



Prayer of His Holiness Pope John Paul II for the Year 2000

Blessed are you, Father, who, in your infinite love, gave us your only-begotten Son. By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate in the spotless womb of the Virgin Mary and was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago.

He became our companion on life's path and gave new meaning to our history, the journey we make together in toil and suffering, in faithfulness and love, towards the new heaven and the new earth where you, once death has been vanquished, will be all in all.

*Praise and glory to you, most Holy Trinity.
You alone are God most high!*

By your grace, O Father, may the Jubilee Year be a time of deep conversion and of joyful return to you. May it be a time of reconciliation between people, and of peace restored among nations, a time when swords are beaten into plough-shares and the clash of arms gives way to songs of peace.

Father, grant that we may live this Jubilee Year docile to the voice of the Spirit, faithful to the way of Christ, diligent in listening to your Word and in approaching the wellsprings of grace.

*Praise and glory to you, most Holy Trinity.
You alone are God most high!*

Father, by the power of the Spirit, strengthen the church's commitment to the new evangelization and guide our steps along the pathways of the world,

to proclaim Christ by our lives and to direct our earthly pilgrimage towards the city of heavenly light.

May Christ's followers show forth their love for the poor and the oppressed. May they be one with those in need and abound in works of mercy. May they be compassionate towards all, that they themselves may obtain indulgence and forgiveness from you.

*Praise and glory to you, most Holy Trinity.
You alone are God most high!*

Father, grant that your Son's disciples, purified in memory and acknowledging their failings, may be one, that the world may believe. May dialogue between followers of the great religions expand. And may all people discover the joy of being your children.

May the intercession of Mary, mother of your faithful people, in union with the prayers of the apostles, the Christian martyrs, and the righteous of every people and every age, make the Holy Year a time of renewed hope and of joy in the Spirit for each of us and for the whole church.

*Praise and glory to you, most Holy Trinity.
You alone are God most high!*

To you, almighty Father, creator of the universe and of mankind, through Christ, the living one, Lord of time and history, in the Spirit who makes all things holy, be praise and honor and glory now and forever. *Amen.*

From the Director

by Walter Matthews



Jubilee: a time to celebrate

So it has begun: that year to end all years, the end of a decade, a century and a millennium, the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. By the time you read this the world will either be in the midst of a catharsis because of a computer bug called Y2K or, at best, already tiring from a series of millennial events begun on New Year's Eve and slated to continue through the year.

For the men and women of the church, however, the celebration of something much more significant than the change of numbers on a calendar began several days before New Year's Eve. On Christmas Eve, Pope John Paul II symbolically chiseled open the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to begin the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. The Great Jubilee has been proclaimed by Pope John Paul II in *Incararnationis Mysterium* (excerpts of which can be found on pages 7-8 of this issue). It has been in preparation for several years since his earlier Apostolic Letter, *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*.

The time of preparation is over; now the time of celebration is upon us. The Holy Father has given us clear direction on how we are to celebrate the "extraordinarily great jubilee":

The term jubilee speaks of joy; not just an inner joy but a jubilation which is manifested outwardly, for the coming of God is also an outward, visible, audible and tangible event, as St. John makes clear (cf. 1 Jn. 1:1). It is thus appropriate that every sign of joy at this coming should have its own outward expression. This will demonstrate that the church rejoices in salvation. She invites everyone to rejoice and she tries to create conditions to ensure that the power of salvation may be shared by all. Hence the year 2000 will be celebrated as the Great Jubilee" (*Tertio*, n. 16).

In preparation for the Jubilee, I prepared a paper for the Association of Diocesan Liai-

sons (ADL) entitled, "Lift Your Voice, The Year of the Jubilee" which in conjunction with the ADL we hope to have available soon. If interested, you may contact the Chariscenter USA office.

How will the National Service Committee work to ensure that the Jubilee is well celebrated? In this issue you can read of two major initiatives in which the National Service Committee is involved to "ensure that the great challenge of the year 2000 is not overlooked" (*Tertio*, n. 55).

First is the opportunity to publish the *New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000* (see the announcement on page 10). I cannot tell you how excited we are to have this opportunity and to offer this thorough revision of the *Life in the Spirit Seminars*. This is something many of us have desired for a long time.

