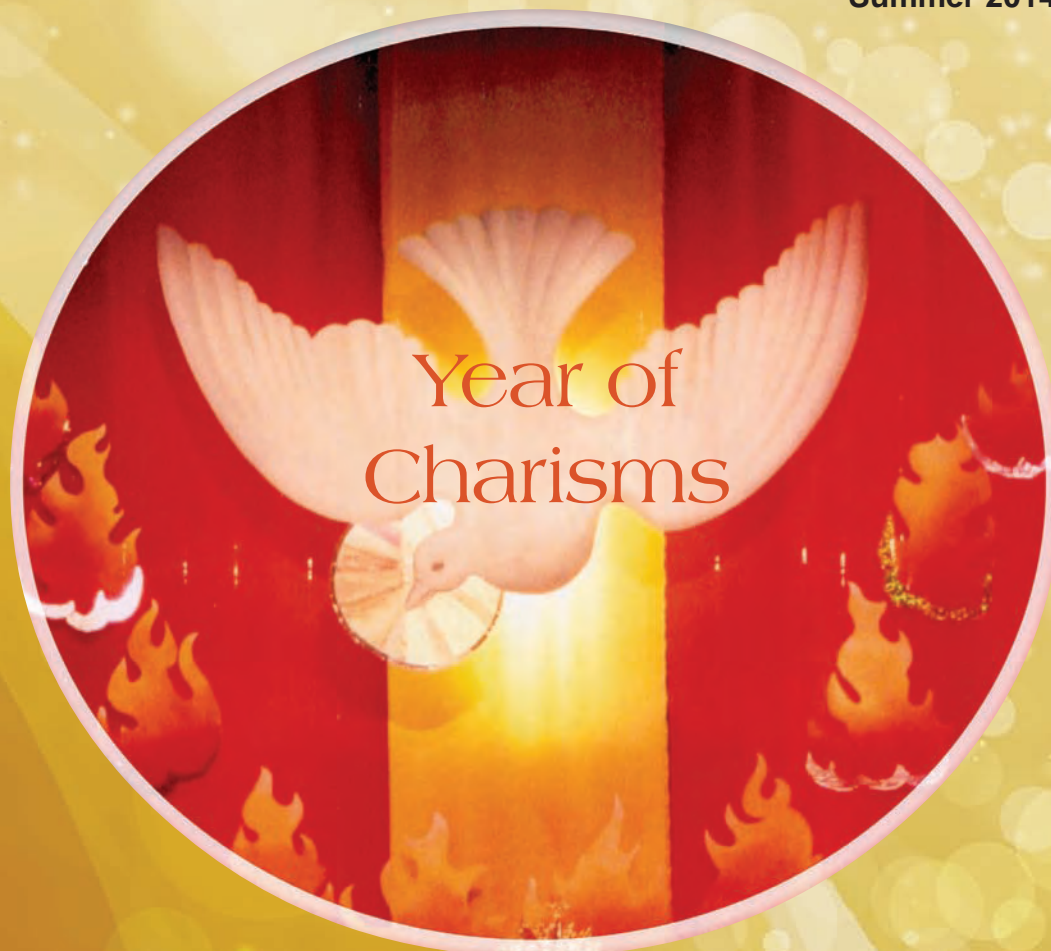


Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

PENTECOST *Today*

Summer 2014



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



Chairman's Corner

.....
by Jane Guenther

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

Objectives of the Consecration

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

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

The two archbishops used this prayer:

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

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

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



Editor's Desk

.....
by Sr. Mary Anne
Schaenzer, SSND

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

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

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

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

Photos: cover and page 4 Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer

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For Your Information

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

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Moving out in Charisms

by Chuck Hornsby

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Give us eyes to see the needs all around us.

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

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



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



A glimpse of heaven

by Dave Mangan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Just think of it,
you have within you the power of
the Holy Spirit.



You have within you the One who
raises the dead!

