

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

PENTECOST *Today*

Fall 2014

2015 Year of Unity

**Evangelization and service:
CORE Ministries**

**Bob Canton on the charism
of healing today**

Pope Francis affirms the Renewal

**Catholic faith alive!
St. Paul's Outreach**

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



Chairman's Corner

by Jane Guenther

Energizing Charisms

Over the Labor Day weekend I found myself doing some labor, cleaning out some boxes from my parents' house that ended up in storage after their deaths. I came across a commencement address my father gave to the Class of 1992. It was a grand expression of the journey of life, but touched me deeply because it also conveyed so much of my dad and the essence of what he stood for. His talk ended with a quote from Edward Everett Hale, "To look up not down, To look forward and not back, To look out and not in, and To lend a hand."

These are words for the Renewal at this point in our journey toward the Jubilee. With the encouraging words of Pope Francis almost daily we have to look up. We have to look forward at what we are being called to bring to the vitality of the Church today. We

are being called in the Year of Grace and Charisms for the Church to look out and not in, and always to live the Gospel we are to lend a hand.

Over the summer I had the privilege to make a presentation to the clergy and then to those in the Renewal in Memphis on the topic of charisms. Charisms are ever new. God is always leading his people through new charisms in order to look outward to fulfill the mandatum to go forth and proclaim the Gospel. In the early church there was the Order of Bridge Builders who literally engineered bridges so that the Gospel could be proclaimed in new lands. When the Roman officials took over this task the Order died off. In our modern day we have new charisms for a new age, like a new Order of Bridgebuilders equipped not with wood and nails but rather with new technologies. We are energized by going out with the use of charisms to bring others into a fullness of the grace of their baptism – the power and might of the Holy Spirit. ♦

Jane Guenther is Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne
Schaenzer, SSND

How do people evangelize—proclaim the Gospel—in the 21st century?

In various ways the articles in this issue illustrate ministries "empowered by the charisms for evangelization and service" (NSC Mission Statement).

Bob Canton (pp 6-7) writes, "I can attest that healing the sick in the name of Jesus is one of the most effective tools for evangelization."

Saint Paul's Outreach (pp 8-9, 12) has been evangelizing college students and young adults for twenty-eight years. This last December, SPO alumnus Andrew Cozzens was ordained Bishop.

Catholic Outreach, Resources and Evangelization (CORE) Ministries (pp 4-5) discovered that simple proclamation of the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, transforms individuals and parishes.

How do we become evangelizers? Jimmy Archer writes (p 10) that, "Conversion to the love of Jesus will transform us to be the witnesses the Church needs and expects."

"As you go back, bring me some fruit" (p 13). We know that Jesus told us that he has appointed us to bear fruit that will remain (Jn 15:16), and to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mk 16:15).

Bert Ghezzi, in *What we have seen and heard...* (p 15) highlights the basics to which we must adhere and points us to the New Evangelization.

Finally, unity is necessary to bring about the most effective evangelization. The year of 2015 is designated as a Year of Unity in the 5-Year Plan (p 3). The NSC will address four emphases in a variety of ways during the coming year.

So, on your feet! "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news" (Is 22:7). We are all called to evangelize. Let us hold one another in prayer that we might be strengthened and protected, that we might listen to the Holy Spirit. ♦

PENTECOST Today

Volume 39 Number 3

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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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2015 Year of Unity

by Cruz Teresa Rosero

Searching for unity is always a struggle. Yet, it is the command of Jesus (Jn 17). Our Committee of the National Leadership Groups of the Catholic Charismatics of the U.S. has taken this command very seriously, and has been working on our relationships through prayer and dialogue. Together we are planning the 5-year Journey to the 50th Jubilee in 2017 of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Additionally, the 5-Year Committee is issuing a document each of those years based on the designated theme. “Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church” has been the theme designated for 2014. “Year of Unity” is the theme and aim for 2015.

