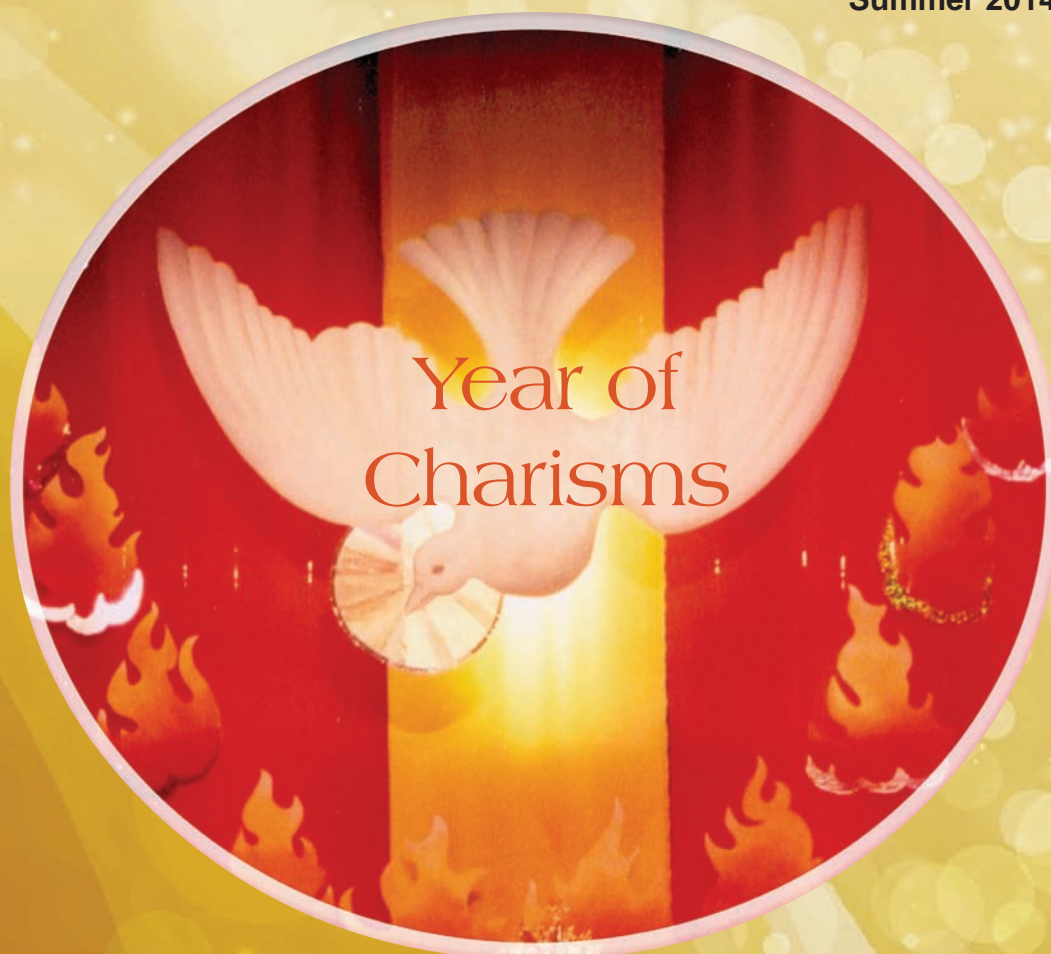


Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

PENTECOST *Today*

Summer 2014



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



Chairman's Corner

.....
by Jane Guenther

All of us in the Renewal are graced with the gift of baptism in the Holy Spirit. At the recent Liaison meeting in San Antonio, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller shared that he was going to consecrate the Archdiocese of San Antonio to the Holy Spirit this Pentecost. I felt compelled to ask Archbishop Robert Carlson of the Archdiocese of St. Louis if he would consider doing the same. He agreed. We can consecrate ourselves to Mary, to Jesus, to the Sacred Heart, or to the Holy Spirit. It is a beautiful action of recognizing that we are setting ourselves aside for a sacred purpose. The following objectives of consecration can help us more fully pray for this outpouring.

