

Winter 2015

PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Our call to UNITY

**Pope expects Unity
in the Renewal**
Walter Matthews

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Fostering Unity**
Fr. Bob Hogan

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

Photo: CNS



Chairman's Corner

by Jane Guenther

Wisdom and Discernment

The reading on the Epiphany gave me insight to the gift of discernment. King Herod displays a cunning wisdom of evil in asking the wisemen to go and worship Jesus and let him know where he is; on the other hand the wisemen have cunning wisdom of goodness as they honor and pay homage to Jesus and return another way to avoid Herod. Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit and needs to be desired and sought after in order that we may discern and exercise cunning wisdom of goodness. At the Gathering of National Leadership Groups that followed the NSC's Annual Meeting we kicked off the Year of Unity with a formal signing ceremony of the Covenant of Understanding. It was a powerful evening ritualizing, through the signing, our commonality in the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

I have enjoyed my time on the National Service Committee. As my second term was coming to an end and the 5-year Strategic/Pastoral Plan was complete, the fruit of nearly two years of work by the Committee, I prayed for wisdom to direct my discernment in stepping down or continuing on. It seems in and through much prayer my time of service to the Committee has come to an end.

I am happy to announce that in the January Annual Meeting the Service Committee elected **Johnny Bertucci** of Louisiana to serve as the new Chairman of the National Service Committee. I know his leadership will be welcomed and will provide for the Charismatic Renewal as we listen to the Holy Spirit. I ask that you pray daily for him and that he be continually filled with Wisdom. **We welcome Ron Riggins**, of Virginia as the newest member of the Committee.

May you and all you do be blessed as we each allow the Spirit to lead us where we are to serve him. ♦

Jane Guenther has just finished her term as Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

This issue invites us to hold the *Jewel of Unity* in our hands, to examine its many facets, and to determine how we will polish those facets in our own lives. *What can I do to reflect the light of unity to others in a way that invites an ever deeper desire to reflect the oneness of the Body of Christ?*

Tammie Stevens (p 3) reflects on the transformation that takes place as we enter more deeply into Union with God as the source of our unity with others.

Walter Matthews (pp 4-5, 12) highlights Spiritual Ecumenism, inviting us to "seek from the Lord the power of the Holy Spirit to go forward in greater unity."

Fr. Bob Hogan (pp 6-7) elucidates the document, "Fostering Baptism in the Holy Spirit: A Covenant of Understanding," challenging us to unity with all who are called to promote baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Tom Mangan (p 10) exhorts us to be grateful in light of *Our Legacy: The Grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit*.

Fr. Ed O'Connor (p 15) paints a portrait of the beginnings of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (then referred to as the Pentecostal movement) at Duquesne, Notre Dame, and Ann Arbor. From these places (and perhaps the readers know of other settings) it spread across the country and around the world.

The Spirit continues to be poured out throughout the world and we continue to seek to grow in openness to the Holy Spirit and use of the charisms. One way we do this is through conferences. The National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference (pp 8-9) was a truly igniting experience as Mark Nimo, Keynote speaker, challenged us "to become fire, to be a mystic and to be a prophet." ♦

We would love to hear from you; please go to our website www.nsc-chariscenter.org and fill out our online evaluation. Thank you!

PENTECOST Today

Volume 40 Number 1

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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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Caterpillar, cocoon, butterfly.

by Tammie Stevens

When I was five years old I received the most wonderful Christmas gift I could imagine: a children's dictionary. It was my first real book and began a life-long love of words. On that Christmas morning I opened to the very middle of the book and my imagination was caught by the first word I saw: "metamorphosis." Ok, perhaps it was the picture of a beautiful butterfly next to the word that first caught my attention, but that only made me want to understand this word even more. This process, the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly, became a word of hope as I grew up and a reality when I came into the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit as a teenager—the reality that my life could be transformed through recognizing Jesus as Lord of my life and receiving the love poured out by God through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As many of us know, this transformation that we experience through baptism in the Holy Spirit is truly an ongoing process of living the grace that we have received and learning to grow deeper in relationship with God. We grow in this relationship through grow-

ing in our prayer life. St. John Vianney, in reflecting on our call to pray and love, stated that, "prayer is nothing else but union with God." He continued by describing the "sweetness and serenity" of a pure heart united with God. This effect of prayer and union with God is part of the transformation that others see in our lives.

To understand union with God is to understand the love of God, both in receiving that love and learning to love in return. This journey of understanding will take our whole lives. This love relationship is not only an interaction between God and myself, it must include and grow in the Christian community to which God has connected us in baptism. "The more we are united to him by love, the nearer we are to those who belong to him" (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton). Anyone who has lived in community, even a small family community, knows that the peace through our union with God can be tested within our relationships with each other, especially when difficult situations arise. Too often we try to work through the situations by ourselves. It is precisely in the most difficult situations that we can rely on the grace that we receive as we grow closer

with God. When our own love is lacking we can lean on the strength and love that Jesus has for the other. As our capacity for love of God grows, so does our capacity to love others.

This love for others has a much farther reaching purpose than simply growing in our immediate communities. Jesus prayed, in John 17:20-23, "that they all may be one," and that this would be a reflection of the interaction of love between him and the Father, the purpose of this unity is so that the "world may believe" and know that Jesus was sent by the Father. Our union with God and our unity with each other is a witness to the world of the salvation we receive through Jesus because of the love God has for us. So this call to unity is not only for our sakes but for the sake of the whole world, and it is a "call to a union that is as complete as the union between the three persons of the Trinity" (2015 Statement on Unity by the National Leadership Groups available on the NSC website).

