

Discerning spiritual gifts

by Sherry Weddell

I love John Wesley's observation that "God does nothing on earth except in answer to believing prayer." One of the great mysteries is how Christ's redeeming love and power enters the world through his body, the church. We live in a world that God has chosen not to enter unilaterally but through the assent and cooperation of human beings. Just like Mary, whose assent made way for the Incarnation, we too have been raised by God to the dignity of being causes. As Pascal writes, "God instituted prayer to raise us to the dignity of being causes."

Pastors and parish leaders are looking eagerly for ways to call forth the gifts of people in the pews but do not know how to go about it.

That is why I was so intrigued when Pope John Paul II declared that the charismatic dimension and institutional dimensions of the church were co-essential "because they both help make the mystery of Christ and his saving work present in the world" (*Message to the World Congress on Ecclesial Movements and New Communities*, n. 5). To live the charismatic dimension of the church is to treat with utmost seriousness the reality that God desires to love and redeem the world through the life, charisms and vocation of every baptized person. If there is any group that should embody the charismatic dimension of the church, it should be the Charismatic Renewal. We should be the great champions of the idea that discerning one's charisms and personal vocation is a fundamental discipline of the Christian life for all.

The church clearly teaches that all Christians receive the Holy Spirit through baptism and confirmation, and so Catholics who have never been part of the Renewal also receive charisms. It is a reality that we have often witnessed as we have worked with Catholics in parishes across North America. Ordinary lay people have described being used by God in remarkable ways that they did not understand and had never shared with anyone else for fear of seeming odd or crazy. But when these same Catholics realize that they are apostles in their own right, that they are "sent ones" who have been gifted by the Holy Spirit to stand in the place of Christ in the world, they are electrified. As one workshop participant put it so beautifully: "I used to think that I was not worthy to kiss the sandals of Jesus. Now you're telling me that I'm to put them on and walk like

they fit—that I stand in his place with my daughter, at work, with my friends. This is revolutionary!"

Charisms are not often self-evident. It is the teaching of both the New Testament (1 Cor. 12-14) and the church that no one Christian receives all the charisms and that therefore, we need to discern which specific long-term charisms we have been given for the sake of others (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 800-801). Discernment is possible because God uses us over and over again in a specific way that can be recognized over time. Discerning our charisms is also important because they are both important clues to our vocation in life and powerful tools with which to carry out our personal mission.

Oddly enough, many of us who have been involved in the Renewal for decades are still not clear about the ways in which God has called and gifted us. Discernment is particularly difficult for those of us who have been active in ministry for a long time because we have done everything—set up chairs, run meetings, given talks, prayed for people, etc.—and we often confuse our extensive experience and the skills we have acquired with genuine supernatural empowerment. We also may have a lot invested in a particular image of ourselves as leader or healer or teacher. That is why in our workshops we always emphasize that it is "success" to recognize where you are *not* gifted. If we keep trying to teach or counsel or lead and it just isn't working, we need to give ourselves and everyone else a break and acknowledge that God is calling us elsewhere!

A quick way to begin your discernment is by using a tool like the *Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory* to sift through your life experience and pinpoint the best places to begin discernment. But real discernment always requires more. Charisms must be discerned by taking action. So we must experiment, that is, prayerfully try a specific activity and see what God does as a result. As we take action we need to look for the three basic signs to converge over an extended period of time. They are: 1) our own experience; 2) what actually happens as a result of our action (what does God do?); and 3) the response or affirmation of others.

Discernment can be a puzzling and anxiety-producing process. It requires risk-taking and looking reality in the eye, and that is seldom comfortable. The good news is that we were never intended to discern by ourselves. Effective discernment requires the help of the Christian community. Here the Renewal can offer a real service to the larger church. Not only should we be helping members of our own prayer groups and communities discern their gifts, but we should also be offering our assistance to the larger church.

