

IGNITE!

Charisms Renewal Unity

But how can we learn to respond to this invitation, and grow in yielding to the Holy Spirit?

by Tammie Stevens

You are invited! Aren't those wonderful words to hear? When we are invited to someone's house we can expect to receive hospitality, to be cared for and even to be fed. When we are invited to attend a concert or see a movie, we can expect that we may be entertained. When we are invited to a wedding, we expect to witness a special occasion and afterward will give witness to the love that we saw in the bride and groom.

Whenever we receive an invitation we are called to respond in some way; to attend, to receive that which is offered, to be a witness to what is before us. It's the same when we receive an invitation from our Lord.

We are invited to participate in his saving work. We are invited to cooperate with the Gift which *is* the Holy Spirit using the gifts, or charisms, that the Lord provides. We are invited to be witnesses to the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit, to that love which is poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, our source of hope!

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(Romans 5:5)



But how can we learn to respond to this invitation, and grow in yielding to the Holy Spirit? One opportunity, if you are serving in your prayer group, parish, diocese, charismatic ministry, or are simply seeking growth in the Spirit, is to attend the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference on November 7-9 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Our theme for the 2014 conference is IGNITE! Charisms, Renewal, Unity. In Luke 12:49 Jesus says: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" It is the fire of the Holy Spirit that we desire for the Lord to ignite in our hearts. It is both a purifying and transforming fire.

In preparation for this event we noticed that the word IGNITE can be used in multiple contexts. For all who have experienced baptism in the Holy Spirit we can recognize that the Lord has already inflamed our hearts with the fire of his love. We remember that we *have been* IGNITED.

It is also a word for today; an invoking of the Holy Spirit to act in our lives again, anew. We realize that this fire must be refreshed and continually fanned into a flame in order that we may live out the purpose that the Lord has for us. Lord, we pray that *today* you would IGNITE us!

It is also a word for mission. We are called, through the grace that has been poured into us, to pour out and IGNITE others. It is a call to participate in the action of the Holy Spirit to equip, mentor, and encourage others; offering the charisms that we have been given to build up the Church and bring the light of Christ to dispel the darkness of the world.

Our principal speakers for this event include Fr. Killian Loch, OSB; Michelle Moran, Mark Nimo, and Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR. They will speak on themes which will inspire us and stir into a flame the gift that has been given to us (2 Tim 1:6). They will be joined by numerous workshop presenters who will unpack the themes on **Charisms**, with both practical and theological emphases; the **Renewal** as grace for the Church, including how to raise up and nurture new leaders; and the call to **Unity**, whether in the home, among various ministries, or within the wider Church.

These themes highlight our focus in 2014 as the “Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church,” and prepare us for

2015 as the “Year of Unity,” designated by the National Leadership Groups in preparation for the 50th Jubilee of the Renewal in 2017. We will also have a special Young Leaders Track, focusing and equipping them for ministry empowered by the Holy Spirit.

This is an exciting time as we continue to prepare for the 50th Jubilee of the Renewal and beyond; a time of hope and of joy! In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis says: “How I long to find the right words to stir up enthusiasm for a new chapter of evangelization full of fervor, joy, generosity, courage, boundless love and attraction! Yet I realize that no words of encouragement will be enough unless the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in our hearts” (261). Are you ready to be IGNITED with this fire? You are invited! ♦



Tammie Stevens is a member of the National Service Committee and works at Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Seattle.

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The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

by Sister Regina Marie Barsoum, DLJC

The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ is a Franciscan, Charismatic Religious Institute founded in 1972 by Mother John Marie Stewart and canonically erected in the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas in 1991. We take the Rule of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis, and as TOR Franciscans our charism is metanoia. This life of metanoia, or on-going conversion, is lived out in our particular charism of prayer, praise and evangelization.

It is our personal daily conversion, in taking up the cross and following after Christ, that our life of prayer and praise



is enlivened. This is symbolically represented by the wooden cross that we carry in our cincture. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, sung Liturgy of the Hours, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, two hours of private prayer, and weekly prayer meetings are the foundation of all we do. From this deep life of contemplation and praise flows our ministry of evangelization.

