

PENTECOST *Today*

Fall 2013



Pope Francis encourages the Renewal.

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



Chairman's Corner

by Jane Guenther

The Holy Spirit transforms us and renews us, creates harmony and unity, and gives us courage and joy for mission.

(Pope Francis' tweet on May 19)



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

Encouragement from Pope Francis

In April, the National Service Committee met for our annual Planning Retreat. Our attention was on asking ourselves and praying about both what the Holy Father is saying to the Renewal and also what our five-year plan toward the Jubilee is saying to the Renewal as we attend to the focus of the coming year.

The Holy Spirit transforms us and renews us, creates harmony and unity, and gives us courage and joy for mission (Pope Francis' tweet on May 19). This message offers a succinct wording of the journey to the Jubilee for the Charismatic Renewal. It seems as though the Holy Spirit is at work in confirming the work of the Renewal.

The next focus of the five-year plan is Renewal Maturity with emphasis in 2014 as a Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church and 2015 a Year of Unity.

In 2003, Michelle Moran, president of International Catholic Charismatic

Renewal Services, attended a summit in Rome for the Renewal and wrote this about the maturing Renewal: "As we become more mature in the Spirit we move from simply needing to be informed to the stage where we are being transformed."

At the NSC Planning Retreat a word was received about being open to the wave of the Holy Spirit in our time, the wave of holiness and love. I believe that as we grow in maturity we will call upon "treasuring and pondering these things in our hearts" as Mary did (Lk 2:19) and we will recognize the heritage of tradition in the Church that exercised these charisms. We are a rich part of this heritage and we have to share what baptism in the Holy Spirit has done in our lives and how we can proclaim Jesus is Lord because of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Father is certainly encouraging us. ♦

Jane Guenther is Chairman of the National Service Committee.

As you peruse this issue of *Pentecost Today*, I invite you to read it more like chapters in a book than individual articles in a magazine, so well do the articles dovetail and reflect on one another. No matter in what order you read the articles you will find an awesome and artistic work of the Holy Spirit coming together before your eyes and in your heart. You will be reminded of what has taken place but you will also be propelled to enter the journey to the Jubilee and beyond with more enthusiasm and commitment.

Perhaps you will reflect on your own journey (and in groups you will reflect on your journey together) seeing the pattern of God in your life and in the lives of one another.

While we are encouraged to be rooted – to know our roots – we are not to live in the past, "the good old days," but to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in our present day. The Spirit is always doing something new and relentlessly inviting us to be loving ministers of joy, of hope, of healing—and so much more.

Come, Holy Spirit! ♦

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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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Year of Charisms & Grace for the Church

by Jane Barz

In preparation for the Renewal's Jubilee celebration in 2017 the National Service Committee and the other National Leadership Groups entered into a five-year Journey to the Jubilee. The first step of this process, a Time of Life-Giving Repentance, lasted from June 1 to December 31, 2012. Currently (2013) we are engaging a Year of Spirit-Filled Faith in concert with the Year of Faith called for by Pope Benedict XVI.

In January of 2014 we invite you to enter into a "Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church." Our goals for this year are three-fold.

First, we will explore Charismatic Renewal's identity as an ecclesial movement, itself a grace for the Church as we foster baptism in the Holy Spirit as grace for the New Evangelization.

We recommend:

1. Deeper reflection and conversation among Renewal leaders and participants about the Renewal's identity as a movement given to the Church to foster the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit as transforming and empowering grace for the New Evangelization.
2. Reading Walter Matthews' article in this issue of *Pentecost Today* (pp. 4-5).
3. Development and presentation of appropriate teachings on the Renewal's identity by Renewal leaders at all levels.

Second, we want to celebrate being fully Catholic (ecclesial maturity) and fully charismatic. Being fully Catholic means not only knowing our Catholic Faith by studying Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, but living, praying and celebrating it. Ecclesial maturity has two dimensions: the personal dimension of holiness, humility and service (see "How to

Strengthen Ecclesial Maturity in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal" by Dr. Alan Schreck in *Pentecost Today*, October/November/December 2007) and the communal dimension expressed by Pope John Paul II in *Christifideles Laici* (30) which includes giving primacy to the call to holiness; fidelity to the Church's Magisterium in doctrine and morals; communion with the Pope and local bishop; sharing in the mission of the Church; and commitment to furthering the dignity of the person in human society.

We recommend:

1. Reading Jane Guenther's article in this issue of *Pentecost Today* (pp. 8-9).
2. Examination of one's life in the Spirit, in terms of being fully Catholic and fully charismatic, by Renewal participants.
3. Examination of the Renewal for which they are responsible by Renewal leaders at all levels, for its maturity and the fostering of the full role of the Holy Spirit.

