

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

PENTECOST *Today*

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New life in Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Chairman's Corner

.....
by Fr. Richard Loch

Gathering joy & strength

This past summer I had the opportunity and joy of taking part in several charismatic conferences. They were of various sizes, 200 to 2,200, and each had a unique personality, particular format, and style of worship and music. Among the elements common to each, one stood out for me, the blessing that comes with being at a charismatic gathering.

So often I hear the lament that prayer groups are small and lack the joy, enthusiasm and depth of charismatic gifts that were present in years gone by. It would be foolish to try to recreate the prayers groups of the past for that was a particular time that is now gone. It would also be foolish to minimize the power of the Holy Spirit and the importance of the gifts of the Spirit, for the Holy Spirit is ever present in the Church and we do not want to be blind to the Spirit's power.

Conferences, Days of Renewal, Festivals of Praise, etc. are times when we charismatics gather in larger numbers to praise the Lord. These events bring us together and allow us to use the charismatic gifts to praise God in a way that builds up the body of Christ and encourages us to grow in our faith. Excitement, devotion and rejuvenation flow through those present as they rediscover the power that comes from being with other Catholic charismatics to do what we do best—praise the Lord!

The Holy Spirit is ever present in the Church and we do not want to be blind to the Spirit's power.

At these gatherings I am lifted up by the beauty and harmony of the praise, both in our native languages and in tongues. It is a praise that reflects psalm 141:2 "Let my prayer arise before you like incense, the raising of my hands like an evening oblation."

At one of the conferences I attended the emcee announced some other upcoming charismatic events in the area. He then went on to invite those gathered, who had information about other events, to pass it on to him. As the weekend progressed the list grew longer and longer and I was pleasantly surprised with how much was going on in that area. I realized how many opportunities there are for all of us that we might not be aware of. I suggest that we proudly and enthusiastically get the word out in our areas of all that we are doing. Rather than giving into the temptation of being protective of our turf let us open up to announcing and promoting the activities that others in our area are sponsoring.

The joy, enthusiasm and depth of charismatic gifts that we desire in our prayer groups could very well already be present in our area. Take advantage of what is there as a means for us to praise the Lord, and then to return to our prayer groups with renewed joy in the power of the Holy Spirit. ♦

Fr. Richard Loch is Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

.....
by Sr. Martha Jean McGarry

...so that they all may be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that the world may believe that you have sent me (John 17:21).

Several articles in this issue help us to reflect on the vastness of the Body of Christ and our call to unity.

Fr. Bob Hogan's article encourages us to seek the Spirit's guidance in renewing all of Catholic life in our day. His practical suggestions and Biblical insights can be most helpful in our own growth and in our efforts to share the Good News within our own Church community. **Fr. Peter Hocken**, in his article on the ecumenical grace of the Renewal, recalls its history, prophetic dimension, and blessings. Fr. Peter suggests what we can do to ensure both our Catholic and ecumenical heritage. See page 15 for a related article.

What is the Spirit doing today among our youth, ethnic groups, and other components of the Charismatic Renewal? Check out **Walter Matthews** article and Newsbriefs for updates.

In her article on pastoral planning **Jane Guenther** details how her archdiocese is sharing the hidden treasure of the Holy Spirit. Renewal offices and prayer groups can glean much wisdom from this article.

Sister Christine Edwards asks: Why isn't there more love, joy, and peace among Christians? Look for her response in this issue's reflection on the fruits of the Spirit.

With hearts filled with thanksgiving, let us love one another, share the Good News, and build the Body of Christ.

Can we grow spiritually to a point of having joy even in the midst of trials?

Love, Joy & Peace

by Sister Christine Edwards

Have you ever met someone who had such grace about them and exuded so much love, joy and peace, that you felt drawn to them? Love, joy and peace are God's great gifts to us and are actually the normal state of a Christian. Yet these gifts don't come to us naturally, but come through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. That's why they're called the fruits of the Spirit. We cannot produce them by our own power.

"God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, that has been given to us" (Rom. 5:5). And love is his first gift, containing all others. It's in God's love that we find joy and peace. It is the love of the Holy Spirit that flows through us as we love with God's own love. It's far different from the world's counterfeit for love, which can be brute passion or vile egoism.

Jesus says, "Abide in my love so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full" (Jn. 15:10). Abide means a constant presence—to live there. The key to our joy is our abiding in Jesus. It's not the world's joy, which is a superficial fleeting happiness.

St. James says, "Consider it pure joy whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance" (Jas. 1:2-4). So joy can be present even in suffering. It's not a surface emotion, but it's a depth experience—it's deeper and inner. We have access to a love, peace and joy that cannot be destroyed by pain, suffering and death, as long as we live in the Lord.

Can we grow spiritually to a point of having joy even in the midst of trials? The saints did. Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete" (Jn. 16:24).

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem the angels proclaimed peace. On the last night Jesus spent on earth he said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you" (Jn. 14:27). His customary greeting to his apostles after his resurrection was, "Peace be upon you!" (Jn. 20:21). Peace is a gift so beautiful, so profound, and so efficacious, that we shall never fully comprehend it. It's the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us and the synthesis of all the graces and heavenly blessings that we have received in Christ. It's the peace that surpasses all understanding. The world cannot counterfeit peace, because peace is a Divine thing.

Since the fruits of the Spirit are such wonderful gifts, why isn't there more love, joy and peace among Christians? In a world beset by terrorism, recession, natural disasters and evil of all kinds, it can be increasingly difficult to live in Christ's spirit of love, joy and peace. The world, the flesh and the devil are at war to keep us from living in the fruit of the Spirit.

