

The Spirit is moving all over the world

by Michelle Moran

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide has many styles and expressions. As the President of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, I am often asked to comment upon the strength and vitality of the Renewal. Clearly, this is a difficult task as there is no one way to measure things. Indeed the essence of the Renewal is largely unquantifiable or at least, does not subject itself to close analysis.

Numerical Growth

It is estimated that today there are 120 million people who can testify to a life-changing experience of the Holy Spirit through their contact with the Renewal. In some regions such as Western and Southern Europe, Australia and parts of North America, the Renewal seems to have reached a plateau or numerically to be on the decline. The reasons for this are too complex to examine here. Thankfully, in other parts of the world such as Africa, and parts of Latin America and Asia there is still rapid growth in the Renewal and 'day by day' the Lord seems to be adding to their number. It is also exciting to know that there are places like China where the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is just beginning to grow. Recently, in India I heard a moving testimony of a region where vast numbers of Hindus are now following Jesus because of the influence of CCR.

However, growth also brings challenges. My friends in Nigeria who can have up to 100,000 at their national Renewal gatherings face many logistical and economic problems. They also have to contend with unexpected difficulties, like the recent political unrest where for a time large gatherings were prohibited. In many areas of rapid growth there is often a lack of resources in terms of people and materials. I remember being in Uganda at a large rally. The people had made great sacrifices to be there often spending days travelling largely on foot. They were all very expectant that the Lord would do marvels in their midst and indeed he did because the Lord hears the cry of the poor. However, as the ministry time began I called for leaders to come forward and then I realized that for the crowd of maybe 8,000 people there were only about a dozen leaders and a handful of priests. Last year when we ran the ICCRS Leadership Training Course in Botswana, we realized that the need for

leadership training is so strong in Africa that we could spend a whole year just going from place to place training and equipping leaders.

Leadership Facilitates Growth and Maturity

Without good shepherds and trained leadership it is easy for the Renewal to remain superficial, fall into error, and adopt unsound practices or to move away from the Church. This is a big problem in countries such as those within Africa where there is a strong Pentecostal influence, some of which is quite anti-Catholic. For this reason there is also a need for Charismatic teaching on Catholic Apologetics to help people understand the Catholic Charismatic Renewal which is deeply rooted in the heart of the Church.

When I think of the fire of the Holy Spirit I am aware that when a fire is first ignited it burns very strongly but then if it is not fed correctly those initial flames quickly die back. I have seen this happen in some Eastern European countries. When they gained their freedom in 1990, some fires of the Spirit burned very strongly. However, because of many challenges, such as the lack of maturity and leadership, things died down. Thankfully in several of these places there has been a second wave of the Spirit and it is wonderful to see the Renewal growing especially among students, young people and families in countries like Lithuania, Slovakia, Croatia and Hungary.

In 1998, when Pope John Paul II spoke to members of the Ecclesial Movements gathered in St Peter's Square in Rome, he issued a timely challenge; "*now is a new stage also for the movements, the one of ecclesial maturity.*" So there is also a qualitative aspect to growth in the Renewal. This calls us to grow up and to go beyond superficial experiences in order to go deeper with the Lord. The call is to become mature disciples who from this place of on-going conversion, are prepared to make a difference, in the Church and in the world.

Pathways of Renewal

The Renewal is not an organized or structured "Movement" in the same way as some of the other Ecclesial Movements. Nevertheless, in many countries, such as those in Latin America the CCR is clearly identified as a distinct move-

Charismatic Leaders Fellowship Meeting

The Charismatic Leaders Fellowship was held in early March at Regent University. The meeting dates back to the early 70's as a forum for leaders in the broad charismatic renewal (Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists and others) to grapple with issues of concern that from time to time affect the charismatic renewal. Regularly attending Catholic members include Francis MacNutt and Kevin Ranaghan. Attending this year were MacNutt, Walter Matthews and Dr. Matteo Calisi, who is a Catholic Renewal leader from Italy,

President of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Communities and Fellowships. He spoke on "What is the future of the Charismatic Renewal?" Overall about 40 leaders were present.

The decision to move to Regent opened up the possibility of engaging younger leaders present at Regent for discussion. So the afternoon sessions were open to students, professors and others (attending Catholics included Fr. Francis Martin and Hall Miller of the Mother of God Community, and Deacon Darrell Wentworth, the lo-

cal Liaison). The topic was "Revisiting the Charismatic Renewal, 1960-2010: 50th Anniversary Reflections and Anticipations." (The charismatic renewal in the Christian Churches dates to Rev. Dennis Bennett's experience in 1960.) From the brief presentations it was clear that the challenges we are experiencing in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, of aging and of passing on this grace to the next generations, are not unique to us. In fact, what we are experiencing was experienced by the Pentecostal movement forty plus years after its beginnings. As Dr.