Pope Francis has described the Church as "a communion of love with Christ and with the Father in the Spirit which extends to brotherly communion." He continued by saying that as we grow in this union with God and with each other "God's love burns away our selfishness, our prejudices, our interior and exterior divisions." This journey of union with God and others is a journey of transformation. May we embrace the transformation that God has done in our hearts and answer the call to be united with Him and those around us for the sake of the Kingdom of God. ♦



Tammie Stevens is a member of the National Service Committee and works at Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Seattle.



“Seek the Unity of the Renewal”

Pope Francis

by Walter Matthews

Early in my marriage, I was giving a talk when I heard, interiorly as I was still speaking, “You are doing it all wrong.” “What, Lord?” “You are still speaking as if you are single! You are not. I want you to speak as a married man.”

Thus began a journey that my wife will tell you continues to this day. A journey of what it means to have entered into the Sacrament of Matrimony and to live as “one flesh,” “one heart” and “one mind.” In short, to be conscious at all times, as best I can, of my oneness with another human being.

In reality, this “becoming one” began for me, and for the many reading this article, in the Sacrament of Baptism which has made us one with the three

Persons of the Trinity. The nature of our being was changed when we were baptized: we are a “new creation.” We are a son or a daughter of God!

Baptism has not only made us one with the Trinity but also one with all those others who are baptized: “we are members one of another” (Eph 4:25), “for by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1Cor 12:13).

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, “Baptism constitutes the foundation of communion among all Christians, including those who are not yet in full communion with the Catholic Church... ‘Baptism therefore constitutes the sacramental bond of unity existing among all who through it are reborn’” (1271).

Spiritual Ecumenism

This is the background to the Holy Father’s statement in June, 2014 to the Italian Renewal, and to all of us, that one of the things he expects of the Renewal is that “you give witness of spiritual ecumenism with all those brothers and sisters of other Churches and Christian communities who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.” “Spiritual ecumenism,” he said last November in an address to the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, “is that global network of communal moments of prayer, united gestures of charity and shared reflections on the web which circulate like oxygen, contributing to the growth of understanding, respect and mutual esteem.” Such spiritual ecumenism will not happen unless we have come to see and understand that we are already “one” with all our baptized brothers and sisters, and what is needed is our living it out in concrete ways.

In *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*) Pope Francis writes, “We must never forget that we are pilgrims journeying alongside one another. This means that we must have sincere trust in our fellow pilgrims, putting aside all suspicion or mistrust, and turn our gaze to what we are seeking: the radiant peace of God’s face” (244).

Renewal is Ecumenical

Pope Francis then requested, “That you remain united in the love that Lord Jesus asks of us for all men, and in the prayer to the Holy Spirit to come to this unity, necessary for evangelization in the name of Jesus. Remember that ‘the Charismatic Renewal is by its very nature ecumenical... Catholic Renewal rejoices over what the Holy Spirit carries out in the other Churches’” (1 Malines 5, 3).

From an honest remembrance of the Renewal's history, it should be obvious that the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit, poured out at Azusa Street, poured out among those in the main-line Churches and then among us Catholics "had an inherently ecumenical impulse from the start" (ICCRS' *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*, p. 25).

Unfortunately, much of that impulse and grace was put aside or put on the backburner in the late 1970s and 1980s as many of the larger "ecumenical" covenant communities moved away from the diocesan-based Renewal as it sought to return to the heart of the Church in our Catholic roots.

We need to recognize that the Renewal in the U.S. has lost something of our inheritance and calling and has left this ecumenical impulse to the covenant communities, for the most part. This is not an argument that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal become an "Ecumenical" Charismatic Renewal, but that we rediscover and recover the truth that baptism in the Holy Spirit has an ecumenical impulse, and this needs to be taught and encouraged in the Renewal on the local level. Leadership at the national and diocesan levels needs to lead the way, and participants in the Renewal need to grasp more fully the sound basis of the Church's call to unity and the work of unity ("ecumenism")—based on Jesus' prayer in John 17:21—and the role that baptism in the Holy Spirit can play.

Unity in the Renewal

A third dimension of the Holy Father's call and challenge to the Renewal about unity is this: "Seek unity in the Renewal, because unity comes from the Holy Spirit and is born of the unity of

the Trinity. From whom does division come? From the devil! Division comes from the devil. Flee from internal fights, please! They must not exist among us!"

First, it is clear from many other addresses on the topic that the Holy Father is not talking about uniformity. He writes, "The same Spirit is that harmony, just as he is the bond of love between the Father and the Son. It is he who brings forth a rich variety of gifts while at the same time creating a unity which is never uniformity but a multi-faceted and inviting harmony" (EG 117).

In this Year of Unity we are given the call and challenge to take concrete actions to overcome and repair any divisions that exist in the Renewal as we make our way to the Renewal's 50th Anniversary Jubilee in 2017.

Going Forward

To go forward in responding to Pope Francis to live unity in the Renewal, here are a few suggestions:

First, allow your heart to be changed. In the words of St. John, "Let us love, then, because he first loved us. Anyone who says, 'I love God' and hates his brother, is a liar, since whoever does not love the brother whom he can see cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1Jn 4:19-20).

