

PENTECOST *Today*

October/November/December 2000 Volume 25, Number 4



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

Chairman's Corner

by Fr. Patsy Iaquina



The food that makes us one

This Jubilee Year of the Eucharist is a delight and a joy. Jesus so desires intimacy with us that he gives himself as food, nourishment and sacrifice. He invites us into community with one loaf and one cup. He commissions us into his sacrificial life and mission, broken and spent for others. He calls us to worship the Father with him in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We were a part of each
other with common blood
running through our veins.

.....

Even though the church describes the Eucharist as "the source and summit of the Christian life," many times Eucharist is approached in a narrow and individual way—as an "it." What do most of us do after receiving Eucharist? Do we return to our seats to kneel or sit during individual thanksgiving? What is happening with the rest of the assembly, the body of Christ? Are we not still distributing communion, sharing the meal? In other words, after I receive, do I shut others out to draw into Jesus at the very time I should be open to receiving others as a member of the one body?

I usually distribute communion, so I rarely have the opportunity to stand and witness others receiving. It happened once that the Spirit moved through me as I watched each individual receive from the cup. It was as if there was one body, and as each individual received, I received with each person, again and again. There was such an intense awareness of unity that it was as if all of us were in the one cup, mingled in the blood of Jesus, and Jesus was bringing us into each other. We were a part of each other with common blood running through our veins. Witnessing with their communion was an ongoing "yes" for me as each communicant received.

It was not just a "yes" to Jesus' presence, but a "yes" to each person. I wondered if they could sense me receiving communion with them. I was also flooded with an awareness of the awesome presence of brothers and sisters from the past who are yet a part of us, the communion of saints. The words of Paul came to mind: "We though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another" (Rom. 12:5).

I was joined with tall, short, fat, skinny, male, female, lettered, unlettered, multi-ethnic ancestry, various gifted and talented individuals and yet we were one. All the gifts were for the common good and were at the disposal of Jesus as he poured into each of us. Ultimately we all received. Never again can I return to "my place" with eyes closed and head down while we are still receiving communion. I am very much a part of my brothers' and sisters' communion and will be attentive to what we are about. Needless to say, the period of silence following our communion was a little extended that day. Thanksgiving in Eucharist is the life and mission of Jesus.

We are about more than eating and drinking. When Paul was challenging the Corinthians to look at their actions during the meal, he stated: "Anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11:29). He was speaking of the body of believers and how we minister with one another. We become the Christ we eat and therefore reach out to others with healing and loving. We should not be surprised that miracles occur. We should be surprised when they don't. After all, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. ♦

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For Your Information

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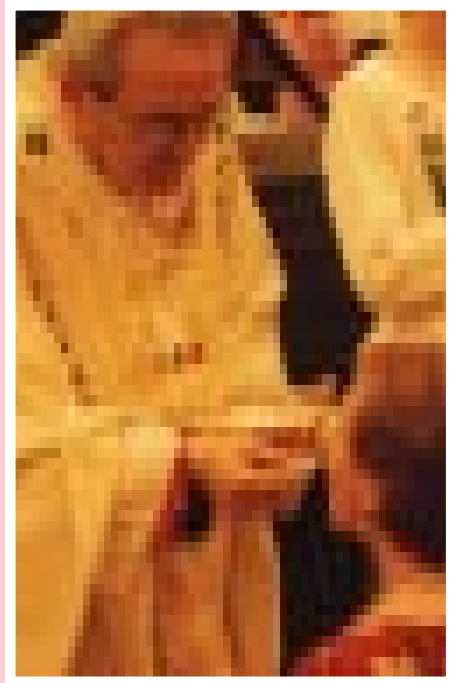
spiritual food

mystery of faith

The Bread

Which Sets Us Free:

The healing power of the Eucharist



by Barbara Shlemon Ryan, RN

The Eucharist is a marvelous mystery. It can be viewed in many ways: as a covenant, a sign of life, a sacrifice, a thanksgiving, a remembrance, a gift of love, a spiritual food, a mystery of faith.

Jesus loves us so much that he provided a way of staying present on earth by giving us the Eucharist as a perpetual sign of love. He knew our human nature very well. "For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin" (Heb. 4:15). He recognized our need to touch, feel and know his presence, therefore his heart was full of compassion for all his followers as he ate a final meal with the disciples in the Upper Room in Jerusalem.

Jesus, knowing the time had come for him to pass from this world to the Father and realizing the sadness this would create, broke bread into pieces, blessed it and handed it to the disciples saying, "This is my body to be given for you" (Lk. 22:19). This gesture summarizes the sacrificial nature of Jesus' entire life; he is a God who cares about his people and wants to remain with us continuously until the end of time.

Eucharist is for healing of body, mind and spirit. Jesus said, "As I who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me" (Jn. 6:37). Wherever we need more life, the body and blood of the divine Savior can provide the supernatural sustenance which brings wholeness. This Eucharist is more than mere food; it is the very being of our Creator, conferring renewed life to all who partake of it.

Each time we attend the celebration of Mass, we are at a healing service, since everything in the liturgy brings us into the presence of God's healing love. As we approach the altar we pray, "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed." This is a prayer of faith. It expresses confidence in the Lord's ability to transform our imperfect spiritual, physical and emotional needs into his perfect wholeness.

If we truly believe that Jesus is present in the consecrated bread and wine, then we should expect to obtain a greater infusion of his divinity into our humanity as we receive Eucharist. We should anticipate God's action in our lives as we walk to the altar saying, "I shall be healed."

My friend, Lee, has a special love for the Eucharist. She believes the Mass to be a perfect prayer. Her son, Sean, a successful personal injury attorney, was diagnosed with a tumor inside the spinal cord just below his neck. Surgery was not recommended since the tumor had wrapped itself around the cord presenting the possibility of serious motor skills damage.

Every Sunday Lee and Sean attended Mass together. During the consecration, Lee placed her hand on Sean's back where the tumor was located, asking Jesus to heal him. After six months an MRI showed only a faint trace of where the tumor had been. Sean believes his illness was an opportunity to broaden his perspectives and to pray more for himself.

