

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

PENTECOST *Today*

Spring 2014

2014 A YEAR OF CHARISMS & GRACE FOR THE CHURCH

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photos: Tammie Stevens

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



Chairman's Corner

by Jane Guenther

Praise the Lord! Now and Forever!

Pope Francis, in his January 28 homily, shared on the importance of freely praising God in our prayer and warned against an attitude which can be judgmental of others who do not follow certain “formalities.” “You’re able to shout when your team scores a goal, and you are not able to sing praises to the Lord? To come out of your shell ever so slightly to sing (his praise)?” He gave a compelling homily highlighting that it is not difficult to pray in thanksgiving or in petition, but when it comes to prayer of praise we leave it “aside—it does not come to us so easily.” He reminds us, “No: prayer of praise is a Christian prayer, for all of us.”

Practice makes perfect so since we aspire for heaven where we join the angels and saints in praising the Lord, we should join in more fervent prayer praising the Lord now.

At the National Service Committee meeting we worked together on developing a five year pastoral/strategic plan. We are excited about this and are moving projects ahead that will help us better execute our powerful Mission and Vision Statement. Fr. Jeff Kegley and a project team will be working on a supportive document for Life in the Spirit Seminars that is based on the Papal Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*.

Part of our meeting was the election process for four positions on the Committee. Two members whose terms were coming to an end will continue with us, Jim Archer and Tammie Stevens. Our two new members are Bishop Sam Jacobs and Casey Sprehe, both of Louisiana. This is a beautiful group of people with whom I have the privilege of working and I am grateful and honored. We say thanks and gratitude to Gerry Mader who served for nine years on the NSC and Deacon Dan Guinaugh who served for three years. ♦

Jane Guenther is Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne
Schaezner, SSND

From where we stand in this moment we need to look both backward and forward to keep us spiritually well balanced.

In this issue of *Pentecost Today*, as we anticipate celebrating 50 years (in 2017) of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement as it is experienced today, we are assisted in recalling the early years by reading Bishop Sam Jacobs' article, *Nearing 50 years...* and recalling not only the beginning of the movement but also reminding ourselves of the time when each of us was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

As we look forward to celebrating 50 years, let us not see it as a celebration of something static but of the dynamic Holy Spirit who continues to move us forward. *Encounters in His Name* by Jane Guenther relates in her words and in the words of Michelle Moran, the experience of leaders who gathered in Bethlehem for the ICCRS sponsored Prophetic Consultation to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They were exhorted to be humble in God's sight and to remember that they rely totally on God. Perhaps surprisingly, by being humble and relying on God, we go forth in power: it is the power of the Holy Spirit and not our own.

We get a taste of that same Prophetic Consultation in *View from the Upper Room* by Deacon Bill Brennan.

Between the past and the future there is the present in which we live. Mary Healy, in *Discernment and Pastoring of Charisms* gives us words of wisdom to guide us in our practice of charisms, encouraging us to always practice them in truth and love, and with discernment.

Deacon Daniel Pudvah, in *What we have seen and heard...*, elaborates on the campaign *Toward the Jubilee*, stating its purpose and how each one of us can participate as we are able.

We have been blessed. We will be blessed. We not only receive blessing but we are to be a blessing. We continue to mature in our understanding and in our practice as we allow the Holy Spirit to propel us into the future. ♦

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For Your Information

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

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How to discern and pastor charisms

by Dr. Mary Healy

Pope Francis is giving the whole Church what I believe is a prophetic word: *It is time to turn outward.* It is time to mobilize every Catholic to take the good news of Christ out to the highways and byways and invite the lost to come home to their heavenly Father. As the Church awakens to this call, Catholics are realizing in a new way the vital role that the charisms of the Holy Spirit play in evangelization. In fact, without charisms there can be no effective evangelization.

However, we all know that charisms are not always used properly. Many of us have witnessed the misuse and even abuse of charisms. This raises the question: how are charisms to be discerned and pastored? The letters of St. Paul provide clear instruction for this task.

Paul teaches us the right overall approach to charisms:

“Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything; hold fast what is good, abstain from every form of evil”
(1 Thes 5:19-22; see also 1 Cor 14:39-40).

This shows that the accent is first and foremost on **welcoming charisms** because of their marvelous power to build up the body of Christ and show forth God’s glory. This means that for those in leadership, it is not enough to wait passively for charisms to appear. Leaders should also actively cultivate charisms—teach about them, put people in positions of service where charisms can be used, encourage those who take baby steps in practicing them, provide training, mentoring and feedback. There is an inertia in human nature that makes it easy for us to rely on our own resources, so leaders need to continually exhort people to go beyond their comfort zones and yield to the Holy Spirit.