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There is tremendous interest in charisms today. Pastors and parish leaders are looking eagerly for ways to call forth the gifts of people in the pews but do not know how to go about

it. Lay Catholics are hungry to know where God is calling them but very little assistance is available for those who are not considering a church vocation.

At the Catherine of Siena Institute, we have been working hard to create discernment helps for Catholics. The *Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory*, which is available in both English and Spanish, is the only inventory on the market designed specifically for Catholics. The audio cassette version of our *Called & Gifted Workshop* includes a copy of the inventory and covers twenty-four of the most common charisms in the context of church teaching on the evangelizing mission of lay men and women. The *Resource Guide* contains unique resources for discerners including a list of relevant Scripture passages, catechism references, and recommended books for each charism, along with short biographies of “patron saints”—great Catholics who exercised a particular gift during their lifetime. Our new *Discerning Charisms* workbook has been especially designed to provide support for those who do not have access to an Institute-sponsored discernment process. We have also trained hundreds of parish staff and other leaders to help Catholics discern.

We have been nearly overwhelmed by the demand for information on discernment. In the past three years, we have offered seventy-five live *Called & Gifted* workshops to over six thousand lay Catholics, clergy and religious in three countries and have shipped out hundreds of workshop tapes and thousands of other discernment resources all over the world. This is a *kairos* moment for the Renewal. If we present church teaching on the charisms in a straight-forward, non-sensational manner, Catholics from across the theological spectrum readily accept the reality of charisms. The church is wide open to the central charismatic experience: the indwelling presence and gifts of the Holy Spirit in the lives of ordinary Catholics who are seeking to follow Jesus as Lord. ♦

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NOW

Is The Time





National leadership groups meet

Members of the Association of Diocesan Liaison Steering Committee, the National Service Committee, the Korean Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US of America, *Comité Nacional de Servicio Hispano*, *Le Conseil du Renouveau Charismatique Catholique Des Haïtiens D'Outre-Mer* and the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities met in mid January in Alexandria, Louisiana, with Bishop Sam Jacobs, Chairman of the Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and a representative of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships. The groups met under the direction of a Committee of Five led by Bishop Jacobs and consisting of the Chairpersons of the NSC (Fr. Patsy Iaquinta) and the Diocesan Liaison Steering Committee (Fr. Richard Loch), an ethnic representative (Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia) and a representative of the Fraternity (Dennis Powell). The purpose of this third meeting of the national leadership groups was, as were the first two (1999 in New Orleans and 2000 in Dallas) to bring the groups together for prayer and fellowship. About thirty-five leaders were present in Louisiana.

As Bishop Jacobs opened the meeting, he stated the questions for prayer:

- ✠ **How are we called to bring the grace of Pentecost into this new springtime?**
- ✠ **What is the direction the Lord has for us as leaders as we pastor the Charismatic Renewal in our nation?**

Most of the time together was spent in prayer, small group sharing and discussion. Overview reports on the committees' work in the Jubilee were shared. Preliminary discussion was held on the recently issued Vatican *Instruction on Prayers for Healing* and on the Holy Father's recently released *Novo Millennio Ineunte*.

The gathered leaders, in light of the "words" spoken and heard, decided to again encourage Life in the Spirit Seminars in the period Easter-Pentecost, encourage Growth in the Spirit and/or Seminars on Charisms in the fall, and decided to encourage specific intercession in the month of February for the outpouring of the grace of Pentecost for the new evangelization in the new millennium. For 2002 the groups have

set the Friday before Ash Wednesday, February 8, as a Day of Prayer and Fasting.

The groups gathered also decided to meet again in 2002, to encourage more youth leader involvement and to invite the US representative to ICCRS to attend. The groups will investigate linking to one another's web pages. Finally, in light of Pope John Paul II's *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, the groups revised the Unity Statement, originally written in March 1995, to read:

Statement

To fulfill our call to bring this grace of Pentecost into the life of all to whom God sends us, we recommit ourselves to appropriate the prayer of Jesus for unity, "May they all be one" (Jn. 7:21), by:

- 1) Responding to the call for deeper unity with Jesus through prayer;
- 2) Working for unity in all relationships through repentance, reconciliation and friendship;
- 3) Fostering unity with the church through loyalty and obedience to our bishops, the magisterium and the Holy Father, especially in his pastoral vision for the new millennium, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*.

