

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Celebrating
40
Years!

PENTECOST *Today*

January/February/March 2007



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*Renewing the grace of Pentecost
in the life and mission of the church.*



Chairman's Corner

by Aggie Neck

Blazing a trail

Do we celebrate, do we shout hallelujah? Should we sing for joy, should we lift our voices in praise? Will we bow down in gratitude, will we worship? Yes, yes, yes to everything that will proclaim the deep feelings we feel and the hope that has been given us by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forty years, a time of outpoured love and anointed gift-ness. And we have only just begun.

“It is important that we continue on our course, no matter what stage we have reached” (Phil. 3:16). This is not a time to retire, or to take a leave of absence. What we have experienced in the baptism of the Holy Spirit enabled us to enter into a “way of life.” If ever there was a time that the world needs the proclamation of the truth of the gospel and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, true God and true man it is in these days, this time.

“Open your eyes and see! The fields are shining for harvest!” (John 4:35). It is the time for the evangelization of our nation, our cities, and our families. It is a time to wake from our slumber going forth with zeal to turn the culture of death into a culture of Pentecost. The gifts we have received are to enable us to accomplish this. “The kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.” “The kingdom of God is to be lived, not just talked about” (1 Cor. 4:20).

“When the Father sends his Word, he always sends his Breath. In their joint mission, the Son and the Holy Spirit

are distinct but inseparable. To be sure it is Christ who is seen, the visible image of the invisible God, but it is the Spirit who reveals him.”

Now we are able to look back at the wisdom and experience that has blazed a trail through the wilderness, so to speak, and we have been given every “spiritual gift in the heavens.”

Jesus did not begin his public ministry until the Holy Spirit descended on him in the Jordan River. The apostles and disciples did not go forth from the Upper Room until they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Every follower of Jesus, every Christian needs the power of the Holy Spirit in their life to be witnesses, to bring the truth of the message and the power that is in it.

In the beginning years of the Renewal, there were mistakes made, and lack of full understanding of the awesomeness of the gift that had been given. We were like children excited and rejoicing over every new gift we experienced and every word of Scripture that was coming to life in our hearts as we read the Word. We must not lose this excitement or rejoicing. Now we are more aware of what this gift really means. Now we are able to look back at the wisdom and experience that has blazed a trail through the wilderness, so to speak, and we have been given every “spiritual gift in the heavens,” “we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit who had been promised” (Eph. 1:3, 13). Yes, there is a cause for rejoicing. Let the celebration begin! ♦

Aggie Neck is Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Martha Jean McGarry

I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world (Rom. 1:8).

Pope John Paul II used this scripture quote in addressing participants at the 1998 International Leaders' Conference. What an affirmation for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal! This year as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Renewal we reflect on all that has been, all that is, and look forward to all that is yet to come.

Allan Panozza, Dorothy Ranaghan, and Jim Murphy share from their experiences and perspectives how God has and continues to accompany us on our journey. Their views give us insights into the challenges we face as we continue to move forward in the grace of Pentecost.

Some questions for you do ponder as you read: What is the Lord saying to us about ecumenism? How great is the need to raise up and acknowledge the younger generation of leaders? Are there still some golden calves in the Renewal that we need to let go of so God can bring us into his new springtime? How best can we be both Catholic and charismatic?

The renewal in New Orleans has not only survived Katrina but continues to thrive. Read **Al Mansfield's** article on page 8 to see God at work through a local Renewal Center. Check out **Sister Mary Anne Schaezner's** column on page 15 for more evidence of God's mighty deeds still flourishing in our midst. ♦

Cover: Tammie Krieger & Virginia King at conference, Everett, Washington 2006, photo: Barbara Neiman

CATHOLIC *and* Charismatic

by Fr. John Gordon

Forty years ago Pentecost was renewed unexpectedly in the midst of the Catholic Church. In those early days, in what came to be known as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, participants looked for and received pastoral advice and wisdom from our Pentecostal and neo-charismatic brothers and sisters. They encouraged us in the use of the spiritual gifts; they encouraged us in our own Church. We grew in the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the charisms. As the Catholic Charismatic Renewal matured we sought to place ourselves more firmly within the life of the Church.

The Holy Year of 1975 was a significant time of grace for the Renewal. The international conference was held in Rome for Pentecost. The next day Cardinal Suenens celebrated Mass at the high altar in St. Peter's for all the conference participants. Afterwards Pope Paul VI came and spoke glowingly, enthusiastically and appreciatively of the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit as expressed in the Charismatic Renewal.

Over the years the Bishops of the United States have issued pastoral statements regarding the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, culminating in the 1997 document, *Grace for the New Springtime*. [<http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/graceeng.htm>] In all these statements of the bishops there is both praise and gratitude to the Lord for this grace, encouragement to the Church, especially to priests and bishops to be involved in the Renewal, and a word of caution about some concerns that the bishops have had over the years. As we have received these encouragements and directions from the bishops we have sought to implement them in our lives. Thus you'll find people touched by the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit in a wide variety of roles and ministries at the parish and diocesan level, indeed throughout the Church. We are catechists, schoolteachers, religious, deacons and priests and there are some bishops among us. We are involved in healthcare ministry and ministry to the poor. There is no aspect of the life of the Church in which persons touched by this grace are not also present.

