

Fall 2015

# PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

## OPENNESS to the HOLY SPIRIT

**Renewal Gathering during  
World Meeting of Families**  
*Tammie Stevens*

**Pope Francis and  
Ecumenism**  
*Fr. Peter Hocken*

**The Covenant of  
Understanding**  
**Three Testimonies**

**Called to be Intercessors**  
*Cruz-Teresa Rosero and  
Virginia King*

**A Reflection on the  
Worldwide Priests' Retreat**  
*Fr. Anthony Ouellette*

**3rd Annual Worldwide  
Priests' Retreat, Rome**

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



## Chairman's Corner

by Johnny Bertucci

## New Young Adult Coordinator hired!

*"In order to ensure this grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit continues for generations to come, the National Service Committee remains committed to engaging young adults and considers it one of its highest priorities."*

—Strategic/Pastoral Plan -  
Strategic Priority #4

As the National Service Committee continues to implement our Strategic Plan, we are excited to announce the hiring of a Young Adult Coordinator. Allow me to introduce you to Dave VanVickle.

Dave graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is an evangelist, speaker, author, husband, and father of four children.

Dave's goal as the new NSC Young Adult Coordinator is to promote and foster baptism in the Holy Spirit and

charisms among young adults in various stages of life (single, married, young families) throughout the nation. He will envision how the young adults in our church are called to fully participate and strengthen the New Pentecost and New Evangelization.

Our ability to hire Dave is a direct result of our *Toward the Jubilee* Campaign. Please consider donating to the Campaign, over and above your usual giving.

As we approach our Jubilee, and celebrate the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us not lose sight of the fact that God our Father is continuing to pour out his Holy Spirit on new generations. I am reminded of this prophecy given in the Upper Room in Jerusalem almost two years ago:

*"I have poured out my Spirit abundantly, and I will continue to pour it out. I will pour out my Spirit generously, lavishly, continuously until even the hardened hearts are softened and the wasteland becomes fertile. This I promise, that I shall pour out my Spirit continuously until I bring about through my Spirit the renewal that I intend."* ♦

*Johnny Bertucci is Chairman of the National Service Committee.*



## Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne  
Schaenzer, SSND

*Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature* (Mark 16:15). The whole world—what the apostles knew about the whole world at the time that Jesus gave them this instruction was quite limited in relationship to what we know now. (Just as what many of us learned about the universe was very limited in relationship to what we now know.)

As I was reviewing this issue I was amazed at the number of countries that received mention.

Of course there is the United States and the wonderful news of the hiring of a Young Adult Coordinator (p. 2). There is Italy and the wonderful experience of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Worldwide Priests' Retreat (pp. 10-12) and the 89 countries from which the speakers and participants hailed. Steve Clark shares about the Renewal in the Philippines and how Sword of the Spirit can be found in over 40 countries (p. 15).

Tammie Stevens writes of the Gathering of the Renewal at the time of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. This Gathering required an interpreter (p. 3). Fr. Peter Hocken of England writes of the spiritual ecumenism promoted by Pope Francis (p. 4). Testimonies illuminate the meaning of The Covenant of Understanding (p. 6). Virginia King and Cruz-Teresa Rosero share their experience of the ICCRS Intercession Training Course attended by people of 32 nations.

Walter Matthews and his wife, Claire, recently had the opportunity to speak and minister in Japan (p. 14).

We might want to give ourselves a pat on the back and we can be sure that the Lord is pleased, but he might also smile and say, "Good start!" ♦

## PENTECOSTToday

Volume 40 Number 4

### Executive Director

Walter Matthews

### Editorial Board

Jimmy Archer

Tom Mangan

Tammie Stevens

### Editor

Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer, SSND

### Production Manager

Jean Beers

© 2015 National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. Not to be reproduced without permission.

### 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.

A limited amount of advertising space is available. For information call Jean Beers, (360) 730-1740. Advertisements for events not sponsored by the National Service Committee do not imply endorsement by the NSC/Chariscenter USA.



Attendees at the Gathering of the Renewal of the Family, and speakers Michelle Moran, Fr. Malagrega and Salvatore Martinez, and Walter Matthews.