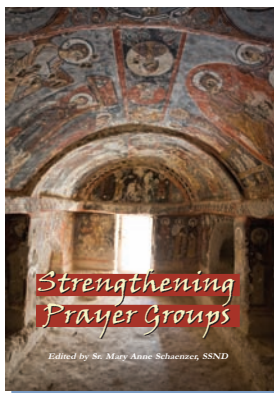
The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ seek to witness the Gospel and draw all people into a personal relationship

with Jesus through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. We labor in this way by giving Life and Growth in the Spirit seminars, adult and youth retreats, parish missions, foreign missions, and one-on-one evangelization. We travel throughout the United States and abroad to bring the Good News to a culture that is thirsting for the truth and the touch of the Holy Spirit.

As Mother John Marie was led by the Lord in the earliest days, "You take care of my business and I will take care of yours," as sisters we live in total dependence on God's providence. Living by donations and minimal stipends for the ministries we do, we are able to see the hand of God providing for all of our needs. We go and evangelize as the Lord leads, and he provides for all of our needs.

If you are thinking about a call to religious life or would like to know more about the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, contact the vocation directress at dljcvocations@gmail.com or visit our website www.dljc.org. ♦

Help for Prayer Groups



National Service Committee resources offer help for prayer groups. Written by experienced leaders in the Renewal, NSC books and leaflets tackle a variety of circumstances faced by individuals and prayer groups.

Strengthening Prayer Groups contains articles written for *Pentecost Today* magazine to specifically build up charismatic groups. Fourteen articles in the booklet focus on group concerns, among them: Vision for prayer groups; Ten steps to better worship leading; How to encourage charisms in prayer

meetings; Building strong core groups; How to keep prayer groups vibrant; and many others. A terrific resource for only \$2.50.

NSC leaflets contain solid teaching to help both leaders and groups. Several subjects covered are: *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit*; *Charismatic Prayer Meetings*; *Understanding and Exercising the Gift of Prophecy*; *Praise and Worship*; *The Gift (Charism) of Tongues*; *Introduction to Teachings at Prayer Meetings*; *Pastoring the Word Gifts*. Leaflets are available for .50 each.

Call 1-800-338-2445 to order, ask about discounts.

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This is a Franciscan and charismatic religious order of sisters, contemplative with evangelistic apostolates.

View From the Upper Room

by Deacon Bill Brennan, Diocese of Stockton, California

From November 14 through 18, 2013, three of us from the Steering Committee of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons represented the liaisons from the United States and Canada at the ICCRS event called a Prophetic Consultation and held in Bethlehem with one day (Sunday) in Jerusalem. There were about 160 Catholic Charismatic leaders in attendance, and we came from 47 different countries. The purpose of the gathering was simply to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to him. The time together was a true blessing for all of us, and I am sure will bear much fruit in the future.

We stayed in a new Palestinian Christian hotel on the edge of Manger Square, and we spent a good deal of time praying, sharing, listening and ministering to one another. In between we did visit some of the holy places in Bethlehem and even shopped a bit. The presence of the Lord was palpable throughout our time in the City of David, but for me, however, the high point of our experience was what happened in the Upper Room during our one day visit to Jerusalem.

After a short bus ride to the Old City we began our trek through some of the holiest places in the Holy Land. At each site we visited, we paused to listen to a presentation on life in the Spirit and its challenges. By nightfall, we were at the Upper Room, the site of the first Pentecost. As we entered (we were the only ones there at that moment), we filled about three quarters of the room. And then we had a rousing, triumphant prayer meeting.

The room filled with the fire of the Spirit. Our prayer in tongues was strong as we praised our God and glorified Jesus. As we prayed one or more other groups entered the room and joined us until the room had filled to capacity, wall to wall. People were even standing on the staircase that rises on one wall. It was a glorious moment. And the Lord spoke to us in prophecies that we will ponder in our hearts for a long time to come. Through it all, we three held the liaisons in our hearts and interceded for them.

I believe that the Lord started something that will be a blessing for the Renewal worldwide. He certainly encouraged us not to give up but to expect more of his love to follow. It is the hope and prayer of the Steering Committee that we will manifest the fruit of our experience in our service to all the liaisons. Jesus is Lord! ♦

For information on the Diocesan Liaison ministry go to www.associationofdiocesanliaisons.org.

They Were All Gathered In One Place

In 1998, in the Year of the Holy Spirit in preparation for the Great Jubilee of 2000, Pope John Paul II gathered in St. Peter's Square nearly a half million representatives and participants in the movements and new communities and said, "The Holy Spirit is here with us! It is He who is the soul of this marvelous event of ecclesial communion."