Second, unity is a grace. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis says, "When we are the ones who try to create diversity and close ourselves up in what makes us different and other, we bring division. When we are the ones who want to build unity in accordance with our human plans, we end up creating uniformity, standardization. But if instead we let ourselves be guided

by the Spirit, richness, variety, and diversity never become a source of conflict, because he impels us to experience variety within the communion of the Church."

Third, give thanks that we can now, in these 50 years since the Second Vatican Council, appreciate all that is good and true (see Phil 4:8) within the life of the different Christian communities: the Lutheran's emphasis on faith and the Word of God, the evangelical's insistence on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Methodist's call to holiness, and the Pentecostal's emphasis on baptism in the Holy Spirit. Give thanks too for the gifts of Eucharist and the other sacraments, for Mary, and for the Petrine role of the Holy Father.

Fourth, pray unceasingly as Jesus did and does that we might "be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us" (Jn 17:21). "Unity is a grace for which we must ask the Lord, that he may liberate us from the temptation of division, of conflict between us, of selfishness, of gossip" (Pope Francis).

Fifth, a number of years ago we saw many bumper stickers that read, "Think Globally, Act Locally." Leaving aside the political agenda of those who fostered such sentiments there is some truth and challenge in the statement. While it is good that we profess our love for brothers and sisters of other Churches and denominations (or the poor or those of other ethnic origins), without concrete action what good is it? In *Evangelii Gaudium* the Holy Father writes, "We can work on a small

[See Unity of the Renewal page 12](#)

Covenant of Understanding

A new document fostering Unity

by Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

For several years the National Leadership Groups of Catholic Charismatic Renewal have been working on a document entitled “Fostering Baptism in the Holy Spirit: A Covenant of Understanding” as a means to increase “unity among those who are called to promote ‘baptism in the Holy Spirit,’ the exercise of charisms, and the full role of the Holy Spirit in the Catholic Church.” Charismatic Renewal groups are encouraged in this Year of Unity to use this document as a tool to reflect on the purpose of Charismatic Renewal in the Church; to foster greater unity among groups that have been influenced by this movement of the Holy Spirit; and to recommit ourselves to God’s purpose for Charismatic Renewal.

The document calls us to realize that we have a common calling in Charismatic Renewal that goes beyond our individual experiences. Persons who have experienced a renewal in their lives that was birthed through baptism in the Holy Spirit have a variety of understandings of the purpose of Charismatic Renewal. Some of these include:

- 1) **A Personal Spiritual Renewal Focus:** Faith, Jesus, prayer life, Scripture, and the Holy Spirit becoming more alive for them personally;
- 2) **A Prayer Group Focus:** Developing groups that meet weekly for praise and worship, openness to charisms, and supporting each other in the ways of the Spirit;
- 3) **A Covenant Community Focus:** Some groups felt a call to a deeper commitment to one another beyond a weekly prayer group, modeling their life on the early Jerusalem community in the Acts of the Apostles;
- 4) **A Healing Prayer Focus:** Praying with people for healing of body and soul.

It is important in the midst of this diversity that we maintain an awareness of our commonality.

While all of these focuses are legitimate aspects of Charismatic Renewal, I have experienced people being focused so much on their own spiritual renewal, or their prayer group or community, or their healing prayer ministry, that they have lost track of the united purpose that God has given us in Charismatic Renewal for the good of the whole Church. The document expresses

our need for unity in the midst of our diversity: “The grace of ‘baptism in the Holy Spirit’ has led to a diversity of charisms, expressed in various groups, ministries, and communities that have enriched the life of the Church. It is important in the midst of this diversity that we maintain an awareness of our commonality rooted in personal surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the foundational grace of ‘baptism in the Holy Spirit.’” **We believe** that the basic focus of God’s plan is to renew the full role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, including the foundational grace of “baptism in the Spirit” and the exercise of the charisms.

The document calls us to a greater awareness of our common purpose; a greater spiritual connectedness; and a commitment to seek the Lord in the ways that he is calling us to stay connected with one another. **We believe** that this is important for achieving God’s goal of the whole Church being renewed in the life of the Spirit. God’s goal for us is bigger than personal renewal or any particular group, community or ministry. The document invites us to choose to work together through:

- Acknowledging the role of “baptism in the Holy Spirit” in the birth of our association or group.
- Praying for the international, national and diocesan leadership groups of all such associations and groups that support this grace.



- Being open to working in communion with associations and groups influenced by this Holy Spirit renewal internationally, nationally, and in our diocese; seeking to build unity and connections of mutual support.
- Seeking God's direction in the way our association or group is called to support the movements and new communities dedicated to Holy Spirit renewal internationally, nationally, and in our diocese, through time, talent and treasure.
- Signing a certificate that affirms our "Covenant of Understanding" and our openness to work in communion with one another.

Two major international groups coming from Charismatic Renewal have been given "pontifical status" (directly under the pope) as ecclesial movements in the Church: International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) and the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships, both in Rome, recently sharing the same office in the Vatican. Charismatic Renewal has been a "current of grace" and an "outpouring of the Holy Spirit" that was not planned in the Church. The Spirit blows where he wills. At the same time, when the Church acknowledges a grace as an ecclesial movement with specific status in the Church, those who choose to associate themselves with these movements are given special graces for the fulfillment of the movement's purpose.