Vinson Synan writes in his new book, *An Eyewitness Remembers the Century of the Holy Spirit*: "The Pentecostal movement was at a low ebb in 1948, with a growing dryness and lack of charismatic gifts" (p35).

In his presentation Dr. Calisi shared encouragingly from recent Papal statements and the reality of the Renewal elsewhere in the world. He ended noting that the Renewal is a "living prophecy of God" and has much to offer the Church by way of reconciliation and ecumenism. ♦

ment within the Church, often working in close co-operation with the various Bishops' Conferences. In this structured way the Renewal is growing through serving the Church and fulfilling Cardinal Suenens exhortation that; *"the Renewal is a movement of the Spirit offered to the entire Church and destined to rejuvenate every part of the Church's life."*

In other places however, things are more organic. Here in England in 1998, we heard the Lord calling us to serve the Church through the Renewal. So, gradually we changed our emphasis and began at the grassroots level to open up the graces of the Renewal to the Church. We formed CES (Catholic Evangelization Services) which produces café teaching resources in an accessible charismatic and kerygmatic style. These are aimed at ordinary Catholic parishioners, gently introducing them to the life changing work of the Holy Spirit and providing opportunities for them to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (see www.faithcafe.org). The overall result is that a significant proportion of our Parishes have run café programs facilitated by CCR people.

There are many examples of where the Renewal is growing by witnessing to the Kingdom through evangelization and works of justice and mercy. The recent ICCRS "Love in Action" conference was held in South Korea at Kkottongnae Community, which means 'flower village.' They have re-

sponded to the call to serve the poorest of the poor and have established a huge social welfare facility offering a wide range of social care from the cradle to the grave. Similarly, in Colombia the community *El minuto de Dios* would be well known throughout their nation for the care that they offer to the poor and marginalized.

Key Growth Areas

I suggest that if the Renewal is to continue to grow and develop there are four essentials:

- Faithfulness to our basic call—Facilitating baptism in the Holy Spirit and enabling people to grow in the charisms.
- Continued growth in ecclesial maturity.
- On-going investment in Leadership Formation and the continual raising up of new leaders.
- Being empowered for mission through evangelization and works of mercy and justice. ♦

Michelle Moran is a founder of Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism. She has a MA in Pastoral Theology and has written books on evangelization as well as numerous articles for magazines and journals. She is currently Chair of the NSC for Catholic Charismatic Renewal in England and Wales and President of ICCRS, the International Council for Renewal in Rome.



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“Take strength from the grace which is in Christ Jesus. Pass on to reliable people what you have heard from me through many witnesses, so that they in turn will be able to teach others.” 2 Tim 2:1-2

The ICCRS Leadership Training Course is a way for ICCRS to help foster leadership in the world-wide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In partnership with the local Renewal, ICCRS provides this week-long program that will call and empower new leaders as well as strengthen and encourage current leaders.

Teachers of the ILTC:

- › Michelle Moran › Jim Murphy › Bob Canton
- › Mark Nimo › Dr. Alan Schreck

ABOUT THIS COURSE

The next ICCRS Leadership Training Course is to be held at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio—known for its commitment to orthodoxy and renewal in the Church.

The program will include daily Mass, Eucharist Adoration and a time of Charismatic Praise and Worship.

The teachings will cover two basic areas:

- The foundations and vision of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (Ecclesiology, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, the History of the CCR, a Theology of Mission).
- Practical help and ideas for ministry (elements of a prayer meeting, basic techniques for evangelization, the life of leaders).

There will also be time for reflection, sharing and ministry.

Deadline for this event: August 27, 2010

Contact:

www.franciscanconferences.com or
www.iccrs.org for more information.



