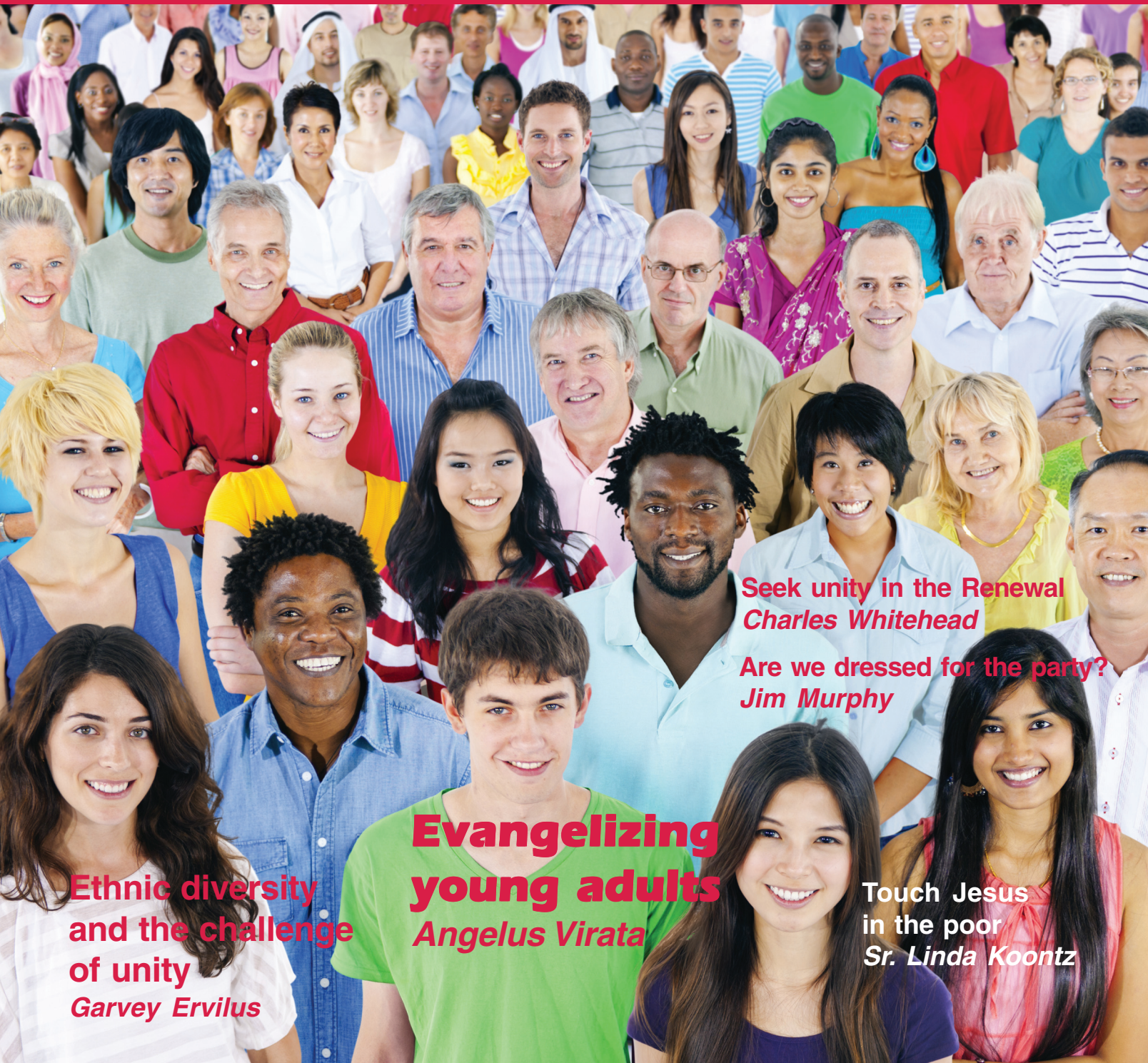


Summer 2015

# PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal



**Ethnic diversity  
and the challenge  
of unity**  
*Garvey Ervilus*

**Evangelizing  
young adults**  
*Angelus Virata*

**Seek unity in the Renewal**  
*Charles Whitehead*

**Are we dressed for the party?**  
*Jim Murphy*

**Touch Jesus  
in the poor**  
*Sr. Linda Koontz*

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





## Chairman's Corner

by Johnny Bertucci

# Ready for the move of God

*"The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness—for God Himself."*  
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

In two short years, we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. As we approach this Jubilee, let us not settle for the world's offer of comfort, but rather rise to Benedict XVI's challenge. Pope Francis encourages us: "People think it's better to be comfortable, but that is not what the fire of the Holy Spirit brings."

The Holy Spirit moves us forward, often in surprising ways. Let us live in such a way that we recognize these moves of the Spirit and are ready to respond to them at a moment's notice! Let's take God at his word as he says,

through the prophet Habakkuk, "For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told" (Hab 1:5).

One of the moves of the Holy Spirit is a pilgrimage planned for 2017 beginning in the Holy Land and ending with a celebration on Pentecost with the Holy Father in Rome. This pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Sam Jacobs and Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR and is jointly hosted by Franciscan University and the National Service Committee. Please join us in responding to Pope Francis' invitation: "I expect all of you, charismatics from around the world, to celebrate your great jubilee with the pope at Pentecost 2017 in St. Peter's Square" (see information on our website).

I believe the Holy Spirit is moving us forward in a great many ways. I can only imagine what these next two years will bring as we journey toward the 50th anniversary of the Spirit coming in power at the Duquesne weekend. It will be a great opportunity to retell the story and invite yet another generation to receive the gift of God, baptism in the Holy Spirit. ♦

*Johnny Bertucci is Chairman of the National Service Committee.*



## Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

In this issue we are invited to consider more of the many facets of Unity. One of these is addressed in the article, *Ethnic Diversity: Meeting the Challenge of Unity* (pp 4-5). Garvey Ervilus writes of the possibility that we see the expression of the Spirit from only one point of view or experience. He challenges us to think in terms of the spirit of Vatican II "which insisted on enculturation in any evangelization effort."

