



Editor's Note: In response to the Holy Father's words at the Italian Renewal's 37th National Convocation where he was asked to tell the Renewal what the Pope expects from us, the Editorial Board of Pentecost Today decided to reflect on several points Pope Francis made over the next few issues. The following reflection is the first.

Conversion to the Love of Jesus!

by Jimmy Archer

It was an historic moment as the Holy Father met with over 50,000 Renewal participants from 55 countries in Rome's Olympic Stadium. His affirmation of love brought great joy and hope to the Renewal as reflected in these words:

“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.”

It is fitting that the first thing Pope Francis would expect from us is: “*conversion to the love of Jesus*, which changes life and makes of the Christian a witness of the love of God.” He went on to say: “the Church expects this witness of Christian life and the Holy Spirit helps us to live *the coherence of the Gospel* for our holiness.”

Conversion to the love of Jesus is often misunderstood by many to mean “conversion to love Jesus,” which is not a bad thing; however it is a response, not the initiating action of Jesus’ love for us! “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 Jn 4:10). More than reminding ourselves of this great truth, it must become the center of our identity. We are loved by God and it is the embrace of this love that changes us.

Most of us have encountered the living God through our baptism in the Holy Spirit and experienced the love of the Father being poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit as we surrendered to the lordship of Jesus! Scripture tells us that we are so dearly loved by the Father that we have become children of God. He is our Abba and we are his be-

loved! “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 Jn 3:3).

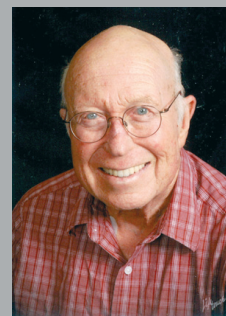
What I believe *conversion to the love of Jesus* means is the process of surrendering our perceptions of ourselves, and the perceptions of how others see us, to the absolute truth of who we really are: beloved sons and daughters of God! This is the work of intimacy with Jesus and he is the initiator of that intimacy! Our part in the work is to clear the deck and become receptive to the infinite ways that God wants to lavish his love upon us. “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love” (Jn 15:9). Remain in my love, stay put, and don’t move from my love. Don’t go back to misperceptions of yourself, remain in my love! Don’t try to become something you’re not or something someone else wants you to be, remain in my love.

Throughout your spiritual journey, remain in his love. Jesus goes on to say: “If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you” (Jn 15:10-12).

Conversion to the love of Jesus will transform us to be the witnesses the Church needs and expects. And the Spirit of Jesus will empower us to live this life of intimacy so others may come to know that they too are the beloved sons and daughters of God! ♦



Jimmy Archer is a member of the National Service Committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and a member of the Pastoral Service Team for the Renewal in West Virginia. He and his wife Taffy and son Andrew live in Fairmont, West Virginia.



Transitions

In a little less than a month, three of the former members of the National Service Committee departed for what, it is hoped, is heavenly glory.

Fr. George Kosicki, C.S.B. was a Basilian priest, who was baptized in the Holy Spirit in the earliest days of the Renewal and served on the NSC from its formal inception in 1970 to 1975. By training, he was a biochemist but also a great spiritual writer and thinker. Several of his books were influential in the early days of the Renewal including *The Lord is My Shepherd: Witnesses of Priests* (1973) and *The Spirit and the Bride Say, "Come!": Mary's Role in the New Pentecost*.

He was instrumental in conceiving 40 Days of Intercession for Priests and continued to foster intercession for priests as he moved into study and promotion of the Divine Mercy message. Prior to the illness which led to his death, Fr. Kosicki lived for twelve years as a hermit within the Community of the Companions of Christ the Lamb in Michigan. He was 86 when he died on August 11.

Gerald (Gerry) Mader was baptized in the Holy Spirit in the early 1970's. He held several leadership roles in the Renewal: Chairperson for the Service Team in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and later Assistant Liaison; after his move with his wife Lois to Fort Myers, Florida he became the Chairperson of the Diocese of Venice Service Committee. He first came to the national level in 1992 from Milwaukee as a member of the NSC's Advisory Committee, a position he served in until August 1998. He was later appointed to the newly constituted NSC Council in 2000 and served until his election to the Service Committee in January 2005. In 2002 Gerry had been asked to serve as the NSC's Development Manager, a position he held until late 2013. (For more see the Friends of the NSC column on page 14.)

