, for wisdom, for justice, and for peace. In n.1380 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* we read:

It is highly fitting that Christ should have wanted to remain present to his church in this unique way. Since Christ was about to take his departure from his own in his visible form, he wanted to give us his sacramental presence; since he was about to offer himself on the cross to save us, he wanted us to have a memorial of the love with which he loved us “to the end,” even to the giving of his life. In his eucharistic presence he remains mysteriously in our midst as the one who loved us and gave himself up for us, and he remains under signs that express and communicate this love: “The church and the world have a great need for eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in the sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to meet him in adoration, in contempla-



tion full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and the crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease.” (Pope John Paul II)

Recently I was blessed to view the video *I Am the Living Bread* which gives a look at how the lives of people in San Antonio, Texas, have been dramatically touched by their devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament through eucharistic adoration. I have also heard numerous testimonies on the local level of how God has worked in powerful ways in the lives of individuals and parishes through this devotion. An increase in vocations, development of new ministries, vibrant youth ministries being formed, the rise in the number of conversions, renewed and dynamic parish life, a deeper prayer life and a total commitment to Jesus in daily living are among the many fruits credited to eucharistic adoration. Healings in family and in personal lives, and miracles of grace—souls touched, lives changed, and evil turned back—have all been attributed to the time spent before the Eucharist.

Eucharistic adoration is a witness of **faith**. Because we believe that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament we desire to be there with him. St. John Vianney is reported to

have spent a great portion of his day in church for there Jesus was present in the tabernacle. He called our churches “earthly paradises” where we may taste the joy of those who already are enjoying the Lord’s presence in heaven. In spending periods of time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament—even if we have nothing to say, if we just sit there, or kneel there—some of Jesus rubs off on us, and where he touches, changes take place. We come away with new strength and an increased hunger for the Eucharist.

Eucharistic adoration is a witness of **love**. We want to spend time with the One we love, to express our love and to worship him; to witness his awesomeness and to surrender our weaknesses. In adoration we come to know Jesus more intimately, to follow his way more clearly. His peace supplants our confusion; his light banishes our darkness; his presence purifies our desires and we eventually come to know that God is enough. We discover in our quiet worship that we have found food for the soul and fire for our journey.

Eucharistic adoration is a witness of **service**. Love compels us to serve. So many of the testimonies I have heard speak of what the Lord has called one to do in ministry or service to the body of Christ. In our moments of eucharistic adoration God speaks his will to us and equips us for work in his church and among his people.

I encourage you to prayerfully study article three on the sacrament of the Eucharist from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, to view the video from Ignatius Press, *I Am the Living Bread*, and lastly, to explore what you can do to spend time in eucharistic adoration. Then, I believe that just as the people in the Gospel, upon seeing the crippled healed in their midst, we too will be filled with awe and give praise to God as we proclaim, “We have seen incredible things today!” (Luke 7:17-26). ♦

Sr. Martha Jean McGarry is a member of the National Service Committee. She serves as Director of the Charismatic Renewal Center for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Prayer meetings and Mass

by Josephine Cachia

In 1982 I was introduced to the Charismatic Renewal by a co-worker who suggested I attend a "healing Mass." My inclination to attend was somewhat dubious since I was not aware that I was in need of "healing." My understanding of healing was limited to physical healing, mediated by doctors. I was a practicing nurse and although I believed in God's power to heal, my experience of healing was mainly through diagnosis, treatment plan (medicine or surgery) and of course high doses of tender loving care. After experiencing the "healing Mass," a new dimension of faith entered my life. I became involved in the Charismatic Renewal, experienced baptism in the Holy Spirit, and co-founded the prayer group in my parish.

Prayer meetings became a source of life-giving experiences of God. When one of our members was diagnosed with a malignant tumor, we prayed for healing and God healed him. At first our members were fearful and resistant to the notion that God would move among us. Gradually that fear was removed and people were freer to praise God and eager to share their faith. Inner healings were taking place in women who had had abortions. Little by little individual lives were being transformed.

My experience of that first healing Mass brought a new awareness that every Mass reveals God's mercy and compassion and that his healing love is always available if we are open to receive. Our attitude and disposition play an important role in the ongoing process of healing and conversion. Accord-

ing to Vatican II, the liturgy is the "summit" and fountain of the Christian's relationship with Jesus and other members of his body (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, n. 10). As the faithful gather at the table of the Lord, Jesus' saving work is made present and active for all believers through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

Our experience of love and fellowship opens the heart to embrace more readily those who gather together in our parish liturgy.