Objectives of the Consecration

1. To live and grow in the grace of God every day.
2. To know the value and the marvels of the grace.
3. To spread the knowledge and the devotion of the Holy Spirit.
4. To realize the presence of the Holy Spirit in ourselves since we are

5. To repeat frequently, acts of faith and love to the Holy Spirit.
6. To supplicate the Holy Spirit for the conversion of sinners.
7. To pray to the Holy Spirit to shower all his graces and gifts upon the universal church.
8. To ask the Holy Spirit for all his gifts as a continual personal Pentecost.
9. To open our souls to faithfulness to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit.
10. To be a tireless worker for the sanctification of oneself and of others.

The two archbishops used this prayer:

Oh, Holy Spirit, receive the perfect and complete consecration of my whole being. In all my actions, grant me the grace of being my Light, my Guide, my Strength and the Love of my heart. I surrender myself to You, and I ask You for the grace to be faithful to your inspirations. Holy Spirit, transform me through Mary and with Mary into a true image of Christ Jesus, for the glory of the Father and the salvation of the world. Amen.

*Fr. Felix de Jesus Rougier, M.Sp.S.,
Founder of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit.* ♦

*Jane Guenther is Chairman of the
National Service Committee.*



Editor's Desk

.....
by Sr. Mary Anne
Schaezner, SSND

As we were doing the final editing of this issue, the Renewal in Italy was having a powerful and exciting experience of their 37th National Convocation. Pope Francis was present and spoke at the opening session (p 13). Perhaps you watched and listened to him speak. Even though it was another language anyone who has ever participated in a large conference could almost feel like one was there and language wasn't such a great barrier—this is the work of the Holy Spirit! Caroline Gambale-Dirkes writes of her in-person experience of this conference in "What we have seen and heard" (p 15).

Pope Francis exhorted all people of the Charismatic Renewal to *be careful not to lose the freedom that the Holy Spirit has given you. You have received the great gift of the diversity of charisms, diversity that leads to the harmony of the Holy Spirit, to the service of the Church.*

A diversity of charisms and spirit of freedom is illustrated in several articles in this issue: Chuck Hornsby (p 3) reflects on how we can use the charisms in meeting the needs we encounter each day. Dave Mangan considers the charism of the Charismatic Renewal (pp 4-5). He writes of the grace of both Pentecost and the Transfiguration and refers to his experience as a *Glimpse of Heaven*. Jim Murphy (pp 8-9) singles out "Unwavering Vision" as an essential leadership gift. Both Sister Ann Shields (pp 6-7) and Patti Mansfield (pp 10-11) write of their international experiences through which they have seen the Holy Spirit pouring out charisms in a variety of cultures.

The ICCRS book on *The Baptism in the Holy Spirit* states that *baptism in the Spirit brings about the release of charisms* (p 20). Sister Ann stresses that *God wants to use us all—every one of us*. We are called to be *dispensers of the grace of God* (Pope Francis); we are called to be unwavering and alive, to be holy—kindled in the fire of God's love, ready to rely on God and to reach out to others in service. ♦

Photos: cover and page 4 Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner

PENTECOST Today

Volume 39 Number 2

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For Your Information

The mission of *Pentecost Today* is to serve and be a voice for the National Service Committee's mission "to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit." We do this by publishing articles that instruct and give practical wisdom, with a particular emphasis on strengthening leaders and leader formation, in a visually appealing and inviting format.

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Moving out in Charisms

by Chuck Hornsby

Like anything else that takes us out of our comfort zone using the charisms outside the structural safety of the prayer meeting is hard work. Perhaps the only thing harder than using the charisms for evangelization is trying to evangelize without them. Trying to do God's work in our own strength has two major and seemingly opposite obstacles that strangely enough seem to operate simultaneously: pride and insecurity. Learning to be open to the charisms to help us do whatever God has called us to should leave us both humble and confident. It is God's work and HIS power is available to accomplish it.