Photos used with permission from [www.rns-italia.it](http://www.rns-italia.it)  
<<http://www.rns-italia.it>>



# GOD LOVES MY FAMILY

## The Gathering of the Renewal for the New Evangelization of the Family

by Tammie Stevens

**“The family is alive in the power of the Holy Spirit!”**

**T**his was the theme of the Gathering of the Renewal for the New Evangelization of the Family that was held on September 26, in collaboration with the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. For 3000-4000 participants who gathered at the Wells Fargo Center that morning, the power of the Holy Spirit was evident as we became a “family of families” worshipping together in English, Spanish, and French. Though the event lasted only about 4 1/2 hours, it was packed with prayer and preaching.

Walter Matthews, Executive Director for the NSC, and Andres Arango, Chairman of the Comité Nacional de Servicio Hispano (CNSH), both welcomed us and led us through the day as Msgr. Joe Malagrega provided translation in both Spanish and English.

Bishop Jean Laffitte, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family greeted the attendees, encouraging everyone not to leave what they had ex-

perienced at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia but that “every ending is the beginning of another journey that commences.” He said, “The ministries that await us may be the same, but as we confront them we confront them with new insights and learnings we got from the Holy Spirit during this time.” He continued by reminding all to embrace Jesus and answer the call “to suffer together with him for the world’s salvation.” He concluded with a focus on having the Eucharist at the center of all family life, which will help each family member grow.

The theme for the day was broken open by two presentations. Msgr. Malagrega began by presenting that “The Family is Alive.” As each person echoed, in their own language, that “God loves my family,” Msgr. Malagrega helped us to understand that “whether they’re related by blood or not, if they live in the heart of your family, they are members of your family. And Jesus loves everyone who lives there and he loves that you’re related to each other.” He outlined the four characteristics that our relation-

**“We belong to a much bigger family, we belong to the family of God, we’ve got brothers and sisters in abundance.” Michelle Moran**

ships should have: love, Jesus, spiritual help, and unity. And that “God desired family relationships to help us grow in the Holy Spirit.”

Michelle Moran, Chairman of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) in the Vatican, continued unpacking the theme by focusing on the family “in the Power of the Spirit.” She shared that “no matter what our earthly experience of family is (wounded, broken, inadequate), we belong to a much bigger family, we belong to the family of God, we’ve got brothers and sisters in abundance, we’ve got children more than we can count, we’ve got elders and seniors to guide us. Whatever the story of our human family, we are all richly blessed.” She encouraged all to recognize that “it’s not always easy but with the Lord nothing is impossible. Crown Jesus as the head of your family, submit your lives to Jesus.”

We heard testimonies by Johnny and Leslie Bertucci, and Darling Previl. During the time of praise Andres Arango led us in a prayer seeking the

**See Family page 13**



# Pope Francis and Ecumenism



## Openness to the Holy Spirit

by: Fr. Peter Hocken

Several well-publicized events have alerted the Christian world to new initiatives of Pope Francis toward Pentecostal and Evangelical Christians: his message to the Kenneth Copeland conference in January 2014, his meeting with several leaders in Rome in June 2014, and the first-ever visit of a Pope to a Pentecostal Church in July 2014. These initiatives form the background to the messages of Pope Francis to the charismatic renewal:

- ◆ to a big gathering at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome on June 1, 2014;
- ◆ to the leadership of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships on October 31, 2014;
- ◆ to the Rinnovamento nello Spirito Santo gathering on July 3, 2015.

In his messages the Holy Father has made some points that go beyond the encouraging affirmations of previous popes:

1. share baptism in the Holy Spirit with the whole Church;
2. the Renewal is not another church movement but a sovereign grace of the Holy Spirit without any human founder;
3. the Renewal is inherently ecumenical.