We entrust ourselves and this commitment to Mary, our Mother, and invoke her intercession and that of all the saints to help us remain faithful to this call.

Leaders present at the closing Mass were invited to sign the revised statement. Leaders across the country are encouraged to sign it and to encourage other leaders to do so.

Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee announces new members

Bishop Sam Jacobs, chair of the Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, announced that three new bishops have joined the committee. The new members are: Bishop Robert Carlson (Sioux Falls); Bishop Ed Kmiec (Nashville); and Bishop Agustin Roman (Miami).

They join continuing members Bishop Thomas Flanagan, (San Antonio); Archbishop Harry Flynn (St. Paul-Minneapolis); Bishop Francisco Garmendia (New York); and Bishop Joseph McKinney (Grand Rapids, retired). Bishop Donald Montrose (Stockton, retired) has stepped down from the committee.

The Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee was established in 1975 to serve the US Bishops in pastoring the Charismatic Renewal. The members meet with key leaders of the movement to discuss the Renewal's direction and pastoral concerns. In 1997, they issued the pastoral statement, *Grace for the New Springtime*, evaluating the Renewal's development and direction on the eve of the new millennium. (The statement, *Grace for the New Springtime*, may be found on the NSC's website, www.nsc-chariscenter.org.)

National Service Committee meets

The National Service Committee met in mid-January in Alexandria, Louisiana, prior to the meeting of national leadership groups (see related article). At the meeting the NSC said goodbye to Sr. Martha Jean McGarry of Albuquerque, and Lois Doyle of Sioux Falls, both of whom had reached their term limits. Elected for three-year terms were: Ros Hernandez of San Antonio; Virginia King of Seattle; and Mark Nehrbas of Steubenville.

The NSC also did some internal work on the role of its various consultants and on the NSC's by-laws. The Service Committee affirmed its need for counsel in certain areas (such as theological and episcopal) beyond that which it receives from the NSC Council. The Committee voted to continue Fr. George Montague and Fr. Kilian McDonnell as its primary theological consultants while being open to seeking broader input. Bishop Sam Jacobs will also continue as the NSC's episcopal consultant.

In other matters the NSC voted to convene a National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference in 2002, site and dates to be determined. Members also discussed the Vatican *Instruction on Prayers for Healing*.

Following the NSC meeting, the Service Committee met with the Steering Committee of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons (ADL) to discuss the results of a leadership formation survey conducted by the ADL. A joint subcommittee was formed to recommend actions they could undertake to strengthen leadership in the Renewal.

The NSC will next meet in person in June after the National Conference. ♦

New Life in the Spirit Seminars
Catholic Edition 2000

Using the *New Life in the Spirit Seminars* in the parish

Many people involved in the Charismatic Renewal have a strong desire to share life in the Spirit with others in their parishes. This desire is a great gift, and lies at the heart of the call to evangelize. It is an important gift in a society where at least 75% of those who identify themselves as Catholics do not go to church more than a few times a year. The desire to share a vital faith meets a need that the whole church is struggling with right now. The good news is that the *New Life in the Spirit Seminars* is a very effective tool for evangelization.

But where do we begin? What should happen before and after we knock on the rectory door? Will the parish sponsor a seminar? Who will come? How do we connect with inactive Catholics? Here are some guidelines for approaching our parishes.

◆ **Know the tool (*The New Life in the Spirit Seminars Catholic Edition 2000*) you are using.** Study it and offer to explain it to those who are involved in deciding what the parish sponsors (e.g., staff, directors of adult formation and education, RCIA leaders or sacramental coordinators). Know the strengths of the seminar. The seminar is like a barbecue fork with two prongs: evangelization and sacramental teaching. Find out if they are familiar with the previous version of the seminar and need to be updated, or if they would be starting off with what we have now. Learn how to explain the life in the Spirit in ways that people in parish ministries can understand.