I believe that the starting point for moving out in the charisms is for us to pray for an increase in love for the lost, the confused, the suffering, and the deceived. Without an increase in love we will not be motivated enough to do the hard work involved. It is much easier and more comfortable to go about life safely protected by complacency, allowing the pain of others to go unnoticed, than to open ourselves to the ocean of need that exists. First of all our hearts must change!

As our hearts begin to change our awareness will be heightened. We will begin to see needs all around us, in our homes, where we work, at church, on the street, in the grocery store, in fact nearly everywhere. The charisms are given to meet needs, but before we can begin to meet needs we must see the need.

Second of all our perceptions must change. As our hearts open and our perception is heightened we will begin to see needs and will want to make a difference and then the fun begins. We find ourselves in over our heads. We say, "I see the need; I want to help! But...What do I do??? How can I do it???" We find ourselves right where God wants us, dependent on him. At this point we find that we need an increase of hope and faith. Hope expects a good outcome. Faith believes that God is big enough and that if he can use a donkey to prophesy as he did in the Bible he can use me here and now. As our love and perception grow our hope and faith must also grow if we are to go beyond the theoretical and take action.

Often knowing what to do and how to do it requires us to be able to "hear" the Lord. For some this is a clear interior voice. For others it comes as a slight inclination or nudging

from the Spirit. If God has us in a situation of need then it is us that he expects to use. We need to grow in receiving God's direction inside the particular personality, temperament and style that is uniquely ours and be open to act. God does not only use the bold, the brash, and the loud. He also uses the quiet, the reflective, and the timid.

So how do we use charisms in meeting the needs we encounter every day? A few examples:

1. I often get prophetic words for the congregation at mass in my parish where it is not appropriate to deliver the word. I assume the need is real and that God wants me to intercede.

2. I needed a school teacher to fill a slot at our school. Peg, my wife, prayed for a word of knowledge and was given a woman's name. This began a discernment process that led to her hiring.

3. A woman in a store was berating the cashier. I asked the Lord what to do and he said to bind a spirit of anger. The argument stopped instantly.

4. I was on vacation and was in a hot tub at a hotel. A couple was also there. The Lord nudged me to begin a conversation. I began by baiting the hook telling them I was the head of a Christian school. It opened the door for doing marriage counseling for the couple.

5. A friend of mine committed to the Lord to always offer prayer on the spot when someone in any setting mentioned a need especially for healing. Recently he saw someone he had prayed for in Walmart years ago who had been wheelchair bound. The person, whom my friend had not seen since, testified that she had been healed that day and no longer needed a wheelchair.

Lord, give us the love we need to motivate us.

Give us eyes to see the needs all around us.

Give us the hope and faith that if we step out something good can happen because your power and your gifts are available and sufficient.

Give us wisdom to show us what to do and how to do it. The fields are white: please send us as laborers into the harvest. ♦



Chuck Hornsby is a former member of the National Service Committee. He is a member of the Alleluia Community functioning as the Superintendent of the Alleluia Community School and working in pastoral care and formation.



A glimpse of heaven

by Dave Mangan

I have been asked to consider the question, “What is the charism of the Charismatic Renewal?” How does one look at all of the tremendous gifts and blessings we have received in this move of the Holy Spirit and narrow it down to “the” charism of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal?

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa points out that being baptized in the Holy Spirit is at the core of the Renewal. On January 13, 2008 Pope Benedict XVI said, “Christ’s entire mission is summed up in this: to baptize us in the Holy Spirit.” Again on May 11, 2008, in his Pentecost message Pope Benedict said, “Today I would like to extend this invitation to everyone: let us, dear brothers and sisters, rediscover the beauty of being baptized in the Holy Spirit; let us be aware again of our baptism and of our confirmation, sources of grace that are always present.” The National Service Committee includes in its mission statement that one of our major charisms is to bring the baptism in the Holy Spirit into the heart of the Church. How many lives have been transformed by this wonderful experience? This is cer-

tainly a significant gift for us to foster in the Church. But I would like to look at things from a different point of view.