In Galatians 5 we find the fruits of the Spirit listed by St. Paul immediately after he is talking about the works of the flesh—meaning all that is opposed to the will of God. Paul gives a list of obstacles to the fruit of the Spirit. Here he is clearly telling us what to avoid and oppose, and what we

See **Love** page 12

Renewed Catholic life

by Fr. Bob Hogan

It is a wonderful grace when the Holy Spirit touches our lives in a personal way! This grace is meant to be a *beginning* of new life for us, not a final accomplishment. The Holy Spirit has so much more! The seed planted can bear fruit 30, 60 and 100 fold! The Holy Spirit is the power of the new creation, renewing all things, **RENEWING THE FACE OF THE EARTH!** How does the Spirit want to renew all of Catholic life in our day?

The new Vision Statement for the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal says: “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 God the Father. The Holy Spirit empowers us for personal holiness, renewed Catholic life, and evangelization.”

The Holy Spirit makes the persons of the Trinity real in our lives. We experience union with God’s love and presence. From this union we are given the power to be clothed with the qualities of Jesus (personal holiness); to share the Good News of Jesus with others (evangelization); and to participate in the re-creation of all aspects of Catholic life (renewed Catholic life).

The U.S. Bishop’s Ad Hoc Committee for Charismatic Renewal produced a document, “Grace for a New Springtime” (1997), which states, “Baptism in the Holy Spirit makes Jesus Christ known and loved as Lord and Savior, establishes or reestablishes an immediacy of relationship with all the persons of the Trinity, and through inner transformation affects the whole of the Christian’s life. There is new life and a new conscious awareness of God’s power and presence. It is a grace experience which touches every dimension of the Church’s life: worship, preaching, teaching, ministry, evangelism, prayer and spirituality, service and community” (p. 5). In its fullness baptism in the Spirit can lead to “renewed Catholic life” in “every dimension of the Church’s life.”

The description of renewed Catholic life in Acts

What does this “renewed Catholic life” look like? After Pentecost (Acts 2:42-47 and 4:23-37) the believers experienced the Spirit moving them from a personal experience of renewal to creating a whole new lifestyle that influenced their priorities, their families, their work, their finances, and the way they related with one another and their society:

- ✦ **Priorities:** “They devoted themselves” (Acts 2:42, 46). The Spirit led them to commit themselves to certain focused priorities for their lives.
- ✦ **Devoted to the teaching of the Apostles:** They desired to keep learning about Jesus and his teachings, and recognized the apostles’ role of teaching authoritatively about Jesus.
- ✦ **Devoted to the communal life:** They were “together and held all things in common” (Acts 2:44) and had “one heart and mind” (Acts 4:32). The Church was a community with close, supportive, sharing relationships.
- ✦ **Devoted to the breaking of the bread:** They celebrated together the Eucharist, the Lord’s Supper, as Jesus had commanded them.
- ✦ **Devoted to the prayers:** They met together in the temple area to pray, praising God (Acts 2:46-47). They “raised their voices to God with one accord” (Acts 4:24) when they faced persecution, seeking a renewed experience of the Spirit’s boldness in order to evangelize.
- ✦ **Devoted to evangelization:** They did not pray mainly for protection from persecution, but for boldness to continue to evangelize (Acts 4:29-31).
- ✦ **Devoted to sharing their finances:** They did not claim their possessions as their own but held them in common, focusing on caring for each person’s needs (Acts 2:42-45; 4:32-36). They gave even more than 10% (tithe) for the Church!

Every dimension of their lives was influenced by their Spirit-led lifestyle.

Renewed Catholic life today

What does this image of the first Christians’ lifestyle mean for us? The First Letter of John tells us that if you “let what you heard from the beginning remain in you” (2:24), then you can trust the anointing of the Spirit to continue to teach and lead you (2:27). As we are devoted to the full image of the community lifestyle at the beginnings of the Church, we can receive the Spirit’s anointing concerning the ways he wants to develop “renewed Catholic life” in

They did not pray mainly for protection from persecution, but for boldness to continue to evangelize.

today's world. We want to learn to let the Holy Spirit be our Advocate (Divine counselor, helper, guide, companion) in every aspect of daily life and the life of the Church. We want Spirit-inspired (guided, empowered, energized): family life and parenting; work relationships and Godly direction in our work; worship, music, liturgy and sacraments; teaching and preaching; pro-life ministry; practical moral living; service to our communities; service for the poor; development of Churches and groups; youth ministry; financial responsibility and sharing; communications and media; united Christian efforts for our cities; lay ministry; priestly and religious life.

Our initial spiritual awakening by the Spirit is meant to open us to be a people that are led, empowered and given practical wisdom in developing a renewed Catholic lifestyle. I believe that God is calling us to become very practical in seeking the Spirit's guidance. Here is one way that we can seek guidance during our prayer time in order to develop a renewed lifestyle.

We ask the Holy Spirit:

- 1)** To reveal to us what renewed life looks like in each area of family, work, finances, church, society, culture, media, relationships, ministry, etc.
- 2)** To empower us with charisms (spiritual gifts) and the fruit of the Spirit to live what is revealed to us.
- 3)** To give us the wisdom to apply God's direction in our practical situations.
- 4)** To give us God's priorities for us. Which area(s) of renewed Catholic life are we being called to be active in developing under the Spirit's guidance?

Prayer Group leadership teams, Diocesan service committees, Liaisons, Covenant communities, parish leaders, ministries, families, and all groups seeking to be led by the Holy Spirit can ask the Lord how he wants them to join in the renewal of Catholic lifestyle and culture. Even people who attend church regularly can be affected more by a media

influenced lifestyle, than by one based on scriptural and Church teaching that is applied in new ways for today's world under the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

Within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal we have seen "renewed Catholic life" developing through:

- ✦ Covenant communities that have gained much wisdom about Catholic family life;
- ✦ Parish prayer groups that support families and offer specific Spirit-led services in their parishes;
- ✦ Ministries for youth (Steubenville conferences, National Evangelization Teams (N.E.T.), Lifeteen, etc.) that influence the lifestyle of youth;
- ✦ Evangelization ministries that help people to hear and share the Good News;
- ✦ Ministries serving the poor that bring faith and service together;
- ✦ Healing ministries that heal and strengthen families;
- ✦ Music and media ministries that seek to leaven our society with a Catholic Christian outlook.