Charles Whitehead, in *Unity in the Charismatic Renewal* (pp 6-7), writes that with the rich harvest of visible fruit, of charisms and ministries, "it's important to remember that all are inspired and empowered by the same Holy Spirit and have been established to extend the same Kingdom."

In *Time to Get Dressed* (pp 8, 9, and 12) Jim Murphy asks, "Are we 'dressed for the party' or 'home in our pajamas?'" Read the article for the context. A great analogy!

Pope Francis desires for us to be close to the poor. In *Touch Jesus* (pp 10-11) Sister Linda Koontz shares a few of her experiences in ministry to the poor. "When we receive the Holy Spirit we have the ability of the Holy Spirit to do what is impossible for us to do by our own efforts."

Angelus Virata, in *Discerning the Call to Evangelize Young Adults* (p 3), describes her call and desire to share the person of Jesus with young adults.

Sister Nancy Kellar (p 15) gives us a snapshot of her broad experience of the Renewal over the past 46 years. "What I have seen and heard speaking at conferences in over 60 countries is that when we come to God with expectant faith asking for a new Pentecost, he hears our prayer and pours out his Holy Spirit and the charisms in great abundance."

We have been invited to take a broader view of unity and diversity in the Spirit. Again we pray, "Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts, renew the face of the earth!" ♦

## PENTECOST Today

Volume 40 Number 3

### Executive Director

Walter Matthews

### Editorial Board

Jimmy Archer

Tom Mangan

Tammie Stevens

### Editor

Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

### Production Manager

Jean Beers

© 2015 National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. Not to be reproduced without permission.

### 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.

A limited amount of advertising space is available. For information call Jean Beers, (360) 730-1740. Advertisements for events not sponsored by the National Service Committee do not imply endorsement by the NSC/Chariscenter USA.



## Discerning the Call to Evangelize Young Adults

by Angelus Virata

In my experience, there are three keys to discernment: a relationship with God, a prayer life and an abandonment to God's will. My journey began when I was in second grade and people prayed with me for the gifts and charisms of the Spirit. For the first time in my life, I felt the presence and love of God. It was a realization that God is madly in love with me. It so touched me at the core that my heart felt full. Then, I started to speak in tongues. When I spoke in tongues, it was as if I was responding to God's love for me. Words can't express beauty beyond description and love beyond human love. From that moment, God became a part of my life and we journeyed together.

Then, my mother taught me how to read, meditate and pray with Scripture. Having a foundation of prayer and discipline to listen to him was instrumental. I had to get to know God and have a relationship with him before I started trusting him.

After college, I worked in "Corporate America" which is where God called me to evangelize young adults. Many of them move to a big city upon graduation for jobs. Most are achievement-oriented with a desire to climb the corporate ladder. In retrospect, I saw God's hands leading me into the corporate world where most young professionals work. Climbing that "ladder" entailed working many late nights to meet deadlines: I found my prayer life suffering because of working so much. I found that the higher I went up the ladder the more I experienced fleeting happiness and emptiness. There was much insecurity, materialism, and restlessness in maintaining a certain lifestyle and a "perfect girl" image – beautiful, smart and fun.

In the corporate world, most young adults have stopped going to church. Many are consumed with working toward material success, yet the craving for meaning and purpose exists. However, they are not turning to God to fill the longing in their hearts: instead they turn to possessions, wealth, status and relationships. Their identity is not rooted in God but in their work, in their title and what the world says they should be. It's easy to believe the lies that a person has to be a certain way to be accepted, to be loved, and to be worthy in this world.

I saw a hunger that fame, glory or achievements could never satisfy. Yet here I was with the answer to this real hunger and it's in the person of Jesus and the power of his Holy Spirit. So I turned to God in prayer and asked him to use me. Many times, God presents opportunities for us to share him with others but we are afraid to say anything.

Deep inside, I wanted to do God's will but was afraid of what others would say or think of me. I learned that I had to get out of the way so that God could bring me to a new level of freedom. It was a freedom from pleasing people and having to be perfect. Perfectionism brings only fear and anxiety. I realized that I had to move my focus from myself to others. I needed a mind shift so that I could be unafraid to be God's witness in the world. The more that I went out of my comfort zone, doing what God has called me to do and trusting in him, the more I began to gain confidence and became bold in sharing God's love and mercy. I was and continue to be inspired and empowered by St. Paul's words to the Corinthians when he said, "When I came to you, brothers, proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with sublimity of words of wisdom for I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God" (1 Cor 2:1-5). ♦



*Angelus Virata serves as Director of Adult Faith Formation at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Arlington, Virginia. She assists the Arlington Renewal with coordinating events and young adult ministry. She is a member of the NSC Council for Young Adults.*





# Ethnic Diversity:

## Meeting the Challenge of Unity

by Garvey Ervilus

Saint Paul wears many hats. One of his more common titles is “the Apostle of the Gentiles.” Yet, the Charismatic Renewal has adopted him as “the Charismatic Apostle” especially, but not exclusively, for his teaching on the charisms—manifestations of the Holy Spirit—in 1

Corinthians 12. Another title awarded to him is “the Apostle of Unity.” The latter is of a particular importance to us this year as we are reflecting on unity, what it really entails, how it is

**Does diversity entail division? Absolutely not.**

witnessed in the prayer groups and between the different ethnic groups.

### Unity not Uniformity

The experience at the Duquesne retreat was at the genesis of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Because of that, there is a tendency to consider the American charismatic expression as normative. I still remember those explosive charismatic conferences at Notre Dame, Indiana three decades ago. The songs, the music, the prophetic words, the shouts of joy, the unfolding of the service, the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, and the whole ambiance were unique, and

so different from any spiritual gathering that I had ever attended thus far. Since it was a new phenomenon in the Catholic Church, that particular expression of the charismatic assembly was considered to be the point of reference for any other ethnic group that wanted to engage in the charismatic experience.