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

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

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

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

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

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



Charisms for every person

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

by Sister Ann Shields

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer Card



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

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

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

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

Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, is an internationally noted conference and retreat speaker and author of numerous books on Catholic spirituality including Deeper Conversion,

To Be Like Jesus and in 2013, More of the Holy Spirit. She currently hosts the popular daily radio program Food for the Journey.

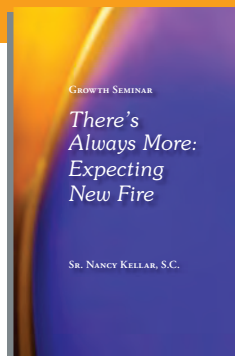


Please pray with the National Service Committee for the following intentions:

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



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Jim Murphy with Madre Ines and Angel, his coworker.

The essential quality of a leader: Unwavering Vision

by Jim Murphy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

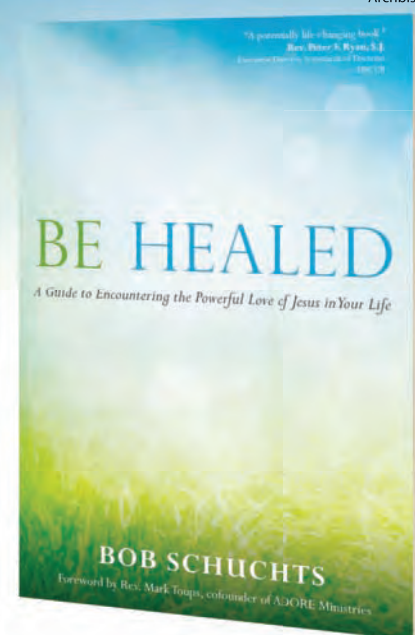
lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead. I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God’s upward calling in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:12-14). ♦

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



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Renew the face of the earth!

by Patti Mansfield

On February 18, 1967, during the Duquesne Weekend, I tacked up a note on the bulletin board which read, “I want a miracle!” Never could I have imagined that the miracle would be a worldwide ecclesial movement of at least 120 million Catholics! It’s been almost 50 years now that I have experienced the grace of baptism in the Spirit manifested in so many beautiful ways by various cultures. Here’s what I see from my journeys around the world.

EVANGELIZATION

Remember the song, “I was country when country wasn’t cool”? I feel that way about the New Evangelization! We in the Renewal have been immersed in evangelization, proclaiming “Jesus is Lord!” since our beginnings. We were

doing it before everyone was talking about it! By the grace of the Holy Spirit we realized the centrality of the person of Jesus Christ and the necessity of making a personal surrender of our whole lives to Him. This was the message St. John Paul II gave the Church in *Novo Millennio Ineunte*: Start afresh with Christ! When I read that document, I remember thinking, “This is why the Lord gave us baptism in the Spirit.”

CHARISMS

I’ve visited Brazil over 20 times in the past two decades. The Renewal there is 12 million strong, with many of the participants under the age of 35! But even in a country where the Renewal is so strong there is a tendency for times of praise and worship to be simply a medley of wonderful, inspiring songs, many from the contemporary Chris-

“I wish that you would all pray in tongues and even more that you would prophesy.”

tian music repertoire. There is often no opportunity (nor expectation!) for praying and singing in tongues or prophecy! While strong leaders have emerged who exercise strong charisms around the world, widespread yielding to such charisms has been on the wane. “Would that all the people were prophets and that the Lord would pour out His Spirit on them all,” exclaimed Moses (cf. Num. 11:29) and I want to echo this sentiment. Yes, there are different charisms and different ministries but praying and singing in tongues has been a widely diffused charism in the past, and we should not abandon it now! “I wish that you would all pray in tongues and even more that you would prophesy” (I Cor. 14:5). St. Paul said that, not me!

THE POOR

In my travels I have been greatly edified at how the grace of baptism in the Spirit has expressed itself in care for the poor and needy. Several years ago I spoke at an international youth conference and gave a retreat to the community at Kkottongnae in South Korea. The grace of baptism in the Spirit has flowered into the largest social service agency in the country. Examples abound. How moved I was to meet a consecrated member of the Emmanuel Community in France who has spent years of her life traveling in caravan with the “gens de voyage” (gypsies). These nomadic people have come into baptism in the Spirit through the street preaching of the Emmanuel community. Another outstanding outreach I see in the Renewal wherever I go is in the defense of the unborn through prayer, witness, education and political activity.