The small prayer group of which my wife and I are a part used a draft of this revision (further developed and edited since then) last Spring and found the material, to be very, very effective in articulating a Catholic vision of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

It is my personal belief that the *Catholic Edition 2000* can be used in new ways to renew "the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the church." As the Jubilee Year unfolds, the Spirit will be giving us new opportunities to proclaim that Jesus is Lord. Doors will open and we need to be prepared to respond. The revised manual is a tool that can help us move into the new millennium of history and Christianity, a new springtime "if Christians are docile to the action of the Holy Spirit" (*Tertio*, n. 18).

The second initiative in which the NSC is involved is the preparation for the Celebrate Jesus 2000 Congress, June 22-25 in St. Louis (see the *Signs of Jubilee* section, p.12 of this issue). This Congress will be the Catholic Charismatic event in 2000.

At the risk of repeating the information contained elsewhere in this issue, Pope John Paul II has stressed again and again the ecumenical character of the Jubilee. He stated unequivocally, "the ecumenical and universal character of the sacred jubilee can be fittingly

reflected by a meeting of all Christians" (*Tertio*, n. 55). The Celebrate Jesus 2000 Congress, under the umbrella of the North American Renewal Services Committee, is not the specific event that the Pope referred to, but it clearly flows from the same spirit that impels his vision.

The ecumenical dimension of the Charismatic Renewal in the United States has clearly waned from its high point in 1977 at the Kansas City gathering that drew 50,000. NARSC is the inheritor of the impulse that brought so many Renewal participants, Catholic and Protestant, as well as Pentecostals and others, to Kansas City. However, the specific ecumenical character of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been acknowledged by many. In *Grace for the New Springtime*, our US Bishops stated:

In this moment in history the Lord has called us all to a deepened awareness of the brokenness of the body of Christ... We believe that the Holy Spirit has been poured out in our day to bring about the unity of the body of Christ for which our Lord prayed (Jn 17:21). Thus, efforts in authentic ecumenism—e.g. the Congresses of (sic) the Holy Spirit and World Evangelization held in New Orleans (1987), Indianapolis (1990), and Orlando (1995) are some of the great fruits of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. As we stated in 1984, "we see in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal an ecumenical force in which we rejoice."

In 2000 we have a challenge to recapture this ecumenical force. Encouraging participation in the Celebrate Jesus 2000 will not work without the clear teaching of the Lord's desire for unity, the Pope's challenge to overcome our divisions, and the significance of celebrating the Jubilee in this way.

I have heard it said that the Lord is done with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, but it is my deepest conviction that, although the forms and structures may be changing, the grace poured out in the 20th century did not end on December 31, 1999. Indeed, it is a grace for the New Springtime.

It's the Jubilee! Let's celebrate! ♦

Friends of the NSC

by Bob Brown



New envelopes

In order to reduce the cost of raising the funds necessary to support *Pentecost Today* we are including an envelope starting with this issue. This will enable us to reduce the number of funding requests we make to support the work of the National Service Committee. The envelope is both a way to request support for the publication and a way for you to let us know of others you would like to receive *Pentecost Today*.

www.nsc-chariscenter.org

The National Service Committee and Chariscenter have established a website in order to extend the resources it provides to a larger segment of the church. This is a whole new vehicle for us to reach out and "stir into flame the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the church."

Tell us what you think. Help us build the site you want and need to continue the work building up the church and the children of God. Your comments and ideas are more than welcome as we have only begun this new area of ministry and communication.

Wills and bequests

Another way to support the work that we share is through wills and bequests—remember the National Service Committee. Your support in this manner continues your sharing in the work you have supported during your life. Continue to bless and stir into flame the grace of Pentecost.

Stocks

As stock prices continue to climb the value of gifts of stock continue to increase. Remember the amount of the deduction for tax purposes is based on the value at the time of the gift not the lower price you paid for the stock.