But secondly, charisms have to be **tested** as to whether they are authentic and are being used properly. Wherever there is the genuine fire of the Holy Spirit, Satan is likely to throw false fire to confuse the faithful and discredit the work of God. Paul provides us with basic principles for discernment.

First, there is the principle of truth. Paul says, “I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says ‘Jesus be cursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 12:3). This may seem obvious, but his point is that an authentic use of charisms always focuses attention on Christ the Lord and gives glory to him, rather than drawing attention to us. This is especially important for the more extraordinary charisms like healings and miracles, where there is always danger of using these gifts for self-promotion and human applause, or even financial gain. This principle also implies that a charism, especially if it is a word gift like prophecy, must be in full accord with the teachings of the Church.

Second, there is the principle of love. It is not coincidental that right in the center of his teaching on charisms in 1 Corinthians 12-14 is Paul’s great hymn to love in chapter 13. Love is not itself a charism—it is the supreme gift of the Spirit, a share in God’s own divine life, and is therefore the measure and standard for all exercise of charisms. A charism must always be motivated by love and must strengthen love in the body of Christ—whether by arousing faith, deepening understanding, stirring people to worship, healing the sick, or piercing hearts with conviction of sin. This is especially important for prophecy, in which one can sometimes sense that there is an underlying spirit of bitterness or judgment. On the other hand, if the speaker is motivated by a pure and burning love for God’s people, even a stern word can have a powerfully edifying effect.

Whose responsibility is it to discern? The first discernment is on the part of the person using a charism. He or she should always consider: Will manifesting this charism at this moment bring glory to Jesus? Will it be truly be upbuilding to others? Then, since no one is fully qualified to discern their own charism, he or she should submit to the discernment of the prayer group or community leaders. Ultimately, discernment is the responsibility of the pastors of the Church.

If we persevere in sound pastoring and discernment, people will mature in the use of charisms, and the Lord will use them mightily as we go out into the world with the good news of Christ. ♦



Dr. Mary Healy teaches Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, and serves as chair of the Doctrinal Commission of ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services).

ENCOUNTERS IN HIS NAME

The Prophetic Consultation in Bethlehem

by Jane Guenther

Michelle Moran, President of ICCRS, writes the following about the recent Prophetic Consultation in Bethlehem: “160 key leaders from 47 countries gathered in Bethlehem from November 14-18, 2013 to hear from the Lord at this strategic time in the history of Catholic Charismatic Renewal as we journey towards the Golden Jubilee in 2017.

“The opening address focused on Deuteronomy 11:14 and Joel 2:23: ‘He will give the rain for your land in due season... the early and the latter rain.’ In biblical lands the early rain (the autumn rain) is what makes seeds germinate; the latter rain (the spring rain) brings in the harvest. In the early years of the Renewal we had the ‘early rain.’ But now we are in the time between the two. We are not in the latter rain yet, because we are not moving in the power of the Spirit strategically, healing the sick, doing



miracles, reaching out to the poor, evangelizing in power. There is a need for repentance because we have at times fallen into the trap of just wanting to entertain people, of settling for the comfortable.

“On the first evening it seemed that the Lord needed to speak to each of us personally before he could lead us forward in his ways. There were a number of words about the call to holiness, a strong reminder of his deep personal love for each of us and quite a strong word about immorality in our midst (1 Cor 6:18-20) and the need to purify ourselves because we are temples of the Holy Spirit.

A Breakthrough Moment

“It was not long after 3:00 pm, the hour of mercy, when on Friday, November 15, darkness descended on Bethlehem due to an electricity failure. In obedience to the program we came together in our darkened meeting room. With no light, microphones, amplification, translation system, what

could we do? Mary Healy reminded us prophetically of the famous Duquesne retreat in 1967 when there was a problem with the plumbing and they had no water. So they all began to pray for water. The Lord answered their prayer but not only did the plumbing get fixed, floods of living water poured down from heaven and so began the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Mary shared that this was the early rain. She said; ‘Now we’re at a different time. The fact that we’ve lost electric power today has prophetic significance. Just as back then they prayed for water and the Lord gave water from heaven, so now we have to pray for power, and the Lord is going to give us power from on high. We have to lean into this moment, pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is telling us symbolically and ask for power with great confidence.’