Practically, this means that when people who have been influenced by "baptism in the Spirit" and Charismatic Renewal affirm their commitment to being associated with these leadership groups, they receive specific graces for themselves, and they help to enable these movements to achieve their purpose. We can see ourselves as part of both a surprising outpouring of the Spirit in our time, and an ecclesial movement that is interconnected through the international Office for Charismatic Renewal, ICCRS. Do we understand ourselves as part of ICCRS and all the National and Dioc-

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esan leadership groups that consider themselves to be united with the mission which the Church has affirmed for ICCRS?

A stronger sense of communion is important for fulfilling our common purpose. We can be satisfied that we have experienced personal renewal, and new groups and ministries through Charismatic Renewal, or we can believe that God's purpose for us is more than this. *It is to renew the whole Church in the full role of the Holy Spirit.* Our unity

is important and imperative. The National Leadership Groups for Charismatic Renewal met with a variety of leaders in Charismatic Renewal in January to sign this "Covenant of Understanding." The document will be sent to as many groups as possible in the coming months. *The full document, Fostering Baptism in the Holy Spirit: A Covenant of Understanding is on our website.*

We invite you to read it, reflect on it with your groups, and sign it, so that God may continue to fulfill his purpose for Charismatic Renewal in an even greater way. ♦

Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD is a former member and chairman for the National Service Committee for Charismatic Renewal, and a member of the NSC Council. He and Fr. George Montague founded the Charismatic and Marian Religious Community, the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple. He is the Director of the Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal in San Antonio.



Prayer Card



Holy Spirit, we invite you into our hearts.

Help us to seek unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ; to be in full accord and of one mind.

Let all our actions be full of humility putting others first; looking not to our own interests, but the interests of others.

Let us remember Jesus Christ, who though he was in the form of God, humbled himself to the form of a servant and was obedient to the point of death and let us strive to imitate his attitude of servanthood.

Let our shared love of God be the center of all we do and say and of one accord let us confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Taken from Phil 2:1-11

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

◆ That Catholic Charismatic Renewal will be a witness to all Christians who desire to live a life of serving one another by promoting and working for unity within the Renewal, the Catholic Church and the Body of Christ.

◆ That we recognize and reach out to all groups that have their roots in baptism in the Holy Spirit, understanding that we share the same love of God and seek to be in full accord and of one mind with one another in Christ Jesus

◆ That the planning committee for the 2015 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference, to be held November 13-15, receive all the graces needed to plan a dynamic meeting that will encourage all who attend to be led by the Holy Spirit into one body in Christ.

Share the Conference!

Principal Speakers

Mark Nimo, Fr. Killian Loch, Fr. Dave Pivonka, Michelle Moran, Bishop Sam Jacobs.

Youth Leaders' Track

Casey Sprehe, Leslie Bertucci, Bob Lesnefsky.

Workshops

Renée Marazon, Alan Schreck, Fr. Bob Hogan, Jane Guenther, John & Therese Boucher, John & Mary Jane Gresham, Deacon Carlos Nogueira.

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Keynote speaker Mark Nimo



Conference participants

IGNITE / CHARISMS / RENEWAL / UNITY National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference

by Sr. Lucy Lukasiewicz, DLJC

In Pittsburgh, over 500 leaders and 80 young adult leaders gathered to "Ignite." "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!" (Lk 12:49 RSV) Leaders were ignited with the fire of the Holy Spirit and sent to ignite the fire in their parishes and ministries. **Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD** and **Renee Marazon** held a special Friday afternoon session for priests, deacons and seminarians entitled, "Pastoring the Charisms of the Laity," that was well received.

Jimmy Archer, our emcee, along with music leader **Bob Rice** from Franciscan University, led Praise and Worship during the conference. It was through their sensitivity to the Lord that our hearts were readied to hear the message of becoming Fire.

The keynote speaker for the Friday evening session was **Mark Nimo**. Mark now lives in Chicago but is originally from Ghana, Africa. He challenged us to become fire, to be a mystic and to be a prophet. "What I am saying is, when God shows up it is fireworks baby!" and "If God is a consuming fire,

it is not surprising that he would bring fire upon the earth." Mystical faith is having a personal experience of the living passionate God that transforms our whole being. Being a prophet means living in the margins, they are never accepted.

Fr. Killian Loch, OSB shared on Charisms for the New Evangelization. "The new evangelization begins with Pentecost." He challenged us to be affective, drawing on our baptismal promises in relationship with Jesus. He also challenged us to return to our first love. He called us to be ready to bear witness, to die for our faith.

Saturday evening, **Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR** led the conference attendees and over one hundred who had joined us for a "Festival of Praise" through a time of repentance and conversion. It was during this time that we experienced greater freedom, healing and empowerment.

Sunday morning, **Michelle Moran**, the chair for the NSC in England and President of ICCRS reminded us that

**He wants combustion,
a fire that grows.**

igniting the Renewal is something only the Lord can do. “We have the responsibility to get ourselves in a place of faith where the Lord can turn the ignition.” She called us to repent for the moments of the Holy Spirit that we missed because of control. “The root to more of the glory of the Lord is to become more and more a humble and submissive people who bend the knee at the cross of Jesus Christ.”