In the Scriptures we read of a woman who experienced a hemorrhage for twelve years. She was certain that she would be healed if she could only touch the dusty hem of Jesus' clothing. This simple act brought her the desired results as the Lord commended her, "My daughter, your faith has restored you to health" (Mt. 9:18).

Jesus understood the woman's need to touch him. When we receive his body and blood in the Eucharist, we do more than merely touch his clothing. We accept into ourselves his gift of total perfection which can make up for all our deficiencies. If we really believed the truth of this marvelous sacrament, we would receive it as frequently as possible.

When we receive his body and blood in the Eucharist, we do more than merely touch his clothing. We accept into ourselves his gift of total perfection which can make up for all our deficiencies.

How can we more effectively appropriate this wonderful gift?

Expectant faith. This implies trusting in God's willingness to make us whole, to heal our broken hearts and suffering bodies. When the leper approached Jesus, he said, "Lord, if you want to, you can make me whole." Jesus replied: "Of course I want to; be healed" (Mt. 8:22). He speaks to us with the same tone of assurance when we come to him with openness to receive all his blessings. Faith in God means trusting him to do the most loving thing in relation to our needs. It means relying on him to see us through difficult times and painful moments. It means believing that he cares for us more than we can ask or imagine.

Ask specifically. Jesus told his disciples, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Mt. 6:8). He then proceeded to teach them the Lord's Prayer so they would know how to ask. Our relationship with God is not to be a passive dependence on the Father's love, but an actively cooperative effort in obtaining our "daily bread." The Lord provides for many of our needs without our petitioning for his help. Yet he often expects us to be specific in our requests so our "joy will be complete" (Jn. 16:24).

Perseverance. If our prayers do not immediately result in release of the problem, we are taught to continue seeking wholeness. Jesus talked about the need to pray constantly and never lose heart in the parable of the importunate widow who kept demanding justice from the unjust judge. He finally granted her request because she refused to stop "pes-

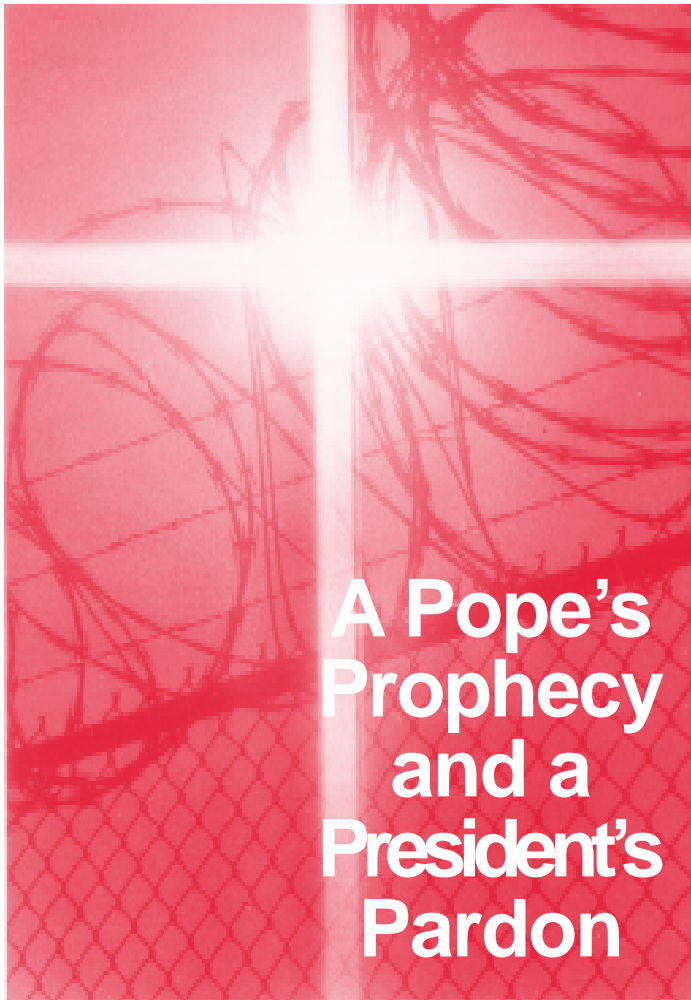
tering him." The Lord said, "You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry out to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them and done speedily" (Lk. 18:1-8). Perseverance in prayer permits the Lord to teach us many things as we wait upon him for the answers.

Thanksgiving. The word Eucharist literally means thanksgiving, therefore we are to give thanks for all his many blessings as we receive the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Praising the Lord encourages us to trust him to answer our requests in his way and in his time for our benefit. St. Paul told the people of Ephesus, "Go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father" (Eph. 5:20).

Eucharist is intended for healing of body, mind and spirit. If we recognize the body and blood of Jesus Christ, we will "have our eyes opened" and we will know him "in the breaking of the bread" (Lk. 24:30). ♦

President of Be-Loved Ministries, Barbara Shlemon Ryan has been involved in healing ministry since 1965. She is one of the founding members of the Association of Christian Therapists (ACT) and an author of many books, including Healing the Hidden Self (Ave Maria Press). Barbara and her husband, Tim, live in Melbourne, Florida.





A Pope's Prophecy and a President's Pardon

by Fr. Larry Carew

When I first read Pope John Paul's remarkable letter, *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, I was immediately intrigued by the realization that he was predicting "a new springtime for Christianity" at the dawning of the next century. He didn't say that it *might* happen or that it *could* happen. He almost matter-of-factly observed that it *would* happen. The Pope was clearly prophesying.

Since that time, I, like many others, have found myself challenged by that prophecy. Each day, I repeatedly and prayerfully cry out for its fulfillment as I look for opportunities to prepare the way for that new season of grace.

Key happenings in my own life and ministry over the past year and a half suddenly came together for me in startling clarity as I read a paper presented at the 1999 Theological Symposium sponsored by the

Association of Diocesan Liaisons. A theological reflection, "Leadership in an Ecclesial Movement: An Attempt to Think with the Church," by Tom Curran, sparkles with inspired insights and prophetic challenges. One observation in particular hit me squarely between "the eyes of the heart."