? How can we achieve this difficult task within our Charismatic Renewal, within our Catholic Church, and within the Body of Christ? **First of all**, we need to understand what unity means. The document written by our Committee has defined it as a “call to a union that is as complete as the union between the three persons of the Trinity; not just a mixture of elements into a tenuous combination.” **Second of all**, we need a method and a model. “Jesus has given us the model of unity in his dedication to the Father’s will, humility, service, sacrifice, and forgiveness.” This is a method based on Jesus’ teaching: “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friend” (Jn 15:13). This may mean that we have to give up our personal visions of how things should be and our way of doing things. We do this for the higher calling to live for Jesus and not ourselves.

This means we must be constantly open to the Holy Spirit directing and teaching us. If we are willing to ‘lay down our life’ and are open to listening to, responding to and cooperating with others, we can build unity between all groups and peoples with whom we work (Rom 12:5).

To foster such a unity, four emphases should be taken into consideration:

- ⊗ Reach out to all groups influenced by charismatic renewal
- ⊗ Endeavor to lay down our lives for each other
- ⊗ Foster unity in the Renewal, unity with the Church, and ecumenism
- ⊗ Focus on the importance of community.

Within the Renewal we need to re-establish and repair broken relationships. We need to reach out to other groups influenced by the Renewal in our areas and look for opportunities to pray together. We can be open and vocal about the gift each group brings to the renewal of the Church, and commit ourselves to an ongoing communication and cooperation with them, taking into consideration the commonality we share.

We hope that throughout the year many groups, including those of an ecumenical nature, will sign the “Covenant of Understanding.” To that end we will continue to “reach out to all groups influenced by the charismatic renewal,” so that together we can celebrate the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit poured out so powerfully in our day. Within the Roman Catho-

lic Church, let us be an integral part of the Church’s mission including the current focus on the new evangelization. Let us bring healing to the wounded within the Church’s ranks. As we become active team members in the Church’s mission, unity with others will improve.

In the area of Ecumenism let’s remember that baptism in the Holy Spirit has always had an ecumenical impetus. We in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal owe a real debt of gratitude to both the Pentecostal and the mainline denominational renewals that helped form us. There seems to be a new grace to work together, energized by Pope Francis. We can pray, work and grow in unity in the areas where we have common grounds such as evangelization, works of mercy, and areas of social justice.

Community life is a very important element for our focus. God manifests the Holy Spirit’s presence, not only through individual charisms and ministries, but through the witness of committed, united communities (Acts 2:42-47). So, build communities through prayer, communal vision, encouragement, hospitality and sharing of charisms. Spend time together and grow in spiritual bonds of friendship.

Finally, **we recommend** that at our conferences and major events during 2015 the theme of “unity” appear in the title as part of our 5-year Journey together to the Jubilee in 2017. *See full document “Year of Unity” 2015 at nsc-chariscenter.org (listed under Online Formation).* ♦

Cruz Teresa Rosero is a member of the Spanish National Committee: and a member of the 5-Year Committee of the National Leadership Groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the U.S.



Proclamation activity *always* finds favor with God; and his Spirit always pours out an abundance of gifts to be able to do so effectively.



CORE Ministries:

Catholic Outreach, Resources and Evangelization

by Deacon Mike Thoennes and Mary Hagar

The story of Catholic Outreach, Resources and Evangelization (CORE) Ministries in one sentence: *We discovered clear, simple proclamation of the Gospel, in the power of the Holy Spirit, first transforms the individual lives of regular people and then transforms whole churches.* We tell our story only because “it is unthinkable not to give witness to what the Spirit has done.”

Mary Hagar embarked on a deep internal search for a purpose in life not found in “Catholic activity” nor in standards of human success. Sad, lost, empty, Mary cried out to God to show himself. Mary found the presence of a living, loving and healing Jesus who, at the same time, poured out his promised Spirit for a personal conversion with lavish abundance of gifts for the Church.