We saw in Pope John Paul II an elder brother who has encouraged us in our walk in this grace and has brought us

more fully and more deeply into the life of the Church, and so it is fair to say that the Renewal has found itself a home in the Catholic Church. While there may be some places in which there is tension, in the main, the Charismatic Renewal is received as a grace. Even though individual persons might not choose to be involved with the Renewal it is welcomed in the Church. In addition to our charismatic styles of prayer, we have embraced traditional Catholic piety and devotion. In many places, the rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, novenas and other forms of piety have been infused with a new grace and enthusiasm because of the Renewal.

There is also a grace that has been poured out onto the Church to invite it back to the roots of Pentecost.

Yet at the same time I wonder, have we lost something of the charismatic aspect of our identity? While it is good, important and right that we be fully Catholic there is also a grace that has been poured out onto the Church to invite it back to the roots of Pentecost—back to the Upper Room and the grace and power that come when the gifts of the Spirit are exercised.

Many in the Renewal are fully aware of the teachings of the Church; we are well versed in the Catechism, in the documents of Vatican II and in the encyclicals of the popes. I would like to encourage us to be as well versed in the scriptures and the life that we have in the power of the Spirit, to be as well versed in the practice of leading people to the baptism in the Holy Spirit and helping others yield to the gifts of the Spirit—tongues, prophecy, healing, wisdom, knowledge, indeed all the myriad ways in which the Holy Spirit seeks to work charismatically through the Church, with a power that comes not from human wisdom or training or planning, but with a power that comes from on high. May the grace of Pentecost, that is Catholic and charismatic, bring life to the whole Body of Christ. May this life be faithful to the grace of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God's power from on high. ♦



Fr. John Gordon is currently the Director of the Pre-Theologate Program at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is a frequent conference speaker and a member of the National Service Committee.

The Future of the Charismatic Renewal



Photo: Sr. Mary Anne Schaezler

by Dorothy Garrity Ranaghan

We can't
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We are the
ones who have
been "sent."

This past summer, Kevin and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. Our meeting, falling in love, and marrying, seems like it was yesterday. But even a fleeting glance in the mirror shows that we have indeed aged—the fruit of our lives evident in our six children and twelve grandchildren. Very shortly after we were married, we were baptized in the Holy Spirit and began the wild ride that has been our charismatically renewed life together in Christ. Reflecting upon this, I was led to ponder the fruit, the wrinkles and the future of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal at its 40th anniversary.

The fruit of the Catholic pentecostal/charismatic renewal is the stuff of history. It has taken root in more than 100 countries and has touched the lives of over 125 million Catholics around the world. Practically, that means that the Holy Spirit received in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation has come alive in those individuals in conversion, prayer, joy, boldness and the exercise of the charisms once thought to have died out with the end of the apostolic age.

There are some who believe we are witnessing the end of this period of renewal. The purposes of the renewal, however, are not fulfilled. Every

baptized Catholic should experience the fullness of life in the Spirit poured out in every complete baptismal celebration. Charismatic awakening is not just for a few, not just for a “movement,” but for everyone. However, in the face of the “graying” of the renewal in the United States and much of Europe, it is worth looking at the core of what this new Pentecost among us is all about, and what should be happening now to insure a future continuation of this outpouring of the Spirit.

1) The experience of “baptism in the Holy Spirit” with the exercise of the charisms, especially those listed in 1 Corinthians 12, defines the charismatic renewal and why it exists. Yet in some places the charisms have all but disappeared. Only when we keep this “entrustment” at the forefront of our movement will we be faithful to what the Lord has done among us. It saddens me to see some charismatics and some prayer groups investing themselves heavily in non-charismatic devotions and spiritualities. There are many movements and spiritualities in the church. They are all good things, but they are not necessarily “our” thing. For example, every Catholic already has the gift of Mary and the rosary, but not every Catholic

has begun to exercise the charisms. It is our role to foster, teach, lead and bring people into *this* aspect of full life in Christ.

2) As uncomfortable as the fact is for *some* Catholic charismatics, the truth is that in the origins of the movement at Duquesne and Notre Dame, we are direct descendants of the events at Parham's Bible School in Topeka, in 1901 and Seymour's 1906 Azusa Street Revival. The unity that the Lord prayed for is one of his deepest desires. The Pentecostal/charismatic movement is one of the key means he has provided for attaining that unity. Pope John Paul II wrote in "Ut Unum Sint," that: "*Christian unity is not just some sort of "appendix" which is added to the Church's traditional activity. Rather, ecumenism is an organic part of her life and work.*" It is also uniquely part of the purposes of the Lord for the charismatic renewal that we carry the "ecumenical grace" of Pentecost into the new Millennium.

3) In the beginning, prayer meetings were, and in many places continue to be, like classrooms in which we began to learn how to operate with the gifts of the Spirit. In a sense we were "practicing" the gifts on one another. But they are given for more than us. We can't always wait for people to come to prayer meetings or to church for healing masses. We are the ones who have been "sent." We need to [conversationally] speak the word of the Lord and heal wherever we are, in supermarkets, offices and in our homes. The community to which I belong went through a period in which we experienced a fresh release of the gifts, especially healing. As a result, I have witnessed more healings in the last ten years than in the previous thirty years. Just a few examples: The Lord healed a friend of ours who was near death from Churg-Strauss syndrome, another from 50 years of stuttering, several from cancer, and even more from allergies. During that period, we personally saw a girl in our school healed of blindness in both eyes. Just this past year I was scheduled for surgery for a hole in the retina of my left eye, but after prayer for healing, no surgery was needed. If healing is not happening among some of us as regularly now as it was in the

beginning, maybe we all need—in the words of a Pentecostal hymn—to "get [back] under the spout where the glory comes out."