Third, we want to promote greater and more mature use of the charisms. One of the great gifts of the Renewal has been the re-awakening of the full spectrum of charisms as listed in 1 Corinthians

12 and 14, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4. The second Vatican Council affirmed the existence and importance of charisms "for the renewal and building up of the Church" (*Lumen Gentium*, 12).

As the recent ICCRS document *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* states, "Charisms are understood as gifts not primarily for the recipient but for the upbuilding of the Church and the work of evangelization. Wherever the Renewal is healthy and the exercise of the charisms is mature, the emphasis is not on the miraculous or extraordinary nature of these gifts but rather on their capacity to mediate God's love and build up the body of Christ." Let us truly be open and docile to the Spirit and charisms "that the Spirit never ceases to bestow" (Pope John Paul II, 1998, St. Peter's Square). As we move toward the Jubilee year let us learn to use our charisms often and well in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We recommend:

1. Reading Deacon Chuck Matzker's article in this issue of *Pentecost Today* (pp. 6-7).
2. Reading or re-reading *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*.
3. Teaching and encouraging the exercise of the full spectrum of charisms by Renewal leaders at all levels, not only in Renewal activities and in other Church services and ministries but also in daily life, and helping Renewal participants to identify their charisms and to use them more powerfully and effectively. ♦



Jane Barz is Bishop's Liaison to the Renewal in the Sioux Falls Diocese and a member of the National Service Committee.



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A Grace of Pentecostal Refreshment for all

by *Walter Matthews*

The Doctrinal Commission of The International Catholic Charismatic Services (ICCRS) published *Baptism in the Holy Spirit (BHS)* in 2012.

As we make our way to the Renewal's 50th Anniversary Jubilee in 2017 let us pause to reflect on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal's identity as a movement that fosters baptism in the Holy Spirit as grace for the Church.

"From the beginning of the charismatic renewal, baptism in the Spirit has been experienced as a sovereign gift of God, not dependent on any human merit or activity" (*BHS* p. 14). It is a life transforming grace not limited to those in the Renewal. "The soul of Renewal—Baptism in the Holy Spirit—is a grace of Pentecostal refreshment offered to all Christians," as Cardinal Leon Suenens wrote in 1996.

Those who were the first responders to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the "Duquesne Weekend" quickly understood that this grace was to be understood in the context of the profound renewal of Catholic life that was the heart and goal of Vatican II. They had an intense impulse to communicate this grace more widely in the Catholic Church and a clear conviction that this grace was for the renewal of the whole Church" (*BHS* p. 62).

The ICCRS document states that, "The Catholic Charismatic Renewal too arose as an unexpected grace, a surprise of the Spirit, unplanned and without formulated goals and programs. The Renewal does not have any identifiable founder figure, although the many communities that arose within it do have founders or foundresses.... The organi-

zation of the movement was subsequent to its inception" (*BHS* p. 14).

It is in this sense that we understand what Cardinal Suenens also wrote that "to interpret the Renewal as a 'movement' among other movements is to misunderstand its nature; it is a movement of the Spirit offered to the entire Church and destined to rejuvenate every part of the Church's life."

First, there is the reality of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit so asked for in the prayer of the Church for the Second Vatican Council—"for a renewal of the Church in our day as by a new Pentecost"—and this in the century dedicated by Pope Leo XIII to the Holy Spirit!

Second, there is the movement wherein the outpouring of the Spirit is present, not as a superfluous extra but as itself a grace. As the U.S. Bishops wrote in 1997, "We believe that 'the renewed outpouring of the Spirit of Pentecost in our times'... is particularly present in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and in the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit" (*Grace for the New Springtime*). The Renewal, however, "is not a single entity with a unified organizational structure but rather a stream of movements and groups united by a common experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit, including prayer groups, covenant communities, schools of evangelization, healing ministries and a wide variety of other groups and ministries, some ecumenical and some solely Catholic" (*BHS*, p. 91).

This diversity is both a tremendous blessing and a challenge for the Renewal and for the Church. For the Church the Renewal is a source of over 150 million transformed lives. It is also a question of who speaks for this diverse reality. The diversity has allowed the Renewal to touch so many realities and persons and to grow exponentially here and throughout the world. However, it also causes us to work harder at both our identity and our unity. Why? For the sake of the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit poured out not for the few but for all.