In a similar, but much more modest way, representatives and participants in the movements and new communities in the U.S. have been invited to Washington, D.C. for a one-day "Celebration of Catholic Movements and New Communities in the Service of the New Evangelization" on Saturday, August 9.

Keynote speakers include Ralph Martin, Jackie DeMesme-Gray (Cursillo)

and Cardinal Donald Wuerl. Bishop Sam Jacobs will lead us in prayer.

We hope to gather 1500–2000 participants from not only the various expressions of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, but also Cursillo, Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the Neocatechumenal Way, Focolare, Arise International and many other expressions of this "grace of the Holy Spirit." This is what Pope Francis said on his return from World Youth Day in Brazil, "I think the Movements are a grace of the Holy Spirit."

We want to encourage you, especially if you are within driving distance of Washington, to consider attending and to bring a bus or carload of participants. There is no official housing but motels near BWI Airport and in Columbia,

Maryland are nearby. The Celebration will be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Olney, Maryland just on the north side of Washington, D.C. We are asking the Renewal in the nearby Dioceses to offer housing to travelers in need. There will be no registration fee however participants will need a ticket for admission. More information is available on our website.

The Celebration will include Mass, praise and worship, witnesses, conversations, lunch and so much more. It will be the place to be!

Why? To celebrate what the Lord is doing in the Renewal and in the other movements and new communities through the power of the Holy Spirit and to give witness to these charisms for the Church in the U.S. as we go forward in the New Evangelization. ♦

From the
Executive
Director

.....



by Walter Matthews

Seed Sown, Light Shining

Recently the Church's Liturgy has had us reflect on four little parables in Mark's Gospel: the lamp, the measure, the seed growing by itself and the mustard seed (4:21-32). In Mark these all refer to Jesus' teaching, although they are given different meanings in Luke and Matthew.

When we were reading these parables we had just returned from the Annual Gathering of National Leadership Groups: Catholic Charismatic Renewal. At the Gathering were representatives of the Filipino, Haitian, Hispanic, and Korean Renewal, the Catholic Fraternity, the Diocesan Liaison Steering Committee and the NSC. There, efforts related to bringing together a wide spectrum of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the U.S. in 2017 to celebrate our 50th Anniversary Jubilee were shared and moved forward; all in the context of the 5-Year Journey to the Jubilee announced by the Leadership Groups at the 45th Anniversary Conference in Philadelphia in 2012. (More information is on our website.)

To achieve the result of an "enlarged tent" we have been working hard to call the Renewal to life-giving repentance, Spirit-filled faith and now to reflect this year on Charisms and Grace for the Church—the latter referring to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as

a movement, an ecclesial movement. (For more information see our website.) Next year, in our Journey, is a Year of Unity, and 2016 is a Year of Mission.

Some of this effort has been hidden but it is a seed sown that "night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how he does not know" (Mk 4:27). It is a light to be put on the lamp-stand (see 4:22). **There will be a Jubilee Conference in 2017 called together by the National Leadership Groups and others.** The exact dates and locations are not yet settled, but will be soon. Wait for it and watch for it. Then plan to come!

The Jubilee will be a time of grace for the Renewal and for those who have had their lives transformed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our day through being baptized in the Holy Spirit, especially if we go forward together in an increased communion giving thanks for this outpouring and affirming our common heritage.

So much of the work of the NSC has this hidden character: behind the scenes conversations and exchanges of emails; multiple conversations to set up an Outreach Event or plan this year's National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference; extensive editing and review of articles for *Pentecost Today* or the eNewsletter, and so much more. At times I want to stand on a rooftop and proclaim "what you have whispered in hidden places" (Lk 12:3).

Please pray for us as we pray for you. Let us rejoice in God's gift to the Renewal of Pope Francis and his affirmation of the Renewal and even of key elements like the prayer of praise. ♦

Friends of the NSC

Thank you to all of our donors who supported us in 2013.

We were able to end the year in the black with some monies available for the work and ministry of strengthening the Renewal and reaching out in new ways as we make our journey to the Renewal's Jubilee in 2017.

We want to thank especially those who gave in honor or in memory of family, friends and Renewal members.


Honored included: Oscar Aparicio, Cenacle Prayer Group (Palos Hts, IL), the Lord for the Renewal, John and Carolyn Dean, Stan and Bonat Farley, Martha Gomes, Mark Horgan, Bob and June Marnell, Patrick Nolan, Barbara Sheridan, John and Maryann Trucano, and Carmen Vazquez.

