



Please pray for the following initiatives and concerns of the National Service Committee:

That like Mary, full of hope and boldness, we would approach her Son in petition for fresh infillings of the new wine of the Spirit on behalf of all God's people.

That all disciples who know themselves as beloved of the Savior would be open to receive from him, personally, the gift of his mother as their mother.

That our hearts, like that of the Virgin of Lourdes, would find themselves ever overflowing with the healing love of her Son into the lives of others.

That all of us who have been crying out for a new springtime for Christianity would quickly experience fresh evidence of its bursting forth.

That the prayers and outreaches of the NSC be richly rewarded as youth are ignited with the fire of the Spirit and men and women everywhere answer the call into servant leadership.

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.

A vision for today's prayer groups

by Sister Nancy Kellar, SC

The abbot of a monastery was concerned that the monastery was not attracting new members and seemed on the verge of death. He consulted with a wise person in the village who told him to tell the monks: "Jesus is going to come again as one of you; but I don't know which one." The monks began to treat one another with great love because they didn't know which brother might be Jesus. Their love began to attract new members and once again the monastery began to thrive.

I start with this story because it focuses on the most basic call we have as followers of Jesus and members of prayer groups, "This is my commandment, love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 15:12). St John, writing after the other evangelists, had seen the fruit of the Spirit in the churches founded by the Apostles; but he also saw the loss of the fire of the Spirit. He wrote as an elder simply about love as the way to rekindle life in the Spirit in the Church.

I have written and taught in prayer groups for many years in the Charismatic Renewal about: the need to keep expecting more of the Spirit and the charismatic gifts; the importance of having clarity of identity and clarity of mission. In the Leadership Formation Videos, David Thorp and I taught about "The spiritual marks and structural components of Charismatic prayer groups." As "Traveling Timothy's" we saw three conditions that seem to keep prayer groups vibrant:

- 1) Continuing to use the Charisms
- 2) Building committed relationships
- 3) Becoming more effectively evangelistic.

I still believe these are essential; but I go back now as an elder like St. John the evangelist to what is even more basic; that we love God, love one another and by our love attract others to know God.

We are called first to be holy, to live and speak out of a personal love relationship with God. "Live on in my love" (Jn 15:9).

Our experience of being baptized in the Spirit is a prophetic call to us to proclaim that God is present here and now, that we can know him by personal experience. We are called to proclaim the possibility of knowing God as Father, surrendering to Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives, and experiencing that the Spirit given at Pentecost is for everyone!

In the past many of us knew God by information believing that deeper knowledge was reserved for some special people. Baptism in the Holy Spirit brought us into a new way of knowing God through revelation, through the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It brought us to the conviction and to the experience that every one can come to have the knowledge of God and the mysteries of God. We are called to proclaim that in this new age of the im-personalization of God.



The Renewal helped us understand that prayer is not just speaking to God; but also listening and letting God reveal himself to us. We recognized the longing in our hearts as a call to go more deeply into the spiritual. We are called to draw into the possibilities the Holy Spirit gives us, those turning to satisfy that longing in material things or in false spiritualities.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit opened our eyes to recognize the world of evil, of demons, and to call them what they are, to recognize sin as sin and not excuse it. We are called to challenge the excuses given for sin, “just the way I am, my family is like this,” and to reveal by the new freedom in our lives the possibility of healing and deliverance.

We are called to be one and to call others into unity. “Father, may they be one even as we are one” (Jn. 7:11).

Life in the Holy Spirit taught us that community is an essential part of Pentecost and that we can’t grow in relationship to God unless we are growing in relationship with one another. The Spirit teaches us that joy comes from putting the needs of others ahead of ourselves, that other centeredness makes us better individuals. We learn the paradox that in losing ourselves, we find new life.

In contrast, modern culture teaches that salvation comes from self-realization, self-help, that success equals individualism and independence. “I’ll do it my way.” Society calls sin in relationships “personality clashes” that are irreconcilable.

In the Spirit we learn the possibility of hearts changing, of reconciliation, of unity in diversity. We are called to prophetically proclaim that in the

Spirit unity between races, genders, age groups, and religions is possible.

We are called to be missionaries and to call others to mission. “May they be one, so that the world may believe that you sent me” (Jn 17:21). The Holy Spirit calls us to an evangelization that is proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are to proclaim that God sent his Son Jesus into the world that we might know him, that knowing him is a gift offered to anyone who has the ears to hear and the heart to believe.

We are challenged to persevere, to become even more zealous in the face of

people who consider our zeal for the gospel disrespectful of other people’s way to God. By our lives and words, we are sent to proclaim the Word of God’s infinite love for each and every human person. Please God then, like the failing monastery, our prayer groups will thrive again because of our love. ♦

Sister Nancy Kellar, SC has served in various leadership positions in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. She has taught throughout the United States and in more than 50 countries.



PENTECOST OF THE NATIONS...for a new culture of Pentecost
An ICCRS 10-Day Pentecost Project May 2–11, 2008

In 2002, Pope John Paul II urged the members of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to “bring to life that *“culture of Pentecost,”* that alone can make fruitful the civilization of love and friendly co-existence among peoples. With fervent insistence, never tire of praying “Come Holy Spirit! Come! Come!”

In response to this urging, International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) has launched a two-part project called ***Pentecost of the Nations...for a new culture of Pentecost.*** Part I of this project involves a Pentecost Novena (nine days of prayer from Ascension Thursday to the eve of Pentecost) and Part II is a Pentecost Day Celebration. 2008 is a first phase of a three-year journey during each Pentecost season, culminating in 2010 at an international event in Jerusalem, sponsored by ICCRS. More information can be found on the NSC website: www.nsc-chariscenter.org.

In the last two years, many countries and tens of thousands of people on all continents have participated in the *Burning Bush Initiative* and *Operation Upper Room*, worldwide prayer events that had the goal of weaving a dense global prayer network of adoration and intercession.

Join the Prayer Network

The United States is actively participating in this worldwide network of intercession—and you are invited to become part of this network! We are praying on behalf of our nation and our Church, and also upholding in prayer the various events sponsored by ICCRS and by the National Service Committee (NSC) of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the U.S. If you are willing to make a one-year commitment to this international network, contact Kathleen Haner, NSC Coordinator, USA by email at usintercessorsnetwork@gmail.com, or write 1540 Vaughn Lane E, Port Orchard, WA 98366, for the Commitment/Registration form. By registering you will be notified through this network of future intercessory prayer requests made by NSC and/or ICCRS.

For additional resources, information and special prayer intentions contact Kathleen Haner at
usintercessorsnetwork@gmail.com.

Return to the “Upper Room of Jerusalem” in one heart and in constant prayer becoming “burning bushes” in adoration and intercession.