“After a time of anointed praise and worship in the dark, the large olive wood cross that had been on the back wall was brought into our midst.



I can switch off power and light and you can do nothing. I gave you a sign to remind you that without me you cannot do anything.

was brought into our midst. Then in the darkness, we worshiped the one who is the light of the world. Everyone was bowing before Jesus and acknowledging his lordship in a deeper way. Then Oreste Pesare stepped forward and said; ‘The Lord has truly given us a word for the Charismatic Renewal, you have no more power... come to me.’ Then in the midst of the darkness, suddenly and dramatically, boom! The lights came on with full power. Some were crying, some repentant, some lying prostrate on the floor, but everyone was certain that the Lord was in our midst in power.

Photos: Photos.com, Tammie Stevens



My people, you have taken off your shoes in my holy presence. One shoe is the shoe of pride. The other is fear and insecurity.

Acknowledge my Lordship

"During this time there were several words given. We heard the Lord no longer calling us his servants but calling us his friends. He said 'I gave power back to you because you bowed down on your knees. I do not want to have a gifted Catholic Charismatic Renewal or gifted leaders: I want a humble Catholic Charismatic Renewal with humble leaders. I can switch off power and light and you can do nothing. I gave you a sign to remind

you that without me you cannot do anything. As you acknowledge my Lordship and bow down on your knees in worship I will give power to you.' After this, we were prophetically invited to take off our shoes; 'My people, you have taken off your shoes in my holy presence. One shoe is the shoe of pride. The other is fear and insecurity. There is no place for pride, because all that you do is totally dependent on me. And there is no place for fear and insecurity, because all that you do is totally dependent on me. When you go forth, you will go forth in power. You will not need to be afraid, because it is my power.'

Together in the Cenacle

"On our final day we prophetically set out together for Jerusalem. The highlight of the day was another move of the Spirit. We were unsure as to whether we would be able to actually 'gather' in the Upper Room as normally the groups just pass through. So tentatively we assembled and began to pray quietly until all in the group arrived. Then, taking courage, we started singing and the praise got louder. Apparently at one point the officials entered the room to see what was happening and as they came in they were stopped in their tracks and after a few moments they withdrew and left us to it. So we managed to pray together loud and long for more than an hour in the very place where the Holy Spirit was first poured out on the infant Church. There were a number of very powerful prophetic words, including this from Bruce Yocum; the Lord says, 'I have poured out my Spirit abundantly, and I will continue to pour it out. I will pour out my Spirit generously, lavishly, continuously, until even the hardened hearts are softened and the wasteland becomes fertile. This I promise, that I shall pour out my Spirit continuously until I bring about, through my Spirit, the renewal that I intend.'"

The above quoted material is from an article by Michelle Moran, President of ICCRS, in The European Catholic Charismatic Renewal Info-Letter, and is printed here with permission. (See also: www.iccrs.eu)

Encounters of the Best Kind

by Jane Guenther

As a first timer at an ICCRS event, the Prophetic Consultation was for me a series of encounters. On the stop in Istanbul, on my way to Israel, I encountered a Muslim woman who asked me to pray over her for herself and her daughter. Tammie Stevens and I encountered a Palestinian shop owner, near Manger Square, whose hospitality also led to prayer ministry over a deep anger. The first night we gathered at dinner, the table had leaders from Brazil, Africa and Fiji and it was a beginning of the reality of the broadness of the Renewal and our oneness in the Spirit. I continued to have encounters with members of the Renewal from Australia, India, Germany and Canada that markedly opened me up to a depth of the way in which



We have a great responsibility in the "spring rain" ahead as we embrace "the generous outpouring of the Spirit" that continues to help our brothers and sisters come into their own personal encounter with the Holy Spirit.

the Spirit works to bring greater revelation and truth. It even brought me into an encounter with those from the US about whom I have only read or heard of and by whom my life was so enriched, as in the beautiful meditation given by Patti Mansfield in the Garden at Gethsemane. We have a great responsibility in the "spring rain" ahead as we embrace "the gen-

erous outpouring of the Spirit" that continues to help our brothers and sisters come into their own personal encounter with the Holy Spirit. I pray for all of us to truly have "encounters of the best kind" that really lead us to experience that we are "one in the Spirit." ♦



Jane Guenther is chairman of the National Service Committee. She currently serves the archdiocese of St. Louis as the Coordinator of the Catholic Renewal Center.