Back at our parishes we wanted to repeat that charismatic experience. But to us, there was only one expression of that experience: the Indiana one, as if the Holy Spirit had only one way of manifesting himself. We had forgotten for a while that the Holy Spirit was a creator not a manufacturer. We found ourselves busy trying to transfer the Indiana ambiance on Haitian soil. We were translating some songs and imitating some gestures and some wording of the prophetic messages.

However, slowly but surely, in the spirit of Vatican II which strongly insisted on enculturation in any evangelization effort, we started to allow the Spirit to utilize our resources in giving a distinctive Haitian flavor and expression to our charismatic gatherings. The Holy Spirit generated some



spiritual composers with words and rhythms that would touch the sensitive fibers of our souls. For instance, the “Kore Mwen” of Jean-Robert Themistocle, is a typical Haitian expression, difficult to translate into other languages and yet carrying for the Haitian people a moving connotation. The Holy Spirit has also inspired us to modify certain spiritual practices according to the specific needs of the Haitian people. For example, discerning the multiple elements of suffering in our history, socioeconomic struggles, education system, some cultural practices, the rapport between the government and the governed. We found it appropriate to have a whole service of healing and deliverance in the Seminars of the Life in the Spirit, before the effusion of the Holy Spirit.

If the Spirit has allowed us to express our charismatic spirituality differently, is he suggesting that each ethnic group should remain separated? In other words, does diversity entail division? Absolutely not. The Spirit who is infinitely creative wanted us to avoid confusing uniformity with unity. That all the ethnic groups express their charismatic spirituality in the same shape and form would be a demonstration of uniformity, not of unity. Saint Paul did not advocate uniformity but unity in diversity. We need to welcome diversity as a blessing instead of running away from it as a curse. “Diversity of gifts but the same Spirit. Diversity of service but the same Lord. Diversity of ministry but the same God (1 Cor 12:5-6). This understanding of unity in diversity is even stronger in verses 17-19 of the same chapter.

“If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?”

After the listing of the charisms in verse 11, Paul comments: “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as he wills.” I think it is not farfetched at this point to consider each ethnic group as a gift to the others. With such a consideration, we can see Paul urging the different ethnic groups of the Renewal to help each other discern, discover and develop their own charisms in order to proclaim to all the nations the wondrous deeds of a God rich in diversity. This consideration is important if we don’t want our different ethnic groups to fall into another harmful way: the cliques.

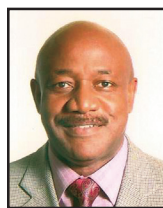
## The Cliques

Allow me to go back to Paul and his first letter to the Corinthians. All of Paul’s letters have been prompted as a response to problems faced by the communities that he founded. The Jesus-people of Corinth dispatched Chloe to Ephesus to seek Paul’s advice on some issues that they were confronting. One of them was the formation of cliques. The cliques came from the Corinthians’ misconception of baptism. All the people baptized by the same person formed a clique around that person as a leader and that practice was fracturing the Jesus-people community of Corinth. In his pastoral response to this issue, Paul reminded them what baptism does for them. Among other things, it makes them belong to Christ (1 Cor 3:21-23).

“No more boasting about following a particular human leader! For everything belongs to you, whether Paul or Apollos or Peter, or the world, or life and death, or the present and the future. Everything belongs to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.”

If we are not open to welcome, to discover and to encourage the different ways that the Spirit works in the other ethnic groups, our temptation to ethnocentrism is great. This practice is all the more pernicious in that it suggests the superiority of one ethnic group over the other. And that would be a very poor witnessing of the Spirit of love and unity. The allegiance to an ethnicity would be made at the expense of the allegiance to Christ. The above passage of Paul is very relevant to the Charismatic Renewal of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I hear in this passage an invitation to a Eucharistic renewal as well. We all belong to Christ. We are the body of Christ, and our cliques lead to a disintegration of that body instead of its edification. The Charismatic Renewal must pray more attentively and fervently this Eucharistic prayer:

“We thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. May all of us who share in the body and blood of Christ be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit” (Eucharistic Prayer II). ♦



*Garvey Ervilus was born in Haiti and became involved in the Renewal in 1978. He moved to Miami in 1988 where he is an elementary school teacher. He has been responsible for dramatizations at the Haitian National Congress since 1993. He is married and has two children.*



# Unity in the Charismatic Renewal

by Charles Whitehead

I'm sure we are all well aware that one of the greatest weaknesses in the Charismatic Renewal is the visible lack of unity we often find between our different groups and ministries. Where there is disunity and division the work of the Holy Spirit is undermined.

When Pope Francis addressed more than 50,000 Catholic charismatics at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, he gave us his six "expectations" of the world-wide Renewal. His final expectation was this:

**"Seek unity in the Renewal because unity comes from the Holy Spirit and is born of the unity of the Trinity. From whom does division come? From the Devil! Division comes from the Devil. Flee from internal fights please! They must not exist among us!"**

These are powerful words from the Holy Father who clearly sees division of any sort as a work of the Devil which must be consciously and deliberately resisted, and we do well to remember

that these are also the words of someone who loves the Renewal and who knows us well. He sees what happens when there is division among us, and how it undermines the life-changing

work of baptism in the Holy Spirit. Most of us know he is absolutely right because we too have seen for ourselves the results of division and negative attitudes. We may even on occasions have contributed to the problem.

Charismatic Renewal has something essential and very powerful to give to the Church, baptism in the Holy Spirit, and has produced a rich harvest of visible fruit—prayer groups, many different kinds of communities, organizations promoting and training people for the new evangelization, special ministries, houses of prayer and formation, and much more. The list is impressive. The Lord has given the vision



for each of these to individual men and women, but it's important to remember that all are inspired and empowered by the same Holy Spirit and have been established to extend the same

**The vision he's given us recognizes our individuality but requires us to co-operate with others.**

Kingdom. While each of us has a clear responsibility to be faithful to our God-given vision, we must never become critical of what others are doing just because it's different. There's no place in God's plan for narrow-minded people or for personal empire builders. The vision he's given us recognizes our individuality but requires us to co-operate with others. This means we have to invest time and energy in building positive relationships with those in the Renewal who may not share our particular vision.