During his nearly nine years on the NSC Gerry served in many capacities including Conference, Outreach, Finance, Membership and Development. He was a conference and outreach speaker and the writer of several articles in *Pentecost Today* and two of the NSC Leaflets: "Word of Knowledge and the Word of Wisdom" and "Gift (Charism) of Tongues." He died on August 20 at the age of 75.

John (Jack) Brombach died on September 3 after a fall that led to a concussion. He was 84. Jack was one of the founders of the Servants of the Lord Christian Community in the early 1970's (now Servant Branch of the People of Praise). He was a member of the initial Advisory Committee to the NSC in 1971 where he served until his election to the NSC in 1975. He was a member of the Service Committee until 1984. Jack was known for his easy-going pastoral style and deep love for the Lord and his family. He was a conference speaker for many years.

These three join the previous seven members of the NSC who have died:

- Fr. Jim Ferry (1977-1983); died 1989
- Fr. Emile LaFranz (1990-1995); died 1995
- Fr. Ralph Weishaar (1984-1990); died 2000
- Fr. Hal Cohen (1973-1982); died 2001
- Bishop Joseph McKinney (1978-1982); died 2010
- David Thorp (1984-1991; 2002-2004); died 2011
- Fr. John Randall (1977-1983); died 2011

May each of these, who served this great Renewal so well, rest in peace. ♦

beginning. The parable Jesus tells us about the sower and the seed is a reminder that it is equally important to help young people become mature in their faith. As a result, college students are subsequently invited to participate in SPO formation programs that include regular instruction on how to live the Christian life, men's and women's small groups, formation prayer meetings, and service opportunities. For an even fuller immersion into the SPO community, some students will choose to live in one of 36 SPO formation houses established near or on campuses SPO serves. For many of these students, their experience living in a faith community day in and day out is a final step in embracing a life of faith for themselves. These students often become the next wave of SPO missionaries. Indeed, the work of evangelization is only complete when the one being evangelized becomes an evangelizer. The SPO missionary cycle is complete when young people become missionaries themselves.

The impact on our Church—and our Future

The quality of SPO formation efforts on college campuses is being manifested not only by thousands of alumni who are committed, faithful, practicing, dedicated Catholic adults, but also in the kind of leadership in which so many of our alumni now find themselves. In 28 years, SPO alumni have founded two new associations of priests and religious, are leaders in education and high school administration, are rectors of minor seminaries, professors of theology in major seminaries, directors of diaconate formation, and general superiors and postulant directors in religious orders. They staff marriage and family life offices and are leaders of pro-



Campus huddle



Worship

life organizations and clinics. They are doctors, lawyers, accountants, entrepreneurs, and laborers bringing Christ into their spheres of influence. Last December, SPO alumnus Andrew Cozzens was ordained a bishop. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, the impact of Saint Paul's Outreach has been nothing less than extraordinary—and the work has just begun.

SPO is transforming the way campus ministry is done in the Catholic Church. We are transforming individuals, who are subsequently transforming

the Church and the culture. Jesus says in Matthew's Gospel, however, "the harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few." We ask that you join us in praying that the Lord would continue to send more laborers into his vineyard. ♦

A long-standing leader in youth and young-adult ministry, Gordy DeMarais co-founded Saint Paul's Outreach in the early 1980s on the campus of the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota.



Grace and Charisms: The New Springtime of the Church

by Marianne Skrobiak

In May, we gathered at the Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio for our annual Association of Diocesan Liaisons (ADL) conference. The theme was "Grace and Charisms: The New Springtime of the Church." Dr. Mary Healy, Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD and Walter Matthews each wrote powerful papers on various aspects of that theme specifically applying it to our work in the local Renewal.

In addition to these presentations, we addressed how to draw more people into a personal relationship with Jesus. The love among those gathered was palpable, as it was the love of our Lord himself. The conference was filled with fresh ideas, zeal for the Lord and an eagerness to get involved, that is, to be part of the larger body. Interesting small group discussions following the

presentations generated many ideas. (ADL members are able to access all the papers that are part of our archives from 1977 to present. If you are a liaison and have not yet joined this dynamic organization, please consider doing so now.)