Nearing 50 Years: Catholic Charismatic Renewal,



Photos: Tammie Stevens

fully Catholic and Charismatic

by Bishop Sam Jacobs

In the history of the Catholic Church, 50 years is a short time to evaluate the status of any movement. But I will attempt to give some reflections from both a personal and Episcopal point of view.

I became involved in the Charismatic Renewal back in 1969. As I look back, I sincerely believe that it helped, saved and formed my priestly ministry. As a seminarian I feared becoming a disgruntled priest, focused on self. But God in his loving mercy answered the cry of my heart by bringing me into an awareness of the Charismatic Renewal. From that time on, my ministry as a priest was empowered by the Spirit and not by my human efforts alone.

From the beginning and throughout the past nearly 50 years those who were the leaders of this movement sought consciously to keep the Charismatic Renewal fully charismatic and fully Catholic. Even though there was an affinity with charismatics in Protestant and non-denominational faith communities, it was clear that the

Catholic dimension of the Charismatic Renewal was important to maintain.

Early on those who rose up as national leaders sought the blessing of the official Church leadership from Pope to Bishops. One of the significant events that ensured this was coming under the Episcopal coverage of Cardinal Léon Suenens, Archbishop of Brussels. It was he who was instrumental in including awareness of the charismatic aspect of the Church in the Documents of Vatican II. It was under his auspices that an international office was established in Brussels and later moved to Rome. Through his efforts and encouragement theological reflections on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal began to be developed and discussed. Through his efforts, Pope Paul VI met with international leaders in the early 1970's, confirming the movement as an important grace for the Church. These meetings continued under the pontificates of John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

What was happening on the international level was also happening on the national

One of the significant events that ensured this was coming under the Episcopal coverage of Cardinal Léon Suenens, Archbishop of Brussels.

level as well. From the beginning local bishops became supportive of the movement, even though questioning and testing it at first.

By the mid-1970's the National Catholic Conference of Bishops (NCCB) voted that each diocese should have a liaison for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement. (No other movement had such a mandate.) To facilitate this an initial meeting was held in 1976 at Notre Dame University, called by the then Chair-bishop of the NCCB Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Bishop Gerald Frey, Bishop of my home diocese, Lafayette, Louisiana. The following year, he hosted a second meeting in Lafayette and asked me to chair it. It was at this meeting that the Association of Diocesan Liaisons came formally into being.

One of the early pastoral struggles in the Charismatic Renewal was its identity in reference to its ecumenical out-reaches. Was it Catholic first or ecumenical first (misunderstanding the ecumenical thinking flowing from Vatican II)? Given the fact that the Pentecostal dimension was very strong in some Protestant and non-denominational groups, a number of leaders

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both on the national and local levels began to follow the teachings of these groups. The charismatic focus on the charisms (gifts of the Spirit) became, in some places and for some all across the country, more important than the Catholic foundations of our faith. Protestant Pentecostal teachings were widely shared in many prayer groups. The emphasis on Mary, the Eucharist and obedience to the local ecclesial authority was put on a back burner.

But thanks be to God and the decision of many in leadership in the Charismatic Renewal, the healthy tension between the charismatic and the hierarchical gifts became balanced, though there were some casualties in the process. Unfortunately, some Catholic charismatics who were formed by the Protestant Pentecostal flavor left the Church under the guise of freedom.

I remember facing this struggle in our own local prayer group back in the 70's. After each prayer meeting, attended by both Catholics and Protestants, we celebrated Eucharist. At the time, some of the Protestants received Eucharist. The bishop became aware of this and sent a general letter saying that this must cease and desist. I brought this to the core group and said that we were Catholic and charismatic. As such we were called to be obedient to the teachings of the Church, if we were to remain truly charismatic. Some in the group objected, but the majority agreed. We shared this with the prayer group. Many of the Protestants stopped coming to the prayer meeting as well as a small number of Catholics. Because of our obedience, the Bishop, who was initially tolerant of the Charismatic Re-

It was at this meeting that the Association of Diocesan Liaisons came formally into being.

newal, wrote a general letter to all priests, stating that he wanted a prayer group in every parish of the diocese. This indicated both the maturity of the Renewal and the pastoral embrace of the local authority.

Over the past 50 years, though the Popes and Bishops have given their blessings to this outpouring of the Holy Spirit, there have been many priests and laypeople who have seen the Renewal as too emotional, as a splinter spiritual group for some but not for all, as on the fringe of the Church's life. But this is not the reality in the Church universal. Though there were some difficulties and misunderstandings within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, which is not perfect, the fruits of the Renewal evidence its ecclesial maturity.