◆ **Know the needs of those who are preparing for sacraments.** The seminar is a tool for “initiator catechesis” and is appropriate for beginners of all ages, especially adults and young people who are preparing for Confirmation. Do sacramental candidates participate in retreats or workshops with guest teachers? Are confirmation teachers themselves free to supplement their textbooks with parts of the seminar? There are many ways to adapt the seminar for young people, and many cities where this is happening

◆ **Find out how your parish approaches evangelization.** Are they familiar with documents like the National Conference of Catholic Bishops’ *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*? They exhort us “to invite all people in the United States, whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of sal-

vation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith.” Discuss such documents with other interested parishioners or with an evangelization team. The seminar is a tool for evangelization on many different levels.

◆ **Consider offering invitations to the seminar during large parish events** like concerts, healing services, parents’ sacramental workshops and seasonal offerings like Ash Wednesday services and plays. If most people who are “Catholic” do not usually go to church, then we need to offer invitations to the seminar during events they do attend. The invitation should also include a brief witness and sign-up procedures like those mentioned in the information booklet for *From Ashes to Fire: Evangelistic Ash Wednesdays* by Steve Benthall and John J. Boucher (CRS, P.O. Box 2151, Brentwood, NY 11717, 631-952-7517).

◆ **Look at the kind of relationship you have as an individual or as a prayer group with the larger parish.** This becomes the context for any suggestions that you make. Is there a need for healing or repentance in the way you approach people with ideas? Is it the right time for a seminar? Are you the right person for the job? See the Liguori Publications pamphlet *Praying for Our Parish* by Marilyn Gustin (1-314-464-2500) for suggestions.

◆ **Have a plan for growth.** When we offer a seminar in a parish, we must consider people’s life-long needs for faith formation, study, sharing and worship. The seminar can be like a booster shot, a new beginning in faith. It introduces spontaneous prayer, charisms, Scripture and even the Holy Spirit. But at its best, it is only one small piece of a very large puzzle. Have a responsible plan for follow-up. Be aware of opportunities for ongoing growth and ways to encourage participants to enter more deeply into parish life.

We have a lot to offer. The new seminar gives us an opportunity to set many hearts on fire with the love of God. We are like the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:18-35). Their hearts were burning as they returned home. Imagine how many times they told their story and the wide variety of responses. Do not be afraid! Find the most appropriate and loving ways to share new life in the Spirit in your parish. Remember the words of St. Therese of Lisieux: “In the heart of the church, I will be love.” ◆

The desire to share a vital faith meets a need that the whole church is struggling with right now.

The *New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000* sells at \$9.95. A bulk discount of 30% is available for purchase of five copies or more (shipping and handling extra). For more information, call Chariscenter USA at 1-800-338-2445.

Fr. Harold Cohen

Rev. Harold Cohen, SJ, a former member of the National Service Committee, died on January 16. Fr. Cohen served on the NSC from 1973 – 1982. He was instrumental in the early years of the Charismatic Renewal in establishing charismatic groups in New Orleans and throughout the southern United States, as well as in Mexico, South and Central America, Hawaii and Australia.

Fr. Cohen entered the Jesuits in 1945 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1958. He served on the faculty of several Jesuit high schools, and taught psychology and served as campus chaplain at Loyola University in New Orleans. In 1981 he began a radio program,

Yes from p. 5

sent me to war zones, to deserts, to leprosy villages, to work with women in areas of Africa where he wants women to be raised up. I have talked to thousands of young people in African countries on God's plan for sex in areas where the pandemic of AIDS is devastating.

