

Prayer group self-assessment

A tool for revitalization

by Sister Martha Jean McGarry

Have you been looking for a tool to help rejuvenate the Renewal in your area, to strengthen your prayer groups and leadership?

Are our groups really vibrant?

What are their prayer meetings like?

What are the ages of those involved in the Renewal?

Are the charisms being used?

We found an instrument developed for the National Service Committee to be an excellent resource to assist us in our efforts to strengthen the Renewal in our diocese. This Prayer Group Self-Assessment tool became part of our process to bring new life into our ministry as Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Are our groups really vibrant? What are their prayer meetings like? Are the charisms being used? What are the ages of those involved in the Renewal? These were some of the questions we looked at with the leadership of each prayer group. The process as we used it has been three-fold:

Prayer—seeking his face—receiving his power. This was done through prayer, retreat days, and working with the Self-Assessment tool as a Diocesan Pastoral Team.

Administering the Self-Assessment tool to prayer group leadership by meeting with each group's leadership.

Follow-up process—using what we learned to generate a stronger Renewal.

There is a growing willingness and new energy to work together to accomplish the mission God has given us.

Such a process takes a commitment of time and enthusiasm for the mission that is ours. Our Diocesan leadership team of nine took six months to complete use of the self-assessment instrument with our 52 prayer groups. We are still involved in step 3 of this ongoing process that includes:

Reporting back to the Prayer Group leadership a summary of our findings.

Planning initiatives for the coming year that will meet the needs of prayer groups, specifically in areas of vision, praise and worship, charisms, teachings, and Life in the Spirit Seminars.

Calling forth anointed leadership discovered in the groups to assist in the broader renewal.

Following through with individual group requests for specific help or materials.

Although the desired fruits of our efforts are far from being realized at this early date, we have **already been blessed** in the following areas:

■ We all have been challenged to refocus on our primary mission.



Welcome back Sister Martha Jean

The Editorial Board of *Pentecost Today*, on behalf of the National Service Committee, welcomes Sr. Martha Jean McGarry as the Editor of *Pentecost Today*.

Sr. Martha Jean is the Director of the Catholic Charismatic Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the associate Liaison for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. She has been a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary since 1955.

Sr. Martha Jean was a member of the National Service Committee from 1990–2001 and served on the Editorial Board from its inception in 1991, chairing the board from 1994 until her NSC membership ended.

Sr. Martha Jean is a well traveled conference speaker and teacher, and has edited the local newsletter of the Renewal “New Pentecost in New Mexico” for years.

May the Holy Spirit guide her in this new work.



Prayer Card



God our Father
Complete the work
you have begun and
keep the gifts of
your Holy Spirit active
in the hearts of
your people.

Make us ready to
live the gospel and
eager to do God's will.

May we never
be ashamed
to proclaim
to all the world
Christ crucified
for us and risen.
Amen.

*Prayer Over the People
Adapted from
Rite of Confirmation*

■ The relationship between prayer groups and diocesan leadership has been clarified, strengthened, and re-vitalized.

■ Leadership has a clearer understanding of the needs of the groups so as to help them become more vibrant and re-establish their focus. The types of programs, teachings etc. that are needed are more apparent.

■ The Lord has placed some really gifted and anointed people in the prayer groups whose potential has not yet been tapped for building up the body. We know we need to look into how we can further develop these treasures with which God has gifted us.

■ There is a growing willingness and new energy to work together to accomplish the mission God has given us.

■ Together we have come to grasp the strengths and weaknesses of the Renewal in our area.

■ God is working in new ways among us and we have come to see the graces being manifested both in our diversity and our common vision.

This Prayer Group Self-Assessment tool is available for your use and can be downloaded from the Chariscenter website www.nsc-chariscenter.org. ♦

Sister Martha Jean McGarry is Director of the Catholic Charismatic Center in Albuquerque, NM.

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