These are a few examples. Let us be open to the Holy Spirit's full leading and creativity! Each of our groups has some calling to promote the development of "renewed Catholic life." Be practical with the Holy Spirit. Paul and Barnabas were sent on their first missionary journey because the leadership team at the Church of Antioch came together to pray and fast in order to seek the Spirit's direction. Use the four areas that I have given you to seek your group's particular calling. Pray and ponder the image of the first Christian community in Acts to see if the Lord may be calling your group to emphasize a certain aspect of their lifestyle. We want to be people who pray, "Come Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love." Then we complete this prayer by cooperating with the Spirit as we pray, "Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall **RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH!**" ♦



Fr. Bob Hogan is Co-founder of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple, a Charismatic and Marian Religious community of priests and brothers. He is a member of the NSC and involved with working at the Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal in San Antonio, Texas.

The ecumenical grace of Charismatic Renewal

by Fr. Peter Hocken

For many years a major tension has existed in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) between, on the one hand, the need for the renewal to be authentically Catholic and to contribute in a significant way to the renewal of the Catholic Church, and, on the other hand, to do justice to the ecumenical character of the Renewal from its beginnings and to realize its major potential for Christian unity.

Both concerns have a fundamental legitimacy. From this angle, the tension is necessary. In this article I suggest ways to maintain this tension so that neither tendency takes over from the other: either the unity concern becomes so dominant that the need for the Renewal as an identifiable expression of charismatic renewal is called into question, or the concern to be Catholic leads to an ignoring or playing down of its ecumenical character and potential.

The origins

From its beginnings as a movement in 1967, the Renewal was blessed through the ministry of Protestant charismatics and Pentecostals. The famous Duquesne weekend in February 1967 resulted from Catholics reading *The Cross and the Switchblade* by then Pentecostal David Wilkerson. Some Catholics were baptized in the Spirit through the ministry of Episcopalians Richard Winkler in Wheaton, Illinois and Dennis Bennett in Seattle. The first prayer meetings at Notre Dame were helped by a Pentecostal, Ray Bullard. Francis MacNutt experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit through Episcopal healing pioneer, Agnes Sanford. In England,

the Renewal had two sources: one the movement arriving from the United States, the other from Catholics baptized in the Spirit through the ministry of Pentecostals. In France and Italy there were also ecumenical contributions to the origins. In Colombia, Harald Bredesen lit the flame. In Peru, a visiting ecumenical team triggered the beginnings of charismatic renewal. In Korea, the Renewal began through the ministry of a Swedish Pentecostal called to Korea in 1970 to pray for Catholics to be baptized in the Spirit and through a Pentecost retreat she organized with Episcopalian Archer Torrey.

The origins of Renewal also manifested a strong orientation toward the renewal of the Catholic Church, which had no exact parallel among Protestants. The Second Vatican Council had placed a vision for the renewal of all Catholic life firmly in the Catholic consciousness. The emerging group of young leaders included graduates from Notre Dame, who had been active in Vatican II-oriented campus groups. This vision that the Renewal should serve the rejuvenation of the Church was examined in the book *Where are we headed?* (1973) by Steve Clark, an early Renewal leader.

These two elements were evident in all the large Renewal conferences of the early-to-mid 1970s, both at Notre Dame and the mid-Atlantic conferences at Atlantic City, New Jersey. The ecumenical component was visible in the invited participation of Protestant charismatic teachers, both for major talks and to lead workshops, and the honoring of guests from other Chris-

Holding together the Catholic and the ecumenical belongs to the heart of our Catholic faith.



World Methodist Council representative, Rev. Edgar Hiestand, meets with Pope John Paul II at the Interreligious Assembly at the Vatican, October 1999, on the eve of the third millennium.

tian traditions. The orientation to renewal of the Church was clear in the teachings, in the role of the liturgy and in the presence and support of Catholic bishops. Both elements were evident in the life of new communities with an ecumenical make-up and an ecumenical vision. This holding together of the tensions reached its climax in the great Kansas City conference of 1977, in which the mornings were spent in church groupings, the afternoons had optional workshops from leaders in all traditions, and the evenings brought everyone together in the giant stadium.

A period of consolidation

From 1980, the period of mushrooming growth appeared to be over, at least in the United States, and a period of consolidation followed. It included more structuring of the Renewal (including diocesan liaisons, liaisons' conferences, a more representative National Service Committee) and the move of the International Renewal Office from Brussels to Rome, followed by the retirement of Cardinal Leon Suenens who was an early leader in the Renewal and had encouraged the move of the International Office to Brussels, and the first appointment of a bishop in the Vatican with responsibility for the Charismatic Renewal. People spoke about "moving to the heart of the Church." In the Vatican, the Renewal came under the Pontifical Council for the Laity, which had responsibility for

Photo: courtesy of Rev. Edgar Hiestand

lay movements, which have since become known as the “new ecclesial movements.” This brought definite advantages for the recognition of the place of the Renewal in the Catholic Church, but it also tended to obscure its unique features—that it had no human founder like the other movements, as well as its ecumenical origins and character.

It is maybe not surprising that this period saw a decline in the ecumenical expressions of renewal. This prompts the question: was this decline a factor in a loss of dynamism in the Renewal and a decrease in its impact?