4) It is one of the miracles of the early renewal that people actually listened to and followed young lay men and women, undergraduate and graduate students as leaders and teachers. We "whippersnappers" were found open and willing to serve and so the Lord used us. The Council paved the way for the acceptance of the charisms in our day and empowered the laity to act—and act we did once empowered by the Spirit. Some lay people have chosen service to and within the movement, some within the wider church, and others have taken their new awareness of "being" the church out into the world in prophetic action by serving the poor, tackling some major societal problems, and by working to bring kingdom principles into the marketplace, education, culture and government. We as laity, who form the backbone of this movement, (aging and graying as many of us are,) have great hopes for the future of the charismatic renewal of the church. But to make that hope a reality we need youth. Just recently, a small town in the state of Washington had a Life in the Spirit Seminar for 120 people with a dozen teenagers involved. My own community, the People of Praise, has witnessed an unprecedented explosion of participation and leadership from our high school and college age youth. These and other things are signs of hope. But it will require more.

As Kevin and I celebrate our wedding anniversary this year, we rejoice that we can see our future in our grandchildren. In the life of the Spirit, "God has no grandsons." But unlike our old bodies, the Spirit can continually quicken sons and daughters to do his work. The prayer, the longing, the work and the focus of the renewal must be to draw youth to reach this generation. Right now at this anniversary season, we are fondly remembering an amazing past. But we can't dwell there. It is time both as a couple and as charismatics to renew our first love and look to the future. "To whoever much is given, of him will much be required; and to whom much was entrusted, of him more will be asked" (Luke 12:48). ♦

The prayer, the longing, the work and the focus of the renewal must be to draw youth to reach this generation.

[Abridged and adapted from a talk given by Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan at the International Catholic Charismatic Conference in Fuggi, Italy, 2006]



Dorothy Ranaghan is a founding member of the People of Praise Community and former member of the National Service Committee.



ICCRS chairman Allan Panozza addressing participants at Pentecost 2006

Forty Years of Grace

This “new outpouring” of the Holy Spirit changed the lives of those young people in ways similar to how the Holy Spirit had changed the lives of the apostles at the first Pentecost.

by Allan Panozza

In company with many contemporaries, my life as a Catholic has been lived both before and after the 2nd. Vatican Council. As a Catholic growing up in the Church pre-Vatican II, and then raising a family and carving out a business career during the years following the Council, I think that I can lay claim to a perspective on the Church that spans both generations.

When Pope John XXIII convoked the Second Vatican Council, he prayed that Almighty God might “send the Holy Spirit upon the Church as in a New Pentecost.” Undoubtedly God has answered that prayer in many different ways. But for millions of Catholics worldwide this prayer was answered in a remarkable way through an event which took place in the United States some forty years

ago in February 1967, when a small group of young people experienced an extraordinary phenomenon as they were praying together before the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel at the Ark and Dove Retreat House in Pittsburg. This event translated into what came to be known as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and this “new outpouring” of the Holy Spirit changed the lives of those young people in ways similar to how the Holy Spirit had changed the lives of the apostles at the first Pentecost.

The Renewal spread like wildfire throughout the Catholic Church. In the year 2000 a survey was conducted by Dr. David Barrett and Dr. Todd Johnson on the status of Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide, and the results were published in the ICCRS publication “*Then Peter stood up...*”

This survey indicated that by the year 2000 just on 120 million Catholics had experienced this “Baptism in the Holy Spirit.” These people were actively participating in what can be termed a “new relationship with Jesus,” which was categorized by prayer and openness to manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit. At the time of this survey Catholic Charismatic Renewal had touched 235 countries of the world, and the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) office in Rome both then and now has direct contact with the National Service Committees in most of these countries.

The Statutes of ICCRS given by the Pontifical Council for the Laity in Rome state very clearly the nature of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

“The Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) is a grace of renewal in the Holy Spirit with a worldwide character and many expressions in the Catholic Church, but it is neither uniform nor unified. It does not have a single founder nor a group of founders, and has no membership lists. Rather it is a flow of grace that allows individuals and groups to express themselves in different ways and forms of organization and activities, often quite independent of one another, in different stages and modes of development, with differing emphases. Nevertheless, they share the same fundamental experience and espouse the same general goals. This pattern of loose-knit relationships is found at the diocesan and national levels as well as at the international level. These relationships are often characterized by free association, dialogue and collaboration rather than by integration into an ordered structure. Leadership is characterized more by offering service to those who want it rather than by governance. In several realities the CCR organizes itself like an Ecclesial Movement, but there are

also structures such as Communities, Networks, Schools of Evangelisation, Television Stations, Associations, Religious Institutes and Seminaries, as well as Publishing Houses, Musicians, Missionaries and Preachers. All of these though not formally associated in a specific structure have a 'charismatic' profile."