Please allow me to share it here: "...instead of supposing that the (Charismatic) Renewal is a movement that exists relatively independently of the Year 2000 (and therefore can best be

understood by looking back at its history), suppose instead that the Renewal was established by God in view of his plans for the Year 2000. In other words, God brought the Renewal into the Catholic Church when he did precisely because of what he intended to do in and through it in the time of the Great Jubilee... *God has been powerfully at work in the Renewal not only as an end in itself but also so that the Renewal would be aware, ready and prepared to take up its God-assigned role in this time of Jubilee!*" (pp. 9-10, italics mine).

On the very day I read those words, an extraordinary event was transpiring, an event being splashed over headlines across the nation. That event, which I had already come to believe to be providential, now took on even more profound significance. Coming to pass less than three months before the Year 2000, it now seemed to be nothing less than a confirmation of the imminent in-breaking of the Great Jubilee.

Allow me to backtrack to 1995, when the chain of events connecting me to the event just referred to started to unfold. Having helped to successfully organize and present Life in the Spirit Seminars at the Federal Correctional Institution, a women's prison in Danbury, Connecticut, I felt confident about extending that ministry to Garner Correctional, a high security men's prison in nearby Newtown. However, the results at Garner were not as fruitful. Of the fifteen male inmates who registered, only eight or nine lasted to the end.

I felt a concern about our dropouts and prayed for further insight as to what we might have done differently. Eventually, I got a sense that these men were too wounded to be able to handle a traditional seminar. Only if they could be opened up to receive significant inner healing would they be ready to surrender their hearts to Christ and petition him for the release of the Holy Spirit in their lives. For over a year I prayed that the Holy Spirit would show me how to design an inner-healing retreat specifically for deeply wounded prisoners.

Mid-Lent in 1997—the Year of the Holy Spirit—the first talk started to come. About two and a half months later, the project was

See **Pardon** p. 10



12,000 mark Jubilee at Celebrate Jesus 2000

“Welcome to our birthday party for the greatest man who ever lived, Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God, Savior of the World!” proclaimed Dr. Vinson Synan as he opened Celebrate Jesus 2000 on Thursday evening, June 22. Shouts and applause came in response from the more than 10,000 people gathered on the floor of St. Louis’ TWA Dome.



Those gathered were Christians from the various renewal movements in the mainline denominations, nondenominational churches, ministries and organizations. Sponsored by the North American Renewal Service Committee (NARSC), the ecumenical Congress was the culmination of a vision begun with the Kansas City Conference in 1977, and continued by gatherings in New Orleans a decade later, in Indianapolis in 1990, and in Orlando in 1995.

At Thursday’s opening session, participants viewed an archival video clip in which Fr. Tom Forrest called those at the New Orleans Congress to a decade of evangelization in preparation for the Year 2000. “Let’s stop the fooling around, the kid’s stuff,” said Fr. Tom. “Let’s go out and do the job! Let’s do it the only way it can be done! Brothers and sisters, let’s do it together! Let’s move it out!”

Vinson Synon, who serves as NARSC Chairman, pointed out that in the thirteen years since that call to evangelization was issued, 400,000,000 souls have been brought into the Christian church, over 80% of whom were converted through charismatic and Pentecostal evangelization efforts. “While our work is not yet done,” said Synon, “we have reason to celebrate!”

Then, recalling the ancient Hebrew practice of sounding the shofar to mark the Year of Jubilee, a ram’s horn resounded through the TWA Dome. As the blare died away, the sounds of praise and cheering filled the stadium. And for more than forty-five minutes the congregation sang, praised in tongues and danced in the aisles. A huge banner of Christ, with the words, “Let the river flow,” was processed to the stage. From the feet of Christ

Mary Webb, a member of the Osage Tribe, brought greetings to the Congress from the Principal Chief, and shared a special word she felt she had received from the Lord. “To my own Native American people the Lord says, ‘Do not be afraid, I have not forgotten you. I will visit your people in this Year of Jubilee and there will be a



What can we do together that we can’t do as well alone?... We can breach the walls of our cities to expand the influence of our churches, to feed the poor, to saturate our neighborhoods with hope...Standing together there is no limit to the power of Jesus’ name!” Ted Haggard

on the banner, streams of blue and green fabric flowed out into the arena.

Following the time of praise, several speakers addressed the Congress along the evening’s themes of reconciliation and repentance. Ted Haggard of Colorado Springs asked those assembled to consider the question: “What can we do together that we can’t do as well alone?” He offered some suggestions: “We can breach the walls of our cities to expand the influence of our churches, to feed the poor, to saturate our neighborhoods with hope... We can make it harder to go to hell from planet earth! Standing together there is no limit to the power of Jesus’ name!”

Canon Charles Fulton of Episcopal Renewal Ministries challenged the attendees. “To talk about renewal without talking about repentance is to get the cart before the horse...the bedrock of revival is repentance. Repentance is the door the Holy Spirit is holding open to eternal works.”

great reconciliation among all peoples!’ And to the leaders of Christian denominations, the Lord says, ‘Go find the Indian people! Take them the Gospel! They need to know that the Holy Spirit is at work in them!’”

Bishop Samuel Green of St. John’s Church of God in Christ in Newport News, Virginia, emphasized the connection between love and reconciliation. “It’s not enough to be baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. You have to live a life of holiness—the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. If I don’t love you, I won’t see the Lord...and by God, I am going to see the Lord!”

As the session closed, NARSC members Sr. Nancy Kellar and Jim Jackson led the congregation in prayers of reconciliation and repentance. Recalling a prophetic message spoken at the 1977 Kansas City Conference in which the church was called to “weep and mourn, for the body of my son is broken,” Sr. Nancy said, “We need to confess where

See **Celebrate** p. 12

Crossing the Threshold

As the church continues to celebrate the Great Jubilee Year, it pauses to look back upon the two thousand years of history since the Incarnation. But at the same time, the church looks ahead as it crosses the threshold into its Third Millennium. Crossing the threshold involves letting go of the past in order to enter freely into the future. As we prepare to move into the new millennium, *PentecostToday* invited several leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to share their reflections on the significance of this time: What do we—as individuals and as a church—need to leave behind in order to move freely into the new millennium?