UNITY

I am seeing signs of a new move in this direction of unity. Many have seen the video of Pope Francis speaking to members of Kenneth Copeland's Word of Faith Conference through the instrumentality of South African Evangelical Bishop Tony Palmer. In addition to this kind of ecumenism, there is another beautiful move of the Spirit in bringing together various elements of the Catholic Renewal to cooperate in preaching the gospel. Last Pentecost in Jerusalem, I witnessed a dramatic gesture that moved me deeply. Prominent leaders from several streams of the Renewal pledged themselves to work together in unity for the glory of God. Even as I write this article, I am in awe of the cooperation of leaders of ICCRS, the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships, and *Rinnovamento*

nello Spirito Santo in preparing for an event in Olympic Stadium that was attended by our Holy Father. The Lord loves unity. "There he commands his blessing" (Psalm 133).

MARY!

In those places around the world where Mary has been welcomed not only as a "model" but as a "mother," the Renewal is flourishing. In 2006 I met a non-denominational pastor from Sweden named Ulf Ekmann. I was amazed as he plied me with questions about consecration (or entrustment) to Mary. Every great Marian saint and author I referenced was one he had already read! When I asked why he was so interested in a topic that is usually so divisive among Christians, he told me that he was fascinated by the motto of the great evangelizer John Paul II, "Totus Tuus, Maria." In recent months the an-

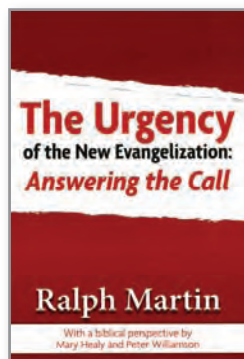
nouncement was made that Ulf and his wife are leaving their mega church to join the Roman Catholic Church. It's been a journey of course, but Our Lady has been present along the way. And she wants to be present along our way as we journey to the great Jubilee in 2017. I pray that we might welcome her as the early disciples did in that Upper Room, that she might teach us to cry out with new fervor, "Come Holy Spirit as by a New Pentecost and renew the face of the earth!" ♦

Patti Mansfield was one of the participants on the retreat in February of 1967 where events took place that are often marked as



the beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. She serves with her husband, Al, in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans.

The Urgency of the New Evangelization: Answering the Call



In this comprehensive, easy-to-read book, Ralph Martin considers the major themes concerning the New Evangelization and the New Pentecost. He presents a simplified analysis of some of the more complex issues from his recent book *Will Many Be Saved?* He includes two chapters of previously unpublished material on

Jesus' message of salvation. He also examines the message of Divine Mercy, including St. Faustina's description of hell and the urgent need to pray for the salvation of souls.

As By a New Pentecost Seven Teachings to Prepare for a New Life in the Spirit



An effective tool for the New Evangelization! At long last, a way to invite family and friends to experience a New Pentecost in their lives right in the intimacy of your home or parish hall. *As By a New Pentecost* is a series of seven talks designed to introduce people to the grace of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Teachings given

by Ralph Martin, Patti Mansfield, Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, Dave Mangan, and Peter Herbeck will inspire and challenge you to pray with new fervor, "Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the earth!"

Available From  **Renewal Ministries**
www.renewalministries.net

The mission of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

by: Brother Gabriel Ruiz, BBD

The mission of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple (BBD) is “With Mary, to bring the full role of the Holy Spirit to the heart of the Church.” The members of my community are so diverse; we have all come from different backgrounds and different paths of life, yet when we sit down for dinner, it’s like all our paths have converged to this point: we are called to the same mission.

I came into the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple right out of high school. I was most definitely not the person that I am today. I was immature, obnoxious, and my thoughts were scattered. While I am still growing up, this community has given me such insight into the Lord, myself and others. The Holy

Spirit truly is present in each one of my brothers. Our community is at St. Mary Magdalen Church in San Antonio, where I was an altar server for eight years before joining the community. It was during those eight years that I became close to the community.