This unique nature of Catholic Charismatic Renewal was very obvious at the first meeting of the New Ecclesial Movements which took place on the eve of Pentecost 1998 in St. Peter's Square with Pope John Paul II. The living founders of four Movements spoke in turn concerning their Movements, and were each greeted by the Pope. However, there was no "founder" to be seen for Catholic Charismatic Renewal on that stage, because in fact the Catholic Charismatic Renewal had its origins at the first Pentecost in the upper room 2000 years ago. The prayer of Pope John XXIII in 1958 was a precursor to this fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our time, and it was with the divine promptings of the Holy Spirit that Pope Paul VI was later motivated to say, *"The Renewal is a Hope for the Church."* I was present in the meeting of ICCRS Council members in Rome with Pope John Paul II on 14 March 1992, when he stated: *"The emergence of the Renewal following the Second Vatican Council was a particular gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church... Certainly one of the most important results of this spiritual awakening has been that increased thirst for holiness which is seen in the lives of individuals and in the whole Church."*

Of course Catholic Charismatic Renewal is recognized in the Church today as being one of the New Ecclesial Movements, so beloved by Pope John Paul II and by our present Holy Father Benedict XVI. Although I am actively involved in working with the other

Movements I see the Catholic Charismatic Renewal more in terms of the description given by the late Cardinal Suenens, who described the Renewal as a *"moving of the Holy Spirit..."* and on another occasion as *"... a high voltage current of Grace which is coursing through the Church."* What beautiful words to describe that which I take as a direct gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift unearned which has transformed my life from knowing "about" Jesus into "knowing Jesus."

Another important development is that this same baptism in the Holy Spirit has also been experienced in other denominations, so that across the whole spectrum of Christianity there has been the experience of a "new Pentecost" which has transformed millions of lives. At the 100 years celebration of the Pentecostal Movement held in Los Angeles in April 2006, it was publicly announced that the number of Pentecostal Charismatics now numbers more than 600 million worldwide (including the Catholic Renewal). I think that we should take very seriously the words spoken by Jesus at the Last Supper *"May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me"* (John 17:21). Certainly the heart of the Father desires to see unity through Jesus, and surely we will indeed serve him well by continuing our endeavors to foster understanding, forgiveness, compassion, reconciliation and agape love between all Christians.

The previous Holy Father Pope John Paul II saw clearly that Christian unity is not merely an option, but is a necessity for which we must earnestly strive. However it is also timely to recall his words given in the Apostolic letter 'Novo Millennio Inuente': *"The ecumenical journey is certainly still difficult, and will perhaps be long, but we are encouraged by the hope that comes from being led by the presence of the Risen*

Prayer Card



To you, our Paraclete God,
we send up
our supplication.

Pour out your charisms
upon us,

Fill us with knowledge of
your teaching;

Make us temples of
your glory,

Let us be overcome by the
wine of your grace.

*from the Syriac rite
Office for Pentecost*

One and the inexhaustible power of his Spirit, always capable of new surprises."

A former Prime Minister of Australia was once quoted as saying that *"life wasn't meant to be easy."* Maybe that was true then and maybe some would say that it is even more so today. But for we who know Jesus, and have experienced the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, I would rather build my existence around the words spoken by the Angel Gabriel to a little girl in Nazareth 2000 years ago, *"...for nothing is impossible to God"* (Luke 1:37). ♦

Allan Panozza is the Executive Director of CCR in Melbourne, Australia and has served as president of ICCRS for the past six years.



Please pray for the following initiatives, activities and concerns of the National Service Committee:

- ◆ For the preparations for and full participation in all events that celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.
- ◆ For all CCR leaders in the United States, that they will be faithful to the mission they have been given and will have the heart of a servant that Jesus showed us.
- ◆ For the Regional Leaders Gatherings scheduled in:
 - Nashville, TN March 9–10
 - Sioux Falls, SD March 9–11
 - Greensburg, PA April 27–29
 - Las Vegas, NV September
- ◆ For the Day of Prayer and Fasting on February 16th to bear abundant fruit.
- ◆ For the next generation to experience baptism in the Holy Spirit.

A Call to Intercede for Priests

The National Service Committee calls the Renewal to set aside the **World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, June 15**, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, as a Day of Intercession for Priests, for all the priests in your (Arch) diocese including those in religious orders and seminarians.

We encourage Renewal groups to organize formal times of prayer and intercession. A simple format would be to gather for 45 minutes of charismatic praise and worship followed by the reading of priests' names followed by a minute or two of prayer (in tongues, etc.). In large (Arch) dioceses the names could be read in groups of 3 or 5.

Let us pray that priests might experience in a deeper way the Lord's love for them, and for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives and ministry.

CCRNO: Storm-battered Renewal Center

We are also grateful that we were able to resume our prayer meetings only five weeks after the hurricane.

by Al Mansfield

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the New Orleans area began in April 1969 when Fr. Harold Cohen, S.J., chaplain at Loyola University, was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Fr. Cohen's office at Loyola became the office of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans (CCRNO), the central office for coordinating Catholic Charismatic Renewal ministries. Although it has relocated several times since then, the CCRNO office has always been a regional renewal center.

The CCRNO office administrates the following:

- ◆ weekly prayer meeting with Mass, teachings and prayer ministry;
- ◆ youth ministry with a weekly meeting and other activities;
- ◆ ministry to leaders through Regional Leaders Gatherings;
- ◆ Days of Renewal with guest speakers;
- ◆ Retreats: (Youth, Women's, Men's, General);
- ◆ Southern Regional Conference;
- ◆ Life in the Spirit Seminars in seminaries and parishes.

There have been certain "spin-offs" from CCRNO through the years, such as Magnificat Ministry to Catholic Women, founded by Marilyn Quirk.

CCRNO has been the source of much apostolic ministry as well. Fr. Cohen traveled widely to countries in Central and South America, to Europe and Australia, spreading the good news of renewed life in the Holy Spirit. Patti Mansfield has continued this tradition of apostolic mission with worldwide travels, especially to Brazil, Europe and Southeast Asia.