Bishop Sam Jacobs

I believe that to continue to be renewed and to be available for the renewal of others, the hurts of the past need to be forgiven and given to God. Any negative experiences which have not been dealt with properly will tend to prevent us from doing what God has called us to do. We have to be willing to let go of our agendas and expectations of how God should accomplish the task of renewal, and listen collaboratively with others to the voice of God today. We need not concern ourselves with what others are or are not doing, but be focused on God's direction to us. We need to ask God each day for a fresh outpouring of his Spirit upon us so that today we may be obedient to his will. We need to leave the Upper Room and go out to the waiting world, while at the same time coming back to the Upper Room to be refreshed and retooled. We need to remember that God has raised up many renewal movements in the church. While blessing the work of God, we cannot neglect the work of renewal he has entrusted to us: bringing the grace of Pentecost to all.

Fr. Tom Forrest, C.Ss.R.

Not by chance, but by divine providence, the 1967 outpouring of the Holy Spirit became known as the "Renewal." God was renewing his church by *activating* all his people. By an outpouring of the Spirit, Mary was activated to visit her cousin Elizabeth; John the Baptist to announce the arrival of the Messiah before his own birth; Jesus to begin his public ministry; Peter and the apostles to go into the streets of Jerusalem to evangelize; and Paul to carry the Good News to the gentiles. Through the centuries, though, a clerical monopoly began to dominate all of the church's ministries and even the gifts of the Holy Spirit, leaving the lay faithful with the passive roles of only hearing Mass and receiving sacraments. The Holy Spirit has been correcting this tragic loss of dynamism by activating and empowering the laity. I travel the world and everywhere see a new dynamism in parishes and dioceses spearheaded by Catholic laity set into action by the Renewal. Sadly, though, some clergy cannot let go of their monopoly over ministries and gifts. I still hear young people and others saying, "Tell the priests to let us work!" The mission of Christ belongs to the *whole* body of Christ, the *whole* people of God. We better get out of the way of the Holy Spirit as he motivates and empowers all of his people for the job ahead!

Sr. Nancy Kellar, SC

It seems to me the summation of all lack of freedom for us individually and as church is no different than it has been in the past: self-centered seeking of immediate satisfaction. To experience new freedom in the new millennium, I believe we need to leave behind the expectation that advances in technology change the principles of spiritual growth. Faster, more creative production of spiritual material makes the insights of the learned and the experiences of the spiritual more accessible to us. However, we are challenged not to leave behind the recognition that personal spiritual growth is an affair of the heart which comes through the slow progress of maturing through purification. New technology in communication can enable building up relationships; but there is no leaving behind the need to take time to listen, to forgive and forget, often without the opportunity to communicate our positions or have the satisfaction of justification. A shrinking world through media advances broadens our horizons of ministry, deepens our sense of world responsibility; but does not replace the daily cultivation of seeds in our smaller fields, where we often need to wait in patience to see the fruit.

Ralph Martin

One of the things I've been struck by in the past several years is how many of us reach a certain plateau in our relationship with the Lord and are content to stay there. We feel content that we're better than we used to be; which is certainly wonderful. Or we compare ourselves to others and think we're doing better than them. I think the Lord is asking us to "break camp" and take off any limits or ceilings we've placed on our relationship with the Lord and determine, with his grace, to "go all the way." I've found it very helpful in this regard to expose myself to the teaching of the doctors of the church who focus on this total union and transformation: Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Therese of Lisieux and Catherine of Siena. Probably the best place to start with this kind of reading would be with Therese's *Story of a Soul* or Teresa of Avila's *Way of Perfection*.

Tom Curran

Not all moments are equal. We are living at a historical threshold with much at stake for the Renewal. If the Renewal responds fully to God's call, future generations could very well identify this time as a defining moment in its history. How will this occur? Surprisingly, by letting go of the desire to build a more visibly successful Renewal. Attempts to achieve visible results can easily lead the Renewal to confuse "success" with spiritual fruitfulness—which is often not measurable. The Renewal must surrender attitudes of self-reliance and seek an attitude of poverty before God. This is a necessary condition (but not the cause) of our being available to God. Powerlessness will dispose the Renewal to a stronger and deeper empowerment by the Holy Spirit. The Renewal is challenged with the task of allowing itself to be carried into the new millennium like a (powerless) leaf carried by the (infinitely powerful) Wind, who is the Spirit. ♦

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NSC publication receives three Catholic Press Association awards



The Catholic Press Association recognized the *Chariscenter USA Newsletter* (which this year changed its name to *Pentecost Today*) with three awards in its annual competition for the 1999 publishing year. The awards included one for general excellence and two for individual articles. This is the second consecutive year in which the publication has been recognized.

In presenting a Third Place Award for General Excellence in the Special Interest Newsletter category, the CPA stated: "Packed with information, this publication makes excellent use of two and three column formats to get lots of data across."

A Third Place Award for Best Article was presented for Judith S. MacNutt's article, "Touching the Heart of Abba," which appeared in the April/May/June 1999 issue. The CPA called the article "a touching demonstration of how a moving experience moves a person to an experience of God's intimate love for us. From the quotidian, Ms. MacNutt discovers the eternal, the meaning of 'Abba,' the unconditional love of God, who comes through as One approachable, concerned, embracing, always in the context of traditional theological understanding."

Ron Ryan's article, "In the Name of the Father," published in the January/February/March 1999 issue, received a First Place Award for Best Article. The CPA described it as "a fascinating parallel drawn between the spiritual truth and literary symbolism. A detailed, non-polemical examination of the Hebrew use of the word, 'Abba,' opening up the richness of the word. The article demonstrates how sensitivity to language and meaning can open up our relationship with God." ♦

The Gospel, the Creed and the New Life in the Spirit Seminars

Jesus Christ is Lord!

One of the goals of the revision was to help Catholics understand the many ways that the message of the Gospel has been presented to them throughout their lives.

These four tiny but powerful words are at the heart of both the Gospel message and the Life in the Spirit Seminars. These four words proclaim the good news about Jesus, who “emptied himself” by surrendering to the process of incarnation, death and resurrection. Peter’s address to the crowds during the events of Pentecost is another version of this statement. When we offer a seminar we join Peter in presenting the Gospel message, we play a small but exciting part in helping others “openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:6-10).