How does one take all the blessings of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and narrow it down to what we would call “the” charism of the Renewal? Many possibilities could be cited. Consider the great variety of ways in which the Holy Spirit has enriched us through the Charismatic Renewal. We could mention a significant gift for praise and worship, for example. What about the number of people among us who have received healing. Then there is the gift of tongues, which Fr. Cantalamessa once referred to as vocalized contemplation. I know that this gift has transformed my prayer life. Many more blessings could be cited. I think it would be reasonable to say that the charism of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is constantly developing, manifesting itself in many and varied ways.

Again, if I may quote Pope Benedict, he also said, “When one has the grace to sense a strong experience of God, it is

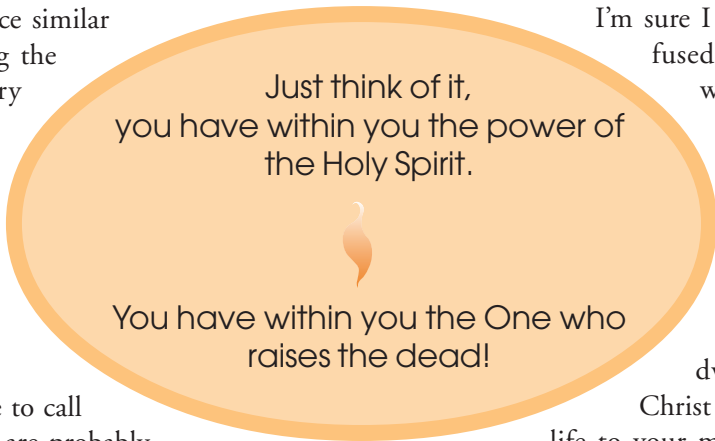
as if one is living an experience similar to that of the disciples during the Transfiguration: a momentary foretaste of what will constitute the happiness of paradise” (03/12/2006). For this reason I think our charism is not only the grace of Pentecost, but also the grace of the Transfiguration.

In my experience of this I like to call it a “glimpse of heaven.” You are probably aware of a phrase that some people say when they are extremely happy about something. They say, “I thought I died and went to heaven.” I realize that everyone’s experience is different, but when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit I thought I remained alive and went to heaven. I would think that those of us who have been touched by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have, on occasion, received a “glimpse of heaven.” Perhaps it was in a prayer time, or at Mass, or in a time of praise in a prayer meeting, or when alone, looking up at the stars.

And I am just like Peter, James and John at the Transfiguration. I want to stay there and build a house and never leave. But then, it is only a glimpse of heaven. The best is yet to come. So I find in my life that these moments don’t last for as long as I would like but they are a powerful motivator to keep me moving toward becoming more and more like Jesus. These experiences of the work of the Holy Spirit are only a down payment of what is yet to come.

What if I don’t have experiences like this? We still have many glimpses of heaven. At Mass, when the priest elevates the host for us to adore, it is a glimpse of heaven. When we see a newborn baby, it is another glimpse of heaven. When we see someone (hopefully ourselves) serving the poor, there it is again. Although we may have experiences where we feel great joy, it is not the feeling that is the gift. The gift is that ability to recognize it for what it is, a glimpse of heaven. The gift is the action of the Holy Spirit in our life whether we feel good about it or not.

Jesus says, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you” (Jn 16:7). For the longest time when I read this verse, I found it very difficult to understand. How could Jesus’ leaving us be to our advantage? If I were alive at that time



I’m sure I would have been totally confused. I would want Jesus to stay with me always. I suspect the apostles had difficulty understanding that as well. But when I read Romans 8:11, I begin to see what Jesus had in mind for us. Paul said, “If the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised

Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.” Just think of it, you have within you the power of the Holy Spirit. You have within you the One who raises the dead!