The CCRNO office, which occupied the entire second floor of a three-story brick building, suffered severe damage from Hurricane Katrina. Thanks to the kindness of the pastor, we were able to relocate the CCRNO office to St. Benilde Parish in Metairie, where we have held our weekly prayer meetings since 1981. We are also grateful that we were able to resume our prayer meetings only five weeks after the hurricane.

Another great loss to us was a Baptist retreat facility on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, which we had rented since 1984 for four retreats yearly. Although this facility had been constructed specifically to withstand hurricanes, it proved no match for Katrina and was rendered unusable.

We were blessed to be able to relocate our retreats to the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux and the Diocese of Lafayette. We are very grateful to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal offices in those two dioceses for their welcome and help to us.



But some young adults, who had been members of the youth group as teenagers, generously volunteered to provide leadership and organization. Thanks largely to their efforts, the youth ministry has revived.

Effects of Hurricane Katrina have been felt in other ways as well. For example, attendance at our weekly prayer meeting is 50-75, about half of what it was before the hurricane. Attendance at the Southern Regional Conference in recent years has been 2000-2500; this past conference after Katrina, we drew barely 1000. The Steering Committee felt strongly that we should go ahead with the Conference in spite of early indications of a low turnout. We did so in faith, incurring a deficit of \$37,000. We are trusting the Lord and faithful donors to help erase this deficit.

A bright spot since Hurricane Katrina, however, has been our CCRNO Youth Ministry. Pre-Katrina, we had been struggling to gather 5 to 10 young people each week for our youth meeting. For four months after the hurricane until January 2006, no youth meeting was held. Our youth minister left the area. But some young adults, who had been members of the youth group as teenagers, generously volunteered to provide leadership and organization. Thanks largely to their efforts, the youth ministry has revived. Approximately 400 attended the Youth Retreat in January 2006. Our youth meeting now draws 40-60 each Sunday night.

Mary said at Cana: "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). This is the best possible advice, especially in difficult times when we might be tempted to give up. A practical application of this word for the CCRNO office is

simply to continue doing what we have been doing since 1969. For over 35 years, CCRNO has served the region and intends to continue as long as the Lord allows.

Having endured the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, CCRNO can identify with the words of Isaiah 54:11: "O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsolated..." But we also take comfort and hope from Isaiah 43:2: "When you pass through the water, I will be with you; in the rivers you shall not drown. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not consume you." ♦



Al Mansfield became involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 1968 and since 1970 has served as a leader in the New Orleans area. He is Coordinator of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans Office. Al is married to the former Patti Gallagher and they were appointed Archdiocesan Liaisons in 1995. Al and Patti are recipients of the papal medal, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (For the Church and the Pope).

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Catholic Charismatic Renewal Celebration

by Jim Murphy

As the Catholic Charismatic Renewal celebrates its fortieth anniversary, it is worth reflecting on another 40th anniversary and see what lessons we might learn. Moses, the great leader of God's people in the Old Testament, climbed Mt. Nebo to look out over the Promised Land...the land that lay ahead. Looking in the other direction, he must have been able to recall the last 40 years and all the experiences the people of Israel had gone through. Mt. Nebo was the chance to remember and reflect.

It all began when God spoke to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus, chapter 3). In that encounter God spoke in a powerful way to Moses and commissioned him for the work of liberation of a nation. It was an extraordinary experience. A bush burning, yet not consumed; a voice sending Moses on a mission that would change his life and the lives of those whom he would lead.

We must recall the extraordinary events that launched the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Like Moses, we saw miracles! But the miracles were not for self-serving purposes. The flames of Pentecost were poured out anew for the sake of all of God's people, not just a special few.

After Israel left Egypt, its first big challenge came at the Red Sea (Exodus, chapter 14). With their backs to the water and facing the fury of the Egyptian army, Moses cried out to God. God responded by opening a path in the sea through which the Israelites could go through to safety, but destroyed the Egyptians as they tried to pursue Israel through the seabed. When the situation was hopeless...God acted. When there was no other way...God made a way.

Another challenge presents itself when the people of Israel engage in battle against Amalek (Exodus 17:8-13). As long as Moses held up his hands, Israel was beating Amalek. When Moses grew weary and put his hands down, the battle swung to Amalek. Two assistants helped Moses support his arms, and the battle raged all day, with the outcome going to Israel.

We have been called to the spiritual battle. Like Moses, when we lift our hands up in intercessory prayer, we see victory. When we grow weary and back off our prayer life, well,

we've seen the effect of that too! St Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12 that our battle is not against flesh and blood but spiritual forces. He offers this advice: "With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit" (Eph 6:18). We must be a people of prayer. We must be willing to persevere in the long day of battle, not giving up but continually crying out to the Lord.

Like Moses, when we lift our hands up in intercessory prayer, we see victory. When we grow weary and back off our prayer life, well, we've seen the effect of that too!



One would think, that with all of the miracles the Israelites had witnessed they would have been wholeheartedly with God. Alas...fickle human nature! So many times along the way the people complained

and grumbled against the Lord. There were a number of instances when the people wanted to turn around and go back to Egypt. Return to slavery! They even refused to cross the Jordan River and come into the land which God had promised them.

Before we snicker at their obstinacy, we would do well to examine our own hearts. How many times over the last 40 years have we complained and grumbled against the Lord though we had "seen his wonders" on our behalf? How often have we wanted to return to Egypt, to our former slavery when things got tough and we longed for something familiar even if it wasn't good for us? There have even been occasions when we have refused to go ahead with the Lord and follow the lead of the Spirit to cross into new territory. For all the great things God has done for us during these 40 years of Renewal, we have not always shown ourselves to be a grateful and obedient people.