This involvement ultimately led to discerning my vocation within this community. I remember sitting down with my spiritual director as he told me about a passage from the Acts of the Apostles that described how the disciples at Pentecost, with Mary, experienced the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and went forth to transform the world. At that moment I knew that I liked this community, and I knew it was the right one for me.

Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

1701 Alameos St.
San Antonio, TX 78201
(210) 734-6727
www.brothersofthebeloveddisciple.org
The Brothers are a Marian and charismatic religious community of priests and brothers.

Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

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(806) 534-2312
www.dljc.org
This is a Franciscan and charismatic religious order of sisters, contemplative with evangelistic apostolates.

I was called to help renew the church with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, including the charismatic ones. I knew that this community would not only encourage me with this, but also teach me how to grow in these gifts for the building up of the Church and the transformation of the world. ♦




HEALING

The healing presence of God:
Transformed by Love

Booklet edited by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

The many facets of healing: physical, spiritual, emotional, psychological are explored in this collection of articles first published in *Pentecost Today* magazine. Healing comes through prayer,

while at rest, through repentance, in the Eucharist; in all these examples we find that love is integral to healing.

Articles describe the healing power of Jesus in the Eucharist, in the transforming fruit of the Spirit, in understanding our identity in Christ, through prayer ministry, in Fr. Loch's cry for healing after a terrifying fire. The booklet includes questions to assist with personal reflection and discussion. *Booklet* \$2.50

Leaflets describe aspects of healing through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

- The Word of Knowledge and the Word of Wisdom, *Gerry Mader*
- Prayer Ministry, *Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND*
- Healing Prayer, *Chuck Hornsby*
- Discernment and Discernment of spirits, *Chuck Hornsby*

Leaflets .50 each

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The work of the Diocesan Liaison

by Paul Maclean

The entire workload of the diocesan liaison is oftentimes not understood by many, including the charismatic community itself. That is due in part to the work required. A liaison must spend much time in silent prayer seeking the Holy Spirit about how best to serve the bishop and carry out our work for the diocese.

Even the most expert stone craftsman, erecting a stone fence, cannot fathom how each individual stone will eventually fit together to reach the final product. As important as the final product is, it must not only be pleasing to the eye but must also be erected with enough strength to meet its intended purpose. It does little good to have the fence be pleasing to the eye, yet unable to withstand the slightest challenge.

Similarly, a diocesan liaison must work with a bishop, various diocesan personnel, organizations and/or groups within a diocese (oftentimes some adverse to the Charismatic Renewal) to attempt to strategically fit all resources into a “spiritual wall” that will sustain its strength under spiritual trials.

The liaison must use a “spiritual mortar,” the Holy Spirit, for the wall to preserve the spiritual strength it needs to withstand attacks. When allowed, the Holy Spirit blends the ragged edges of each diocesan group into one powerful and unified structure. When “the spiritual mortar” is gently applied it is often unnoticed by others. Alas, this is one reason why the liaison’s efforts are so little appreciated.

The liaison’s attempt to discern the Lord’s spiritual plan must be inspired by the Holy Spirit. His gentle inspira-

tion can be better understood by considering some of Pope Paul VI’s statements in paragraph No. 75 of *Evangelii Nuntiandi*. Although he speaks particularly to evangelization, one need only adapt his statements to the work of the liaison (*italics are insertions by the author*):

75. Evangelization (*The fulfillment of a liaison’s work*) will never be possible without the action of the Holy Spirit... Techniques of evangelization (*used by the liaison*) are good, but even the most advanced ones could not replace the gentle action of the Spirit. The most perfect preparation of the evangelizer (*liaison*) has no effect without the Holy Spirit. ♦

Paul Maclean is a former Liaison for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux and now serves the diocese as its Coordinator of the New Evangelization.