In the fourth eucharist prayer the celebrant prays:

Father, you so loved the world that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. He was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, a man like us in all things but sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation, to prisoners, freedom, and to those in sorrow, joy.

These words become our testimony for we are indeed being set free and our sorrow is held in hearts that are being transformed with joy. As followers of Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist, we, as the baptized, in a special way proclaim to one another that Jesus is alive and his saving action is ever present. Living in unity with the mind of Christ, we serve one another in love.

I recently came across the text of "The Eucharistic Liturgy and Charismatic Prayer," a presentation given several years ago by Father James Wood, now pastor of St. John Nepomucene, Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York. In the introduction, he states, "Even though the church has definitely responded to the call of Vatican II to have the liturgy 'express more the holy things which they signify,' (*Constitution on the Sacred Lit-*

urgy, n. 21) we have in no way exhausted the opportunity that liturgy gives us to grow in union with the Word and the Spirit of God." He continues by stating: "Just as the head and the body are one, it too is the same Spirit that blesses the church with charismatic gifts and liturgical prayer. It is not the role of charismatic prayer to improve on the liturgy; it is not the role of the liturgy to 'legitimize' charismatic prayer."

Prayer meetings prime us to encounter Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the celebration of Eucharist. Our experience of love and fellowship at the meetings opens the heart to embrace more readily those who gather together in our parish liturgy. Prayer meetings can never replace or be a substitute for eucharistic liturgy, but they can be a means to propel us into a greater appreciation of the Holy One who calls us to assemble in his name, to listen to his voice in the proclamation of his word and to share in his body, blood, soul and divinity.

Jesus, present in the Eucharist, gives himself freely and totally to us. He is the perfect gift of the Father. Through this powerful gift of self, Jesus challenges us to be Eucharist for one another. Sharing in his body and blood we are gradually transformed into Christ and are able to continue his mission of salvation.

Eucharist is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, healing for the sick and empowerment for the weak. Our need for Jesus cannot be satisfied by "just" attending prayer meetings. A Spirit-led, Spirit-filled meeting ought to bring us to the table of the Lord. You might call the prayer meeting the "appetizer" to the "main meal." Perhaps due to a lack of understanding of the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, some people have mistaken the spiritual "high" experienced at prayer meetings for an end in itself.

In his apostolic letter on the Jubilee Year 2000, Pope John Paul II expressed his desire that this year be "a great prayer of praise and thanksgiving, especially for the gift of the Incarnation of the Son of God and the redemption which he accomplished." He urged that the year be "intensely eucharistic." Ongoing formation and teaching at prayer meetings ought to reflect this exhortation. ►

**"That Your Joy
May Be Complete"**

John 16:24



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Al & Patti Mansfield, Marilyn Quirk receive Papal Medal

Al and Patti Mansfield, leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of New Orleans were among the recipients of the papal medal, *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, at a ceremony in the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, Louisiana, on January 29, 2000.

The *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal (*For the Church and the Pontiff*) is awarded by the Holy Father to members of the laity and clergy for their outstanding service to the people of God. The medal dates back to the Jubilee of Pope Leo XIII and is one of several papal honors being awarded during this Jubilee Year 2000.

The Mansfields have served as leaders in the Charismatic Renewal for over thirty years. Al heads the Archdiocese of New Orleans Office for Catholic Charismatic Renewal and chairs an annual conference which is one of the largest of its kind in the United States. Patti was present at the beginning of the movement in 1967 and has fostered its growth among the 80 million Catholics worldwide who identify themselves with it. Her book, *As by a New Pentecost*, is a chronicle of the beginning of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church. Patti travels extensively as a conference speaker.

Mass from p. 12

Hopefully, the Holy Spirit will continue to enlighten the people of God—bishops, priests and laity—to reflect more fully in this time of grace on the treasury of gifts given to manifest the true glory of God. We are invited to share in the mystery of Trinitarian love. May all our voices blend together to honor the Holy One in whom we live and move and have our being. ♦

Recently elected as a member of the National Service Committee, Josephine Cachia has been involved in the Charismatic Renewal for eighteen years. She is the Bishop's Liaison and Director of the Charismatic Renewal Office in the Diocese of Brooklyn. Josephine and her husband, Peter, have two adult children.