The *New Life in the Spirit Seminars Catholic Edition 2000* makes every effort to preserve and underline the basic message of the Gospel. The revision refers to this message over thirty times. The main point of Week Two is that “being a Christian and living in the Spirit of Jesus involves committing and recommitting ourselves to a way of life. (Week Two) explains the basic gospel message and what it means to live as disciples in God’s Kingdom” (p 16). Week 5 offers participants the option of answering “yes” to the question, “Do you believe in Jesus Christ?” Participants are invited to affirm the Lordship of Jesus through the renewal of baptismal vows. The last two weeks of the seminar are geared towards learning ways to make Jesus Lord of more areas of daily life.

One of the goals of the revision was to help Catholics understand the many ways that the message of the Gospel has been presented to them throughout their lives. The new seminar explains that, historically speaking, the Gospel message was the skeleton of both the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed. We proclaim the lordship of Jesus every time we celebrate a Eucharist together. In a sense, the creed is an “altar call” for Catholics, a time to stand up and accept Father, Son and Holy Spirit into our hearts, lives and actions. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* quotes St. Ambrose as saying, “This Creed is the spiritual seal, our heart’s meditation and an ever-present guardian; it is, unquestionably, the treasure of our soul” (n. 197). To learn more about the Creed, read sections 185-197 of the Catechism.

The *New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000* sells at \$9.95. A bulk discount of 30% is available for purchase of five copies or more (shipping and handling extra). For more information, call the Chariscenter USA office at 1-800-338-2445.

In the *New Life in the Spirit Seminars Catholic Edition 2000*, a decision was made to shift the way in which the Gospel message is presented in the explanation talk, moving from the “four spiritual laws” which originated with the Campus Crusade for Christ, to the Apostles’ Creed. Both the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds became a vital part of the skeleton of the seminar talks. Creedal statements are printed in bold throughout the new manual (see pp. 74-77, 88, 97, 107, 119, and 143). The new manual also stresses that accepting Jesus is intimately linked to a life of ongoing conversion. It quotes the document from the US Bishops, *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*: “Conversion is the change of our lives that comes about through the power of the Holy Spirit... Unless we undergo conversion, we have not truly accepted the Gospel.. [We] must be converted—and we must continue to be converted! We must let the Holy Spirit change our lives!” (p. 51).

Let us offer a new excitement about the message of the Gospel, the Creed and a life of transformation! Pope John Paul II presented this same challenge to the church during his visit to Nazareth. He said, “I pray for a great renewal of faith in all children of the church; a deep renewal of faith—not just as a general attitude of life, but as a conscious and courageous profession of the Creed.” The US Bishops stress this same challenge. “Awakened and energized by the Spirit, let us strengthen our commitment and intensify our efforts to help the adults in our communities be touched and transformed by the life-giving message of Jesus, to explore its meaning, experience its power, and live in its light as faithful adult disciples today... This is the Lord’s work. In the power of the Spirit it will not fail but will bear lasting fruit for the life of the world” (*Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*, NCCB/USCC, p. 35). ♦

For answers to frequently asked questions about the New Life in the Spirit Seminars, visit Therese Boucher’s website at www.christkey.com.

substantially completed, comprised of six talks followed by six sessions of healing prayer. The vision of a healing retreat was still only partially realized, however. "Healing the Imprisoned," while completed by mid-June, still needed to be given. On December 4-5-6, 1997, that vision became a reality at the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury.

I was accompanied by ten volunteers, most of whom regularly minister at the monthly prayer meetings offered at the prison. None of us was prepared, however, for the magnitude of response waiting for us in the prison chapel. Approximately 150 female inmates were there, eagerly anticipating the opening of the retreat. That same number held throughout the entire retreat.

During the retreat many of the women broke into sobs of repentance as they asked members of the retreat team to pray with them for graces to lay aside everything selfish or destructive they'd ever said or done and to receive the gift of a fresh start.

Accompanying all of this was yet another gift and grace—the opportunity to present a bilingual retreat in English and Spanish. Several months before, Sister Anne Marie Raftery, head chaplain at Danbury F.C.I., had given the script of the retreat to Alex, an inmate gifted with secretarial and translation skills. Alex proved to be so touched by the material and so full of Christ's compassion for her fellow inmates that she offered to translate the entire forty pages of the retreat into Spanish. During the week preceding the retreat, Alex burned the midnight oil, night after night, in order to be able to complete the translation—a truly sacrificial gift of love for the sake of her sisters in Christ. Thanks to these heroic efforts, paired with the dedicated fluency of Luis Ramos, a Spanish-speaking volunteer, and the availability of a first-rate translation system, "Healing the Imprisoned" was presented simultaneously in English and Spanish.

At the conclusion of the retreat, I asked Alex for a copy of her translation so that I could make it available, along with copies of the English edition, to any one interested in using it. She informed me that she considered

the Spanish version only a "rough draft" and wanted time to correct any inaccuracies.

Neither of us suspected at the time that the wait would take over a half a year. The more she got into it, the more she found things that she wanted to refine and polish.

Finally, after a Sunday Mass in late August, she came to me with the completed translation. She radiated an unmistakable joy and love: Christ's love for those yet to be blessed by the fruit of her labors. I knew I had just been privileged to participate in a very special moment of grace.

A few days later Alex, who had already served nearly twenty years of a thirty-five year prison term, received word that she had just been pardoned by President Clinton.

On the following Sunday, when Chaplain Raftery related the breathtaking news to me, I was not only instantly overjoyed at Alex's good fortune, but struck by the conviction that the completion of the translation and the nearly simultaneous granting of the pardon could not be anything else but providentially connected. The more I prayed, the more I could see God's hand in all of it.

And then came the incredible backlash. It seemed as if almost every politician in the country had come forward to denounce the President's pardon of Alex and fifteen other prisoners: "Withdraw the offer of clemency now!" was the nearly deafening outcry.

The national press initially had described the inmates in question as "Puerto Rican separatists" or "Puerto Rican militants." Now, almost universally, they were choosing to refer to them as "Puerto Rican terrorists," even though none had been convicted with crimes that had resulted in death or injuries.