In early Spirit-led years Mary had a welling passion to evangelize, desperate for an outlet. Her teaching gifts took on charismatic power. As a Youth Minister and DRE she used every conversion tool the Church offered. It was exciting yet depressing. First the “choir came.” God bless them or she’d have been talking to herself! However, the universal response to “making disciples” was always the same: “We don’t know what you’re talking about nor how; are you sure this isn’t heresy?” Attempting to evangelize during Jubilee 2000, Mary found a disconnect between the emerging vision of the Church and people in the pew. One life-long Catholic summarized it saying, “Mary, the Church is on yet another train to a dead end.”

Thinkstock Deacon Mike Thoennes, a product of Religious Education, was known as a “good Catholic” boy. He “graduated” at Confirmation—sacramentalized but not evangelized. Later, or-

dained to serve the Church, less sure that Jesus was who he said he was. Finally questioning whether he was more a disciple of the Church than of Christ.

So by God’s plan, a long-time charismatic and a new deacon, never having met each other, ended up in the same parish at the same time. Mary invited Mike to attend the Healing Conference at Franciscan University... he didn’t realize it was charismatic. Once there, he decided to “endure” the weekend. *It was too late—God had other plans!* One evening, Fr. Ed McDonough said he had a gift of the Spirit to sprinkle people with holy water and they would be baptized in the Holy Spirit. While Mike doubted its truth, it happened.

Mike’s gifts for administration, preaching and worship perfectly complimented Mary’s gifts of teaching, hospitality and discernment. In time they discovered the emerging whole (meaning, CORE) was greater than the sum of the parts. They talked, prayed, studied, and sought like-minded Catholics. Prayer confirmed it: “Wow! Look where the Church is going and nobody knows it!” We concluded that, rather than swimming in the prophesied ocean of grace, we were floundering—so God showed us how to swim.

A flyer for a 10-day School of Catholic Evangelization through Renewal Ministries arrived. We enlisted our hungry people to go. To say we experienced an epiphany hardly covers what happened. With clarity, focus, and power the School placed the strange-sounding “evangelization vocabulary” in the context of the proclamation of the Gospel, in the setting of all of salvation history and our place in it by virtue of Baptism.

The clear vision came: Stop struggling to do the work Jesus claimed for himself: *"If I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself."* It's deceptively simple and shockingly true: convert hearts "solely on the message itself." Following the advice to "test all things," we'd show up for duty, point to Jesus, and get out of the way. We also knew we needed a simple tool and environment to present the *basic* Gospel message. We were at a standstill, either find that tool or start from scratch.

God's timing is perfect. A flyer arrived: *"Alpha in a Catholic Context."* Again, we took a crowd and agreed, "This is it!" Alpha provided what we'd have done if we started from scratch. With approval of Archbishop Harry Flynn we piloted Alpha as an evangelization *tool*: a tool to enfold the yeast of the Gospel, working it throughout all the lumps of dough of Church life.

We didn't have every charismatic gift so we drew together a team who had all the gifts needed to become "environment architects." Using Alpha with the explicit approval of our pastors, we centered every area of church life and catechesis on a love relationship *first* so that information and content could take hold.

We redesigned content, curriculums, presentations, and set environments whose activity and information were preceded by and dovetailed with a personal connection to the Lordship of Christ and his Spirit. We believe that people needed to *belong* before they *believe*. We would form communities built upon, within, and among Spirit-empowered groups. **Imagine:** layer upon layer of proclamation activity introduced into all the raw material of Church including Councils, Committees, Sacramental prep, RCIA, Youth Ministry; Religious Ed, Adult Formation, Parenting, Family Life, Senior activity as well as ministries at the Mass—the list goes on!

Our pastors didn't have to wait long to see fruit! After years of mediocre success we discovered that the truth of the Gospel is magnetic, life-giving, and mission-directed *all by itself*. With a growing base of empowered Catholics, young and old, on-fire *because* Jesus has captured their hearts, declining rural churches began bubbling and fighting for life.