New ecumenical stirrings

While the ecumenical expressions in CCR were lessening, the Holy Spirit was raising up new witnesses to unity. Several pioneer figures (notably Michael Harper, then Anglican, Lutheran Larry Christenson, Pentecostal Vinson Synan and Redemptorist preacher, Fr Tom Forrest) came together in the mid-to-late 1980s to launch a new ecumenical network at the world-wide level, a pattern repeated in Europe and North America. Papal preacher, Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, whose charismatic initiation had begun in Kansas City, was deeply convinced of the ecumenical character of renewal, and many will remember his electric talk on unity at the Brighton (UK) conference of 1991. At this time Charles Whitehead from England was emerging as a major figure in CCR; Charles has an Anglican wife and he was baptized in the Spirit through the ministry of an Anglican priest. So it is no surprise that he has constantly championed the ecumenical component of Renewal (he is currently chair of the International Charismatic Consultation). Charles Whitehead provides an outstanding example of holding the ecumenical and the Catholic together.

Theological developments

Only at Vatican II in 1964 did the Catholic Church first endorse Catholic

participation in the movement for Christian unity. In its teaching on the Church and those baptized outside the Catholic Church, the Council taught clearly for the first time that other Christians and their ecclesial communities are not simply “outside” the one Church. Since then, official Catholic documents have a language for describing their situation: other Christian bodies are in “imperfect communion” with the Catholic Church, that is to say, there is a real communion in the things of Christ within the one Body of Christ, but there is not yet the full or perfect communion that characterizes the Church in communion with Rome. This change in our church understanding has not yet adequately influenced the ways that we Catholics think and talk about “the Church.” When we speak as though other Christians are totally “outside,” there is something lacking in our understanding.

Holding together the Catholic and the ecumenical belongs to the heart of our Catholic faith. So Pope John Paul II wrote on unity in 1995: “ecumenism, the movement promoting 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, and consequently must pervade all that she is and does” (*Ut Unum Sint*, #20). Following the Council it is no longer acceptable for Catholics to define what it means to be authentically Catholic in anti-Protestant terms—that the more you emphasize what Protestants deny, the more Catholic you must be! To be Catholic is to embrace the fullness of the biblical revelation, the fullness of Jesus Christ, the universal service of the Pope and to stand against all individualistic tendencies that weaken the ecclesial and corporate character of Christian faith. So, in *Ut Unum Sint*, John Paul II describes his ministry as Pope as a “ministry of unity” to bring the whole Body of

Prayer Card

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be whole and without blemish before him.”

Ephesians 1: 3-4

Christ to its fullness of being “one” as Jesus and his Father are one.

Many are concerned today about the future of the Renewal. Fr. Cantalamessa has said that if the Renewal is not prophetic, it is nothing. One of the areas at the heart of the prophetic dimension of CCR is its ecumenical character. When we lose that, we lose the deep dynamism of the Spirit. But what can we do to ensure that the Renewal is both Catholic and ecumenical? **First**, and most fundamental, we have to help Catholics to acquire a new post-Vatican II sense of Catholic identity, that is defined in terms of Catholic fullness and no longer by what we are against! **Second**, we can ask what are the gifts that the others will bring to the Catholic

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Intercessions:

- ▲ For those who gather for the National Leaders and Ministries Conference in Raleigh, may they be prepared in heart, soul and spirit to receive what the Holy Spirit has prepared for them
- ▲ May the presenters of the Conference be led and protected by the Holy Spirit in the preparation and fulfilling of their ministries.
- ▲ That the National Service Committee, with the council, be attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as they gather in prayer for service.
- ▲ May the Editorial Board Planning Committee of "Pentecost Today" be blessed by the Lord with fruitful plans for future editions.
- ▲ As the leadership groups come together in January, 2010, may the fruits of their prayer and discernment help to bring growth and unity amongst all whose lives have been touched by the Holy Spirit.

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fullness that unity will require. This corresponds to the teaching in *Ut Unum Sint* that: "Dialogue is not simply an exchange of ideas. In some way it is always an 'exchange of gifts'" (#28). **Third**, we can bring the grace and empowerment of the Spirit in the Renewal to the wider Catholic work for Christian unity. **Lastly**, we need to pray. Ecumenism can never be reduced to a program! It is always a calling that can only be received in prayer. ♦



Fr Peter Hocken is a priest from England who lived in the USA for 20 years. He is a member of the Doctrinal Committee of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services.

by Jane Guenther

Five years ago in January I was appointed to the position of Coordinator of our Archdiocesan Renewal Center and one of the first questions I was asked by a priest friend was, "What is the pastoral plan for the Catholic Renewal Center?" That single question has shaped the approach to our Center's development. So what exactly is pastoral planning? In the case of the Catholic Renewal Center it was establishing a mission statement for our work in response to the Archbishop's mission for the archdiocese "to bring Jesus Christ to others with a new enthusiasm and new energy."

That was not difficult for it is the Holy Spirit that is the power behind our enthusiasm and energy. Once a mission statement was established, we brought together a group of leaders in the Renewal and had a daylong brainstorming session at a local retreat center. We established some visioning

It seemed as though the most important step to bring the Holy Spirit was to establish consistent events to expose the hidden treasure.

for the Renewal and developed plans to implement the vision and priorities. The Renewal Center's Service Committee met and established steps to achieve the mission. It seemed as though the most important step to bring the Holy Spirit was to establish consistent events to expose the hidden treasure. For years the National Service Committee has encouraged us to bring the Renewal down the "center aisle" of the Church. Keeping that in mind we wanted to be as concrete as we could to bring this treasure to the heart of the Church.

Establishing Life in the Spirit Seminars and Healing Masses in the 10 Deaneries of the Archdiocese was a first. Although it took two years we have established a Life in the Spirit Seminar



How we share the hidden treasure of the Holy Spirit

(LISS) within our local seminary. We will be holding our third annual seminary LISS this fall. The seminary has a Thursday evening prayer meeting to follow-up for the remaining of the school year. We moved on to host the first religious sisters' LISS and they are beginning a prayer meeting this August. This fall we will also be offering a LISS for the Curia of the Archdiocese. It has been a wonderful gift to see the Spirit ignite in the hearts of these committed faithful.