Paradoxically, the more furious this opposition became, the deeper my conviction grew that the pardon was right. Former President Carter, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Coretta Scott King had earlier in the year asked President Clinton to grant this precise pardon. I found myself wondering if it was the Holy Spirit who had united them in taking this unusual step at this precise point in history.

On Friday, September 10, I sat down to read Tom Curran's reflections on the Jubilee. It was the day of the "event" I had mentioned earlier. At roughly the same time, Alex was walking out of the front door of Danbury F.C.I., a free woman. Renewal folks ought to look at all we've been about in the light of the upcoming Jubilee, Tom was urging.

Suddenly, a powerful assurance was there, supporting my belief that the pardon was right: Of course! It's on account of the Jubilee! It happened because the Father wants us to know that he's only just beginning to do more of what his Son had first promised to do when Jesus, reading from Isaiah, announced a Year of Jubilee, a season of good news for the afflicted, release for prisoners and freedom for the oppressed...made possible because of a special anointing of the Holy Spirit.

In the very same breath, he likewise proclaimed that he would grant recovery of sight to the blind. There is a dark, cynical spirit infecting much of our country these days. If we believers are not alert to its contagion, we might find ourselves infected with it as well. We have no right to look at the lost through lenses of despair, or to hold people in their sins when Jesus has already chosen to wipe those sins away, at their request.

Christianity has always been about turning potential "terrorists"—like Saul—into saintly apostles—like Paul; broken people marvelously re-created in God's mercy; ruined lives remade into glorious adventures, pregnant with purpose.

The imprisoned and the oppressed, the blind and the brokenhearted are everywhere, of course—not just in prisons. And they are desperately waiting for some Good News to be brought to them by somebody—somebody with a Jubilee anointing. ♦

Fr. Larry Carew serves on the Steering Committee of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons. He is co-liaison for the Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Bridgeport and associate pastor of Christ the King Parish in Trumbull, Connecticut.



From the Director
.....

by Walter Matthews



NATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE
OF THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL
OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY
for the year ended December 31, 1999

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we near the end of the Great Jubilee Year 2000, I want to thank you for your support of the National Service Committee in 1999 and in this year to date.

In 1999 we:

- ◆ convened the 1999 National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference at the University of Notre Dame. Our theme was "In the Name of the Father" in final preparation for the Great Jubilee;
- ◆ published the *Chariscenter USA Newsletter* quarterly and made plans to upgrade and rename it in 2000. *Pentecost Today* continues to be a major publication in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US;
- ◆ gathered diocesan, community and ministry leaders at four sites (Albuquerque, Boston, St. Louis and Toledo) for refreshment, listening, visioning and dialogue so as to strengthen (leaders in?) the Catholic Charismatic Renewal;
- ◆ brought together forty leaders and intercessors for a Prayer Summit in December to pray in the Great Jubilee;
- ◆ participated in the planning of Celebrate Jesus 2000 ecumenical congress held in St. Louis June 22-25 of this year;
- ◆ continued to support the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services office in Rome;
- ◆ operated Chariscenter USA as a national office for Catholic Charismatic Renewal;

◆ began the process of publishing the New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Leadership Directory and Lift Your Voice, the Year of Jubilee.

In *Tertio Millennio Adveniente* our Holy Father encouraged all of us "to do as much as possible to ensure that the great challenge of

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Public Support			
Contributions			\$261,049
(Exclusive of Donor Development Receipts of \$16,858)			<u> </u>
			\$261,049
Revenue			
Conference registrations and receipts	\$236,094		
Interest	\$155		
Publication and material sales	\$2,290		
Other	\$10,659		\$249,198
			<u> </u>
Total Public Support and Revenue			<u>\$510,247</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Program Services			
Advisory Committee	(\$416)		
Chariscenter USA Newsletter	\$47,065		
ICCRS	\$4,268		
National Conferences	\$186,181		
Other Communication	\$12,402		
Prayer Summit	\$3,159		
Regional Leaders' Gatherings	\$3,487		
Renewal Resources	\$1,096		\$257,242
			<u> </u>
Supporting Services			
Management and general (Includes Chariscenter USA)	\$177,192		
Fund Raising	\$88,461		
Donor Development (cost \$41,858 less receipts \$16,858)	\$25,000		\$290,653
			<u> </u>
Total Expenditures			<u>\$547,895</u>
Excess of Expenses Over Public Support and Revenue			<u>(\$37,648)</u>

This Statement of Accountability follows the format recommended by the National Catholic Development Conference to whose principles of good stewardship the National Service Committee subscribes.

the Year 2000 is not overlooked, for this challenge certainly involves a special grace of the Lord for the church and for the whole of humanity" (n. 55). We in the National Service Committee have sought to respond to this and to the challenge issued at Pentecost 1998 that we, and other movements, show "ecclesial maturity" and bring forth "mature fruit in communion and commitment."

Without your support this would not be possible. Thank you.

In Jesus, our Jubilee,

Walter Matthews
Director

we have been part of the brokenness of the body of Christ.” Representatives of various peoples and groups then came forward—African Americans and whites, Hispanic Catholics and nondenominational Hispanics, Native Americans and European Americans, males and females, Christians and Jews—each in turn asking for forgiveness and praying for one another.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings, participants attended one of several sessions hosted by various denominations and ministries, including Catholic, Episcopal, Hispanic Catholic, Hispanic Trans-denominational, Methodist, nondenominational, Pentecostal, Women of the Word and a special session for youth. (See accompanying article on the Catholic sessions.)

On both Friday and Saturday afternoons, ecumenical workshops were offered addressing a wide variety of topics. Offerings included: Divine Healing; Spirit-led Witnessing; Revival in the Family; Discerning the Signs of the Times; Deliverance Ministry; Stirring Up the Gifts of the Holy Spirit; Building Unity in the Body of Christ; Revival in the Church; Preparing for the Times Ahead; as well as Hispanic sessions and youth sessions.



At Friday evening's general session, the seating swelled beyond the arena floor and into the stadium seating as the doors were opened to the general public free of charge. The session, led by emcee Sr. Nancy Kellar, focused on revival. During the extended time for praise and worship, huge banners resembling flames were waved over the heads of the assembly, and the water-colored fabrics flowing into the aisles were replaced with billowing fabrics of red and orange.