There are four key values which must be present in every relationship: **Trust, Respect, Understanding, Love.** Of these, **Trust** is the most fragile. It's both a decision and a process; it depends on character and demands honesty rather than perfection. **Respect** means we recognize someone's dignity, value and worth; it's all about who they are, not about what they do, and it calls for concrete expressions of encouragement and affirmation. **Understanding** does not mean agreement, but when someone knows I understand them it releases them from the on-going need to justify their beliefs and actions. Finally **Love**—a greatly over-used word which in this context is simply a decision we make and to which we remain faithful no matter what may happen.

Our claims to be filled with the Spirit are meaningless if our attitudes and behavior do not show love. Love bears all things, believes the best and holds on even when people let me down again and again (1 Cor 13). If we are perfect

in doctrine, abundantly gifted by God but lacking in love, then we have failed. Love lies at the heart of all our relationships. It's easy to maintain a loving relationship at arm's length—to

meet on a rather superficial and trivial level.

But when we get close and involved with each other we soon discover how good our relationships really are. We will often find it difficult to relate to certain people, and this is where we need to turn to God for help.

Why am I pushing this point? Because **good relationships are the key to avoiding disunity in the Renewal but they demand our time, effort and commitment, often for little obvious personal gain. They may be very costly, but they're essential.** I need to work out my particular God-given vision alongside all the others in the Renewal. There's nothing new about this, even though I often meet people who think that anyone who doesn't share their particular vision must be wrong. But the Lord has always given many different visions; just look at the rich variety of the religious orders. "*The parts are many but the body is one*" (1 Cor 12:20). We all share in the common mission to live the Gospel and to make disciples of all the nations. If I do my part and encourage other people to do theirs, the Renewal will be much more effective, but all our efforts are undermined when there are internal fights, as we know to our shame.

So let's be supportive, encouraging and speak well of the many other groups, organizations and movements in the Church and particularly of those in the Renewal who are called to a huge variety of ministries and areas of service. Let's invest time and effort in keeping our relationships strong, our love flow-

## Prayer Card

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer for unity: to live in peace and harmony with one another united with one mind in Christ.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit let us not bring division but unity to the peoples around us.

Help us to understand and live out the truth that "*there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all*"

(Eph 4:4-6 RSVCE)

and let us bring that unified spirit to the world.

ing, and commit ourselves to praying for one another. Then we'll see even more fruit and the Kingdom of God will be extended on many fronts. We need to see things as God sees them and to work side by side with those who have different visions and callings to achieve together his divine purposes. So much more is possible when we enjoy good relationships. As Pope Francis exhorted us, "Flee from internal fights please! They must not exist among us!" ♦



*Charles Whitehead is a Life Member of the English NSC. He served as President of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council from 1989 to 2000.*

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

- ◆ That as we live out our lives, seeking peace and harmony through a life led by the Holy Spirit, people will know we are Christians by our lives and be drawn to Christ.
- ◆ That we continue to build bridges and seek reconciliation in the Church and the world at large.
- ◆ That just as at Pentecost the gift of tongues united the people by the word of God preached and heard, may our preaching and sharing unite all those who hear us to the heart of God.
- ◆ That Pope Francis' upcoming trip to the United States bear much fruit for the Kingdom of God by fostering a spirit of unity between nations and peoples.
- ◆ That the Planning Committee for the 2015 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference, to be held Nov 13-15, receive all the graces needed to plan a dynamic conference that will encourage all who attend to be led by the Holy Spirit into one body in Christ.



## Time to get dressed

by Jim Murphy

I was in a car yesterday, driving through Rome with a group of friends. My assignment was to check out places to hold a future event in the city. As we drove along, we passed by so many places that had such dear memories for me: St Peter's Basilica where we met with Pope Paul VI at Pentecost 1975, the fields above the catacombs of St. Callistus where we gathered to praise God and celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which at times would break out into spontaneous dancing!

I saw places where men and women from around the world had gathered, speaking different languages but united in the language of the Spirit. Oh the joy, the fire...and the fun!

My thoughts were brought back to the present moment when an Argentinian woman (a personal friend of Pope Francis) asked me a question as we drove along. "In June, it will be a year since the Holy Father addressed the world-wide Renewal here in Rome. At that time he told us he wanted us to bring this experience of the Holy Spirit to all of the Church. I haven't seen much action in the Renewal on this point. Jim, if the Holy Father should ask me how we are doing what shall I tell him?"

"Tell him we got tired," I mumbled under my breath. The conversation in the car stopped and everyone looked at me. "Some folks have been trying to do that very thing for the last 50 years," I continued, "and have not always been welcomed with open arms. I think some people have just worn down." The Argentine nodded in silent agreement but came back with a dramatic statement "But

**Coming to Seattle April 2016!!**  
Applications are now being accepted!



**A one-week school to foster leadership in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide.**

*The ICCRS Leadership Training Course is for people of all ages, from charismatic organizations worldwide who want to spend some time of their lives being formed in leadership within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.*

For more information  
click on the QR code in this ad,  
go to [www.wwccr.org](http://www.wwccr.org) or [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org),  
or email [LTC2016@wwccr.org](mailto:LTC2016@wwccr.org)







## Are we “home in our pajamas?”

now there is a new opportunity, a new possibility! We have to wake the Renewal up! This is the time!” Another added in, “We have carried this baby for so long, we cannot be too tired to deliver the child!” Another analogy was offered; “It is as if we got dressed to go to a party and we waited and waited for the invitation. We got tired of waiting so we took off our party clothes and put on our pajamas. Now the party is about to begin...and we are in our pajamas!”

We were driving by St Peter’s at the moment and my thoughts turned to a particular place in the square where once I had seen an ailing Pope John Paul II struggle out of his chair to declare with all the strength he could muster, “Be open to the Holy Spirit! Be open to the Holy Spirit!” Those words, spoken many years earlier, seemed to me to be a prophetic exhortation from the now-canonized Pontiff.