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

Pope Francis Speaks to the Renewal

Meeting with over 50,000 Renewal participants from 55 countries in Rome’s Olympic Stadium, at the invitation of the Italian Renewal for their 37th National Convocation, the Holy Father said, among many things:

“You were born of the will of the Spirit as ‘a current of grace in the Church and for the Church.’ This is your definition: a current of grace.”

“You have received the great gift of the diversity of charisms, diversity that leads to the harmony of the Holy Spirit, to the service of the Church.”

“Charismatic Renewal is a great force at the service of the proclamation of the Gospel, in the joy of the Holy Spirit.”

“I have been asked to tell the Renewal what the Pope expects from you.

The first thing is conversion to the love of Jesus, which changes life and makes of the Christian a witness of the Love of God. The Church expects this witness of Christian life and the Holy Spirit helps us to live *the coherence of the Gospel* for our holiness.

I expect from you that you share with all, in the Church, the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit (expression that is read in the Acts of the Apostles). I expect from you an evangelization with the Word of God which proclaims that Jesus is alive and loves all men.

I expect that you give witness of spiritual ecumenism with all those brothers and sisters of other Churches and Christian communities who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

That you remain united in the love that the Lord Jesus asks of us for all

men, and in the prayer to the Holy Spirit to come to this unity, necessary for evangelization in the name of Jesus. Remember that “*the Charismatic Renewal is by its very nature ecumenical ... Catholic Renewal rejoices over what the Holy Spirit carries out in the other Churches.*”

Be close to the poor, the needy, to touch in their flesh the flesh of Jesus. Be close, please!”

“Brothers and sisters, remember: adore the Lord God: this is the foundation! To adore God. Seek sanctity in the new life of the Holy Spirit.”

“And I am waiting for all of you, Charismatics the world over, to celebrate with the Pope your great jubilee on the feast of Pentecost 2017 in Saint Peter’s Square! Thank you!” ♦

**From the
Executive
Director**
.....



by Walter Matthews

Charisms and more

It was music to my ears to hear Pope Francis, speaking to the Renewal Convocation in Rome (to all of us) say, “You have received the great gift of the diversity of charisms, diversity that leads to the harmony of the Holy Spirit, to the service of the Church.” This echoes what Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said a few years ago about the important role the Renewal has in helping the whole Church be aware of and embrace charisms.

As you know, this Year in our 5-Year Journey to the Jubilee is focused on “The Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church.” At the recent Association of Diocesan Liaisons Conference we came together to explore the theme “Grace and Charisms: the New Springtime of the Church.” Papers were presented by Dr. Mary Healy, Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD, and myself. Not because of my involvement, but because of the importance of the topic, I encourage Liaisons to pay the Annual dues and get the papers and disseminate what is in them to the Renewal. (I encourage Renewal participants to help your Liaison pay the dues, if necessary, so that the Renewal in your [Arch] Diocese can benefit.)

The Holy Father cautioned us against “the danger of excessive organization.” As I wrote in my paper, “we need to make fresh the wineskins of the Renewal into which we hope that new wine will be poured.” The Service Committee is working on a 5 Year Strategic Plan to help us better prepare to serve

the Lord in this moment of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the work of the New Evangelization. Planning is not opposed to being led by the Spirit! “Yes, you need organization, but do not lose the grace of letting God be God!” (Pope Francis) We ask your prayer that we can do just that as we go forward in the planning process.

Next year the theme for our journey will be “The Year of Unity.” The National Leadership Groups leading the preparation have developed a statement on the theme and subthemes for the year. It is on our website. We encourage all, especially leaders, to download it, pray with it, work with it and act as the Holy Spirit prompts. Pope Francis, in answering what the Pope expects from us said, “That you remain united in the love that the Lord Jesus asks of us for all men, and in the prayer to the Holy Spirit to come to this unity, necessary for evangelization in the name of Jesus.... Seek the unity of the Renewal, unity that comes from the Trinity!”

Finally, the National Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference will be held November 7-9 in Pittsburgh. **If you are reading this you are invited!** We especially want to recommend that leaders pool their money and send young(er) leaders (35 and under)—perhaps not from the prayer group but from Life Teen, or the parish youth minister—to attend so that this grace may pass to the next generations.