Astounding! Significant life and church changes happened so consistently that many paid attention: people, parishes

and even our archdiocese. As evidence of "fruit" spread to hungry parishes we were filled with requests for help. CORE expanded with over 60 team members. We began to support Catholic evangelization wherever we could. CORE has mentored more than 30 Catholic parishes and many Protestant parishes. We were blessed by Renewal Ministries to tell our story at various "Evangelization Schools" including the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and other smaller venues across the country with hope to stir others to "test the truth" in their local setting and watch it catch fire!

The fruit from an anointing and empowering Spirit speaks for itself: blossoming parish, larger Mass attendance, double and triple RCIA programs, marriages restored, relationships healed, lost souls returning to the Church after decades of absence, and more meaningful sacramental reception. CORE has faithfully documented hundreds of written and video testimonies and was featured in a recent episode on EWTN by Renewal Ministries.

Our on-fire Catholics now lead, teach and facilitate Alpha Courses, Youth Alpha, AlphaSprouts (an age-centered Alpha Course for children so families can attend together), Workplace Alpha, Senior Center Alpha, Parenting Courses, Marriage Enrichment Courses, Life in the Spirit Seminars, Adult Faith Formation, Prayer groups, Confirmation retreats, and many Scripture studies.

The story of CORE is a vast accumulation of evidence that barriers fall in the face of truth; that proclamation activity *always* finds favor with God; and his Spirit always pours out an abundance of gifts to be able to do so effectively. The evidence is in! Only one verdict is possible: *The treasure in the field is real, true, life-giving and empowering for mission. Sell everything to find it. You can't waste a day.* ♦

Deacon Mike Thoennes is the Liaison in the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota and is a dentist. Mary Hagar is the Director of Religious Education at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Waverly, Minnesota; Together they formed CORE Ministries in 2002;



Among their many activities, they both serve on the Board of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office located in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The Gift of Healing

Still active in today's world

by Bob Canton

We read in the book of Luke 7:20–23, *When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?'" At that time, he cured many of their diseases, sufferings, and evil spirits; he also granted sight to many who were blind. And he said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."* Jesus Christ is indeed the Divine Physician and the source of all healing.

Teaching of the Roman Catholic Church regarding healing

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* asserts that, "Christ's compassion toward the sick and his many healings of every kind of infirmity are a resplendent sign that 'God has visited his people' and that the Kingdom of God is close at hand. Jesus has the power not only to heal, but also to forgive sins; he has come to heal the whole man, soul and body; he is the physician the sick have need of" (1503).

In the book, *Instruction on Prayers for Healing*, published by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, we read, "Christ's meeting with the sick is one of the most human aspects we find in the Gospels. This meeting is for the total, global salvation of the person, and not only to bring bodily health alone, overcome physical sickness and hence avoid 'becoming bogged down in the impossible aim of finally defeating death.' The meeting between Christ and the sick, is, both in the Gospels and still today, to heal the person in his or her totality, and hence with a dimension of eternity."

Pope Benedict XVI, in his book, *Jesus of Nazareth*, writes that "Healing is an essential dimension of the apostolic mission and of Christian faith in general. It can even be said that Christianity is a 'therapeutic religion, a religion of healing.'"

According to *Guidelines of Prayer For Healing*, a booklet published by the Doctrinal Commission of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS), there are four basic categories of healing, namely **physical healing**: the healing from physical sickness and disability; **psychological healing**: the healing of wounds to the human psyche, including emotional wounds; **spiritual healing**: this means, above all, the "healing from sin" that restores a person to a relationship with God; and **exorcism and deliverance**.

How to pray for healing and achieve results:

In exercising the ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing in many countries throughout the world, I can attest that healing the sick in the name of Jesus is one of the most effective tools for evangelization. I have witnessed people who came to know the loving and the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of healing.

"These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages, they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover" (Mk 16:17-18). In the light of what Jesus said, any baptized believer can pray for the sick. While it is true and generally recognized that there are particular charisms of healings given only to some, this should not preclude any baptized Christian from praying for the sick.

The following are some of the ways of praying for healing, especially physical healing, to achieve results. This list is by no means exhaustive nor exclusive:

◆ Have a constant, personal, intimate, day by day and moment by moment relationship and fellowship with the Lord. Without this kind of relationship with him, one's life is devoid of real power. In John 15:5, 7, Jesus asserts, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." "If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you will, and it will be given unto you."