Bishop Sam Jacobs, a member of the NSC and the principal celebrant at the closing Mass, challenged us to go beyond ignition. “We have to go beyond ignite; I think God wants more than ignition. He wants combustion, a fire that grows. There has to be a conflagration—a fire that spreads out.” He gave us the list of expectations from the Holy Father for the Renewal: conversion that leads to holiness, that leads to witness; expectation to share the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit; a reminder that the Renewal is ecumenical by nature; we are to remain close to the poor; and finally seek unity in the Holy Spirit and flee from infighting.

The prophetic word came forth after communion:

“My fire is ignited.

Pray that you may become fire,
the very fire of God for the world,
for the individuals with whom you
interact every day.

Pray each day: Enkindle in us the
fire of your LOVE.” ♦



Sr. Lucy Lukasiewicz, DLJC, is a member of the National Service Committee. She belongs to the Franciscan order of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ (see page 12).



Group from Young Leaders Track

photos: Sr. Mary Anne Schaefer

Young Leaders' Track

by Meg Hruz

*Life is meant to be lived,
gifts are meant to be used,
songs are meant to be sung,
and people are meant to be loved...
All for the glory of God.*

The Young Leaders' Track at the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference was truly an igniting experience, as was fitting for the theme of the Conference as a whole. Each of the speakers shared a message of joy and zeal from the very beginning. **Casey Sprehe's** talk started the morning session with a testament of joy and a call to live this joy in every single aspect of our lives. **Fr. Dave Pivonka** continued this message of living with joy, reminding us to embrace the charisms with which the Holy Spirit blesses us. As he explained, God gives us gifts so that we may use them and share them, not so that we may hide them or compare them with the gifts of others. Our gifts, when used for their true purpose, give glory to God. **Leslie Bertucci**, through her talk,

Our gifts, when used for their true purpose, give glory to God.

and **Dan Dirkes** through his music, demonstrated how the gift of praise and worship is an incredibly powerful gift through which we may glorify God.

Bob Lesnefsky provided an excellent conclusion to the day for young leaders as he spoke about using gifts in ministry for others. When you don't know what to do for a person, he explained, sometimes the best and only thing you can do is love them unconditionally. This love, I believe, is at the heart of life in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives to us out of love, and calls on us to use our gifts for others in turn. The Holy Spirit's love is meant to be shared, and there was certainly an abundance of shared Spirit on the Young Leaders' Track. ♦



Meg Hruz is from St. Louis. She is currently a freshman at Steubenville, studying Theology and Catechetics at Franciscan University.



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 made by Pope Francis over the next few issues. The following reflection is the second.

Our Legacy: The Grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit

by Tom Mangan

"A man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?"
—Robert Browning

The Christian life isn't difficult; it's impossible. That is why grace and mercy are so integral to our pursuit of God. We can't talk to him, we can't love him and we can't serve him without the Holy Spirit. He is far beyond our grasp; he exceeds our capabilities. We absolutely *need* God to live for God. If it were not for Father sending the Son there would be no way into the Kingdom of Heaven.

It is Jesus who says, "You have heard from me, for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:4-5). With that the apostles retire to Jerusalem where, in the upper room, they will await and welcome the Holy Spirit into their lives. Can you imagine? The world is about to be turned on its ear!

I can think of no other more poignant spiritual experience in my life, no greater grace than having been baptized in the Holy Spirit. In that moment, in that "upper room" of St. Paul's monastery in Pittsburgh in 1969 I had met God! The incredible grace of that moment was full joy and peace. Surely, the Lord was in that place and I knew it!

From that day until now I can say unequivocally my life in Christ has been sustained by that extraordinary encounter. The mere thought of forfeiting such a grace or underestimating the significance of its effect is odious to me.

When our Holy Father addressed 50,000 charismatics in Rome's Olympic Stadium earlier in the year he challenged them to share with all in the Church, "the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit." As I reflected on his inspiring exhortation I thought, "This is our part in the New Evangelization." In effect, Pope Francis has commissioned us to bear witness to "the love the Holy Spirit has poured out into our hearts" as a result of our personal Pentecostal experience.

The joy of the Gospel is that Christ is alive in us. Let's tell the world, but let us begin by telling our brothers and sisters in the pews! We dare not hoard this "holy thing" for it may cause us to be prideful and we may forfeit the great grace associated with it. Rather, we must give away freely what we have so freely been given. Love only increases if we pass it on. The fruit of the Holy Spirit actually deepens in our heart when we let it fly.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit has awakened in us a deeper relationship with God that is fired with unspeakable joy. Therefore, in answer to the Holy Father's encouragement to share this experience with others we dare not be "lukewarm" because lukewarmness nauseates Jesus (Rev 3:15-16). We ought to be compelled to impart the grace of this awakening!

We have drunk of the one Spirit. We have set our sights on the things above—now we must pay it forward. Grace should be answered with gratitude, and how better to express our thanks than by spreading the Good News of our encounter with him?

The oil of gladness has been poured out on us; we represent Christ, his Word and sacrifice. It is simply not enough that we keep him to ourselves. It is imperative that we receive, reciprocate and *share* God's love. We were made for this purpose and it should be as natural to us as flight is to a bird.

Pope Francis, in his inimitable way, has called us back to our humble beginnings—back to when we were witnessing to others with ease the blessing of the Holy Spirit and the exciting news of our redemption. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is "roof top news" or "go tell it on the mountain news." It can never be dull, run of the mill or boring news. The only possible response to *charis* is *eucharistia*. Thus, deep, heartfelt gratitude must follow such great grace.