We celebrated Mass daily, had powerful praise and worship time as well as prayer time with one another not only at the center, but also at Mission San Jose where thousands have done so in the past. Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siler of San Antonio, celebrated Mass with us as well.

Gathering at 'the table' out on the grounds with our Lord was a highlight for many. We had the opportunity to just "be" with Jesus at a long table with twelve stools around it and a large bronze statue of our Lord breaking bread. On the last day

someone had placed several apples on the plate in front of Jesus and this prophetic word came: "As you go back, bring me some fruit!"

Wow, we take those words very seriously and the only way we know how to do this is to share the love of Christ in community, in our prayer groups and in our parishes by participating and remaining connected to the greater Renewal. The body is only as strong as the individuals who comprise the body. That's us my friends.

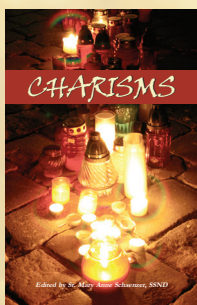
We are planning our next convocation for April, 2015 in Philadelphia. We hope to see all liaisons there. ♦

Marianne Skrobiak is the Liaison for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and serves as the newly elected Chairperson of ADL. For more information contact her at: Liaison.adl@gmail.com

Don't let the "Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church" pass you by!

Charisms are tools for the New Evangelization

These tools are explored in a variety of articles, books, leaflets and booklets published by the National Service Committee (NSC).



Charisms is a booklet exploring the gifts of the Spirit in a collection of articles first published in *Pentecost Today* magazine. Titles include:

- Charism of teaching
- The charism of healing today
- Prophecy
- The charism of tongues
- Agents of mercy
- Three basic signs of a charism ● and more...

The booklet includes questions for reflection or for group discussion.

NSC Leaflets offer an in-depth view of specific charisms (gifts of the Spirit), their purpose and how to use them.

Among the titles:

- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The Charism of Miracles
- The Gift (Charism) of Tongues
- Discernment and Discernment of Spirits
- The Word of Knowledge and the Word of Wisdom
- Understanding and Exercising the Gift of Prophecy
- Pastoring Word Gifts



For a complete list of resources go to www.nsc-chariscenter.org. **To order call 800-338-2445.**



by Walter Matthews

Celebrations

Surely one of the many things we have learned in this great Renewal is “to celebrate with great joy” (Neh 8:12) with brothers and sisters: whether at a weekly prayer meeting or annual conference, at a wedding feast or a funeral Mass.

On August 9, 800-1,000 brothers and sisters “gathered together” for “A Celebration of Movements and New Communities in the U.S. in Service of the New Evangelization.” We came from more than a dozen different movements and new communities to give thanks to the Lord for what he is doing in the Church in our day in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the movements and new communities, to get to know one another a little bit better, and to hear challenging words about living in holiness, communion and mission. We will have more in the eNewsletter and on our website soon.

“Cooperating with other Catholic organizations and movements” is part of the mission of the NSC and we encourage you on the diocesan level to get to know your brothers and sisters in the other movements and new communities, and to gather to celebrate with joy and thanksgiving.

My wife and I were then able to attend two entirely different celebrations in the weeks that followed. The first was the Mass of Thanksgiving, celebrating Bishop Sam Jacobs’ 50 years as a priest and 25 years as a bishop, held at the Cathedral of St. Francis de Sales in Houma, Louisiana. With more than

a dozen bishops present and a hundred priests and deacons, and the Cathedral packed, Bishop Sam was honored and challenging as he proclaimed the word of God about the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit in his homily.

The special issue of the *Bayou Catholic* included these words of Pope Francis to Bishop Jacobs: “...we give thanks for his fruitful spiritual journey and then for his pastoral undertakings...and most especially mindful of his energy in the realm of charitable works, we wish him the rewards of his merits...we bestow upon him our auspicious Apostolic Blessing as a Divine reward.” To which we add, *ad multos annos!*

A week later we were in Fort Meyers, Florida (able to drive there because we were halfway there on vacation in South Carolina) for the Memorial Mass and Burial of Gerry Mader. Gerry was not only a co-worker in the vineyard, a friend and a brother to us—he was like an older brother. The Mass had been planned by Gerry and his wife, Lois, back in 1992 and was filled with the Renewal songs of that day. While there were tears, when he was buried in a simple garden outside the Church we felt like dancing: another son had gone home.