Are we truly “open to the Holy Spirit?” Are we indeed at a moment of “new opportunity, new possibility?” Are we “dressed for the party” or “home in our pajamas?”

The conversation in the car returned to normal, but I sat there in silence, looking out the window and reflecting on the last 5 minutes.....and the last 50 years.

I will acknowledge that time has moved on and we cannot return to 1967. Nor can we discern the future through a nostalgic look at the past.

We can learn from the past, however, and see what we can embrace in the current moment and go forward.

I know I am speaking in broad generalities, but here are some things we did that kept the fire burning bright:

We were people committed to prayer. Our lives were restructured to ensure that we had a significant amount of time for personal prayer. It became one of the highest priorities of life...higher than sleep or showers or food. It was a common thing to ask a friend “So...how is your prayer time going these days?” Our prayer was contemplative, it was charismatic, it was traditional...and it was consistent. Every follower of Jesus saw it as their personal responsibility to have a daily prayer time.

We devoured Scripture. When touched by the Holy Spirit, we became infatuated with the Word of God. We would always carry our Bibles with us. A Scripture passage could become the focus of a lunch time conversation. We would constantly turn to Scripture for strength, guidance and inspiration. It was unthinkable to go to bed at night if you had not read your Bible for whatever amount of time you were committed.

After encountering the Holy Spirit, we had such a new sensitivity to the Sacraments! We were amazed that ancient rituals which we had grown up with now seemed so vital and alive. Every time we went to Mass, every time we entered the confessional, we expected to encounter the living Christ who had become so real, so relevant in our lives.

The Spirit of God also opened our hearts to others. We hungered for fellowship. We met with brothers and sisters of other denominations and saw them as co-workers in the Vineyard. Our own fellow Catholics became deepest friends. God put a new love in our hearts for family and co-workers. It was a sovereign work of God, and we knew it. We never complained about a prayer meeting going too long. Heck, we would stay up all night if need be...it was just so much fun to be together!

We did not “throw a switch” after a prayer meeting. We sought to follow the Spirit 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We would use the charisms at a conference, but also in the workplace. God “might show up anywhere” and we always wanted to be ready to follow his lead.



## Or “dressed for the party?”

I think that even though we saw ourselves as “part of the Renewal,” our true identity was that we had been grasped by Christ. Our identity was directly linked to him. There was not much talk about *my* ministry or one person’s accomplishments. The focus was on God, not the person.

And it was about the Lord that we spoke so freely. We could not be quiet! We would tell anybody...and everybody that “We have seen the Lord!” Sometimes we were met with skepticism and even mocking...but we would not be silent. What had been whispered to us in our hearts was shouted from the rooftops!

There was a sense that we were all in this together. True, the Renewal had leaders, but it had no spectators.

See **Dressed** page 12



*Editor's Note: In response to the Holy Father's words at the Italian Renewal's 37th National Convocation where he was asked to tell the Renewal what the Pope expects from us, the Editorial Board of Pentecost Today decided to reflect on several points made by Pope Francis. The following reflection is the fourth.*

# Touch Jesus

by Sr. Linda Koontz

*Be close to the poor and to those in need, so as to touch in their flesh the wounded flesh of Jesus. Please draw near to them*  
(Pope Francis).

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor!" (Lk 4:18). This is every Christian's job description. Jesus wants us to understand that what he said is true, that the spirit of the Lord is upon me. He was talking about himself but later on he tells us that he will give us the same spirit so that we will be able to carry out his mission in the world. (See Jn 16:4-7, 13-14). All who believe in him and follow him are to be anointed by the Holy Spirit.

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes down upon you" (Acts 1:8). The word *power* translated from the Greek means ability, efficiency and might. When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit we are fully equipped to draw near to the poor and to bring them the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are Jesus' love flowing through us to touch the wounded flesh of Christ. Disciples of Jesus are God's chosen instruments to bring hope to the hurting world and to deliver justice to the poor and oppressed. All of our service must be led by the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:10) so that our works will bear fruit. We can pray, "Holy Spirit lead me to the person you want me to bless."

I visited Tomas and his wife in their humble shack and invited them to the prayer meeting in the hills of Juarez, Mexico. Tomas came and I noticed that he always carried a small empty bucket. The thought came to me, "Put a chicken in his bucket." "I did ... I continued for several weeks. Many years ago I heard these words in my heart, "Always bring Jesus with the food." We presented the Good News in the



**"Always bring Jesus with the food."**

meeting: "Jesus died for you so that you many have forgiveness of your sins, receive a new life on this earth, and receive a new life for all eternity." Many accept this gift of salvation each week and experience joy, freedom, and God's love filling them. The poor gladly receive the Good News. Tomas had no response. Finally, the week of Christmas, with tears, he surrendered his life to Jesus and received the Holy Spirit. Just three months later he died. His wife said that he was a changed man.

We cannot preach good news and be bad news. Yes, we must meet physical needs, but we must do more. We must bring the Gospel to the poor (Rom 1:16). The Gospel is the power of God!

Juanita, a widow, came to the prayer meeting because she was sick. She could not afford a doctor. She lived in a tent and had little food. She was filled with joy to hear that Jesus still heals today and wants to touch her. We prayed with Juanita and she was set free from sickness and depression. She gratefully received the Holy Spirit. We built her a small house. All four of her children became zealous followers of Jesus and turned from a life of prostitution and vice.

The poor are also the rich who don't know Jesus—those who have enough of this world's goods but don't know the reality of what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross.

Continued next page



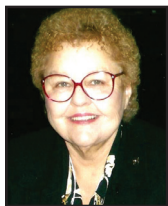
**M**ark was a successful business man. He was brought to his knees when his wife left him because of his uncontrollable temper and lustful lifestyle. No one had ever presented the Good News of Jesus to him. He gladly repented of his sins and was freed from despair. He went to confession and returned to the sacraments. He is now preaching the Gospel in South America. He first shared with his family and friends.

We can touch Jesus if we are willing to go to the poor—Draw near! (Matt 28:19).