One of the benefits of collaborative ministry is that the gifts of each can be used for the common good. Yes in some ways our Center tries to implement one of the four pillars of Catholic social teaching: common good. In recognizing the gifts of other ministries in your diocese you can move to work together on programs and projects that will help the entire Church. Working with the local stewardship office to expose the talent portion of stewardship has been a rewarding process and certainly brings the Holy Spirit into the heart of each parish. Working with the youth ministry we are spreading our wings to help out with Girl and Boy Scout retreats on the Holy Spirit, and of course with Life in the Spirit Seminars for teens. Partnering with the Office of Evangelization to help bring a School of Evangelization to the parish leaders of the archdiocese bore much fruit. Looking at some of the ways in which the Charismatic Renewal has sprouted ministries like the Magnificat and working to establish them on a solid foundation within the archdiocese takes concerted pastoral planning. Patience is a must if you are going to grow strong.

Spreading the message in a systematic way can be beneficial for the liaison in reporting to the bishop about the work



being accomplished among the faithful. It gives a way for adjusting programs to fit the needs that may be seen throughout the Church. We know that the "Spirit blows where it will" and we certainly can be willing to live by "you can't change the direction of the wind but you can adjust your sails." A willingness to work in cooperation with the Spirit and others in ministry will lead to successfully bringing the Renewal to the heart of the Church. We all have to recognize that the Spirit is always doing something new. In Isaiah we hear "I am doing something new;" at the birth of the Renewal over 40 years ago everything was new. The challenge now is to grow as Pope John Paul II encouraged us in "ecclesial maturity" and I believe that takes pastoral planning. Children have a tendency to act quickly and sometimes get burned. In our maturity we have better sense. We can anticipate and plan to move with the Spirit with conviction and certainty exercising the gift of discernment in the process.

Ongoing training for leaders is a must to keep the flame fanned. It is important to create opportunities for larger gatherings of those in the Renewal where manifestations of the Spirit will be diverse. Our prayer groups allow for the intimacy of the Lord to be among God's people and the larger area wide gatherings of prayer groups gives way to surrendering to the Spirit in a larger Church setting with a wider circle of gifts being used. Giving opportunities for those involved in the Renewal to hear what is happening nationally and

internationally within the Renewal is also essential in the pastoral plan. It helps us move out of isolation into the fullness of the community of the worldwide Church.

Creating evaluations for programs aids in successfully elevating the program to benefit God's people the most. "If something is worth doing it is worth doing well." These wise words pull us in a direction of understanding why we work on pastoral plans and work to implement them.

Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap writes in the book *Remembering Jesus Christ*, "another characteristic of kerygma: it has an explosive or generative character, so to speak. It is more like the seed that becomes a tree than the ripe fruit at the top of the tree that in Christianity is constituted by charity." The real test of the kerygmatic experience is what a pastoral plan hopes to accomplish: the formation of disciples who actively participate in the mission of the Church, to evangelize. Pope Paul VI said, "Finally the person who has been evangelized goes on to evangelize others. Here lies the test of truth, the touchstone of evangelization: it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word, and give himself to the kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 24). May you have success in developing a pastoral plan for the Renewal in your area that will help build the kingdom. ♦



Jane Guenther, M.Div. is the Catholic Renewal Center Coordinator and a member of the National Service Committee.

Your grace is enough

Charismatic conferences and events over the last six months have responded counter culturally to the worldwide economic difficulties with the Lord leading his people to turn to him and trust him alone.

At the Diocesan Charismatic Conference in Corpus Christi, Texas the planning committee was led to take the Lord's promise to St. Paul, "My grace is enough for you" (2 Cor. 12:9) and turn it into a statement of trust and abandonment, "Your grace is enough." This statement of trust and abandonment was expressed in different ways in the conferences and events contacted.

At the 18th Charismatic Congress of the Haitian Catholics in the U.S. the several thousand attendees heard the Lord speak of the power of the Cross for inner healing and hope as they gathered under the theme, "We preach a Messiah crucified and resurrected." (see 1 Cor. 1:23) 250 youth in their separate session were challenged to a deeper realization of the sacrifice of Jesus and nearly all of them were moved to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Haitian experience was multiplied at the nineteen youth conferences sponsored by the Franciscan University of Steubenville, four on the campus and fifteen off campus involving 36,500 attendees who gathered under the theme, "Above All." Amidst the competing realities that young people (and all of us) face, such as the desire for immediate gratification, they heard a

call to enter into a long journey and live for him, since God is bigger and better. There were many signs of conversion: from resting in the Spirit to the "opening of hearts" with over 60% of the attendees first timers.

At the Power of the Word Conference hosted by the Mother of God Community in Gaithersburg and at the Charismatic Conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Damian Stayne of England was used mightily not only in the proclamation of the Word but in the signs and wonders the Lord did in both places to confirm the Word. In Gaithersburg, Damian shared that he has seen a greater outpouring of the "miraculous" in the last two years as we move into what he called a "season of the miraculous." In Steubenville, over 200 participants claimed some kind of healing. The prophetic challenge was the call to repent of unbelief and grow in expectant faith for the miraculous. There is more power, and more signs and wonders to come...the new Pentecost is getting ready for phase two.

The experience of God's grace in the form of physical healing was part of the International Conference held in South Korea in early June. While the conference drew over 1,000 people from 43 countries, 50,000 attended an open rally. The Lord moved both during the conference and after through the ministry of Bob Canton: instant healings of blind, paralyzed and deaf people, and deliverance in the mighty name of Jesus to some who were oppressed by demonic spirits.

At the Association of Diocesan Liaisons Conference in April, those who gathered to reflect on St. Paul's teaching received a prophetic word that challenged them and all leaders to a deeper level of trust and willingness to risk and obey. The word proclaimed and discerned promised, "Eye has not seen nor ear heard what I am about to do through them but it will require surrender, surrender of old ways, old ideas and familiarity...if they are open to receive my heart they will see many miracles—the blind will see, the lame will walk, even the dead shall rise."