In 2017, when the Renewal celebrates our 50th Anniversary Jubilee, we will gather in Rome for Pentecost, June 4 (we await more details from ICCRS), and in Pittsburgh July 20 (Thursday)–23 (Sunday). Save the dates!

Until then we hope to see you in Pittsburgh, November 7–9 for this year’s Conference. Bring a young leader with you, and encourage a priest or deacon to attend the Afternoon for Priests, Deacons and Seminarians. I already have my dancing shoes on! ♦

Friends of the NSC

Of the three former members of the NSC who died in the space of a month, none was more tied into the Service Committee’s effort to raise the funds needed to support the mission of “fostering the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit” than Gerry Mader. Gerry served as our part-time Development Manager from 2002 until he “retired” in 2009. In 2010 he “unretired” and again took up the challenge of calling donors to thank you and to invite you to consider another gift and/or pledge. He continued to serve until 2013 when Jimmy Archer stepped in, first as Assistant Development Manager, and then as Manager. Gerry remained active in fund raising until this year when his health deteriorated.

We owe a great debt to him for his sacrifice of time, energy and effectiveness.

Even at the end, he and his wife Lois had decided that instead of flowers for his memorial, donations should be made to the National Service Committee. To date we have received ten such gifts with more to come.

If you would like to make a special donation *in memoriam* of Gerry Mader, just write that on the memo of your check or call us to make a credit card gift.

The Campaign, Toward the Jubilee: 50 Years of Grace for the New Evangelization, has moved into Phase II and is nearing the \$300,000 mark. If you have not yet been contacted, you will be. If you have been contacted, and not yet made a pledge or a gift, please do so.

We will be launching Phase III of the Campaign in Pittsburgh in November.

Not a donor? Please use the enclosed envelope in support not only of *Pentecost Today* but of all the work and ministry of the NSC. 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.



Sticking to the Basics

I was baptized in the Holy Spirit at Notre Dame in March, 1967. For nearly fifty years that spiritual renewal has shaped my daily life. Early on I learned the basics of life in the Spirit and I have stuck to them:

■ Basic 1:

Being baptized in the spirit, especially yielding to the gift of tongues, transformed the way I pray. I discovered that I was worshipping Jesus in an unknown language. To this day it has made adoring the Lord the dominant feature of my daily prayer.

■ Basic 2:

The Holy Spirit has taught me to receive and exercise charisms. I have discovered that my spiritual gifts equip me to be an encourager with words, both in teaching and writing. For example, I work hard preparing for a talk, but when I'm speaking I can sense the Holy Spirit prompting me with unplanned ideas or examples.



■ Basic 3:

Baptism in the Spirit activated in me the Isaian gifts—for the mind: wisdom, knowledge, counsel, and understanding; for the heart: piety, reverence, and fortitude. Often during a day I ask the Holy Spirit to work one of these in me, especially fortitude in the face of challenges.

■ Basic 4:

I have learned to let the Spirit guide me both in my daily responsibilities and in my Christian service. When I have to handle a family concern I ask him to give me the right words or move me in the right direction. I have counted on the Spirit to lead me in my efforts to bring others to Christ and the Church.

■ Basic 5:

Being baptized in the Spirit has trained me in expectant faith. Experiencing a renewal in the Spirit required me to expect the Lord to act. Now, many years later, I expect the Spirit to act in daily ways. I often pray, "O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me." I do it with expectation and watch for his response.

So my encouragement to others in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is twofold:

▲ First, we must focus on the New Evangelization—recruiting men, women, and children to become disciples and helping them receive baptism in the Holy Spirit.

▲ Secondly, we must stick to the basics ourselves and train others to practice them faithfully.

I invite all to join me in praying to the Holy Spirit daily for the spiritual renewal of our families, friends and neighbors. ♦

Bert Ghezzi is a popular speaker and author. He was editor of New Covenant magazine from 1974 to 1985 and has written many books serving the Renewal. Bert's most recent book is Prayers to the Holy Spirit. Check out his website at www.bertghezzi.com.

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2014 INDEX

Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church

The 2014 index of articles
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Jesus Christ and the love of the Father.

The Holy Spirit empowers us for personal holiness, renewed
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