Thank you, Holy Father, for assigning us the task to proclaim to the whole Church our legacy in the Holy Spirit. ♦



Tom Mangan is the former senior coordinator of the People of God Community in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Tom is a member of the NSC.

**From the
Executive
Director**

.....
by Walter Matthews



Transitions

In the last few months, my wife and I have experienced a number of transitions in our lives. In November, shortly after the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference, we became grandparents for the second time as our middle son and his wife gave us our first grandson and a week later our oldest son got married—both glorious moments of family life.

More recently, we experienced another kind of transition, but one no less glorious in a different kind of way: the passing into eternal life of Claire's mother, who was a few months short of 99!

Transitions are part of all of our lives and have been part of the Renewal's life from the beginning. While many of those who were on the Duquesne Weekend in 1967 are still with us, at least one participant that we knew has died. Many, if not all, prayer groups and communities have had members die. To date ten of the former members of the Service Committee have died. I knew all of them and worked with many of them over the years.

Then there are the transitions of people leaving our group or communities or leadership teams because of changed circumstances. The Service Committee has experienced this twice in the last few months as Fr. Jeff Kegley resigned before the Conference due to the

press of work in his parish and diocese. Jane Guenther, as she notes in her last Column, decided that it was time to move on.

The latter is particularly difficult for me. In my role as Executive Director, I work closely with the NSC Chairman to bring about the Committee's Vision and Mission. Each new Chairman brings his/her gifts and vision to the task. Each is also a challenge for me as I learn how to serve him/her so that he/she will be the most fruitful in their role. Jane was a uniquely gifted leader. On many occasions, she knew what I was going to say before I said it! I will miss her. She was the eighth Chairman with whom I have served. May the Lord lead her and bless her. Johnny Bertucci will be the ninth Chairman with whom I will work. Another transition!

There are, however, transitions that have not been so glorious: the kind that resulted from disagreements over vision, or mission, or simply leadership control. These transitions have resulted in the fragmentation of the Renewal and a diminishment of our collective witness about what the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit can mean for the Church and the New Evangelization. That is why in this Year of Unity, as we make our way to the Renewal's 50th Anniversary Jubilee in 2017, we must examine ourselves to see where there are unhealed relationships, and where there are still divisions between prayer groups and communities, between one stream of community life and another, and between ethnic and lingual expressions of the Renewal.

We must all become ministers of reconciliation (see 2Cor 5:18-19), of unity. Not a false-all-is-well unity but one

from the heart. In an audience last summer Pope Francis asked "that we all examine our consciences and look for forgiveness 'for the times when we have given rise to division or misunderstanding in our communities and may our relationships mirror more beautifully and joyfully the unity of Jesus and the Father.'"

Transitions: moments of challenge and opportunity. I encourage you not to let the grace of this Year of Unity be lost. Take up the "Statement on Unity" the National Leadership Groups issued, available on our website, read it and pray over it, as well as "Fostering Baptism in the Holy Spirit: A Covenant of Understanding" and get to work. Come Holy Spirit, come! ♦

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Saturday
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Renewal Celebration**
at the
World Meeting of Families
Philadelphia

More information soon at
www.nsc-chariscenter.org.



Mother John Marie, Foundress of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

by Sister Philip, DLJC

It was in December of 1973 that I first met Dorothy Stewart, now Mother John Marie. My life was radically changed that evening. Mother's warm, inviting smile and dancing blue eyes captivated me, as did her stories of all that the Lord was doing now, in our time. She was excited because she had seen with her own eyes the lame walk, the blind see, and the deaf hear.

Soon I was invited to attend a small prayer meeting with the community and I was prayed with to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. That Spring we sang at the large gathering in Oakland, California where Kathryn Kulhman was having a service. What a magnificent night that was. I saw for myself the lame walk, the deaf hear, and experienced praise that was electrifying.

Mother never left a leaf unturned. She had picked up the banner of the New

Pentecost and preached it whenever she had the opportunity. Once when we were talking with some friends after Mass a woman came up to her saying, "You had better watch out for those 'Charismatics.' You know, they speak in tongues." Without batting an eye she turned to her and said, "You had better apologize to the Third Person of the Holy Trinity! Don't you know, he is the one who gives the gift of tongues."

When we were given 664 acres of land in the Texas Panhandle where we have built Prayer Town Emmanuel, there was nothing on it but a windmill. Mother had no trouble figuring out what to do with our very limited resources. She got a carpentry textbook. Next thing you knew she had drawn out a floor plan for our first Motherhouse and was on her way into Amarillo to speak with a plumber and then the building supplier about what we would need. She

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would step out in faith to do what she thought the Lord was asking of her, and he would supply what we needed, as he promised, "You take care of my business and I'll take care of yours." He has been faithful.

Mother's first concern has always been to do the Lord's will. We are here today because of her persistence and the favor of the Lord. ♦

Unity of the Renewal from page 5

scale, in our own neighborhood, but with a larger perspective" (235). "I especially ask Christians in communities throughout the world to offer a radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion" (99). "Here and now, especially where we are a 'little flock' (Lk 12:32), the Lord's disciples are called to live as a community which is the salt of the earth and the light of the world" (cf. Mt 5:13-16). We are called to become witnesses to a consistently new way of living together in fidelity to the Gospel" (92).