Our theme is IGNITE: Charisms/Renewal/Unity. I’ll be there. I hope you will be too! ♦



Friends of the NSC

Toward the Jubilee:

We are happy to announce that as we end Phase 1 of the *Toward the Jubilee: 50 Years of Grace for the New Evangelization* Campaign we have raised over \$200,000 in gifts and pledges, from members of the Service Committee, the NSC Council, the Campaign Committee and a limited number of donors and leaders approached in our Feasibility Study last year, toward our \$1,000,000 goal. (For more information, see Deacon Dan Pudvah’s “What We Have Seen and Heard” in the last issue of *Pentecost Today*.)

We are just beginning Phase 2, reaching out to some of our top donors over the last five years. We ask your continued prayer for the campaign and its success so we can continue to respond to the needs and opportunities as we move to the Renewal’s Jubilee in 2017 and the work of the New Evangelization, especially to the young and the poor as our Holy Father has again reminded all of us in his meeting with the Renewal in Rome.

In memoriam:

We want to thank those who gave over the recent months in honor or in memory of family, friends and Renewal members.

Dr. Waldro Buenafe, Anna Largo and Joe Russell. *Honored were* Purita and Michelle Buenafe. In a special way we want to thank Ms. Sonya Keimig Privilegi and her family for a recent gift from the trust she set up before she died. Her trustee wrote, “Ms. Privilegi has always been impressed with your work and it is hoped this contribution will help with your endeavors.”

Not a donor?

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Or visit our website, www.nsc-chariscenter.org, to make a secure credit card donation. The website is simple for you to use and cost effective for us.

What we have
seen and heard

by Caroline and Dan Dirkes



Notes from the Italian National Convocation

Growing up in the Renewal as a child, I (Caroline) often heard about the tens of thousands of people that attended the Notre Dame conferences. It was hard to imagine until we attended the 37th Italian National Convocation with 52,000 people from 55 countries gathering together in Olympic Stadium in Rome. What an amazing event!

Leading up to the historical moment when the Holy Father would join us to pray and give the Renewal his blessing, prayers and advice, we experienced inspiring talks and beautiful praise and worship, including an intercessory prayer session led by Patti Mansfield.

When the Holy Father arrived at Olympic Stadium, he chose to park his car at the entrance tunnel into the stadium and walk along the edge of the crowd all the way up to the stage, waving to the assembly and blessing us as we sang a favorite song of his—"Vive Jesús el Señor" ("The Lord Jesus Lives"). The fatherhood, joy, and humility of the Holy Father—in words and actions—deeply moved and up-

lifted the people of God. In true Pope Francis fashion he reminded us that in the early days of the Renewal, charismatics were known for carrying their bibles wherever they went and challenged us to return to this practice if we had abandoned it. We hung on every word he spoke to us and took to heart his exhortation to evangelization, spiritual ecumenism and care of the poor and needy.

During times of praise and worship, it deeply moved us to watch as the Pope raised his hands in worship along with the rest of us. It was truly powerful to be among 50,000 people who were extending their hands, singing in tongues and praying for the "Spirit of the Living God" to "fall afresh" on Pope Francis!

At the end of the session when Pope Francis was leaving the stadium, parents were lifting their children down onto the field to run and receive a blessing from him and it was beautiful to watch as he lovingly embraced and kissed each child who ran up to him. Before he got into his car to leave, he

took a very purposeful detour and walked along the disabled seating area, offering his love, encouragement and blessings to the people there, prompting my husband to turn to me and say what everyone in the stadium was thinking—"I love this guy!" ♦

Caroline and Dan Dirkes co-founded 2Tim4 Ministries that brings the Gospel message using new methods and vigor through parish missions, conferences, retreats and music ministry. They have traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada making the baptism of the Holy Spirit accessible to people of all ages. Caroline has been a member of the NSC for seven years. Caroline & Dan live in NJ with their three young children.

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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 \$_____

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

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