Fruit from p 3

“Love is patient, love is kind. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things” (1 Cor 13:4). As the Spirit moves in us and these scriptures take life in us they begin to be the way we deal with the circumstances of our lives. It becomes apparent that the fruit of **gentleness** has begun to shape us. Henri Nouwen challenges us to be “dressed in gentleness.” He has said: *Once in a while we meet a gentle person. Gentleness is a virtue hard to find in a society that admires toughness and roughness. We are encouraged to get things done and to get them done fast, even when people get hurt in the process. Success, accomplishment, and productivity count. But the cost is high. There is no place for gentleness in such a milieu. Gentle is the one who does ‘not break the crushed reed, or snuff the faltering wick’ (Matt 12:20). Gentle is the one who is attentive*

to the strengths and weaknesses of the other and enjoys being together more than accomplishing something. A gentle person treads lightly, listens carefully, looks tenderly, and touches with reverence. A gentle person knows that true growth requires nurture, not force. Let’s dress ourselves with gentleness. In our tough and often unbending world our gentleness can be a vivid reminder of the presence of God among us.

“Love is not quick-tempered. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests” (1 Cor 13:4-5). Basically, here we find the fruit of the Spirit taking the form of **self-control** in our lives as we yield to the Spirit’s promptings. Becoming more aware that the will of the Father and not our own is how the Spirit would lead us.

Self-control means that we acknowledge our limitations and strive to live within the boundaries set by God. As we look to Jesus, the perfect model of self-control, surrender to his Lordship and allow the Spirit to enable us we will experience Christ’s strength in us as we strive to live the Spirit-filled life.

As we grow in character we will not only have a life filled with the fruit of the Spirit but we will *be* a living witness of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. ♦

Jim Archer serves on the Pastoral Service Team for the renewal in West Virginia and the National Service Committee Council where he is Chair of the Young Adult Working Group.



Surprised by Grace

by Deacon Michael Cullen PLC

It was at the 2009 conference of the ADL held in Spokane, Washington that I was elected to serve on the steering committee for the Association of Diocesan Liaisons. My election came as a great surprise to me. I have attended the annual ADL symposiums and retreats for many years and have always found them enriching and a blessing. It is with much joy I offer my gifts and experience to serve this great movement of God's grace here in the United States.

There are five of us who serve on the steering committee. We are in constant contact with each other by phone and email doing the business of the Association. We have met twice since the spring conference; in November we met in Raleigh, NC for the National Leader's Conference and in early Janu-

ary in Tampa, FL for the Gathering. This is an annual meeting where many of the streams of the Renewal in the United States come together to build greater unity among us all. I personally found great hope at this meeting.

My personal roots in this Charismatic grace go back to the Conference held in Notre Dame in 1973. It was at this conference I was prayed with and after going to confession I surrendered my life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and then received this new Pentecost, the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

My life has been an extraordinary adventure since then. It was in September 1973, months after I had received the new outpouring of the Holy Spirit that my family and I were exiled to Ireland because of my actions in protesting the Vietnam War. It was in Ireland that we dedicated 18 years to serving the Renewal by helping to establish prayer groups, giving days of renewal,

parish and school retreats throughout Ireland and England. I served a number of years on the Irish Service Committee. During the summer months from 1977 to 1991 we organized and directed a ministry that was an outreach to young people to bring them into the grace of the Renewal which we called Camp Jesus. Resulting from that ministry we founded a center at Clonfert, Co. Galway called Emmanuel House of Providence which is a House of Prayer, Renewal and Evangelization.

In 1991 I was allowed to return to the United States with Annette, my wife and our twelve children. Since our return home I have continued to serve the Church and the Charismatic Renewal. I was ordained a deacon in 1997 and was named liaison for the Charismatic Renewal in 2000. We moved to Barron, WI in 2005 and started a new prayer group called Morning Star. May the Lord Jesus continue to use us and surprise us with his grace! ♦



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"Do Not Be Afraid, For I Am With You."
Isaiah 43:5

East Atlantic Regional Conference

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From the Executive Director

.....
by Walter Matthews

Jesus is Lord



For those of us who were privileged to be present in Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City in 1977 for the great ecumenical Conference on Charismatic Renewal in the Christian Churches which drew 45,000 participants from the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and a number of Christian churches, ministries and fellowships, we will never forget the moment when in the midst of a talk there was a Holy Spirit explosion encouraged by the stadium sign that repeatedly flashed “Jesus is Lord” and we lifted our voices and hands and hearts and minds to the Lord. “Proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ” has been a characteristic of this Renewal not only in large conference gatherings but is at the core of any well done Life in the Spirit Seminar (or equivalent). As Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa said to us a number of years ago, “Let us ask ourselves: ‘what is our charism, what is the task for which God raised the Renewal?’ ...our vocation is to proclaim, the present, living Lordship of Jesus, through his Spirit in the Church.... We must begin again to use this gift [baptism in the Holy Spirit] better, to run good seminars with effective baptism in the Spirit. We must awaken Christian lives which are dormant or spent.”