Millions of Catholics who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit are actively involved in many of the different ministries in the parish and on the diocesan level, from Eucharistic ministers, lectors, evangelizers, teachers in the religious education programs, to those working with the poor. Many have become involved in the healing ministry and deliverance.

Charismatic gifts, dormant for centuries, are now making a difference in the way people live and minister to one another.

A number of new charismatic religious communities of men and women have been formed. Many priests and seminarians have had their initial religious experience in the Charismatic Renewal. The Church is richer today because of the Spirit moving in people's lives in a fresh new way. Charismatic gifts, dormant for centuries, are now making a difference in the way people live and minister to one another. For these

Prayer Card



Throughout this year
of Charisms and
Grace for the Church
we pray:

Holy Spirit, come!
Renew the Church!
Stir her and impel her
to go forth boldly
to evangelize all peoples!

(cf. *Evangelii Gaudium* 261)



people the Word of God is more relevant; the Eucharist more central; the Lordship of Jesus Christ more real; the teachings of the Church more foundational; the gifts of the Spirit more normal. The Charismatic Renewal today is indeed more fully Catholic in its identity and in its daily exercise of life. But this maturity level must be ongoing and deepened. ♦

Bishop Sam Jacobs is Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. He was recently re-elected to the National Service Committee after a twenty-one year absence.



Please pray with the National Service Committee:

◆ For a fruitful response to the **Toward the Jubilee** Campaign, that what the Holy Spirit desires would be accomplished through Catholic Charismatic Renewal in this nation.

◆ For prayer groups and ministries throughout our country, that many would experience baptism in the Holy Spirit especially as we prepare for the 50th Jubilee of the Renewal in 2017.

◆ For ongoing formation of young leaders so that they will embrace and grow in their role in leadership in the Renewal and accomplish God's purpose for their lives.

◆ That many would experience the transforming grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit through the ministries and outreach events of the NSC.

◆ In this year of Charisms and Grace for the Church, may we diligently work to ignite charisms, ignite the awareness of the grace of the Renewal in the Church, and ignite unity within the Renewal, the Church, between ethnic groups, and across generations.

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.

Formation Institute of the Archdiocese of Toronto

by Brother Don Quilao, Deacon Carlos Nogueira, and Deacon Mark Romeo

The formation targets all Christians seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit, in fidelity to the teachings and guidance of the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church and in line with the Archdiocesan programs and initiatives, through the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council (CCRC) Formation Institute, the Renewal leadership offers a structure to facilitate, educate and assist in the development and growth of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

This was initiated due to an overwhelming request for formation from various charismatic prayer groups within the Renewal in the Archdiocese of Toronto, the number of which had grown exponentially over the past 30 years. Today we have over 130 groups in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Four Modules

Knowing that our strength comes from the Lord, each module usually culminates in the celebration of the Eucharist. The formation targets all Christians seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus, inviting clergy and laity who actively participate in the service of the Church and its parish ministries.

With an emphasis on leadership and management, the program is structured in four progressive modules, the prerequisite to the program being the completion of the "Life in the Spirit

Seminar" (LSS) and having experienced "baptism in the Holy Spirit" (BHS).

The first of the four modules "**Growth in the Spirit**" (12 hours) is an introduction to the Growth in the Spirit Seminar with extensive reflection and sharing. The topics covered are:

- Loving God
- Christian love
- Faith
- Guidance
- Overcoming the works of the evil spirit
- The world and Christian community
- Overcoming the flesh
- Repairing wrongdoing.

The second module "**Discipleship and Magisterium of the Church**" (8 hours) is a study and reflection on the biblical and theological foundations of discipleship, including:

- Responsibilities to the Bishop
- Necessity to protect and to maintain the revealed truths of our faith
- Gift of the Magisterium to the Church
- Unity and harmony of the charismatic and institutional arms of the Church
- Significance of unity in diversity.

Module three "**Christian Leadership**" (10 hours) focuses on leadership qualities and its application in the real world of Christian groups, in particular,

within the Charismatic Renewal.

Its topics include the:

- Fruit leaders generate—their calling, attitude and spirituality
- Nature of true leaders, their characteristics—elders, models and stewards
- Characteristics of a mature person—their option of disciplinary action when required
- Institution of Christian love: how faith is a part of our life and growth in a Christian world.