◆ Avail yourself of the sacraments of the Church, especially the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. The healing minister may encourage the sick to do the same.

These are the most powerful sources of healing, including the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The *Catechism* (1509) states, "The Church believes in the life-giving presence of Christ, the physician of souls and bodies. This presence is particularly active through the sacraments, and in an altogether special way through the Eucharist, the bread that gives eternal life and that St. Paul suggests is connected with bodily health."

◆ Always say a "protective" prayer before the healing session to prevent any contamination or transference of spirits of affliction and infirmity into anyone. A prayer of command invoking the name and the blood of Jesus for protection and to bind any spirit of harassment or retaliation is recommended.

◆ Invoke Mary and the Holy Angels for their intercession and protection.

◆ Have an expectant faith. "I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.'" (Lk 17:6). Have faith that the Lord can work in and through you for his glory.

◆ Ask questions and listen attentively to the person to whom you are ministering before you start praying. Information such as the kind of sickness the person is suffering from, the doctor's diagnosis, the person's faith in the healing power of Jesus, may guide you on how to proceed in praying for the sick.

◆ Lay hands on the sick. Jesus laid hands on the sick and healed them. However, proper discretion should be used with the laying on of hands.

◆ Use the name of Jesus. There is power in the name of Jesus. "If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it" (Jn 14:14).

◆ Be open to the Holy Spirit and his gifts, especially prophecy, word of knowledge, and discernment of spirits. These are great tools in conducting the ministry of healing.

◆ Obey the voice of the Lord. Obey the leadings and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. "Obedience is better than sacrifice, submission than the fat of rams" (1 Sm 15:22).

◆ "Call the things that are not as though they were" (Rom 4:17). I personally describe it as a "build up prayer." An example of this is a prayer asking the Lord for brand new eyes for the blind or brand new eardrums and auditory nerves for the deaf and so forth. "For God, nothing is impossible at all" (Lk 1:37).

◆ Ask Jesus to apply his precious blood and his healing touch into the diseased parts of the person's body. "By his stripes, we were healed" (Is 53:5).

◆ "Seal" the healing with the blood and the name of Jesus and the mantle of the Virgin Mary so that the healing may last. This could prevent symptoms and the sickness itself from recurring.

◆ Pray a "cleansing prayer" after the healing session. This prayer is intended to prevent any entity or spirit of infirmity and/or spirit of retaliation to attach itself to anyone involved in the

Prayer Card



Holy Spirit, come, burn in our hearts!

We implore you to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence.

Release anew the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit in the Church and in the world.

Ignite us with the fire of your love!



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healing prayer. Prayers for refreshment of mind and body and renewed anointing from the Holy Spirit are also desirable at this time.

◆ Give praise to God's goodness and his healing love. "Through him, let us continually offer God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name" (Heb 13:15). ◆



Bob Canton is a Council Member for the Vatican based ICCRS representing the English-speaking North America, Central America and Caribbean Countries.

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

- ◆ That Charismatic Renewal will be a lively leaven in the Church, to raise up millions more Catholics to proclaim the Lordship of Jesus and embrace a full life in the Spirit.
- ◆ That we would all be good stewards of the charisms that the Holy Spirit bestows on us, not burying them but willingly share them in the upbuilding of the Church and the evangelization of the world.
- ◆ That the National Leaders' & Ministries' Conference, November 7-9, 2014, would be a milestone event, a significant point of *Igniting the Renewal* for its service to the Church, a significant point of *Igniting Charisms* for building up the Body of Christ, a significant point of *Igniting Unity* within and beyond the Renewal.
- ◆ For all who respond to the call of the New Evangelization, that their zeal will not fade and their strength will be renewed each day.



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.