The commitment to “Proclaim[ing] the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the love of the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit which leads to the renewal of the **grace and culture of Pentecost**” is the first and foundational point of the NSC’s revised Mission Statement adopted last year.

One of the ways the Service Committee continues to do this is by planning and organizing National Conferences. This year’s National Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference will be held October 29-31 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Our theme is “Power from on High for all Generations.” Beside a growing list of anointed speakers the Conference will feature a Day for Young Adults on Saturday and a New Life in the Spirit Track for newcomers.

For our outreach to young adults we are working with the National Evangelization Team and St. Paul’s Outreach to create a Day of interest, challenge and empowerment. “Empowering **youth and young adults**” is another goal adopted by the Service Committee in its Mission Statement.

As for newcomers, although the primary focus of the Conference remains on those who are serving as leaders in this Renewal and those using their charisms in service to the Renewal or in parishes or other ministries, and those seeking growth in the Spirit, the Service Committee recognizes the call of the Lord to make the opportunity for new life in the Holy Spirit available.

In addition, one of the goals of the Service Committee for its Conferences is for them to be “celebrations of praise and worship” that model this important dimension for the Renewal and for participants’ personal lives. As is stated elsewhere in this issue praise honors God and transforms us.

At our 40th Anniversary Conference Bishop Sam Jacobs called us to use the next decade to prepare for the coming 2017 Golden Jubilee of the Renewal. We are now three years closer to that date. It is the prayer of the Service Committee that this year’s Conference will take us a step forward in our preparation. We hope to see you there. ♦

Friends of the NSC

As noted in January we now have the opportunity for you to donate in memory of a deceased family member or friend, or honor someone on their birthday, anniversary or other special occasion. We give thanks for the donors who recently sent gifts:

In Honor of:

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- Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD
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- Mercedes and Quirico Abadilla
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In this Year for Priests we especially want individuals, couples and prayer groups to think of priests, living or deceased that you would want to remember or honor. As a special incentive we will send any priest who is so honored a copy of the recently published Leaflet, *Catholic Charismatic Renewal: Papal Affirmation and Priestly Witness*.

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This is a publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. The mission of the National Service Committee is to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5) which empowered the members of the early Church at Pentecost.

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

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What we have seen and heard

.....
by Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer



The effort and the witness of working toward unity...

Annually, in January, at the Gathering of National Leadership Groups: Charismatic Renewal, the National Service Committee (NSC) meets with the steering committee of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, representatives of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Communities and Fellowships, and the leadership of various ethnic Catholic Charismatic groups. This past January included Hispanic, Haitian, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese and Indonesian leadership.

On the last day of our meetings the woman who coordinated our travel and living arrangements shared that she had been asked, by other people using the retreat center, *Who are these people who are all so different yet talk to each other and eat with each other?*

We speak about unity and in many ways that is a challenge, but in this particular setting leaders lived that unity for a few days—a unity that allows people to be in their comfortable groupings but which also allows for mixing in small group discussions and at meals. As she said to us, we have no idea of the witness that is given.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Writers' Association

Are you an editor of a Renewal Newsletter (diocesan, prayer group, community, or ethnic) or someone who writes for charismatic publications or charismatic topics? Interested in a forum to discuss ways the Renewal can better enter into dialogue with the wider Church? Send your name and contact information via email to chariscenter@nsc-chariscenter.org with "Writers Association" in the subject line.

Banners

At the editorial board meeting in December, 2009 we decided to present themes in a different way. Instead of having one theme for each issue, we would have several categories which would regularly appear in each issue. We call these categories *banners* for our working purposes. Themes, *banners* that will run through the various issues, include the following:

VISION

A Dimension of Vision, in which we will gradually unfold meaning connected with the newly revised Vision and Mission of the NSC (see the April, May, June 2009 issue, page 3);

JOURNEY

Join the Journey, which will look at the development of various aspects of Charismatic Renewal;

STRENGTH

Strengthening Prayer Groups will offer suggestions regarding various areas of deepening and growth;

RENEWAL

Charismatic Renewal Today will address current events within this renewal;

FRUIT

and for the next several issues we look at how we might develop the **Fruit of the Spirit** in our lives.

We hope that this approach will assist all of us in our spiritual growth in the Spirit. ♦

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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.

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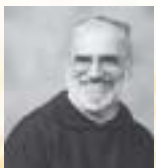
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