

Intercessions:

- ▲ For those who gather for the National Leaders and Ministries Conference in Raleigh, may they be prepared in heart, soul and spirit to receive what the Holy Spirit has prepared for them
- ▲ May the presenters of the Conference be led and protected by the Holy Spirit in the preparation and fulfilling of their ministries.
- ▲ That the National Service Committee, with the council, be attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as they gather in prayer for service.
- ▲ May the Editorial Board Planning Committee of "Pentecost Today" be blessed by the Lord with fruitful plans for future editions.
- ▲ As the leadership groups come together in January, 2010, may the fruits of their prayer and discernment help to bring growth and unity amongst all whose lives have been touched by the Holy Spirit.

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fullness that unity will require. This corresponds to the teaching in *Ut Unum Sint* that: "Dialogue is not simply an exchange of ideas. In some way it is always an 'exchange of gifts'" (#28). **Third**, we can bring the grace and empowerment of the Spirit in the Renewal to the wider Catholic work for Christian unity. **Lastly**, we need to pray. Ecumenism can never be reduced to a program! It is always a calling that can only be received in prayer. ♦



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How we share the hidden treasure of the Holy Spirit

by Jane Guenther

Five years ago in January I was appointed to the position of Coordinator of our Archdiocesan Renewal Center and one of the first questions I was asked by a priest friend was, "What is the pastoral plan for the Catholic Renewal Center?" That single question has shaped the approach to our Center's development. So what exactly is pastoral planning? In the case of the Catholic Renewal Center it was establishing a mission statement for our work in response to the Archbishop's mission for the archdiocese "to bring Jesus Christ to others with a new enthusiasm and new energy."

That was not difficult for it is the Holy Spirit that is the power behind our enthusiasm and energy. Once a mission statement was established, we brought together a group of leaders in the Renewal and had a daylong brainstorming session at a local retreat center. We established some visioning

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for the Renewal and developed plans to implement the vision and priorities. The Renewal Center's Service Committee met and established steps to achieve the mission. It seemed as though the most important step to bring the Holy Spirit was to establish consistent events to expose the hidden treasure. For years the National Service Committee has encouraged us to bring the Renewal down the "center aisle" of the Church. Keeping that in mind we wanted to be as concrete as we could to bring this treasure to the heart of the Church.

Establishing Life in the Spirit Seminars and Healing Masses in the 10 Deaneries of the Archdiocese was a first. Although it took two years we have established a Life in the Spirit Seminar

(LISS) within our local seminary. We will be holding our third annual seminary LISS this fall. The seminary has a Thursday evening prayer meeting to follow-up for the remaining of the school year. We moved on to host the first religious sisters' LISS and they are beginning a prayer meeting this August. This fall we will also be offering a LISS for the Curia of the Archdiocese. It has been a wonderful gift to see the Spirit ignite in the hearts of these committed faithful.

One of the benefits of collaborative ministry is that the gifts of each can be used for the common good. Yes in some ways our Center tries to implement one of the four pillars of Catholic social teaching: common good. In recognizing the gifts of other ministries in your diocese you can move to work together on programs and projects that will help the entire Church. Working with the local stewardship office to expose the talent portion of stewardship has been a rewarding process and certainly brings the Holy Spirit into the heart of each parish. Working with the youth ministry we are spreading our wings to help out with Girl and Boy Scout retreats on the Holy Spirit, and of course with Life in the Spirit Seminars for teens. Partnering with the Office of Evangelization to help bring a School of Evangelization to the parish leaders of the archdiocese bore much fruit. Looking at some of the ways in which the Charismatic Renewal has sprouted ministries like the Magnificat and working to establish them on a solid foundation within the archdiocese takes concerted pastoral planning. Patience is a must if you are going to grow strong.

Spreading the message in a systematic way can be beneficial for the liaison in reporting to the bishop about the work



being accomplished among the faithful. It gives a way for adjusting programs to fit the needs that may be seen throughout the Church. We know that the "Spirit blows where it will" and we certainly can be willing to live by "you can't change the direction of the wind but you can adjust your sails." A willingness to work in cooperation with the Spirit and others in ministry will lead to successfully bringing the Renewal to the heart of the Church. We all have to recognize that the Spirit is always doing something new. In Isaiah we hear "I am doing something new;" at the birth of the Renewal over 40 years ago everything was new. The challenge now is to grow as Pope John Paul II encouraged us in "ecclesial maturity" and I believe that takes pastoral planning. Children have a tendency to act quickly and sometimes get burned. In our maturity we have better sense. We can anticipate and plan to move with the Spirit with conviction and certainty exercising the gift of discernment in the process.

Ongoing training for leaders is a must to keep the flame fanned. It is important to create opportunities for larger gatherings of those in the Renewal where manifestations of the Spirit will be diverse. Our prayer groups allow for the intimacy of the Lord to be among God's people and the larger area wide gatherings of prayer groups gives way to surrendering to the Spirit in a larger Church setting with a wider circle of gifts being used. Giving opportunities for those involved in the Renewal to hear what is happening nationally and

internationally within the Renewal is also essential in the pastoral plan. It helps us move out of isolation into the fullness of the community of the worldwide Church.

Creating evaluations for programs aids in successfully elevating the program to benefit God's people the most. "If something is worth doing it is worth doing well." These wise words pull us in a direction of understanding why we work on pastoral plans and work to implement them.

Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap writes in the book *Remembering Jesus Christ*, "another characteristic of kerygma: it has an explosive or germinative character, so to speak. It is more like the seed that becomes a tree than the ripe fruit at the top of the tree that in Christianity is constituted by charity." The real test of the kerygmatic experience is what a pastoral plan hopes to accomplish: the formation of disciples who actively participate in the mission of the Church, to evangelize. Pope Paul VI said, "Finally the person who has been evangelized goes on to evangelize others. Here lies the test of truth, the touchstone of evangelization: it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word, and give himself to the kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 24). May you have success in developing a pastoral plan for the Renewal in your area that will help build the kingdom. ♦



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