We go to the children in the hills who have no food. We feed them and teach them about Jesus. We go to the unemployed and help them get jobs and teach them about Jesus. We go to the forgotten elderly and bless them with medicine, food, and clothes and teach them about Jesus' love. We go to the widow and to those who live in shacks. We have been able to build small homes and provide help as we teach them about Jesus. We go to the dying and pray with them to receive the gift of eternal life.

When we receive the Holy Spirit we have the ability of the Holy Spirit to do what is impossible for us to do by our own efforts. Faithful listening to the Holy Spirit's guiding us will always lead us to draw near to the poor and touch in their flesh the wounded flesh of Jesus. *Please draw near to them.* ♦

*Sr. Linda Koontz S.N.J.M. is director of Spirit of the Lord International Mission, an outreach to the poor. She also travels as a teacher and evangelist in the Charismatic Renewal.*



## 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.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES  
2015 Philadelphia

FONDAZIONE VATICANA  
CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE FAMIGLIA DI NAZARETH

**GATHERING OF THE RENEWAL**  
FOR A NEW EVANGELIZATION OF THE FAMILY PHILADELPHIA 2015

*"The family is alive in the power of the Spirit"*

**Location TBA**  
Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>  
at 8.30 am - 1.30 pm

For more information: [www.WMOFcharismatic.org](http://www.WMOFcharismatic.org)

Logos at the bottom: Archdiocese of Philadelphia, AICPE, CNSH, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, National Service Committee, CONCLAT, Catholic Communities, ICCRS.

# Marian and charismatic

by Bro. Ruben Garza, BBD

The **Brothers of the Beloved Disciple** is a new religious community, founded in 1997, whose two-fold charism depends on God the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Beloved Disciple, the Apostle John, embodies both aspects of our charism. At the moment of our Lord Jesus' death on the cross, John tells us in his Gospel that our Lord gave him his mother and shortly thereafter Jesus "*handed over the spirit*" (Jn 19:30). This precise moment is the image which best represents who we are: Marian and Charismatic. This seems to be a *rare* combination, but in reality it is not. From the very moment of our Lord's Incarnation, the Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit unite in an intimate way. Hence, our community, in imitation of Jesus, also feels at home in the womb of our Blessed Mother with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit and Mary form a powerful team against the powers of hell. We seek to become true sons of Mary, in that we, too, desire to be holy dwelling places of the *giver of life*. Our charism compels us to seek all who are in need of the Blessed Virgin's maternal love and of the healing power of the *finger of God*, the Holy Spirit. Our world today needs Jesus, and who better than the Virgin Mary and the Third Person of the Most Holy Trinity to make him present to us.

As the newest member of this community, I thank and praise God for leading me to the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple. Even though I am the newest addition to the Brothers, I am also the oldest of the temporary professed at 43 years of age. I had sought to follow the Lord once before in my early twenties, but I did not persevere. In

## Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

1701 Alamo St.  
San Antonio, TX 78201  
(210) 734-6727  
[www.brothersofthebeloviddisciple.org](http://www.brothersofthebeloviddisciple.org)  
The Brothers are a Marian and charismatic religious community of priests and brothers.

## Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

P.O. Box 64,  
Prayer Town, TX 79010-0064  
(806) 534-2312  
[www.dljc.org](http://www.dljc.org)  
This is a Franciscan and charismatic religious order of sisters, contemplative with evangelistic apostolates.

hindsight, I see that I was not yet ready at that time to follow him. Still, through all the years that transpired after I left my first community till now, I can now see how our Blessed Mother kept me safe from the fires of hell. When I lived my novitiate with the BBDs, it was the Holy Spirit who healed me of my former ways of life and made me ready to live for Jesus. **Long live the Blessed Virgin Mary and God the Holy Spirit!** ♦

## Dressed from page 9

Everyone did their part. Everyone took personal responsibility, doing their share to keep the fires of Pentecost burning bright.

The driver of the car slammed on the brakes to avoid hitting a motorcycle, jarring me out of my reverie. I tried to re-enter the conversation but could not. I was asking myself a few questions:

What is my daily prayer life like? How committed am I each day to Scripture? Do I have an expectation of encountering the living Lord in the sacraments...or am I just going through the motions? Am I still in fellowship, on a regular basis with "people of the fire?" Am I "charismatic" only when it is convenient or am I always ready to respond to the promptings of the Spirit? Who have I

spoken with recently about my encounter with Christ? Do I see myself as belonging to a religious club...or to Christ? Is my involvement in Charismatic Renewal more about what God is doing...or what I am doing? Am I taking some responsibility for fanning the flame in my own life, or waiting for others to carry me along? Can I just relax, have a little more fun and trust in God or do I need to "make everything work?" Where is the fire? Where is the joy? Where is my "first love?"

I hadn't noticed that the car was parked and everyone had gotten out. We were going to the Church of the Holy Spirit, very close to St Peter's. I hurriedly walked in with a new enthusiasm. This is a new moment, a new opportunity! The best days lie ahead. We only need

to be faithful to God on a daily basis and wait for him to act. The Spirit is about to move in a new way. It won't be a repeat of 50 years ago. It will be the work of the Spirit for this time! It will be wonderful! I am going to re-invest my life in those little things we committed to so long ago. I am going to put the pajamas away for at least another 50 years. I'm getting dressed for the party! ♦

*Jim is the Director of Leadership Formation Initiatives for International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services. He also serves as the Country Coordinator of Mexico Missions for Renewal Ministry. Jim is President of Vera Cruz Communications.*





## New ADL regional alignment

by Jane Barz

The Association of Diocesan Liaisons (ADL) met this past April 20-24 at the Malvern Retreat Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for their Annual Convocation. The theme of this year's convocation was "Unity in Diversity," based on a quote by Pope Francis in July 2014 that the "Holy Spirit creates unity, and...the Church is one in diversity." Two papers were presented and discussed at length: 1) *Father Make Us One* by Aggie Neck and 2) *What is the Holy Spirit saying to Catholic Charismatic Renewal About Unity* by Dan Almeter.