If you have questions

If you have a question or would like to talk about gifts, stock, wills, bequests or giving in general, please call the Chariscenter office at 1-800-338-2445. ♦

The eyes of Texas were upon us

It seems that Texas did indeed have its eye on NSC members this year. Speaking at the San Antonio conference were Fr. Art Cooney, and Aggie Neck and former NSC chairman, Jim Murphy. Dr. Michele Greischar was a speaker at the El Paso Conference, and at a retreat in Houston on "Healing the Inner Child." Aggie Neck gave a weekend of renewal in Beaumont on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Good News was indeed alive at all of these events. The NSC members indicated that it was a great experience for them. They felt that God truly ministered to those in attendance at these gatherings.

Let's take a closer look

This issue will feature three of the NSC members and their activities over the past months. **Deacon Bill Brennan** resides in Stockton, California, and is very active in renewal events there as well as speaking in other areas in the country. Bill recently spoke at conferences in Durham, North Carolina, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. A Promise Keepers gathering in Sacramento involved Bill as well as a retreat in Northern California, a regional retreat and a day of renewal, both in Southern California. In addition to these and many other activities, Bill has put together a Growth in the Spirit Seminar that he calls, "Fanning the Vision into Flame." It is based on scripture, the teaching of the church, and the accumulated wisdom and experience of the church.

Dr. Michele Greischar calls Oak Park, Illinois, home. In addition to her Texas conferences, Michele was a speaker at the National Symposium on Healing Ministry held in Minneapolis. This symposium featured several people in the healing ministry, including Fr. Robert DeGrandis, Fr. Matthew Linn, Dr. Doug Schoeninger, and Iris and David Beardemphl. Tapes of this symposium are available (contact Resurrection Tapes at 612-721-7933 for details). A highlight for Michele this past year was being able to pastor the prayer room ministry at the National Conference in June. She expressed it this way: "It was a great blessing to be there, and to be a part of this. I saw so much of God's love being ministered to those who came for

Ministry Update

by Aggie Neck



prayer. Many of those prayed for said they really experienced the Father's love. Leaders from all over the country ministered together in such harmony."

Fr. Art Cooney spent the last year on sabbatical. He called it "a personal time of renewal and restoration in preparation for the Great Jubilee." While on this leave, Fr. Art was still serving the renewal. He spoke at conferences in Hampton, Virginia, and Columbus, Ohio, as well as the San Antonio conference mentioned above where he ministered in both Spanish and English. Now that he is back in his home base in Saginaw, Michigan, he is not only active there but had a retreat and mission scheduled in Australia during October. This is his second trip to Australia to share the Good News.

Reflections

Bill: "My hope and dream now is that all of God's people would understand and believe what we have been baptized to be and to do, and would live it fully in the power of the Holy Spirit."

Michele: "I believe we are standing on the edge of something very new and very fresh. God is getting ready to do something new and is challenging us to step out with him from what has been, into a whole new way of being. Being charismatic will mean something new—not losing its old meaning—but developing in a new way. I sense a challenge from God, like a trumpet sound—"Will you step out with me or stay where you are?"

Fr. Art: "It is a wonderful time to be in ministry. This is a time of grace. I see God touching people's hearts."

Scripture tells us, "How beautiful are the feet of those who announce good news!" The Contemporary English Version states it even more clearly—"It is a beautiful sight to see even the feet of someone coming to preach the good news" (Rom. 10:15). Praise God for the "feet" of all those who bring the Good News to his people! ♦

Celebrate Jesus 2000

JUNE 22-25, 2000 - ST. LOUIS, MO

Speakers include:

BABSIE BLEASDELL
Charismatic
Renewal Leader,
Trinidad

FR. TOM FORREST, CSSR
International
Director of
Evangelization 2000

FR. STAN FORTUNA, CFR
Youth Evangelist,
Franciscan Friars
of the Renewal

JACK HAYFORD
The Church
on The Way,
Van Nuys, CA

BISHOP SAM JACOBS
Roman Catholic
Diocese
of Alexandria, LA

SR. BRIEGE MCKENNA, OSC
International
Healing Ministry

JIM MURPHY
National Youth
Speaker

RICHARD ROBERTS
President,
Oral Roberts
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PAT ROBERTSON
Founder,
The Christian
Broadcasting
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Published by the National Service Committee of
the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United
States, Inc.