As the Holy Father made clear in Rome last June and throughout *Evangelii Gaudium*, the unity we are called to live

is absolutely necessary for the evangelization and conversion of the many who do not yet know him or who have lost their way. As Jesus himself prayed, "So that the world may believe it was you who sent me" (Jn 17:21).

Finally, let us stir up and seek from the Lord the power of the Holy Spirit to go forward in greater unity: as a Renewal movement in the Church, as those blessed and, in some way, entrusted with the awareness of the grace of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, and as the Body of Christ. As Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa has written, "In its very origin the baptism in the Holy Spirit has an ecumenical value, which is necessary to preserve at all costs."

As the Holy Father concluded his remarks last June he said, "Go out into the streets to evangelize, proclaiming the Gospel. Remember that the Church was born 'in going forth' that Pentecost morning. Be close to the poor and touch in their flesh the wounded flesh of Jesus. Let yourselves be led by the Holy Spirit, with that freedom and, please, do not cage the Holy Spirit! With liberty! Seek the unity of the Renewal, unity that comes from the Trinity!" ♦



Walter Matthews is Executive Director for the National Service Committee.

Unity in Diversity

by Bob Valiante,
Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania

"The Holy Spirit brings unity and
the Church is one in Diversity"
...Pope Frances

Calling all Liaisons, Associate Liaisons and others who function in this capacity —

You are warmly invited and strongly encouraged to participate in our annual gathering. The ADL convocation this year will be held at the Malvern Retreat Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on April 20-24, 2015. Here is just a *sample* of what you will experience from our two dynamic speakers.



"Father Make Us One"
Aggie Neck is from the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana. She writes from *Ut Unum Sint* (an Encyclical letter of John Paul II on Ecumenism):

"With regard to other Christians, to the great Christian family, he observed, what unites us is much greater than what divides us. There can be no ecumenism worthy of the name without a change of heart."



"What is the Holy Spirit Saying to Catholic Charismatics about Unity?" by Dan Almeter, Alleluia Community, Augusta, Georgia.

Pope Francis has made it acidly clear that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is ecumenical in its very DNA and that its members must find ways to pursue evangelization and do mission with Christians of other faith traditions. For most Catholic charismatic leaders, it has not occurred to them that an essential "new" component of the "New Evangelization" is the necessity of finding ways to build unity and evangelize together. If the Catholic renewal in the U.S. is to increase in vitality and avoid a "silo mentality," it can no longer ignore or resist acting on this prophetic call from Pope Francis. ♦

The brochure can be found at:
www.associationofdiocesanliaisons.org.

Resources to strengthen your mission

NSC Leaflets offer a wide variety of topics to assist you.

New Leaflets:

Intercessory Prayer

by the NSC/NSC Council Intercessory Prayer Working Group

"It is the prayer of the believer that opens itself to sharing the suffering of our time..."

Isaianah Gifts

by Jane Guenther

"Exquisitely divine energies which the Holy Spirit pours into the soul" John Paul II.



For the Year of Unity:

Ecumenism: Hungering and Working for Unity in the Body of Christ

by Chuck Hornsby

"We may not agree on every issue but we will see Jesus in one another."

Relationship by Design: Prayer Meetings, Prayer Groups and Communities

by Chuck Hornsby

"Let's be a relational force for building the church and evangelizing the world."

Living Baptized in the Holy Spirit

by Aggie Neck

"The gifts of the Holy Spirit are tools for a dynamic faith filled life."

Evangelizing the Family: a Multigenerational Approach

by Caroline Gambale-Dirkes

"The Renewal...has been challenged to find new ways to reach the next generations of young adults."

For a complete list of resources go to
www.nsc-chariscenter.org.

To order call 800-338-2445.

National Service Committee meets, Building Unity

The National Service Committee met in early January and received from outgoing Chairman Jane Guenther the finished Strategic Plan, which the Committee had worked on for the last two years. While very much an internal document to set the direction for the Committee's work over the next five years as we move beyond the Renewal's Jubilee, we hope to put the Strategic Priorities on the website soon.

The Committee also held elections for members and elected Jane Barz and Johnny Bertucci to their third and final terms. Also elected to her second term was Sr. Lucy Lukasiewicz, DLJC. Newly-elected to a three year term was Ron Riggins (see below). In light of Jane Guenther's decision (see her Col-

umn), Johnny Bertucci was elected Chairman for a three year term to coincide with his third term as member.

The Committee then met with the Diocesan Liaison Steering Committee to share about joint initiatives and several Renewal matters of mutual concern. Following their meeting together the two Committees then participated in the Gathering of National Leadership Groups: Catholic Charismatic Renewal for two days. The principal topics were the Year of Unity and the signing of the Fostering Baptism in the Holy Spirit: A Covenant of Understanding (see Fr. Bob Hogan's article) by the over 35 leaders present. The document has been several years in the making. ♦

NSC Transitions



We thank Jane Guenther for her six years of service as a member of the National Service Committee. During these last two years, as NSC chairman, she was instrumental in moving the vision and mission of the NSC forward. We wish her God's choicest blessings as she continues to serve the Renewal in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

We welcome Ron Riggins from the state of Virginia as a new member of the National Service Committee. Ron came into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in 2003. He was recently invited to join the NSC Council and has spoken to the Service Committee's donors and this year's Conference attendees on the Campaign, *Toward the Jubilee: 50 Years of Grace for the New Evangelization*.