As part of the Convocation we set aside time for an outing for the purpose of fellowship, continued sharing, and relaxation. This year we attended Mass with Archbishop Chaput at the National Shrine of St John Neumann. We then enjoyed some true *Philly* cuisine and toured Independence Hall National Park in Philadelphia. This was especially significant for us to tour the Hall where discussions and debates resulted in the United States of America as our conversations and discussions had been focused on "Unity in Diversity."

Charles Miche led a *facilitated discussion* to help us better understand our mission and determine a pathway for unified action to fulfill our vision. The fruit of this exercise was the alignment of the ADL regionally using the same geographic areas as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This will allow connections with liaisons in each region and enable better assistance with their needs.

An election for the Steering Committee was held where three new members were elected. The current steering committee for 2015-2016 is Marianne Skrobiak: Chairman, Deacon Carlos Nogueira: Vice Chair, Jackie Morgan: Secretary, Fr Anthony Ouellette, Gloria Coyne and Chuck Hornsby.

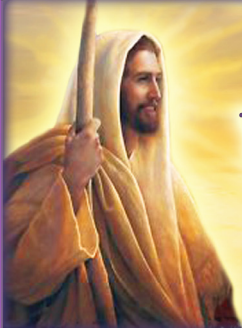
Next year's Convocation will be held in the Alleluia Community in Augusta,

Georgia on April 11-15, 2016. This ecumenical Christian community will provide us with a unique experience in ecumenical unity and the love of the Lord in a different venue. We invite any and all liaisons, or those who serve in that capacity, to join us. You can find more information about the Association of Diocesan Liaisons below. ♦

For information on the Diocesan Liaison ministry go to [www.associationofdiocesanliaisons.org](http://www.associationofdiocesanliaisons.org).

### 2015 CONFERENCE

### CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OF ORLANDO




## You are the Light of the World

### ...let your Light shine before men

Matthew 5 : 14

### SEPTEMBER 25, 26 & 27 2015




**Caroline Gambale Dirkes**

\*Soul - Stirring Music


\*Dynamic Speakers

\*Healing Service with Adoration

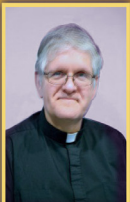
\*Celebration of the Holy Mass



**Sr. Lucy Lukasiewicz**



**Father Trevor Nathasingh**



**Father Bill Halbing**

2015 Conference Registration      September 25, 26 & 27

Make Checks payable to: CCRC P.O. Box 215, Windermere, FL 34786-0215      Priests, Deacons, Seminarians, & Religious - Free, but please register. For Info call: 407-610-1012 e-mail: [orlandocrc@aol.com](mailto:orlandocrc@aol.com) web site: [www.orlandocharismatic.net](http://www.orlandocharismatic.net)

Pay online: <http://www.showmyevent.com?jumptoevent=2599>

PRE REGISTER ON LINE: \$30 per person X \_\_\_\_\_ persons = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$35 At The Door Registration, \$28 Saturday Only \*No one will be turned away because of lack of funds.

YOUNG ADULT TRACK: 18 - 25 yrs. old \$20 per person Saturday 8:30 am - 10 pm - Lunch and Dinner included

REGISTRATION: \$20 per person X \_\_\_\_\_ persons = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Group \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/City \_\_\_\_\_ Diocese \_\_\_\_\_

## BUENA VISTA PALACE HOTEL & SPA

1900 Buena Vista Dr. Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830

Phone: 1(866) 397-6516 Room Rate: \$104 - up to four people

Online Link to Register at Hotel: [https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g\\_reservation.cfm?groupID=1255127&hotelId=6579](https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g_reservation.cfm?groupID=1255127&hotelId=6579)

**From the  
Executive  
Director**

.....



by Walter Matthews

## Strengthening Families

When the email came last October asking the NSC to collaborate with the leader of the Italian Renewal (*Rinnovamento Nello Spirito Santo*), who is also the President of the Vatican Foundation called the International Center Family of Nazareth, on a charismatic event within the World Meeting of Families, it was as if the Lord was knocking at the door (see Rev 3:20) of the Renewal in the U.S. Why? To give us a great opportunity to serve him and to proclaim “the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the love of the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit which leads to the renewal of the grace and culture of Pentecost” (NSC Mission Statement), and to strengthen the family (when the very concepts of marriage as between one man and one woman, and of the family needing both a mother and a father, are under incredible assault).

We said “yes” without hesitation, drawing into the collaboration the local Renewal in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, the leadership of the Haitian, Hispanic and Filipino Renewal in the U.S., and the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Communities and Fellowships. Also collaborating is the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service in the Vatican.

As you may know, the World Meeting of Families will be held September 22-27 in Philadelphia with our Holy Father attending on the weekend: first at

a Festival of Families, Saturday evening September 26, and then celebrating Mass on Sunday afternoon, September 27—both of these events will be held on the Ben Franklin Parkway. Organizers are expecting 2 million people for the weekend events.

Our charismatic event will be held Saturday morning from 8:30 AM–1:30 PM. We have called it a Gathering of the Renewal for a New Evangelization of the Family. Our theme is “The family is alive in the power of the Spirit.” Speakers include Michelle Moran (ICCRS), Salvatore Martinez, and Msgr. Joe Malagrecia. We will have praise and worship throughout, concluding with Mass. Cardinal Peter Turkson from Ghana, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, will be the principal celebrant and homilist. A number of other Cardinals and Bishops are expected to attend and concelebrate.

There will be a small fee to attend. The location is a short distance to the Parkway where the Festival of Families will be held. Details are being finalized and will be on our website soon. (See ad page 11 this issue.)

In this Year of Unity, what better way to show forth the unity in the Renewal in the U.S. than to come together with brothers and sisters from the Renewal in Central and South America, Canada, Europe, and perhaps many other places as well to give witness to the importance of family. To be together with Pope Francis here in the U.S. will be a “joyful moment for millions of Catholics and people of good will...to inspire our families in the mission of love” (Archbishop Joseph Kurtz).