In conferring the medals, Archbishop Francis B. Schulte said that some recipients had been entrusted with human resources, some with material resources and others were entrusted with "powerful spiritual gifts in the charismatic movement" which were serving the common good. The Mansfields feel that this honor belongs more to the movement than to themselves personally and rejoice that the Charismatic Renewal is being recognized for its positive contribution to the service of the Catholic Church.

Marilyn Quirk, founder and leader of Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, also received the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*. Quirk founded Magnificat as a result of her involvement in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. She is a convert to Catholicism and is a highly regarded speaker on prayer and Christian womanhood at conferences, seminars and days of renewal. She and her husband, Peter, have six children and seven grandchildren. ♦

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**From the
Director**

by Walter Matthews



Active and participatory Eucharists

Our Holy Father Pope John Paul II has asked us to make this Great Jubilee Year “intensely eucharistic” for “in the sacrament of the Eucharist the savior, who took flesh in Mary’s womb twenty centuries ago, continues to offer himself to humanity as the source of divine life” (*Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, n. 55).

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal has always emphasized the centrality and vital importance of Eucharist in the life of individual “charismatics” as well as in the life of the church. In their 1984 *A Pastoral Statement on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal*, the US Bishops’ Liaison Committee with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (aka Ad Hoc Committee) stated:

All renewal movements in the church... truly make new again by returning to the words and deeds of Jesus Christ which form the fundamental reality of the Gospel. Insofar as the Charismatic Renewal makes its own this primary reality of the Gospel, it witnesses to elements of the Good News which are central, not optional: the covenant love of the Father, the lordship of Jesus, the power of the Spirit, sacramental and community life, prayer, charisms and the necessity of evangelization (n. 3).

They continued:

Many lives have been touched at this personal level, have undergone a deep conversion, and have radically reoriented themselves toward God and have been able to nourish themselves on the bread of true doctrine which the church offers to them in the name of Christ. For many people rediscovering the personal dimensions of the faith has meant re-

discovering the experience of church, eucharistic life... From this has come a new depth of personal prayer, nourished by the two tables of the Lord, the table of his Body and the table of his Word (n. 5).

This emphasis has endured.

One of my first jobs when I came to work for the National Service Committee in 1984 was the planning and implementation of the eucharistic celebrations at the National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference. It was both a privilege and a responsibility. By celebrating Mass with reverence, awe and celebration we honor the Lord present in the people gathered, in the Word proclaimed, in the person of the principal celebrant and in the bread and wine transformed into the body and blood of the Lord. By so celebrating at the National Conference, we, the National Service Committee, hope to model what good liturgy can be in statewide and diocesan conferences, on days of renewal and wherever Catholic charismatics gather to celebrate Eucharist.

It will be so again this year as we gather in St. Louis for the Celebrate Jesus 2000 Congress. Our Catholic morning conference will begin each day with Eucharist as we celebrate Christian unity, the birth of John the Baptist and most appropriately conclude the Congress on Sunday on the Feast of Corpus Christi, the most holy Body and Blood of Christ.

Much is being made today about the Vatican II phrase, “full and active participation.” It is clear from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* that the Eucharist is the highest form of praise (n. 2643). It is also clear that “baptism in the Holy Spirit imbues eucharistic worship with praise and adoration” and Eu-

charist may be “the occasion for the continued outpouring of the Holy Spirit and such gifts as praise, prophecy and healing” (*Fanning the Flame*, pp. 13, 25).

Renewal participants would do well during the Great Jubilee to make Eucharist the “source and summit” of our lives. This means more than simply attending the Sunday Eucharist. It means being open to the Spirit’s action during the liturgy, not divorcing one from the other. The Spirit’s presence in the liturgy is part of our faith. One needs only to listen to and pray the words of the eucharistic prayers. Study (e.g. of the *Catechism* entries on the Holy Spirit and liturgy, n. 1091-1112) can help overcome any misunderstanding. “The eucharistic prayer invokes the coming of the Spirit, not only on the gifts of bread and wine, but also upon us, so that we ‘who are nourished by his body and blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit’” (*Fanning the Flame*, p. 25).

The Renewal participant may want to make active and participatory celebration of the Eucharist more than a weekly occasion during the Jubilee, but above all it should be filled with praise and thanksgiving.