Jesus says, “In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you” (Jn 14:20). What a wonderful divine mix-up we find in this scripture. Just imagine, Jesus is in the Father and you are in him and he is in you. Look at who you’re hanging out with. We are keeping great company. And this is accomplished by the Holy Spirit’s action in us. Now there’s a glimpse of heaven! What a gift we have!

When I consider my life over the last 47 years living in the grace of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, I find I am still growing in my appreciation of the great gift we have been given in the Holy Spirit. I still have a lot to learn but I look forward to learning it. I often wonder why. Why me? I certainly don’t deserve anything. But then I say to God, “Please do not stop.”

I am looking forward to my next glimpse. But if I never have another “glimpse of heaven,” I know that I have already received more than I could ever deserve. But I am sure we all are looking forward to that day when we get infinitely more than a glimpse. That is the day when “we shall see him as he is” (1 Jn 3:2). ♦

David Mangan was one of the participants on the retreat in February of 1967 where events took place that are often marked as the beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He is a Commissioned Lay Ecclesial Minister of the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan and he is the author of “God Loves You and there’s nothing you can do about it” and “Life in the Spirit for your Kids.”



Charisms for every person

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ...All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills (1Cor 12:4-7, 11).

by Sister Ann Shields

“These charisms are understood as gifts not primarily for the recipient but for the upbuilding of the Church and the work of evangelization” (*Baptism in the Holy Spirit*, ICCRS Doctrinal Commission, p. 20).

These gifts, as well as many others (see 1Cor 13, 14 and Isaiah 11:1-3) have always been present in the Church since Pentecost but through the Charismatic Renewal they have been revived after a long period of dormancy; they have appeared in a new abundance, in nation after nation, in all states of life and all professions and choices of work; among all levels of education and economic positions. Why? Jesus died for all of us; as a result, each of us has infinite dignity that arises from our Baptism. These gifts have always been intended for every person.

But it is also true that we have lived through many social and cultural and economic upheavals in the last fifty years which have radically altered, in many cases, our priorities and Christian commitment. A great majority of us have lost a sense of who we are and

where we are going—or never even knew! Today’s western society seriously questions the reality of God and his place (if he exists at all) in our lives.

Statistics in the US alone show a significant drop, in most dioceses in marriages, baptisms, First Communion, adult conversions, etc. Our faith life has been very substantially affected by the milieu in which we live. We have not been strong enough to recognize the dangers and take effective measures to combat them—and win!

In the middle of what I call this cataclysmic rejection of Christ and his teaching, we find God answering Pope John the XXIII’s prayer for a “new Pentecost in our times”: A fresh outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit that we might once again find our direction and become once again, faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Over the years since God heard our prayer beginning in 1967 in the US and spreading quickly to many nations, we have experienced the scales falling

from the eyes of many of us. We have found ourselves the recipients of genuine gifts from God to help us to draw deeper into the heart of Christ and to equip us to bring many others back to him. That is the dual purpose of the gifts: to help to build our own relationship and aid in fostering new life in others!

God answered our prayer! But it seemed so strange; it was not what we were expecting. We wanted God to change hearts, give clarity and new direction to the lost. But, as is so often the case, God starts with those who prayed and his answer was not what we were prepared for. In lavish measure he poured out fresh graces from his Holy Spirit and it took us some years to learn how to use them—and we’re still learning! We made many mistakes in the process, sometimes got ourselves off course but God is patient with his children... *However we need to make sure that we follow the path of holiness in our own lives so that those gifts may flourish and strengthen many others.*

In Asia (specific country not named to protect underground Christians) I witnessed a young priest, during Mass, stretch his own human body over the consecrated hosts and the precious Blood to protect the Blessed Sacrament from a threat of invasion by police. When I spoke to him after the incident, he simply and quietly said to me, “Gladly would I give my life that faith might grow in _____(country).”

In Eastern Europe, I witnessed over and over again the brokenness of many women who had been forced under communism to abort multiple children. I watched my own brothers and sisters in Christ pray for hours over such broken souls and genuinely see them healed in soul and sometimes in body too. They could again know the love of

God and experience the healing graces that can only come from his heart.