In memoriam: Medley Christopher, John Collin Clark III, Fr. Harold Cohen, Romualdo R. Dator, Anastasia DeLong, Sally Doise, Fr. Jim Ferry, Brenda Freeman, Priscilla Freeman, Zoraida Garcia, Walter Glatzel, Catherine Gunzerath, Fr. Gerard Hayes, Fred Hill, Angela Jewell, Marlene Marmande, and Michael McNamara.

Also, Michael O'Sullivan, Jim Paulus, Cherish Pincon, Minor Pipes, Marilyn Popp, Irene V. Schreck, deceased members of the Spirit of Love Prayer Community (Schnectady, NY), Msgr. Edward Trainor, deceased members of the Ve Sota Family, Thomas Paul Waters, Marion Way, Mary Catherine Welte, and Jean Wolverton.

Finally, for all the deceased and living members of God's Little Flock Prayer Group (Destrehan, LA).

For those who are writing a Will or an Estate Plan, please consider including the NSC: leave a legacy to help pass the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit to the next generation.



Toward the Jubilee

"50 Years of Grace for the New Evangelization!"

A new and exciting campaign was announced during the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference, September 13-15, in Denver. *Toward the Jubilee! 50 Years of Grace for the New Evangelization* is the theme for this challenging effort to raise \$1 million over 3 years leading up to the Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 2017.

The case statement for the campaign declares that to better serve the Church and move towards the anniversary of the Duquesne weekend in 2017, this campaign seeks to raise these funds with two goals in mind: expand our events and electronic outreach to newer audiences, particularly to youth and young adults (including hiring a young adult minister for this outreach) and strengthening the long-term financial sustainability of the NSC through the Third Millennium Fund for the New Evangelization.

The Renewal and this campaign have been bolstered by Pope Francis' encour-

aging remarks on various occasions. In April, the second month of his Papacy, he said: "Let us ask the Lord for the grace to become baptized persons who are brave and sure that the Holy Spirit who is in us, received at baptism, always moves us to proclaim Jesus Christ with our life, our testimony and even with our words... Look, tell them that I love them very much because I was responsible for the Charismatic Renewal in Argentina, and that's why I love them very much."

A funding feasibility study was conducted by the Development Committee of the NSC to assess the likelihood of reaching the goal. The positive conclusions were contained in the study report published just prior to the Denver Conference. A number of dedicated volunteers, from the National Service Committee, the NSC Council, and the Development Committee, contributed to the study and continue to work in the early phases of the campaign. A number of early commitments have already realized a quarter of the goal.

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

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Chariscenter USA
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www.nsc-chariscenter.org

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- Jane Guenther (Chairman)
- Jim Archer
- Jane Barz
- Johnny Bertucci
- Caroline Gambale-Dirkes
- Bp. Sam Jacobs
- Fr. Jeff Kegley
- Sr. Lucy Lukaszewicz, DLJC
- Tom Mangan
- Casey Sprehe
- Tammie Stevens

**What we have
seen and heard**

by Deacon Daniel Pudvah



NSC member Jim Archer has agreed to increase his responsibilities to coordinate important parts of the campaign during the next year. Meanwhile, here are ways you may help the success of this campaign:

♥ **Pray** for the campaign, that people will respond generously so we can expand our outreach to youth and young adults and strengthen the NSC's finances for the foreseeable future. (There are currently over 20 Contemplative Religious Communities undertaking this commitment!)

♥ **Please respond** if you are contacted by a campaign volunteer.

♥ **Prayerfully consider** your own pledge or gift. Pledges are generally made over 3 years. Outright gifts of cash or stock may be made on a one-time basis.

♥ **Share the campaign** with family, friends and even those who may not be active in the Renewal, but who have an interest in the reasons we are undertaking this.

♥ **Check our website**, www.nsc-chariscenter.org periodically for updates and details about how to make a gift. ♦

Deacon Daniel L. Pudvah is a long-time member of the Development Committee of the NSC, former member of the NSC's Advisory Committee and Chair of Luke Eleven Ministries, the service committee for the Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont. His professional career includes fund raising and funding feasibility studies.

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The Vision Statement of the National Service Committee

Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all people to experience the Holy Spirit who opens us to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and the love of the Father. The Holy Spirit empowers us for personal holiness, renewed Catholic life, and evangelization.

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Young Leaders Track for leaders in the Renewal
or potential leaders 35 or younger.