Jan Heath, a Catholic lay woman from Brisbane, Australia, related how after attending the 1990 Indianapolis Congress, she began to receive invitations to share her experience with different churches. Within two years she had spoken to over 400 groups. Soon she found herself being invited to Uganda, New Guinea, Zimbabwe and nineteen other nations. Her experiences eventu-

ally led to the establishment of a Center for Catholic Bible Study in her home diocese. The Center has provided training for 292 parishes that have begun Bible studies where there were none before.

Jack Hayford of the Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California, shared with the assembly that he felt called by God to perform a symbolic action. Before a hushed arena, Hayford stood at the front of the stage, placed his finger on his head and slowly turned a full circle. Then he addressed a prophetic word to the audience: “Be ready for a turn-around. If there will be revival in your time, it will require you to humble yourself. If you will humble yourself by repentance and do whatever I tell you to do, I will turn your world around.” He invited those who felt called to respond to stand, place their fingers on their heads, and do a symbolic “turn-around.”

Babsie Bleasdel of Trinidad invited her hearers to make the new century different from the last. “Pope John Paul II has called the 20th Century a ‘Century of Tears’ for it has been one of the saddest of times. But, brothers and sisters, we have the answer. We must bring about a new century through true repentance. We are being asked to forgive and to forget. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to wash your memory, to forget in order to be able to walk in the joy of the Lord.” As the session closed, members of NARSC came forward to minister in prayer to those seeking healing of memories and prayers for revival.

“Release” was the theme for Saturday evening's closing session as an estimated crowd of 12,000 spilled from the arena floor into the stadium bleachers. As the session opened a huge procession of banners bearing the titles of Jesus wove its way through the crowd, accompanied by hundreds of people in dress from their native lands. Jonathon Dow of Methodist Aldersgate Renewal led the congregation in songs of joyful praise. Emcee Jim Jackson invited all those attending to be open to the full impact of the themes of the Congress: “Repentance—Revival—Release!” He quoted 2 Cor. 5:17: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” He



introduced Gary Moore of the Methodist Aldersgate Renewal, who prayed that all those present might be released to experience the full destiny that God had for each of them.

Evangelist Pat Robertson then addressed the assembly, sharing his belief that the heart of Jesus is broken because of the millions of people who do not know him. He exhorted the crowd, “Go out and simply tell them about Jesus! You don't have to argue with them; you don't have to talk theology to them. Just tell them the simple news of Jesus Christ! Take the great commission to heart—go out to all the world!” Robertson prayed for an anointing of power for all those present to fulfill the call to evangelize the world.

The assembly was then led in another extended time of praise and worship. As the congregation sang “Jesus, we crown you with praise,” a huge crown was processed to the front of the arena, followed by billowing waves of royal purple fabric.

Fr. Tom Forrest, who in 1987 had called those attending the New Orleans Congress to a decade of evangelization closing the 20th Century, invited the crowd at St. Louis to embrace the 21st Century with deepened faith and dedication. “God put us here to look like him,” he said, challenging his hearers to be single-minded in loving one another as God loves us. He recalled the ways in which Mary said her “yes” to be like God in love, and the way Jesus had responded. “Our ‘yes’ must be like those of Mary and Jesus,” he said. “No ‘ifs’, ‘ands’ or ‘buts’. Just say, ‘Yes!’”



The sound of the praise and shouts of joy as the Congress was brought to a close seemed to indicate that the call was accepted. The celebration of God's love and the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit which began in the last century would obviously continue well into the next. ♦

To order audio and video tapes of the Celebrate Jesus 2000 general sessions and workshops, as well as the Catholic Conference sessions, call Resurrection Tapes at 1-888-809-0267 or online at colin@resurrection.com.



Archbishop Justin Rigali



National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference convenes as part of Celebrate Jesus 2000

On Friday and Saturday mornings, the National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference met within the context of the Celebrate Jesus 2000 Ecumenical Congress. With approximately 9,000 in attendance, the Catholic sessions were held in the TWA Dome. Friday morning's session began with Mass presided by Fr. Patsy Iaquina, Chairman of the National Service Committee. Former NSC Chairman Jim Murphy served as emcee.

Speaker Mark Nimo, a member of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, described how the process of his own conversion led him to the School of Catholic Evangelization in Malta and eventually into full-time missionary work. "God always acts out of love," Nimo observed, "leading us through reconciliation into mission."

Former NSC member David Thorp of Boston invited those present to listen to a recording of the song "Eternity." David pointed out that "if there is not reconciliation here and now, in this life, it won't be happening with God in eternity." He then reflected on some of the obstacles that prevent us from seeking reconciliation with others, especially the difficulties people face in dealing with power.

Sr. Briege McKenna shared a number of stories demonstrating the healing power of the Eucharist. "When you truly understand this extraordinary and beautiful sacrament, it completely changes your life." Sr. Briege closed the session with a prayer for Catholics "to be hungry enough for the Eucharist that they will want priests and will pray for seminarians."

Bishop Sam Jacobs of Alexandria, Virginia, presided at the celebration of the Eucharist on Saturday morning, the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist. The former NSC Chairman, who currently serves as Chairman of the US Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, challenged prayer groups to have the same zeal as John the Baptist demonstrated. "I challenge every prayer group represented here today to bring the grace of Pentecost to the whole church by having at least one Life in the Spirit Seminar in the months remaining in this Jubilee Year!"

NSC member Aggie Neck also encouraged participants to be like John the Baptist—on the cutting edge. "Be open to, be ready for, new things! Expect the unexpected today!" Speaker Deborah DeRosia shared a testimony of the powerful ways in which the Holy Spirit has moved in her homeland of Trinidad,

where there is an active charismatic prayer group in every parish. "God is saving people everywhere! Just two weeks ago, on Pentecost Sunday, in my own



parish, two hundred people were prayed with the laying on of hands for baptism in the Holy Spirit. These people are now going out, providing food for the poor, going from door to door, asking, 'Do you know the one who is your hope and salvation?' This is what Jubilee proclamation is all about!"