Then there is the issue of golden calves. When times got difficult, instead of trusting the Lord...the people built a golden idol! It gave them something tangible to look at, something they could put their hands on. In our 40 year sojourn, we have built a few idols as well. How many times have we promoted our own programs to the detriment of building up the body of Christ in a truly spiritual way? How many times have we made idols of people or ministries? May God forgive us!

Yet, through it all God indeed has been merciful and kind. He has provided us with quail and manna. He has given us water

Photo: Sr. Mary Anne Schaefer

Anointed for the New Evangelization

by Mary Anne Schaenzer, SSND

I recall the day that we, the planning committee, felt inspired to title the recent Leaders' Conference in Albuquerque, "Anointed." Even on the telephone we could sense the working of the Holy Spirit.

As I walked into the hotel for the conference there was a spirit of excitement and anticipation. The hospitality of the local people drew us into the anointing of the weekend. Even our nametags, also envisioned by the planning committee, called us to enter into the blessing of the weekend with the words, "I am anointed" below each person's name. This then became the response of the

weekend. When asked, "How are you?" The response was frequently, "I am anointed."

We began on Friday evening with a powerful time of prayer and worship led by Wilfred Romero and Friends. Peter Herbeck, evangelist and member of Renewal Ministries gave the Keynote talk on the meaning of being anointed. On Saturday morning we celebrated Eucharist. Again we were blessed by the enthusiasm of Fr. Daniel Balizan, a pastor and the Liaison to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

Opportunities for learning and reflection on various topics were fostered by tracks in the areas of Charisms, Evangelization,

Healing, Intercession, Praise and Worship, Strengthening Prayer Groups, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and Spanish Language Sessions which also dealt with Praise, *Alabanzas*, *Charisms*, *Charismas*, and Healing, *Sanacion*.

A Healing Service, led by Judith Hughes and Fr. Ray Introvigne, provided a time of quieting and receiving the grace and mercy of God. They led us in a reflection on areas that may need the grace of healing in our lives. This was followed by a type of mystagogia experience—a way of asking ourselves, "What happened? What did God do here?" Three people responded to this from the stage. This stirred up a response in the those present and many shared the blessing they had experienced. This empowered all of us to claim the many blessings received individually yet in the context of the community. Grace was abundant and we could all rejoice together.

The evening became a time of rejoicing, dancing, singing, exhorting and empowerment. The main speaker was Marilyn Kramer, Evangelist and Founder of Charisma in Missions. Aggie Neck and Paul George encouraged us to be open to the anointing and empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our

lives. The working of God was abundant.

On Sunday morning, Fr. Tom Forrest, founder of Evangelization 2000, spoke to us on "The New Evangelization." Anyone who has heard Fr. Tom knows that he inspires and exhorts. We concluded the weekend with a celebrative Eucharist

One of the many blessings of the weekend was the presence and service of young adults. Their enthusiasm and dedication was a grace in the midst of a powerful weekend. Caroline Gambale and Aimee Mangan gave workshops and their own witness. The sound system for the entire weekend was run by a group of youth, *Lion of Judah*, from El Paso, Texas.

The communal aspect of Charismatic Renewal was strengthened by the element of love that we experienced. We were encouraged and sent forth to continue to be open to the anointing of the Holy Spirit so that we might share the Good News of the Gospel with others. ♦

in the desert. Like Exodus...our story is more about God's faithfulness to us rather than our faithfulness to him. Our 40 years must not be a boasting of what *we* have accomplished, what *we* have achieved, or the impact *we* have made. Rather it must be an acknowledgment of what has been done for us, through us, and many times in spite of us.

Like Moses standing on Mt. Nebo, we too have an opportunity to reflect, repent, and especially to celebrate and thank God for his faithfulness. We can look ahead with confidence knowing that "He who began a good work in (us) will bring it to completion" (Phil 1:6). Like the great leader of Israel we can lift our hands and shout from the mountains "The Lord is good! His love is everlasting." ♦



Jim Murphy is founder and president of Vera Cruz Communications. He serves on the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services council. He can be reached at www.veracruzcm.com.

National Leaders' Conference audiotapes and cds are available at Resurrection Events & Tapes 2719 East 42nd St, Suite B Minneapolis, MN 55406 Phone: 612-721-7933 or go to our website www.nsc-chariscenter.org.



A call to celebrate & crossover

“40 years? We have only just begun!”

The National Service Committee, in conjunction with a number of other national leadership groups, is calling the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US to come together June 22-24 to celebrate the 40 years of the contemporary Catholic Charismatic Renewal and to *crossover* into our future as our mission of renewing the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission the Church continues.

The theme for our coming together is: *40 Years of Renewal: Pour out Your Spirit Anew.*

Attention: Prayer Groups Celebrate the 40th Anniversary

The National Service Committee encourages Prayer Groups to celebrate the 40th Anniversary by planning one or two events this year:

- ✦ the first one would be to invite former members of your prayer group to come to view the new ICCRS DVD *A New Pentecost* and to give thanks for what the Lord has done;
- ✦ the second would be to use Jim Murphy's article in this issue of *Pentecost Today* to reflect on the Renewal's 40 years.

Let's celebrate and give thanks!

We will gather to celebrate but, more importantly, to be empowered anew for the challenges of proclaiming Jesus as Lord in our current cultural and societal context. We will gather with brothers and sisters from various ethnic groups and covenant communities to make this celebratory Conference unique.