Presuming the availability and cooperation of priests, prayer groups, renewal centers, and communities should plan many rich and “Spirit-filled” eucharistic celebrations during the Great Jubilee 2000. Let us put aside such terms as “charismatic Mass” and “healing Mass” if they fail to gather the people, and call them Jubilee Masses, Jubilee Eucharists or Jubilee Holy Masses—celebrations that seek to gather all who truly want to celebrate the Jubilee, “to give glory to the Trinity” (*Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, n. 55). ♦

Friends of the NSC

by Bob Brown



The response from our donors at the end of last year was great. We were able to go to the printer with the new *Life in the Spirit Seminar Team Manual, Catholic Edition 2000*. Many of you have a copy already. Others have called and expressed excitement about this fantastic tool.

This is usually the season of most difficulty financially for the National Service Committee. People tend to sit back and await summer. Your support at this time is greatly needed to get us through the spring thaw. The Jubilee Year has only begun! This is the time to equip the church for the New Millennium and the New Evangelization which the Holy Father has entrusted to the new movements in the church. Please be generous, and if you have not given before, welcome aboard. As you know, there is no subscription fee for *Pentecost Today*. Your support is most appreciated. You may use the envelope in the center of this publication.

There are other ways to support the work of the National Service Committee.

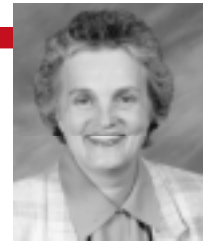
You may support us in our mission to bring "the grace of Pentecost to the life and mission of the church"—and beyond—through gifts of appreciated securities. This is always a tax-wise way to give. It is a particularly rewarding way in this period of unprecedented stock market growth.

Remember the NSC and our mission in your will and as you do your estate planning. Life insurance policies and retirement plans offer convenient opportunities for incorporating your charitable interests in your over-all plans. Ask your insurance or financial advisor to introduce you to plans in which gifts can help supplement your retirement income or that of a family member. If I can be of any assistance, call me at 1-800-338-2445.

Have you seen our new website, www.nsc-chariscenter.org? Email us with your comments and suggestions!◆

Ministry Update

by Aggie Neck



NSC members work to make Jubilee fruitful for Renewal



Lois Doyle lives in Vermillion, South Dakota, where she serves as Liaison for the Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Lois says that she always wanted to be a pioneer, just as her parents and grandparents were. She now realizes that this dream has been fulfilled for her in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, which she describes as "the last frontier."

Lois has been attending Jubilee gatherings in her area in order to gain a better sense of the "fresh new vision that God is sending." She chaired the Prayer Summit held in St. Louis last December (see related column on p. 9 of this issue) where she says she saw the gifts powerfully demonstrated.

"There is an excitement in seeing God take the little pieces of what we each do and make them come together, completing his plan." She considers the Prayer Summit a spiritual highlight of preparation for the Jubilee.

Reflection

"I saw a breakthrough moment for the Renewal at the Prayer Summit. I experienced something that I haven't experienced in quite awhile. There was a thrust of a 'new day' that echoed the early days of the Renewal."



Fr. Patsy Iaquina is serving his second term as Chairman of the National Service Committee. Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield, West Virginia, Fr. Patsy recently spent three months in Rome studying at the North American College in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2000. He stated that he was seeking a sense of what was happening in the church in light of the celebration of the Great Jubilee.

He shared that while he was in Rome he was very inspired and blessed by the work of the Community of St. Egidio in their ministry to the poor and homeless in the area. (See *Chariscenter USA Newsletter*, July/August/September 1999, p. 12.) He described it as "Christianity lived out to the full."

Fr. Patsy was a speaker at the National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference at Notre Dame last June, and is a frequent speaker at gatherings throughout the country. In addition, Fr. Patsy is currently serving on the North American Renewal Service Committee (NARSC) and the planning committee for Celebrate Jesus 2000 Congress in St. Louis this June.

Reflection

"Ourselves purified and strengthened by the good news—Jesus—we are called to throw the fire of the Spirit on all whom we meet. This is a great opportunity to delight in God's work."

Corrected Ad, same as p. 16 in the January/February/March 2000 issue.
Created on a Macintosh. RGB format.
See zip disk, Steve Zehler Franciscan University

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