In another eastern European nation, I witnessed a seven-year old blind from birth healed by the prayers of brothers and sisters just like you and me. The image of that child is burned in my memory as she stretched out her arms and looked around at a crowd of a thousand or more, then looked at her grandmother, then back to us with shock and surprise and joy! The faith of that grandmother had withstood communism and its effects for many years. She refused to reject God and look how God had rewarded her—even in this life!

God wants to use us all—every one of us.

In a third Eastern European nation, a man came up to me telling me in his language that he was an alcoholic. Beaten down, ashamed and seemingly helpless, he came to the conference. He listened to a talk on holiness of life and the love of God for us. He came over to me after the talk, arms raised high, shouting in his native tongue that he was free. Interpreters and friends followed him crying and laughing. The change in him was profoundly expressed physically. Joy and tears and hope shone forth from his face—literally shone. “I believe. I believe.”

In Africa, I was asked to listen to a European missionary sister who had been kidnapped and brutalized by a renegade tribe for several weeks. Then she was inexplicably “let go” just before they were to kill her. Hospitalized for several months, she found that her African community would not receive her back since they considered rape her own fault. She very simply and humbly came to me at a conference and

asked us to pray that SHE might be able to forgive that rejection. Even though it went against their cultural norms, the community two days later welcomed her back and she fully forgave both her brutal captors and the hesitation of her own community. “The burden of unforgiveness would destroy me; it is better to forgive so that I can give life to those I serve.” She knew who she was; her dignity, at that moment, was profoundly expressed by her genuine peace and joy. Such faith, such strength, such great heartedness can only come from the source of Life—the Holy Spirit. It is there for all of us.

In the United States, I was speaking at a Priests’ Conference in Steubenville, Ohio. A priest who I did not know well was leading a healing service for the priests. He did not speak in a very articulate way; he seemed uncertain about his topic. The time for the actual healing service arrived; he walked down from the stage and just began to walk through the crowd sprinkling holy water. Physical and emotional healing including the healing of a blind priest occurred over the next 15-20 minutes. Hours later I saw him standing alone. I went to him and asked him how he was and thanked him for such a fruitful service. He smiled and said, “Look at me, Sister. I’m not much of anything—can’t even preach well. I’m very poor but God is very rich so I just lean on him.” What a lesson I learned that day!

God wants to use us all—every one of us. If we seek daily to do his will, repent when we fall and get back up again. If we seek to grow daily in our faith: in God as our Father, Jesus as our Savior and the Holy Spirit who is the love of the Father and the Son, given to EACH of us. IF we follow this God who loves us passionately and gives us himself moment by moment then

Prayer Card



To fulfill the Vision of the NSC relating to moving in the Charisms of the Holy Spirit, we pray:

Father, as we move closer to our 50th anniversary we ask that you help us open ourselves to the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may use them to serve and encourage others and draw them to the Blessed Trinity.

We praise you and glorify you through your son Jesus and in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

the gifts of the Holy Spirit will grow and mature in us and he will use us—each of us right where we are—to bring people back to the only One who can save; the only One who can truly heal; the only One who can give us eternal life!! ♦

Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, is an internationally noted conference and retreat speaker and author of numerous books on Catholic spirituality including Deeper Conversion, To Be Like Jesus and in 2013, More of the Holy Spirit. She currently hosts the popular daily radio program Food for the Journey.

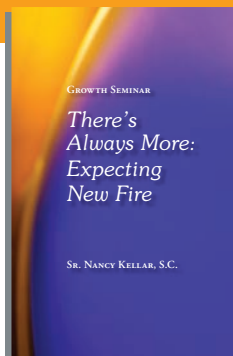


Please pray with the National Service Committee for the following intentions:

1. Father, that new life will be experienced as more people find a new, living relationship with your son Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
2. That those who receive the Holy Spirit will move in the gifts and charisms and draw more friends, family and others to you.
3. For the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in Pittsburgh, November 7-9. And for all the other local conferences, retreats and other functions that will occur between now and then. For good attendance and many blessings.
4. For new people to accept the mantle of leadership within the Charismatic Renewal; especially young adults so we can move forward with fresh visions for the future.