After the knock, Jesus says, “I will come in to share a meal at that person’s side... Let anyone who can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches” (Rev 3:20, 22). ♦



## Friends of the NSC

Within the last few weeks, we replaced an HP printer that had served for fifteen years as a workhorse, especially for fund raising. It had been past its prime. “So what?” you might ask.

Well, we are grateful for the faithful and regular support of our donors, whether you give once a year or many times a year or have made a pledge at whatever level. Your support gave us the funds to replace a much-used piece of equipment for the mission.

While the *Toward the Jubilee* Campaign is working to raise funds for nobler and more exciting goals (the hiring of a Young Adult Coordinator and strengthening our Third Millennium Fund for the New Evangelization) the everyday work of the Service Committee and its staff goes on. And, thanks to you, with a new printer!

By the way, the Campaign has raised \$315,000 in gifts and pledges to date. At its Planning Retreat Meeting in April the Service Committee decided to step out in faith and begin the process of looking for someone to hire for the Young Adult Coordinator position. The job is posted. You can read more on our website.

As we enter the summer months, we ask you to remember us. It would be counterproductive if, having stepped out in faith for the YA Coordinator because of the Campaign, we could not support our regular ministries and mission. Your gift this summer will be appreciated. Please consider making a pledge, and remember to include us in your will.

Shutterstock





## Today's anointing of the Spirit

**"Have you had a personal experience of Pentecost?"**

**T**his was the question that Fr. Jim Ferry asked me 46 years ago. It led me to pray to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, changed my life and gave me a new ministry. I left teaching about World History and began traveling the world to teach about Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the glory of the Father.

What I have seen and heard speaking at conferences in over 60 countries is that when we come to God with expectant faith asking for a new Pentecost, he hears our prayer and pours out his Holy Spirit and the charisms in great abundance.

However, I've also experienced a tendency to focus on praying for healing and neglecting to continue to lead people in prayer to be baptized in the Spirit. At the first Pentecost the crowd asked Peter, "What do we have to do to receive this Holy Spirit?" St. Peter's answer, "Repent, accept Jesus as Lord and you will receive the Holy Spirit"

(Acts 2:38) frames the way I learned to pray with people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

In our healing services we experience many signs and wonders (resting in the Spirit, healings, etc.) and these are wonderful manifestations of God's love. However, leaders of such services should work to encourage repentance and a desire to be baptized in the Holy Spirit among the participants. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is so much more than healing or resting in the Spirit. It is "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... and equips a person with charisms for service and mission" (ICCRS, *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*, p 13).

We have taught effectively about God's healing love but I've experienced a need to teach our people about the purifying fire, about embracing the cross, about finding God in the valleys and desert in our prayer and our life.

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

Please mail to:

National Service Committee  
Chariscenter USA  
PO Box 628  
Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628

Tel. (540) 972-0225

[www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org)

### National Service Committee members:

Johnny Bertucci (Chairman)  
Jimmy Archer  
Jane Barz  
Jim Beckman  
Caroline Gambale-Dirkes  
Bp. Sam Jacobs  
Sr. Lucy Lukasiewicz, DLJC  
Tom Mangan  
Bill Marcotte  
Ron Riggins  
Casey Sprehe  
Tammie Stevens

The call of the Church to a new evangelization is one the Charismatic Renewal has heard from the Holy Spirit and has responded to generously for many years. Our Holy Father recognized this recently when he said, "The Charismatic Renewal is a great force at the service of the proclamation of the Gospel, in the joy of the Holy Spirit." The challenge now, as leaders age, is to pass on the responsibility and the work of service to younger leaders and for those younger leaders to, in turn, raise up new leaders. We need to move on to today's anointing of the Spirit for us and leave yesterday's anointing to those new people whom God is raising up...and I believe that in this way we will all experience a new Pentecost! ♦

### GRANT WRITER

The National Service Committee is seeking an experienced grant writer as a volunteer to help with several grant projects.

Please contact  
Walter Matthews at :  
[wmatthews@nsc-chariscenter.org](mailto:wmatthews@nsc-chariscenter.org).

### Feedback:

We would love to hear from you; please visit our website [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org) and fill out our online evaluation. Thank you!

# PENTECOSTToday

PO Box 628 • Locust Grove, VA • 22508-0628

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
National Service  
Committee



Published by the National Service Committee of the  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc.

## The Vision Statement of the National Service Committee

Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all people to experience  
the Holy Spirit who opens us to a life-changing relationship with  
Jesus Christ and the love of the Father.

The Holy Spirit empowers us for personal holiness, renewed  
Catholic life, and evangelization.

- **Subscribe today! Call 1-800-338-2445**
- or visit [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org).
- \$10 suggested annual donation requested.
- If you have received more than one copy of this publication, please return all the mailing labels and we will make the necessary corrections.
- Note: we send Prayer Group contacts a copy. If the contact is also a donor you will receive an individual copy. There is no need to send us your two labels.

National Leaders' & Ministries' Conference  
Nov. 13-15, 2015 Herndon, VA (near Dulles Airport)



Charles and  
Sue Whitehead



Caroline  
Gambale-Dirkes



# You Are Invited

If serving in your prayer group, parish, diocese,  
charismatic ministry or are seeking growth in the Spirit.

**Principal speakers include Caroline Gambale-Dirkes,  
Dr. Alveda King, Charles Simpson, and Charles and  
Sue Whitehead.**

Also speaking are Jim Beckman, Maurice Blumberg,  
Archbishop Robert Carlson, Fr. John Crossin, Chuck  
Hornsby, Bishop Sam Jacobs, Bishop Paul Loverde, Matt  
Lozano, Tom Mangan, Marianne Skrobiak and Angelus  
Virata. Music by Dan Dirkes and Friends

- Rates good until August 31 \$79, \$145 (couples)  
After August 31 \$89, \$165 (couples)
- Special rates for young adults (35 & under)  
\$50, college and graduate students \$25.

For more information or to register call 800-338-2445  
or visit [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org)



**JUST ADDED!**  
Dr. Alveda King



Charles  
Simpson