Most recently I have been called to set up a center to promote Catholic Bible study here in Australia. In between outreach missions and with the help of my parish and friends, over the past three years we have introduced Bible study to 480 parishes where there was none before, using the *Little Rock Scripture Study* program. Many have come into a personal relationship with Jesus through experiencing him in the Scriptures. It is obvious to us that the Holy Spirit wants Catholics more familiar with the Bible. We are running to keep up with what is happening!

This year I will lead a team of five lay people to evangelize in the African countries of Uganda and Kenya. I have such anticipation that this year 2001 will be a year of victories and abundant harvest. The Holy Spirit continues to open doors for me. I am grateful and privileged to be called and sent.

Thank you, America, for saying "yes" to the Holy Spirit and organizing these conferences, which are blessing the world! ♦

Jan Heath is a leader in the Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. She, her husband, Graham, and their four children live in Narangba, Queensland, Australia.

"A Closer Walk," which soon expanded to a television ministry. He also served as international spiritual adviser to Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, and was active in several other apostolates, including the pro-life movement.

Al Mansfield, who with his wife, Patti, knew Fr. Cohen for more than thirty years, shared his recollections in a eulogy at the vigil service. "I will remember his zeal...He was zealous to preach the gospel, to evangelize the

whole world. That is what led him to media evangelization...His greatest desire was to lift Jesus higher."

Fr. Cohen is the fourth NSC member to have died, all of them priests. He is preceded by Fr. Jim Ferry, who served from 1977-1983 and died in 1989; Fr. Emile LaFranz, who served from 1990 until his death in 1995; and Fr. Ralph Weishaar, who served from 1984-1990 and died in October 2000. May they rest in peace. ♦

2001 SUMMER CONFERENCES

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June 8-10	Catholic Women Women With a Mission
June 11-15	Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians Springtime Evangelization
June 13-15	Institute of Applied Biblical Studies The Power of God's Word in Worship
June 15-17	Defending the Faith/ Young Adults God's Amazing Grace
July 10-12	Religious Sisters Eucharist and Healing the Whole Person
July 11-12	Alpha for Catholics Parish Evangelization
July 13-15	National Catholic Charismatic Leaders Called to Be a Prophetic People
July 18-22	St. John Bosco Christ, the Teacher

God is calling us to accept his love and grace—now is the time to heed his invitation!

Join us this summer for conferences centered on springtime evangelization, God's amazing grace, Christ as teacher, and more. We'll study examples of courageous faith, "sing in the reign," and explore the Eucharist and healing. This year's conferences offer a time of spiritual renewal, encouragement, and inspiration. Now is the time to seek God's goodness and salvation!


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Now Is The Time



From the Director

by Walter Matthews



Go forward in hope!

Two recent documents, one issued by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith entitled *Instruction on Prayers for Healing*, and the other, the Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, have occupied the National Service Committee in the last few months and deserve our attention.

The *Instruction on Prayers for Healing* after an introduction and an overview of several doctrinal aspects, sets out ten disciplinary norms clarifying distinctions between liturgical and non-liturgical healing services ("prayers for healing are considered to be liturgical if they are part of the liturgical books approved by the church's competent authority; otherwise, they are non-liturgical," art. 2) and the proper conduct of each. There is not enough space in this column to give a detailed understanding of the norms.

During its meeting in January the National Service Committee discussed the *Instruction*, as did the meeting of national leadership groups. While the *Instruction* was published "above all as a help to local ordinaries so that the faithful may be better guided in this area, though (*sic*) promoting what is good and correcting what is to be avoided," it is hoped that we will soon have some kind of background statement that can help Renewal leaders understand the text and assist local ordinaries, when called upon, in developing local guidelines. I personally have had several phone and e-mail conversations along this line over the last few months.

The Holy Father's Apostolic letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, is his end-of-the-Jubilee-let's-go-forward encouragement to the church and to each of us. You really should read it. If you have not yet seen it, you may find it on our web site at nsc-chariscenter.org.