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Jim Murphy with Madre Ines and Angel, his coworker.

The essential quality of a leader: Unwavering Vision

by Jim Murphy

In my travels throughout the world, I have had the privilege of meeting some truly great leaders. I am always amazed by the gifts and charisms which God gives to people in order to empower them to serve others.

Probably one of the most significant leaders I have ever met in my life is Madre Ines, an 86 year old religious sister, who runs an orphanage in Mexico City for 230 children, many with severe physical and mental challenges.

Mother is a tiny whisp of a woman, but a dynamo of energy. For 43 years she has cared for hundreds of little ones that the world did not want. She cares for these children, not as an administrator, but as a loving and tender mother.

Suffice it to say, Mother faces many challenges each day, yet continues to serve some of God's poorest with love, faith, and deep joy.

In a quiet moment the other day, I asked her if she ever gets tired. Where does she find the strength and energy to keep going? She lowered her head, but that did not keep me from seeing the tears run down her wrinkled cheeks. "At times I do get tired. It is hard for me to climb the steps these days" she confided. "But my strength

comes from the Lord! He is my love. He is my life! He has given me his children to care for and he will help me do so until he takes me home; then he will send someone else and they will continue this work." Mother ran off to help a little child standing precariously on the edge of a bench, but her words remained with me.

After I left Mother's orphanage, I thought about her 43 years of service with these kids—half of her life! I might be able to do this for a few days or even a couple of weeks—but 43 years? I thanked God that he had given this holy woman one of the essential gifts of leadership: Unwavering vision.

It has often been said that ministry should be looked at more as a marathon, rather than a short sprint. The challenge in ministry is not only to serve the Lord and his people, but to *keep* serving the Lord and his people.

A classic example of a long-term leader is Moses. God called Moses to a staggering vision! With the fulfillment of this vision, the course of human history would be changed and the earliest preparations for Christianity would be laid. As grand, as anointed as this vision was however, it was not easy and did not come to fulfillment quickly.

Just the first phase of this vision took 40 years to accomplish and Moses himself never saw the vision come to its full conclusion. Yet Moses embraced the vision and called (sometimes pushed and prodded) others to it. The vision was the focus of his life, his very purpose for being. He struggled. He was overwhelmed. He never gave up. He gave his life to the vision: eventually the vision was fulfilled.

Vision is an essential quality of any leader, but unwavering vision is what makes a person an extraordinary leader. In the course of life and ministry there are sure to be many setbacks, many challenges, and yes, many failures.

We can be tempted to say “Enough! I’ve done my share. I’ve served my time. Let someone else do it for a while. I have given up so much already.” I suppose even great leaders can be tempted to feel sorry for themselves once in a while. They can see the unfairness of “bearing the burden” while others seem so uncommitted.

At times like this we must turn to the Lord, confessing our frustrations and begging for the graces we need each day to continue the work He has given us. People of unwavering vision may need to rest, but they don’t quit. They may need to enlist some help (Moses did) but they never walk away. Their role may change over the years, but they remain committed to the vision.

As we draw close to this great jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, I marvel at how many leaders from the “early days” are still committed to the vision, still excited about this marvelous work of the Holy Spirit in our day. It’s true that they carry the marks of many years, but they remain loyal to God and ready to serve the Lord in whatever way he leads them. Thank God for the men and women of vision, of unwavering vision.

Let us find a renewed enthusiasm for the work of the Lord and find encouragement from one of our early leaders, a man of unwavering vision, St Paul: “It is not that I have already taken hold of it [resurrection from the dead] or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ [Jesus]. Brothers, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what

lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead. I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God’s upward calling in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:12-14). ♦

Jim Murphy is president of Vera Cruz Communications. He serves Mexico as a country coordinator for Renewal Ministries. Jim is also the Director of Leadership Formation for ICCRS.



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