Msgr. Joseph Malagrega of the Diocese of Brooklyn challenged the liaisons that Paul taught, mentored, and sent to be the leaders, a number of people of another generation. He then asked, has the leadership in the Renewal done that? It is not a matter of drawing them into our "wave" of the Spirit. They are caught up in a new "wave" of the Spirit with its own challenges and gifts for it is a new time.

At the North American Conference of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships in June the attendees heard a no less important word for the times in which we live. The word comes from John 15:14-17: that we are to love one another, that we are called into fellowship/friendship with the Lord (and the Father and the Spirit), and that the Lord chose us to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

As the experience of recent conferences and other events gives witness, we continue to live in exciting times: times of God's miraculous interventions. The message of physical and inner healing is linked to trust in the Lord's care, mercy and grace. Truly, "your grace is enough." ♦

Pope Benedict addresses charismatic communities & fellowships

His Holiness Benedict XVI addresses the participants at the meeting of Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships, October 31, 2008.

Below are excerpts of the address.

❖ As I have been able to affirm in other circumstances, the Ecclesial Movements and New Communities which blossomed after the Second Vatican Council, constitute a unique gift of the Lord and a precious resource for the life of the Church. They should be accepted with trust and valued for the various contributions they place at the service of the common benefit in an ordered and fruitful way.

❖ What we learn in the New Testament on charisms, which appeared as visible signs of the coming of the Holy Spirit, is not a historical event of the past, but a reality ever alive. It is the same divine Spirit, soul of the Church, that acts in every age and those mysterious and effective interventions of the Spirit are manifest in our time in a providential way. The Movements and New Communities are like an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in contemporary society. We can, therefore, rightly say that one of the positive elements and aspects of the Community of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is precisely their emphasis on the charisms or gifts of the Holy Spirit.

❖ Among these new ecclesial realities recognized by the Holy See is listed also your Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships, International Association of the faithful that carries out a specific mis-

sion in the heart of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. One of its objectives, conforming to the indications of my venerable Predecessor John Paul II is to safeguard the Catholic identity of Charismatic Communities and to encourage them to maintain a strict bond with the Bishops and with the Roman Pontiff.

❖ I was pleased to learn that the Constitutions propose to establish a Permanent Formation Centre for the members and leaders of Charismatic Communities. This would allow the Catholic Fraternity to better appreciate its own ecclesial mission oriented to evangelization, to the liturgy, to adoration, to ecumenism, to the family, to youth and to vocations of special consecration. Safeguarding the fidelity to the Catholic and ecclesial identity on the part of each one of your communities will permit you to render everywhere a living and active witness of the profound mystery of the Church.

And it will be this indeed that promotes the capacity of the various communities to attract new members. I entrust the work of your respective conventions to the protection of Mary, Mother of the Church, living Temple of the Holy Spirit, and to the intercession of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi, examples of holiness and spiritual renewal, while I affectionately impart to you and to all your communities a special Apostolic Blessing.

These excerpts were taken from a special issue of the ICCRS Leadership Formation. Volume XXXV, Number 1. January-February 2009. The full text of the message is available on the NSC website: www.nsc-chariscenter.org.

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Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

Once baptized in the Holy Spirit, you never know what is going to happen. In the early 1970's two Marianist priests, Fr. Bob Hogan and I (Fr. George Montague), felt our sails filled with the wind of the Holy Spirit. But we had no idea where this Wind would take us. Of course, like other Marianists we were involved with charismatic prayer groups. But the Lord began to stir our hearts with this dream: what would our Marianist community life and mission be like if empowered by the Holy Spirit in his full role, charisms included? We would be Marian, welcoming Mary as the Beloved Disciple did at the foot of the cross, but also charismatic. We had hoped to make it a community within the Marianists, but as we explored further with our superiors—who, praise God, were supportive of the idea—it became evident that we could not achieve the dream canonically within the Marianists. We would have to go

through the Archdiocese of San Antonio. In 1997 Father Bob and I received permission to begin with two candidates in a house on Davy Crockett Street. We were walking a path through unknown woods, but out of the forest leaped benefactors with a rent-free house, a red Toyota, an old but little used Silverado truck, and very substantial monetary gifts. In the midst of a flood in 1998, I retrieved a letter from our mailbox: the Archdiocese recognized us as the first step toward becoming a full-fledged religious community! What a flood! Two years later the Archdiocese offered us a parish, St. Mary Magdalen, with a former convent for our residence. We were joined by another Marianist, Father Joseph Mary Marshall, and in 2004 our first priest for the new community was ordained, Father Will Combs. We now have two more aspirants, one of whom wishes to serve as a brother. Praise the Lord! ♦

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Love continued from page 3

are to cherish and cultivate. For Paul says the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. These are opposed to each other. Docility to the Holy Spirit at work in us is needed, and this often demands death to our own will and ego.

So what is the secret to a victorious life of living in the fruits of the Spirit? Jesus tells us quite clearly. He says that we are to remain in him. As a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can we. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. If we remain in him we'll bear much fruit. Without him we can do nothing (Jn. 15:4-5). Only as we abide in the Vine, who is Christ, can we bear the fruit of **love, joy and peace**. And the key word is abide, which is the constant ongoing union with Jesus.

Aids to abide in the vine include daily spending quality time alone with the Lord, as well as walking and talking with the Indwelling Presence of Jesus, who is the fount of all love, joy and peace. Daily prayerful reading of God's Word, frequent Confession, regular Mass and Communion are our nourishment. As Jesus says, "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (Jn. 6:56).