If we deny the reality of the Renewal as a movement, i.e. an “ecclesial movement” rooted in the Catholic Church (while not denying our ecumenical origins nor the prophetic dimension of our ecumenical calling) we will not work together to strengthen the Renewal’s identity and unity. Sadly, we can lose our identity as a movement and cease to exist, or to exist but no longer be effective. We can lose our fire.

Five steps to strengthening the Renewal’s identity as a movement fostering baptism in the Holy Spirit as a grace for the Church:

First, let us reaffirm, with Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, that our central proclamation is that “Jesus is Lord” and that “our vocation is to affirm through the Spirit the actual present-day lordship of Jesus in the Church.... This rediscovery of Jesus as Lord, which is experiential and not just intellectual, is...one of the most significant theological and spiritual contributions that baptism in the Spirit brings to the charismatic renewal and charismatic renewal brings to the Catholic Church” (*Sober Intoxication of the Spirit*, Part Two, pp. 36, 124).

Second, let us recognize the roots of the present day outpouring of the Holy Spirit. For our Catholic roots, there is the crucial role of Blessed Elena Guerra who in her contact with Pope Leo XIII encouraged devotion to the Holy Spirit. For our Pentecostal and ecumenical roots, there is the outpouring of the Spirit at Azusa Street in 1906 and the role of an interdenominational prayer group that prayed with the three Duquesne professors who led the students on the Duquesne Weekend in 1967. If we ignore one or the other of our roots we do so at our peril!

Third, let us read and study the ICCRS document as it both defines and clarifies “baptism in the Holy Spirit” as “a life-transforming experience of the love of God the Father poured into one’s heart by the Holy Spirit received through a surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ (*BHS* p.13). It is this “experience of an objective reality” (*BHS* p. 67) of the love of God that we foster and, with it, the full role of the Holy Spirit including the gifting and releasing of charisms for evangelization and service. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said in 2008, “We can...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 and their merit lies in having recalled their topicality in the Church.” We are called forth (sent!) to build communities that witness to renewed Catholic life.

Fourth, let us be, in the words of Pope Francis before his election, “missionary disciples in communion” formed by the Holy Spirit to spread the culture of Pentecost in the church and in society—to be active agents of the New Evangelization.

Fifth, let us be, in the words of Pope Francis on Pentecost, open to the “Spirit...[who] brings the diversity of charism and gifts;... the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of unity, which does not mean uniformity, but which leads everything back to harmony.... When we are the ones who want to build unity in accordance with our human plans, we end up creating uniformity, standardization. But if instead we let ourselves be guided by the Spirit, then richness, variety and diversity never become a source of conflict, because he impels us to experience variety within the communion of the Church.”

In the year of 2014, as we make our way to the Renewal’s Jubilee in 2017, and in preparation for 2015, the Year of Unity, let us reflect more deeply and talk about the Renewal’s identity as a movement given to the Church (to all) to foster the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit as transforming and empowering grace for the New Evangelization. ♦



Walter Matthews is Executive Director for the National Service Committee.

The Renewal, however, is not a single entity with a unified organizational structure but rather a stream of movements and groups united by a common experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit

“But if instead we let ourselves be guided by the Spirit, then richness, variety and diversity never become a source of conflict.”
Pope Francis



Charisms: Letting God build the house

**The need is urgent.
The crisis of faith is
great.**

Then, in this Year of Faith, the door to understanding was opened. We needed to return to the basics, to our first love, to the absolute commitment to Jesus as Lord. And then, to renew our own baptism in the Spirit, to again fan into flame within us the graces of Pentecost and the charisms, and to rededicate ourselves to the mission of spreading the grace of baptism in the Spirit into the church and the world. The need is urgent. The crisis of faith is great.

We found that most were experiencing the charismatic gifts... but many were either afraid to use them... or were overanalyzing them.

by Deacon Chuck Matzker

We were doing good things, but were they the good things that God wanted us to do? Were we asking him to bless our work or to bless us to do his work?

Our prayer community had been in existence for 27 years and had done good work, but a year ago at a leaders' retreat he called us up short. The message was, "Turn to a new blank page." We were to give the prayer meeting over entirely to him, and to concentrate more on praise and worship and less on formal teaching—to allow the charisms to energize the meeting, to let "God be God."

So then what? Well, it became clear that we were not well positioned to do even that. Something was lacking, something was needed, but what?

Charisms: A Key to Unity, Community, Commitment and Evangelization

After prayer, we were moved to invite the members of the community to take a spiritual gifts inventory and to also fill out a reflective questionnaire on how they experience the call of God in their lives and how they experience the charismatic gifts (e.g. words of wisdom, knowledge, prophecy, etc.) both at the prayer meeting and elsewhere. Most did. They were each interviewed by a team of 3-4 members of our pastoral team, and here are the results.