Quoting John 15:11, Dominic Berardino, President of Southern California Renewal Communities, asked the congregation, "When was the last time your joy was complete?" He recounted a vision seen by St. Catherine of Genoa in which she beheld buildings larger than any she had ever seen on earth. The Lord then said to her, "These hold the gifts and graces intended for humanity which have never been asked for." Berardino continued, "Many graces of this Jubilee Year remain... The Jubilee Year is not

yet over, but as in the parable of the wedding feast, many seem to be leaving early. Remember the story of the wedding at Cana—Jesus serves the best wine last!"

Former NSC member Sr. Nancy Kellar described the many signs of the New Springtime for Christianity she has witnessed as she travels around the world in her work for IC-CRS. Recounting signs of renewal in Haiti, Korea, Lithuania, Brazil, Uganda,

Ireland, Italy and Pakistan, Sr. Nancy went on to say that these signs were just the seeds of what is to come. "Springtime is a time of expectation—a time for anticipating a new harvest," she continued. "I am hearing a new call to respond in the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe there is a new call to reach out in ministry to youth. I believe there is a new call to acts of mercy, social justice and outreach. And I believe there is a new call to reach out to the non-Christian world. We should expect a harvest, knowing God will act."

The Catholic Conference closed on Sunday morning, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, with Mass presided by Archbishop Justin Rigali, who had proclaimed the Celebrate Jesus 2000 Congress a special Jubilee Year event for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. ♦

Photos: Bev Wilson; St. Louis Review: Richard Finke

Friends of the NSC

by Bob Brown



It is not too late do some tax planning.

The end of the year is approaching. Charitable gifts to the National Service Committee and Chariscenter USA are a great way to participate in the work we are about, stirring into flame the grace of Pentecost within and beyond the church, to broaden and deepen the understanding that baptism in the Holy Spirit is the Christian inheritance of all, and to strengthen the Catholic Charismatic Renewal," and at the same time reduce your taxes!

Gifts to the NSC and Chariscenter are tax deductible, as allowed by law, and have great blessing in the lives of thousands of people.

Stocks

In your planning think of the stocks you own that have greatly appreciated. If given as a gift at their appreciated value, this kind of gift certainly makes your money go much further while saving the capital gains tax and having income tax benefits. And hearts will be softened and lives turned to Jesus. The outreach will continue to spread so that all will hear his name.

Real Estate

Gifts of real estate are another excellent way to support the work we share and take advantage of the tremendous tax benefits awaiting the giver. Often we have property we have watched grow in value over and above what we invested in it. Giving at this appreciated value is an exciting way to both save on taxes and fund the work of Jesus.

If you would like additional information on tax planning for the end of the year or the ways which you might be able to share in the work we are about "renewing the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the church," give me a call at 1-800-338-2445.

Check out our web site and let us know how we can better serve you. *Pentecost Today* is posted to the web site as soon as it goes to the printer. Invite your friends and family to check out the resources available.



RUDY PRUDEN

When Rudy was elected to the NSC fifteen years ago, he brought many talents and gifts which he still continues to give. For most of those years he

has served as Chairman of the Finance Committee in addition to serving on several other subcommittees.

Originally from Portsmouth, Virginia, Rudy now splits his residency between Holland, Michigan, and Washington, D.C.

He became involved in the Charismatic Renewal in 1970 and has served as Chairman of the Washington, D.C., Service Committee for seven of those years. Rudy is also on the Board of the Ecumenical Gospel Rescue Ministries which supplies housing, teaching and food to the homeless in the D.C. area. He is a frequent speaker at conferences.

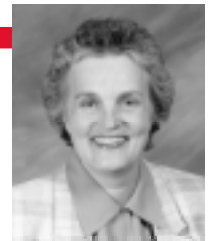
Since Rudy is a man who pursues dreams, he spent the last nine months in Paris in an "academic year", fulfilling a life-long dream to learn to speak French. *Tes bien*, Rudy!

Reflection

"I would like to see the grace of Pentecost become operative for the whole church, and also to see the gifts of the Spirit become fully normative for the church. A desire I have is to have everyone come to know Jesus Christ personally and to experience the joy that comes from service to him. Because we know the healing aspects of the sacraments, I would also like to see the people of God availing themselves of this gift of the church. The Holy Father has spoken eloquently of what God will do in this new millennium and my hope would be that the Holy Spirit would be the instrument to bring this to life in the church"

Ministry Update

by Aggie Neck



AGGIE NECK

Having almost completed two years of service on the NSC, I can truly say that each subcommittee I have worked on has been a blessing and a challenge. God finds wonderful ways to stretch us. For the past eleven years I have served as Co-Director of Servant House, a Catholic Charismatic House of Prayer in Marksville, Louisiana, my hometown. Some of our activities include spiritual direction, inner healing, prison ministry, healing Masses and Bible studies. Each day offers us different ways to serve and to be blessed.

A highlight of this past year was spending a week on the island of Malta ministering at Magnificat functions and teaching in two prayer groups. What a joy to see the Charismatic Renewal so vibrant and alive there! Sharing the love of Jesus with these warm and loving people was a great experience I will always remember fondly. This July, I had the joy of working with the Steubenville South Conference held in our diocese. It was a powerful weekend where 3400 youth encountered Jesus in a dynamic way.

To have the opportunity to serve God and his people is a blessing that brings much joy into every aspect of my life!

Reflection

The love of our merciful God has been poured out in great abundance this Jubilee Year. As its end draws near, I believe the plan of God has only just begun. Everything in the Jubilee has been given to prepare us for the New Springtime of the church. We are on the threshold of a mighty move of God and he calls us to be prepared and ready to enter into the new millennium as renewed people alive with his Holy Spirit. There is still much to be done in bringing souls to Christ, and God has been preparing us for this task. To him be the glory!

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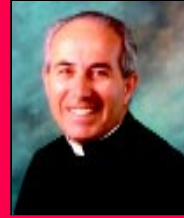
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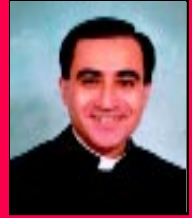
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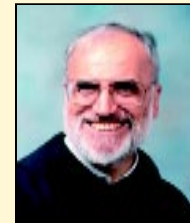
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