Friends of the NSC

"I thank my God whenever I think of you, and every time I pray for you all, I always pray with joy for you all, for your partnership in the gospel." Paul's words to the Philippians captures the thought of each member of the Service Committee as we give thanks for all who supported the NSC in 2014. We again ended the year in the black (always a good thing), helped by donations to the *Toward the Jubilee: 50 Years of Grace for the New Evangelization* Campaign. Our goal for the Campaign is to raise \$1,000,000 over the next two years as we make our way to the Renewal's 50th Anniversary Jubilee in 2017. This campaign is over and above annual giving.

We have reached the \$300,000 goal. If you have not yet been contacted you will be. If you have been contacted but not yet made a pledge or a gift we invite you to do so. Write *Toward the Jubilee* on your check or call us if you want to make a gift of stock or other asset.

We want to thank the thirty donors who gave to our memorial appeal in memory of Gerry Mader. May he rest in peace. We also want to thank those who gave in honor or in memory of family, friends and Renewal members. *Honored included:* Carol Briske, Jeanne Coyle, Teri Evans, Angelina Fabris, Fr. Patsy Iaquina, Fr. Joe Oblinger, Mary Patin, Fr. Bill Petro and Fr. Dale Picarella.

In Memoriam: Gino Andreuzzi, Harry Baker, Adelina Castro, Anna DeLuca, Barbara Durbin, Antonio Gill, Louis Giuliani, Sr. Emeliana Judas, Bobbi Kane, Anthony Kearns, David Lodzinski, Leona Marzinski, Lovey Mancini, Jose Marques, Richard McKenna Sr., Sr. Mary Ann Ottway, Larry Schafer, Sr., Fr. Ben Scheuer, Fr. Jim Scheuer, Fr. Leo Sullivan, Edward Szostek, Fr. John Tupper.

Also in Memoriam: the deceased members of the Hodge/Schreiber families, Madrid/Romillo families, the Maloney family, the deceased members of the Michigan Service Committee.

Not a donor? Please use the enclosed envelope in support of *Pentecost Today* and 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 to use and cost effective.

The Charismatic Renewal at Notre Dame

What we have
seen and heard
.....

by Fr. Ed O'Connor, CSC



The name *Charismatic Renewal* comes from the 'charisms' of the Holy Spirit, of which St. Paul speaks in several texts, especially in I Corinthians 12: the gifts of tongues, prophecy and healing, the power to work miracles, discernment of spirits and others. Judging from the way St. Paul speaks, these gifts seem to have been a common part of the life of the early Church, so that the apostle had to give his readers regulations on how to use them. Over the first few centuries, however, they largely disappeared, occurring only in the lives of exceptional mystics.

The charisms reappeared at the beginning of the twentieth century in some Protestant churches in Kansas and California. Most Protestants rejected them, with the result that a new type of church, called "Pentecostal," was formed. The Pentecostals soon became the fastest growing denomination in the world.

In 1967, the Pentecostal movement penetrated into the Catholic Church at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. The first people involved were two young theology professors, William Storey and Ralph Kiefer, both former students of mine at Notre Dame. While

preparing for a retreat which they had organized for students, the two of them both had a profound experience of the presence of the Holy Spirit through prayer to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This led them to focus the retreat on the Holy Spirit. It was attended by about twenty-five students and two professors, and climaxed with a dramatic experience of the Holy Spirit by many who were present. Most of them found themselves speaking "in tongues," and several received other gifts.

The two professors visited Notre Dame shortly thereafter, told about their experience, and prayed over some of our students. This was the beginning of the Renewal at Notre Dame. From here, as well as from Ann Arbor, it spread across the country and around the world.

The Catholic bishops were somewhat uneasy about this movement at first, but after interviewing several of the leaders, they accepted it. Pope Paul VI was also very concerned about this movement, but Cardinal Suenens from Belgium reassured him. The present Pope, when bishop of Buenos Aires, had been very skeptical about the charismatics, but later accepted them wholeheartedly. "They are a grace of

the Spirit" he declared as quoted in "The world seen from Rome," Zenit 130729.

The most famous charism is also the one most misunderstood. *Glossalalia* (praying or speaking in tongues) does not mean the ability to converse in a language one has never learned, though there are instances of such over the centuries. It is primarily a gift of prayer, in which a person finds himself speaking words he himself does not understand. He senses the presence of the Holy Spirit speaking through him. It is also, as Paul makes clear, like prophecy when spoken in a group and accompanied by the charism of interpretation.

Prophecy, however, is also misunderstood. It doesn't necessarily mean prediction of future events, although it includes that. Essentially, prophecy is a message God gives one person to be communicated to another or group. Obviously, the crucial question is whether the message really comes from God or is the work of imagination; but often there are very convincing signs that it is genuine. In group settings it is the discernment of the body that confirms it as God's word.

(There is much more to the Gift of Tongues and Prophecy than can be addressed here.)

In any case, these charisms are only the external manifestations of the movement. More important is the *renewal* brought about in the lives of the participants: the peace, joy and love they experience, which makes them eager to praise the God who has so deeply touched their lives. ♦

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Jesus Christ and the love of the Father.

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