The meeting of national leadership groups (see related article on p.11) met shortly after the Holy Father issued his letter. The leaders

gathered were able to discuss aspects of the letter and then decided to revise the Unity Statement accordingly. The National Service Committee and the other leadership groups encourage leaders to sign the Statement and, in turn, encourage others to do so.

In his letter, Pope John Paul II writes:

The symbol of the Holy Door now closes behind us, but only in order to leave more fully open the living door which is Christ (59).

What we have done this year cannot justify a sense of complacency, and still less should it lead us to relax our commitment. On the contrary, the experiences we have had should *inspire in us new energy*, and impel us to invest in concrete initiatives the enthusiasm which we have felt... It is important, however, that what we propose, with the help of God, should be profoundly rooted in contemplation and prayer (15).

This call to contemplation and prayer is further amplified:

Our witness, however, would be hopelessly inadequate if we ourselves had not first *contemplated his face* (16)... In fact, regardless of how much his body was seen or touched, *only faith could fully enter the mystery of that face* (19)... A grace of "revelation" is needed, which comes from the Father (20).

As it happened, the National Service Committee had planned Prayer Summit II for the weekend of February 9-11. The forty intercessors who gathered had already been committed to pray for the "new springtime" and for the "new Pentecost in the new springtime" (along with prayers of intercession for our nation, our government leaders and the inter-generational healing of our land), so excerpts from *Novo Millennio Ineunte* were used to great effect.

As we move forward in this new springtime, the Holy Father calls us to:

... an essential principle of the Christian view of life: *the primacy of grace*. There is a temptation which perennially besets every spiritual journey and pastoral work: that of thinking that the results depend on our ability to act and to plan. God of course asks us really to cooperate with

his grace, and therefore invites us to invest all our resources of intelligence and energy in serving the cause of the kingdom. But it is fatal to forget that "without Christ we can do nothing" (cf. Jn. 15:5) (38).

He also reminds us of the call to holiness we all have received ("the gift in turn becomes a task, which must shape the whole of Christian life" (30), to "listening to the word of God" (39), to a "spirituality of communion" (43), to "respect for the life of every human being, from conception until natural death" (51), and to see in the Second Vatican Council "the great grace bestowed on the church in the twentieth century" (57).

At the Prayer Summit, in response to the Holy Father's renewed call to witness and to the new evangelization, Fr. Bob DeGrandis challenged us all to write our witness, print it and give it away—a practical step we all are capable of.

In several places in *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, the Holy Father affirms the role of movements like the Catholic Charismatic Renewal:

... another important aspect of communion is the *promotion of forms of association*, whether of the more traditional kind or the newer ecclesial movements, which continue to give the church a vitality that is God's gift and a true "springtime of the Spirit" (46).

In another place he calls "movements recognized by the church" places of support in "training in holiness" (31). Finally, he states that "communion must be cultivated and extended day by day and at every level in the structures of each church's life... between pastors and the entire people of God... between associations and ecclesial movements..." (45).

The challenge is clear: "what awaits us therefore is an exciting work of pastoral revitalization—a work involving all of us" (29). The Renewal has its part to play. The National Service Committee is working to serve as the Lord leads. In the words of our Holy Father: "let us go forward in hope!" (58). ♦

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob DeGrandis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and "D".

Friends of the NSC

by Bob Brown



“...Stirring into flame the grace of Pentecost within and beyond the church, to broaden and deepen the understanding that baptism in the Holy Spirit is the Christian inheritance of all, and to strengthen the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.”

That is what the National Service Committee is about! It is the donations and gifts we receive that allow us to do the work entrusted to us! All our support comes from friends such as you—readers of *Pentecost Today*. As a result of that support, lives are changed, hearts are softened and Jesus is glorified.

The National Service Committee has served and ministered in the church and the Charismatic Renewal for thirty years.