Some of the Leadership examples include:

- ✚ Modeling the way (live by example)
- ✚ Encouraging the heart (intrinsic and extrinsic reward)
- ✚ People empowerment (enable others to achieve God's plan)
- ✚ Challenging the process (accepting challenges and encouraging others to strive for spiritual growth)
- ✚ Shared vision (open minded – practice teamwork and partnership).

Module four “Speakership” (10 hours) focuses on the cultivation of the ‘heart of a servant leader’ (*transformed heart: Gal. 2:20*). This workshop covers presentation and facilitation skills with a period of practicum before an audience.

The workshop focuses on the interior attitude—nervousness and fear, personal appearance, posture, communication skills, effective communication, body language, affectations, eye contact, effective use of audio and visual aids, the mechanics of conducting presentations, handling questions, and the use of printed material and energizers during presentations.

All of the above is only a synopsis of the content matter of each module

which has its defined structure, topics and workshop requirements for the speaker/presenter to tackle. Certification is provided on the basis of successful completion of all modules.

The Renewal in the Archdiocese is currently working toward evening programs throughout 2014, considering other practical courses to include:

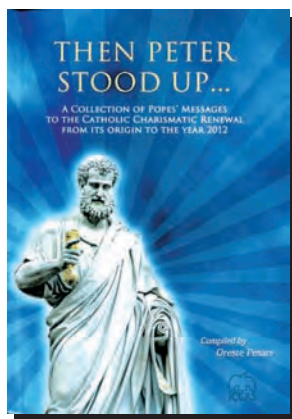
- Discernment and use of spiritual gifts
- Initiating and forming a charismatic prayer group
- Conducting a charismatic prayer meeting
- Liturgy in charismatic events
- Spiritual networking
- Organizing, conducting and follow-up of “Life in the Spirit Seminar”
- Delegation and conveying the leadership

- Intercessory prayers for healing, reconciliation and inner peace
- Initiating a charismatic praise and worship music ministry
- Initiating and sustaining charismatic youth groups
- After leadership—elder and mentor.

Feedback on our first program has been extremely positive and encouraging. ♦

For information regarding the Renewal in the Archdiocese of Toronto see: <http://ccrctor.com/index.html>.

Don Quilao, CCRC Chairman and CCRC Formation Institute Director; Deacon Carlos Nogueira, Archbishop's Liaison to the Charismatic Renewal, Archdiocese of Toronto; Deacon Mark Romeo, Associate Liaison.



This is an important document in understanding how the Holy Spirit has led the Renewal in the Church from the movement's beginning.

Available for \$16, order your copy today by calling 1-800-338-2445.

How does Catholic Charismatic Renewal relate to the Church?

“Then Peter stood up...” documents the relationship between the Popes and the Renewal and is a rich resource for those who teach and those interested in the history of the Renewal.

Published by International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, this second edition has a worldwide distribution in 8 languages. It features:

- ◆ 25 addresses and letters of the Popes to the Renewal
- ◆ Vatican documents about the Renewal
- ◆ Pentecost addresses of Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI
- ◆ ICCRS Statutes and Decrees from the Holy See
- ◆ Collection of photographs

IGNITE!

Charisms Renewal Unity

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

by Tammie Stevens

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

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

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

Photos.com

(Romans 5:5)

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

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



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

ber that we *have been* IGNITED.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

by Sister Regina Marie Barsoum, DLJC

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

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



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

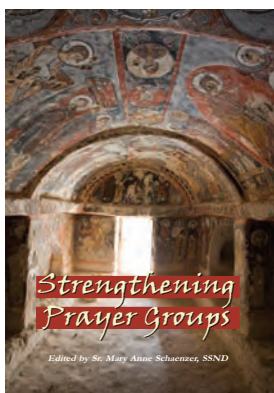
The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ seek to witness the Gospel and draw all people into a personal relationship

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

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

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

Help for Prayer Groups



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

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

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

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

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

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View From the Upper Room

by Deacon Bill Brennan, Diocese of Stockton, California

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

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

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

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

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

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

They Were All Gathered In One Place

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**From the
Executive
Director**

.....



by Walter Matthews

Seed Sown, Light Shining

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friends of the NSC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Toward the Jubilee

"50 Years of Grace for the New Evangelization!"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Fr. Jeff Kegley
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What we have seen and heard

by Deacon Daniel Pudvah



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Vision Statement of the National Service Committee

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

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