Saint Paul's Outreach

CRUSH Catholic Rush Week

Saint Paul's Outreach

Catholic faith alive on college campuses

by Gordy DeMarais

Our young people are losing their faith and abandoning morals in alarming numbers. For many, that happens in college. According to a recent study, only 10% of those between the ages of 18 and 25 attend Mass at least once a month. In her book *Forming Intentional Disciples*, Sherry Weddell expresses the same concern:

If something doesn't change in the next ten years it will cease to matter whether there is a priest shortage.

In view of this crisis of faith—and it really is a crisis—Pope Francis is encouraging the faithful to reawaken our call to evangelization and mission. Last fall, he wrote in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*:

If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and

sisters are living without the strength, light, and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, with out meaning and a goal in life.... Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: "we have always done it this way". I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, styles, and methods of evangelization (EG 49, 33).

We need a fresh approach, a new strategy.

Our Holy Father is telling us that the status quo does not cut it when it comes to our understanding and approach to mission. We need a fresh approach, a new strategy. We need to be creative, bold, and committed in this missionary call. The Catholicism of the twenty-first century needs to be, in the words of George Weigel, an evangelical Ca-

tholicism characterized by “radical conversion, joyful discipleship, deep fidelity, and courageous evangelism.” These terms aptly describe the vision, strategy, and mission of Saint Paul’s Outreach.

The ministry of SPO is to recruit and train young adults to serve as missionaries on college campuses.

Saint Paul’s Outreach (SPO) has been evangelizing college students and young adults for twenty-eight years, long before the term became popular in our Catholic vernacular. SPO is one of a number of apostolates that originated from the St. Paul Catholic Youth Center in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis in the late 1970s and early 1980s, each of which are fruits of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The other ministries include a covenant community serving families (Christ the Redeemer), an evangelistic youth ministry serving high school students (NET Ministries), and an association of diocesan priests (Companions of Christ).

The ministry of SPO is to recruit and train young adults to serve as missionaries on college campuses. Some are recent graduates who serve full-time, while others are part-time student volunteers. Chapters established on college campuses are led by these missionaries; at the heart of each SPO Chapter is an evangelistic community of students and staff that reaches, calls, forms, and sends out young people to be life-long disciples and leaders in the New Evangelization. At its core, the life of a Chapter is based on Christ-centered relationships and a structured pattern of frequent events and activities. These Chapters are overseen and run by SPO Mission Centers currently located in Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, and Texas.



Joint household meal

The Process of Evangelization

The Saint Paul’s Outreach method and strategy of reaching college students, calling them to conversion, forming them to be mature disciples, and sending them out on mission begins each summer with our missionary training. In June and July, we train our Mission Leaders who have chosen to offer at least two years of their lives in full-time evangelistic service.

If we are going to reach college students, we need to go to them.

This year, more than 100 full-time staff and missionaries participated in this training. In August, these missionaries join two hundred additional student missionaries from campuses around the country for a week-long training program called the School of the New Evangelization (SNE). SNE is a powerful, life-changing experience for many. These young adults are not only equipped with the tools and skills to effectively evangelize their peers, but also immersed in a vibrant faith-filled community where they can experience deeper conversion and grow in their relationship with the Lord.

Following SNE, SPO missionaries take off for college campuses across the na-

tion to start their ministry. If we are going to reach college students, we need to *go* to them. Most college students are not knocking on the doors of the Newman Center or Campus Ministry office asking for help growing in their faith. As SPO’s approach to evangelization is relational, our missionaries begin to engage students in the ordinary circumstances of college life, in the places where they study, socialize, and recreate. The first weeks on campus are very important. Students are making new friendships and deciding how they will socialize as soon as they get to campus. Knowing this, SPO missionaries organize Catholic Rush Week (CRUSH) helping students move into their dorms, hosting parties and recreational events, sponsoring hog roasts and corn hole tournaments, and participating in student activity fairs.

As SPO missionaries build these relationships with students, they invite students to participate in retreats where they can experience a reawakening of their faith. At the heart of SPO retreats is a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ and prayer for a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit. While this conversion—often times life-changing—is important, it is only a

See **Saint Paul’s Outreach** page 12