By their sharing the results of the inventory and questionnaire with the team, we were able to help them identify and appreciate their service charisms (e.g. hospitality, administration, service, encouragement, teaching, etc.) and to get to know them in a much deeper way. To see their joy in this discovery was truly awesome.

“Give what you get!”

🔑 We found that most were experiencing the charismatic gifts (e.g. words of knowledge, prophecy, etc.) but many were either afraid to use them due to fear of rejection or being wrong, or were overanalyzing them (e.g. is it God or is it me?) They needed to discuss these fears and doubts and were relieved to hear that fear and doubts are normal, that 100% certainty is not the norm, and that we all need to step out in faith and do what Fr. Bob DeGrandis has always said, “Give what you get!”

Through these conversations we were able to encourage them, help with the fears and doubts, find where they best fit in the ministries within the prayer community and the Church, and encourage use of the gifts at the prayer meeting, in ministry and in daily life. In the prayer meeting and its ministries the people began to get energized and to take hold in ministry areas, to use their charisms and to be open to divine inspiration, to recognize that they are empowered for mission, not only to recognize it, but to do it.

We were totally open to using and explaining all of the charisms—no holding back.

The Fruit

A few weeks ago, teams from the prayer community went off site to put on two separate weekend Confirmation Life in the Spirit Seminars for about 70 middle schoolers and their parents. We were totally open to using and explaining all of the charisms—no holding back. We saw conversions take place; young people and adults baptized in the Spirit; lives changed; charisms manifested and children and parents set on fire. This was like living the Acts of the Apostles.

At a Life in the Spirit Seminar put on for community renewal and as outreach, people were filled anew with the power and fresh fire of the Spirit. The charisms came alive in new or deeper ways. Words of knowledge and inspired scripture flowed in the prayer teams as they prayed for baptism in the Spirit or for a deeper outpouring. Many rested in the Spirit. Many came into prayer tongues. The love of God was all around.

So what next?

Pope Francis said, in his Pentecost homily, “The Holy Spirit can make people uncomfortable. Newness always makes us a bit fearful, because we feel more secure if we are the ones who build, program and plan our lives in accordance with our own ideas, our own comfort, our own preferences.”

It is becoming clear that we must consciously work to give control back to God—to let God own us, to seek him in everything, and to be guided by him. It is not so much the question, “Do we have the Holy Spirit?” but, “Does the Holy Spirit have us?”

We must be ready to do what God wants us to do and to go where he wants us to go, and also to know what God does not want us to do and where God does not want us to go. This requires prayer and mature discernment. But when we go, the charisms must go with us to build the Kingdom of God.

They are, as Sr. Nancy Kellar and David Thorp taught,

Enablements,
for **Everyone,**
Every age,
to **Exalt** Jesus,
as **Evidence** of the Holy Spirit,
for **Edification** of the Body of Christ,
for **Evangelization** of the World.

Prayer Card



Interceding for, “New Life in Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit,”

we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, in this time
of new evangelization,
increase our faith and
reawaken in us the
willingness to share the
message of Jesus, and
awaken in all hearts
the longing to hear that
same message.



Alexey Okhon, Photos.com

One more thing, at one of the Confirmation seminars the team members were praying in tongues with a teenage girl unfamiliar with the Renewal or charisms. The teen said, “**I understood what you were praying, it is an answer to my prayer.**” Interpretation of tongues at a Confirmation retreat – Wow! Let us go and make disciples, in God’s power! ♦



Deacon Chuck Matzker is Bishop’s Liaison to the Renewal in Colorado Springs.

Please pray with the National Service Committee:

- That the coming Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church will fruitfully promote greater understanding and use of the charisms
- That our prayer groups and ministries will truly be leaven in our parishes and dioceses, giving joyful witness to the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit as a life-transforming experience
- That many more individuals will be cheerful givers of their time, talent and treasure to the local, national and international organizations and ministries that serve the Renewal
- That upcoming conferences, retreats, Life in the Spirit seminars and teaching days will effectively fan into flame the gifts that God so freely pours out on the Church



Why include the NSC in your will?

As you know the National Service Committee relies almost entirely on gifts from individuals to continue its mission. We ask you to please consider a gift to the National Service Committee when you make your will or update it. Making a gift to the NSC can be as simple as adding a codicil to your existing will or estate plan.