We facilitate networking among leaders of renewal centers, prayer groups and on-fire parishes. We are a resource to the American Bishops and church leaders—ordained, religious and lay. We provide guidance and information for individuals looking for connections with prayer groups, renewal centers and dioceses throughout the country, indeed throughout the world. And of course, we publish *Pentecost Today*, this quarterly magazine, promoting, teaching and encouraging.

The list of the things we do and the constituencies we serve goes on. It all boils down to lives being changed, becoming new in Jesus and empowered by the grace of Pentecost. Like Ralph, who was for twenty-seven years away from the church and then touched by Jesus through a Life in the Spirit outreach. He now lives for Jesus and serves the church, bringing others to new life and hope.

Or like the small group of people gathering to do *Life in the Spirit Seminars* for a few people. They did four seminars last year, each seminar attracting more people. The first one this year drew 150 people. Lives are being changed.

If you have ideas of how you can help do the work we are about, call me at 1-800-338-2445.

Ministry Update

by Aggie Neck



Now that the Great Jubilee Year has been celebrated, let us look back on how the graces of this Great Jubilee were received and brought to life in some of the events sponsored by the National Service Committee.

Prayer summits

St. Louis, December 1999, was the setting for the first Prayer Summit sponsored by the NSC. It was designated as a time of intercession for the coming Jubilee, a time to pray and come before the Lord in repentance for healing and restoration. The fruitfulness of this gathering led to the second Prayer Summit held February 2001 in Chicago. This second summit focused on thanksgiving for the Jubilee and intercession for the coming “New Springtime.”

New Life in the Spirit Seminars

Therese Boucher’s revision of the *New Life in the Spirit Seminars Catholic Edition 2000* was sponsored by the NSC and published in the Jubilee Year. There were 6000 copies sold from the date of its publication until the end of the year. It is now in its third printing. The overwhelming response prompted the NSC to sponsor workshops, conducted by Therese and John Boucher, on the use of the new manual. The hunger for conducting the *New Life in the Spirit Seminars* was awakened and the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit continues to flow. Copies of this book are available through Chariscenter.

Leadership Directory

Another publication during the Jubilee Year was the *Catholic Charismatic Leadership Directory* published by the NSC as a service for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States. We believe you will find this book to be a wonderful source of information. This is also available through Chariscenter.

Regional leaders gatherings

These gatherings sponsored by the NSC seek to bring together diocesan liaisons, renewal center directors, covenant community lead-

ers, ministries and local leaders. These events do not replace diocesan leadership meetings but seek to network them with the NSC and other leaders in small geographical areas. They are designed to strengthen leaders and provide appropriate teaching and ministry. In the Jubilee Year NSC members and NSC Council members conducted three such gatherings in San Antonio, Milwaukee and Indianapolis. Others are being planned for 2001. If you would like to host such an event in your area, please contact Chariscenter.

“Celebrate Jesus 2000” Conference

WOW! What an event! It is estimated that over the four days of this gathering, 15,000 people shared in the joy and in the celebrating of Jesus. Of this number it was further estimated that approximately 5,700 Catholics came to this conference. Since this was also our National Catholic Charismatic Conference, it was a time that we will remember as a Jubilee grace.

Italian pilgrimage

As the Jubilee was coming to an end, the NSC sponsored a November pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Florence, Venice, Milan and many other Italian pilgrim sites. Seventy-three people, including four NSC members, experienced the journey as a gift and grace and blessing upon blessing. One of the highlights was the papal audience in the plaza in front of St. Peter’s Basilica. As Pope John Paul II entered the plaza, the cheering of the thousands of pilgrims brought joy to our hearts and tears to our eyes. Entering through the Holy Doors at the basilicas in Rome and in the other cities of Italy only helped to remind us of the mercy and grace of God that was granted to all of us all over the world, no matter where we made our pilgrim journey.

May God grant us the wisdom to know that the Great Jubilee has overflowed into the new millennium with its promise of a new springtime for the church. The celebrating and rejoicing goes on as we pray for the grace of Pentecost to fill the people of God. ♦



The
New Springtime:
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