In our salvation history the number 40 (40 years, 40 days) has a great significance: the period of the flood (Gen. 7:17), giving of the Law (Ex. 24:18), the journey in the desert (Exodus), the fasting of Jesus (Mt. 4:2) and his time on earth after the Resurrection (Acts 1:3). There is, the scholars tell us, in the number 40 a sense of “kairos:” God’s anointed time. Or to put it more simply, in the words of Fr. Tom Forrest, who spoke at one of the International events after the Pentecost Celebration with Pope Benedict XVI this past June: “40 years? We have only just begun!”

Thus while we truly will celebrate what the Lord has done in these 40 years of Renewal we are prayerfully expectant that this Anniversary Conference will mark a crossing over into a new phase

of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US. It was for this reason that we chose a site which is different than we had gathered in the past: the University of Notre Dame where the National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conferences had been held for so many years, and Pittsburgh where the contemporary Renewal began in 1967 and where we gathered in 1992, 1997 and 2002 to celebrate the 25th, 30th, and 35th anniversaries. We chose a site in northern New Jersey, the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey to take us from the familiar to the unfamiliar so that together we might hear the Lord in a fresh way.

Bishop Sam Jacobs, former Chairman of the National Service Committee and the US Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, will be our keynote speaker. We have asked him to challenge us with “What is the Lord saying to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal?”

On Saturday we will gather in a number of language/ethnic tracks convened by the various sponsoring groups.

The NSC sponsored sessions will build on the conference theme and focus in the morning on “Where have we been? What have we learned?” Speakers include Dr. Vinson Synan, a long time friend of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Sr. Nancy Kellar, S.C. active in the Renewal almost from its beginning and Fr. Richard Loch from the Diocese of Scranton and current member of the NSC.

In the afternoon our focus will be “What is the Lord doing now?” Speakers include Fr. John Gordon, Director of the Pre-Theologate Program at Franciscan University of Steubenville and a member of the NSC, Patti Mansfield, a well traveled witness to the beginnings of the Renewal who spoke on behalf of movements to the Holy Father at last June’s eve of Pentecost Celebration, Scott Kaldahl, a Pastoral Minister in a parish in Miami and the newest member of the NSC; and Aggie Neck, Chairman of the NSC.

On Saturday evening we will gather with all the attendees to cry out to the Lord: “Pour out Your Spirit Anew.” Pablo Bayona, a bilingual speaker from the Diocese of Brooklyn, and founder of a Retreat House in the Archdiocese of Newark called “The Father’s House” will proclaim the Good News of our salvation which will be followed by an extended time of prayer ministry invoking the Holy Spirit: *Veni Creator Spiritus*.

On Sunday the Conference will send us forth renewed as we focus on the next generation, the call to be one Body, one Renewal, one Church, and to build the culture of Pentecost in our Church and society. The speakers will be Caroline Gambale, a Lifeteen Youth Minister, Darling Previl a young Haitian leader and Walter Matthews, Executive Director for the NSC. We will conclude our conference with a grand celebration of Mass for the Birth of

John the Baptist. The Principal Celebrant and Homilist will be Msgr. Joseph Malagrega, a pastor in the Diocese of Brooklyn and a longtime leader in the Renewal, principally working with Haitians and Hispanics.

We hope to see you there and we encourage every prayer group to send at least one representative who will bring home what the Lord has done and said. ♦



unlock the power

The National Service Committee and the other national leadership groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have designated the Friday preceding Ash Wednesday as a Day of Prayer and Fasting.

day of prayer and fasting feb 16

Renewal participants are encouraged to pray for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States and that the Church in our country might be renewed in the grace of Pentecost.

This will be the sixth year designated for such a day to strengthen the unity of the Renewal and communion in the Church.

NEW!

NSC introduces five Leaflets

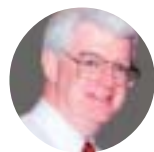
A new resource is now available for Life in the Spirit Seminars and prayer groups.

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**From the
Executive
Director**

.....
by Walter Matthews

Mission forward: the fire must never go out

As the Renewal stands on this side of its 40th Anniversary the NSC stands eager and ready to move forward into the new challenges and opportunities the Lord will place before us. There are certainly ongoing challenges: financial ones, the graying of the Renewal, and, in the words of Cardinal Francis George, Chicago writing in *Bishops Speak to the Renewal*, the loss of “some of its prophetic voice through the attempts to be more widely accepted.”

The Cardinal challenged us: “It may be that the Holy Spirit wishes to bring forth a new outpouring for the Renewal. In order for that to happen, perhaps present structures need to be simplified, and the past ‘glories’ of the Renewal remembered but not clung to, so that we can all be open to the originality and generosity of the Spirit....I encourage members of the Renewal to be attentive to the Holy Spirit for a fresh outpouring of gifts and graces. *I call you to listen with an openness to structural changes so that the Spirit will have greater freedom to breathe in us....*” (Emphasis mine.)

By the time you read this the NSC may have made decisions that will affect the services it has provided to the Renewal to be more effective in renewing the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the Church.

At the National Leaders’ Conference convened in Albuquerque by the NSC in conjunction with the Association of Di-

ocesan Liaisons, 500 Renewal leaders heard the call and the challenge of being “anointed for the new evangelization.” These Leaders’ Conferences are a significant service that the Service Committee has provided in recent years.