The fruits of the Spirit are our inheritance as sons and daughters of God. We can't obtain these gifts by seeking them. They are byproducts of our living in the Lord. When we are loving, joyful and peaceful we bring joy, comfort and consolation to those we meet. Probably those closest to us could give us a good idea as to how habitually we are living in the fruits of the Spirit.

It's so clear, so simple and yet not always easy. To have true love, joy and peace we need to be intimately united to Jesus, the Vine. It means living not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. "So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Cor. 5:17). ♦

Sister Christine Edwards, S.F.P. is a Franciscan Sister of the Poor. She is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Lighthouse Community and Lighthouse Renewal Center and also serves as Chairperson of the Charismatic Regional Service Team for the Cincinnati Archdiocese and the Covington, Kentucky Diocese. She is on the NSC Council.



Our liaison call

by Gail Riedman

We are called as ambassadors, or conduits between our Bishop and our community to be a constant giving gift as we help build our church. It is truly a humbling and exciting call, constantly transforming as we minister and meet the varied needs of our community. More and more the Lord is calling us to be prepared to do whatever he calls us to do. His work depends on those who are willing to listen, surrender to his will, trust, obey and act.

This year the title of our Leadership Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, October 23-25th 2009, is "Equipping us for Our Mission as Leaders and Ministers." What a wonderful title to prepare us for what we have been called to do as leaders! In our last Theological Symposium, Msgr. Malagrecia presented a paper on St. Paul, titled "All in All." The paper was magnificent.

Two words continually reflected throughout the paper were **perseverance** and **flexibility**. After his transformation, St. Paul had to be flexible and persevere in each task he was presented with. Whether he was in Syria, Turkey, Capernaum, and other cultures, St. Paul learned to trust the Lord in his spoken word and his call to evangelize. We are also being called to be flexible and to persevere as we continue to build up the church and evangelize others. The Lord also calls **us** to be committed, by being willing to discern and pray in an instant, to call on the Lord for healing prayer, to praise in all circumstances and to be bold.

Throughout my ministries in Europe, Korea, Panama and United States as a Spirit-filled Catholic and Liaison for the Charismatic Renewal, the Lord has presented me with many challenging situations. When I was obedient and said "yes" to his call; everyone and every-

thing would flow perfectly. Each ministry was achieved with perseverance and flexibility. I knew I couldn't answer the call without our Triune Lord's help—the Father, always present with his **unconditional love**, our Lord Jesus, his Son who gives us life, forgiveness and direction, and the Holy Spirit teaching us wisdom, truth, discernment, and the joy of the Lord as our strength. I also thank God for the richness of our faith and the gifts of the Sacraments, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist which continually feeds us and reminds us, that he never abandons us and constantly works, with and through us. Yes, it can be overwhelming sometimes, but never impossible, because **without** him we are nothing, but **with** him, we are able to answer our call as Liaisons. **Praise God every day. It helps!** ♦

Gail Riedman, Steering Committee, Secretary, Association of Diocesan Liaisons.

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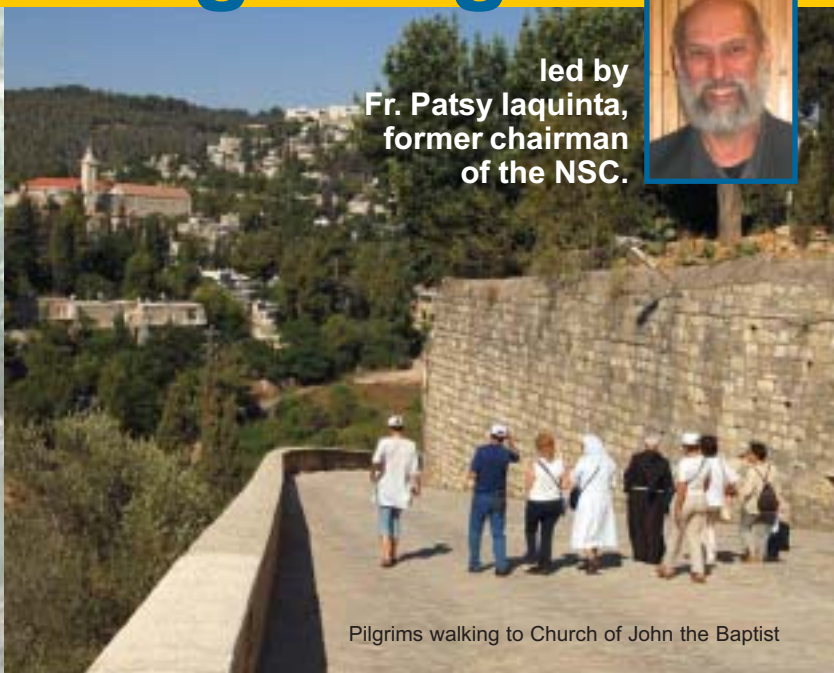
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From the Executive Director

.....
by Walter Matthews

We have the resources you need

“Assisting leadership development” as expressed in the revised NSC Mission Statement has been one of the services of the National Service Committee since our beginnings. We do this in a number of ways: through Leaders’ Conferences, Outreach Events and *Pentecost Today* itself. One of the hidden ways we seek to assist leadership development is through the recording of the main talks and workshops at the Leaders’ Conferences held in recent years and then making these recordings available for sale not only on site but through our website www.nsc-chariscenter.org/resources.htm.

If you visit that section of the website you will find (at the bottom of the page) a link to the recordings list. We have grouped the cds/audiotapes and in some cases videotapes and dvds into several areas:

- ▶ Charismatic Renewal at the Heart of the Church
- ▶ Charisms
- ▶ Conversion/Holiness
- ▶ Evangelization
- ▶ Healing & Prayer Room Ministry
- ▶ Prayer and Intercession
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Prayer and Worship
- ▶ Practical Tools for Moving Forward
- ▶ Prayer Groups
- ▶ Prophetic Call of the Church to the Charismatic Renewal
- ▶ Spirituality of Pentecost
- ▶ Theological/Historical
- ▶ Youth to Young Adult Ministry

Under Leadership you will find talks by Jim Murphy “Holy and Skilled: Qualities of Fruitful and Effective Leadership” and Jim Beckman’s “Raising Up and Training Leaders.”