You may use this or a similar statement: "I/we bequeath \$ _____

(or % of my residual estate) to the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. P.O. Box 628, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628."

Please let us know if you have included us in your will so that we can properly thank you.

Leaven for the Parish

The experience of the charism of hospitality, whether in the serving of dinner or praying in the adoration chapel, was evident through the actions of their members.



by Jane Guenther



A knock on the door, slowly it opens and Marti introduces herself to the gentlemen and says, "I am a member of your parish and I just wanted to introduce myself and ask if there is anything for which you need prayer." It is door-to-door evangelization at work and the spiritual gift of intercessory prayer is at the very heart of it.



The Pastor announces at the end of Sunday's 9:00 a.m. Mass that healing prayer will be available for anyone who needs prayer for themselves or someone they love. The prayer teams situate themselves by the confessionals and parishioners line up to receive prayer from those who are God's instruments of healing, a charism alive and well in the 21st century.



The phone rings and it is Marilyn asking for help at the parish basement sale. She exudes hospitality, a charism that yearly draws over 300 parishioners into service as they put together a parish basement sale that brings in over \$25,000 for the missions and local charities.

Zedoor/WhollyOwned.Photos.com/Thinkstock/MartinaEbel.Photos.com

These three scenarios are just a few of the ways in which those in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal are at the heart of parish life using a variety of charisms to bring Christ alive.

There are many who would say that the heart of revitalizing the Church (the real meaning of the New Evangelization) is being accomplished through those active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Pope Francis recently said: "Even in our personal lives, the Spirit prompts us to take a more evangelical path." "Do not resist the Holy Spirit," he continued. "It is the Spirit that makes us free, with that freedom of Jesus, with the freedom of the children of God!" Pope Francis concluded, "Do not resist the Holy Spirit: this is the grace that I wish all of us asked the Lord: the docility to the Holy Spirit, the Spirit that comes to us and makes us go forward in the way of holiness, the holiness of Church which is so beautiful. The grace of docility to the Holy Spirit. So be it." So it is this docility to the Holy Spirit that does enliven the life within the parish.

This past April, we had our National Service Committee Planning Retreat at Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish in Middletown, New Jersey and I was encouraged by the impact that a Life in the Spirit Mission was having on their parish. The Spirit breathes new life into the heart of the parishioners and the experience of the charism of hospitality, whether in the serving of dinner or praying in the adoration chapel, was evident through the actions of their members. The primary similarity in all of the above mentioned parish endeavors is that they are missionary focused.

Pope Francis warns against clericalization of the laity in the following statement: "Clericalization means focusing fundamentally on the things of the clergy

and, more specifically, the sanctuary, rather than on bringing the Gospel to the world. Clericalism ails the clergy when they become too self-referential rather than missionary. But it afflicts laypeople worse, when they begin to believe that the fundamental service God is asking of them is to become greeters, lectors or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion at Church rather than to live and spread the faith in their families, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods and beyond."

Many new renewal parish retreats such as ACTS or CRHP (*Adoration Community Theology Service, Christ Renews His Parish*) utilize the gift of witnessing to bring about conversion among fellow parishioners. This is much more than being a lector who proclaims the Word; this is being the Word through one's very life."

Every three years our parish goes on a mission trip, taking adults and youth to share the faith in villages and cities

in very poor countries. Returning to one place in Guatemala for the third time over a nine-year period, the thing that struck me was being greeted by those in the villages as though we were friends they had seen yesterday. Why is that possible? It is because each of us knows the face of God that lives in each other through the Spirit.

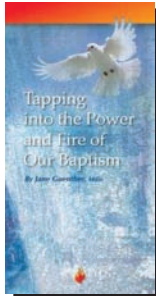
We use the term leaven for the parish because it is such a valuable image. Leaven is the element that helps to make the dough rise. These charisms used within the parish surely help the parish rise to be known as fully charismatic and fully alive. Parishes open to the Holy Spirit are not parishes of maintenance, they are parishes of mission. ♦



Jane Guenther is a member of the National Service Committee. She is currently serving the Archdiocese of St. Louis as the Coordinator of the Catholic Renewal Center.

Tapping into Power & Fire

This fire...will transform what it touches, it will transform me.



Did you know that you have received power and fire from on high?

How do we draw forth these gifts?

Jane Guenther exhorts us to use the power and fire of our Baptism in this new pamphlet, *Tapping into the Power and Fire of our Baptism*. It will be available at the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in Denver.

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NOVEMBER 7-9, 2014



NATIONAL LEADERS'
&
MINISTRIES'
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