We recently announced the publication of five new NSC Leaflets (see ad on page 13) written for newcomers in the Renewal but could well be read and used by Renewal veterans. If there are funds we hope to produce more this year.

In June the NSC and a number of other national leadership groups will convene the 2007 National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference. The theme is “40 Years of Renewal: Pour out Your Spirit Anew.” These National Conferences have been important in the Renewal since our beginnings and they remain a key service of the NSC.

This leads me to two important calls for prayer and fasting as we go forward in this year of celebration. The first is the Day of Prayer and Fasting on the Friday before Ash Wednesday, February 16. This is the sixth year the NSC and the national leadership groups have proposed such a day to the Renewal. Interestingly this *day* falls on the Anniversary of the Duquesne Weekend often cited as the beginnings of the Renewal.

The second Day is a call to intercede for priests on the World Day of Prayer for Sanctification of Priests, June 15, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart.

The mission of spreading the spirituality and culture of Pentecost must go forward. ♦

Friends of the NSC

As I write we have just mailed our year-end appeal to our faithful donors and to prayer group leader recipients of *Pentecost Today*. Our appeal is stark and to the point:

Unless faithful donors, and the prayer groups we mail *Pentecost Today* to, respond generously the National Service Committee will end the year significantly in the red and will have nearly exhausted its cash reserves making going forward into 2007, this 40th Anniversary of this great outpouring of the Holy Spirit we call the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, difficult.

The Committee is standing in faith and prayer that letting you know our financial need will prompt your most generous response.

On the positive side, the 2006 National Leaders’ Conference in Albuquerque drew 500 leaders from all across the country gathered for, as one participant described it, “the best weekend of my life!” We entered the Conference needing \$42,000 in on site registrations and collections to break-even for the Conference and yield budgeted monies for the NSC’s other mission outreaches. We met that goal! **The Lord blessed us.** As Fr. Tom Forrest, who spoke at the Conference and took the collection on Saturday night said, describing himself as a “pick-pocket,” it is not just about giving but about responding to the blessings received or will be received. **However, the year-end challenge remains.**

By the time you read this the results of the year end appeal will be in and the Service Committee will have made decisions about how to go forward with less resources. If you can help and haven’t yet, please do so. We need everyone’s participation if we are truly to go forward to celebrate this 40th Anniversary. The mission must continue.

Finally, we are grateful for those of you who responded to the Third Millennium Fund Appeal—to build for the future. However, we did not reach our goal of \$100,000 by year end. So that challenge also continues. ♦

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For Your Information

This is a publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. The mission of the NSC is to stir 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.

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What we have seen and heard

.....
by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner



Miami fire



With this issue we are changing the title of this column from “*Ministry Update*” to “*What We Have Seen and Heard*.” Following is the witness of two powerful events, by Scott Kaldahl, most recently elected member of the NSC.

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people, Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.” (Acts 2:17-18, Joel 2:28-29)

For the past two years in my parish in Miami, I have witnessed this scripture portrayed before my eyes. We have had the privilege of hosting what we have called, “*Five Nights of Fire*” in our parish for a week over the summer. Two anointed gentlemen, Eddie Russell and David Harp, of Flame Ministries International, have traveled from Perth, Western Australia for five nights of powerful preaching and a demonstration of God’s power. Eddie and David are powerful Catholic bible teachers and David shares a message of how God healed him from HIV/AIDS.

In preparation for the week, we have also hosted a *Life in the Spirit Seminar* for our children. The first year we hoped the seminar would attract approximately 25 of our young people ages 8-14. What we ended up with was 80 youth from 6-17! The second year, without much preparation time, we held the seminar again for approximately 50 children, ages 8-16. Working with the young people is very ex-

citing as they have greater openness to God’s power and manifestation than the adults to whom we normally minister. As we prayed with them for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives, they very naturally opened themselves up to praying in tongues, receiving prophecy and praying over their peers as well as the adults in the community. We bring this grace into our prayer meeting as the young people give testimony of God’s work in their lives to the larger assembly.

This also feeds into the *Five Nights of Fire* as the children are encouraged not to be dropped into nursery during the five nights but to actively participate. This past year, Eddie Russell, director of Flame Ministries from Perth, used some of the children in the ministry time to pray over the people. During the *Five Nights of Fire* we witnessed many miraculous healings. One woman stood up to say that she had been afflicted with MS and unable to stand and sit during the worship but that during the *Five Nights of Fire*, she had received healing from the pain afflicting her knees! She then proceeded to run with me across the sanctuary, saying to me as she ran, “I can’t run! I can’t run! When we reached the opposite side, I stopped her, concerned that perhaps I had caused her more pain. She looked at me, her face beaming with joy and asked, “Did I just run?!” Indeed the Lord is great!

The 2006 Index of articles can be found on our website:

www.nsc-chariscenter.org

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40 Years of Renewal:

*Pour Out Your
Spirit Anew*

**2007 NATIONAL CATHOLIC
CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CONFERENCE**

*Meadowlands Exposition Center, New Jersey
June 22-24, 2007*

*The speakers to include: Bishop Sam Jacobs, Aggie Neck,
Patti Mansfield, Dr. Vinson Synan, Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia,
Sr. Nancy Kellar, S.C, Fr. John Gordon, Walter Matthews
and many others.*

Pre-registration of \$45 available until February 28, 2007

We will gather to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal but also to be empowered afresh for the challenges of proclaiming Jesus is Lord in our current cultural and societal context.

We will gather with brothers and sisters from covenant communities, and various ethnic groups to make this celebratory Conference unique.

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