If you are concerned about Praise and Worship you’ll find Aggie Neck’s “His praise shall be ever in my mouth’ (Ps. 34:2), Praise as a Way of Life,” and Bill Richart’s “Leading Praise and Worship with Whatever the Lord Provides.”

If you want to improve your Life in the Spirit Seminars try Therese Boucher’s “Successful Life in the Spirit Seminars.” If you want to reach young people preparing for Confirmation get Ros Hernandez’s “Life in the Spirit and Confirmation: San Antonio Model.”

If your prayer group needs strengthening look for David Thorp’s “Vision and Role of Prayer Groups” or Deacon Bill Brennan’s “Stir the Vision into Flame!”

The choices are many and the teachings and exhortations are solid. Our speakers are gifted men and women such as Fr. George Montague, Bishop Sam Jacobs, Sr. Nancy Kellar, S.C., Linda Schubert, Dave Mangan, Chuck Hornsby, Tom Curran and so many more.

Whether used for personal growth and enrichment or by a whole prayer group for communal growth and enrichment these audio resources are essential tools if the Renewal is to continue to grow and bear fruit, and to pass this grace on to the next generation.

Hope to see you in Raleigh at the National Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference, October 23–25 where speakers such as Ralph Martin, Aggie Neck, David Thorp, Mark Nimo and others will inspire and teach us. If you are not able to come, look for the Audio Recordings on our website. ♦

Friends of the NSC

We are grateful to all those who partner with us as “Friends of the NSC” for as of the end of the summer the Committee’s donations are about what we projected in these very difficult economic times.

We again invite recipients of *Pentecost Today* who are not active donors to consider even a small donation of \$10 or \$15 in support of this work of continuing to proclaim “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.”

In 2002 **Gerry Mader**, at that time a member of the NSC Council, was asked by the NSC to assist the Service Committee with our outreach to our Fanning the Flame Partners and others. Earlier this year Gerry, a member of the Service Committee since 2005, informed the Service Committee of his decision to retire as Development Manager effective July 31.

The Service Committee would like to thank Gerry for his service over the past seven years. He has helped us receive the abundant provision that the Lord gives us through his people.

At this time we are privileged to announce that **Robert King** of Seattle has taken over as Donor Outreach Manager effective August 1. (This is the part time position Gerry held, now retitled.) Robert has been involved in the Renewal since 1990 when he was a high school student. Since college he has worked and served in the Church in a number of capacities including fund raising. He was able to visit Chariscenter USA in mid-August. He shared, “The Holy Spirit is the driving force in my life. He always calls me deeper into the life of Christ and the love of the Father.” He is looking forward to helping the NSC spread the good news of God’s love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We welcome Robert and we ask our Friends to pray for him as he takes up this important work and welcome him when he calls.

Executive Director

Walter Matthews

Editorial Board

Jane Guenther

Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

Editor

Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM

Production Manager

Jean Beers

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For Your Information

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Please mail to:

National Service Committee

Chariscenter USA

PO Box 628

Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628

Tel. (540) 972-0225

www.nsc-chariscenter.org

National Service Committee members:

Fr. Richard Loch (Chairman)

Jane Barz

Johnny Bertucci

Caroline Gambale-Dirkes

Jane Guenther

Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

Chuck Hornsby

Judith Hughes

Gerry Mader

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What we have seen and heard

.....
by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner



Ecumenical roots

In this issue of *Pentecost Today* one can read Fr. Peter Hocken's article regarding the ecumenical character of the charismatic renewal. This reality is true in my own experience.

For me the journey was definitely one of being prayed for by both Catholics and Protestants. This is a grace of this renewal. In the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis in Minnesota we were blessed for many years with both a large Catholic Conference and a large Lutheran Conference. Each denomination invited a speaker of the other denomination as a main session speaker. In Mankato, Minnesota the River of Life Prayer Community, ecumenical from its very beginning, held a healing conference for many years and would alternate inviting a Catholic one year and a person of another denomination another year as its main speaker.

Much of my ministry has been with both Catholics and Protestants. I was part of the ecumenical charismatic prayer group, River of Life, for 21 consecutive years and even worked for them for six of those years. (I also ministered to Protestants as a hospital and hospice chaplain for 11 years.) I am back in Mankato ministering as a Parish Pastoral Associate and I am blessed to again be meeting with the River of Life prayer group. This autumn River of Life is celebrating its 40th anniversary as an ecumenical prayer group. While, as with many prayer groups, the size swelled and then diminished, this group never lost its ecumenical character, always willing to acknowledge that we are not all the same in our doctrinal beliefs but always seeking, and

at times struggling, to be one in what we do share and that is faith in the Triune God. Our prayer, even today with a small group, is deep in praise and worship, often leading us into a time of silence after almost an hour of praise that includes extended periods of singing in tongues. We have been blessed over the years with the charisms of tongues, interpretation, prophecy, teaching and healing. Within our group, one can pray with anyone, no matter one's denomination.

One might say that we have nurtured the fruit of the Spirit, that is love for one another. *May God be praised!* ♦

2009 INDEX

Find each article published in the 2009 edition of *Pentecost Today* on our website.

Some of the categories available for your resource material include:

- ⇄ Fruit of the Spirit
- ⇄ A Dimension of Vision
- ⇄ Join the Journey
- ⇄ Charismatic Renewal Today
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- ⇄ Prayer ⇄ Spiritual Formation
- ⇄ Proclamation of the Word

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David Thorp
Aggie Neck
Mark Nimo

Chuck Hornsby
Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD
Judith Hughes
Arlene Apone
And others

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