“You, Charismatics, have a special grace to pray and work for Christian unity, because the current of grace goes through all the Christian Churches” (July 2015). In all these talks Pope Francis described his approach as “spiritual ecumenism.”

giulio napoletano/shutterstock.com

The phrase “spiritual ecumenism” was first used by a French Catholic pioneer in the work for Christian unity, l’Abbé Paul Couturier from Lyon (1881 – 1953). Couturier’s teaching on deeper conversion to Christ as the spiritual foundation for all work for unity was endorsed by the Second Vatican Council and expressed particularly in the Decree on Ecumenism (6–8): “This change of heart and holiness of life, along with public and private prayer for the unity of Christians, should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement, and merits the name, ‘spiritual ecumenism’” (8). Thirty years later in 1995, St John Paul II re-emphasized spiritual ecumenism in his encyclical *Ut Unum Sint* (21). He insisted, “In the teaching of the Second Vatican Council there is a clear connection between renewal, conversion and reform” (*Ut Unum Sint*, 16). Conversion being at the heart of renewal is fundamental in spiritual ecumenism. For the Abbé Couturier and for St John Paul II, spiritual ecumenism was not a sub-section of ecumenism, but the spirit in which all ecumenical activities should be conducted.

In the ecumenical ministry of Pope Francis, it is important to note what is new in his commendation of spiritual ecumenism. The new elements do not change the nature of spiritual ecumenism, but take it deeper. At the heart of what is new with Francis is the conviction that the Renewal with baptism in the Holy Spirit is for the whole Church. So I suggest that in seeing the Renewal as inherently ecumenical, Francis is seeing baptism in the Spirit as an element in a deepened spiritual ecumenism. What does this mean in practice? We see this from the Holy Father’s own example with other Christians. He looks first at their hearts: do they have a living relationship with the Lord Jesus? Are they open to the creativity and surprises of the Holy Spirit? When he discerns the answer is “Yes,” Francis knows he can share and pray freely with them in openness to the Spirit. This makes ecumenism something for all Christians. Each Christian can be a worker for unity, because baptism in the Spirit is for all Christians.

St. John Paul II had taught in *Ut Unum Sint* that ecumenical dialogue is not just “an exchange of ideas, but an exchange of gifts” (28). Pope Francis has added the role of the Holy Spirit. “If we really believe in the abundantly free working of the Holy Spirit, we can learn so much from one another! It is not just about being better informed about

He looks first  
at their hearts:  
do they have a  
living relation-  
ship with the  
Lord Jesus?

Are they open  
to the creativity  
and surprises of  
the Holy Spirit?

others, but rather about reaping what the Spirit has sown in them, which is also meant to be a gift for us” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 246). The gifts we as Church are to receive from other Christians are what the Holy Spirit has sown in them. Here is a new ecumenical criterion in meeting other Christians: the first question is “What is the work of the Holy Spirit among them?” The first question is no longer about their problematic teaching. This is in fact a development of the teaching on the hierarchy of truths in the Decree on Ecumenism.

Pope Francis often speaks about the Holy Spirit. He emphasizes the creativity and newness of the Holy Spirit: that the Holy Spirit is the source of immense diversity, how important it is to be attentive and open to the Holy Spirit, and that the Holy Spirit then reconciles this diversity producing a richer and deeper unity.

Francis is adding spiritual factors to our models for ecumenical relationships. Until now the criteria have been doctrinal and structural (producing a gradation down from the Orthodox through the Anglicans and the Lutherans to Evangelicals and Pentecostals). Francis adds another scale: yieldedness to the Lord Jesus and openness to the surprises of the Holy Spirit. On this scale of spiritual vitality, the Evangelicals and the Pentecostals are not near the bottom! This new scale does not make doctrine and structure unimportant; but it places a shared proclaimed living faith at the center.

This transformation has major implications for ecumenism. It remains true that the Catholic Church is nearest to the Orthodox Churches on the scale of doctrine, sacraments, and apostolic succession. But the progress toward unity is very slow, as the context is not oriented to the Holy Spirit’s creativity and surprises. With Christians issuing from the Protestant revival traditions, there is a potential for walking together and praying together that is more open to the Holy Spirit. Big doctrinal and ecclesiocultural barriers remain, but their openness to the Holy Spirit has the potential to break down barriers, however great, and to open up previously unimagined possibilities. ♦



*Fr Peter Hocken is a priest from England who lived in the USA for 20 years. He is a member of the Doctrinal Committee of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services.*

# The Covenant of Understanding



## Testimonies

### An Introduction by Tom Mangan

**T**he Covenant of Understanding was a Godly idea to acknowledge our oneness in Christ through our shared experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit. Though we have gone in various directions through the years, we recognize our beginnings with the Holy Spirit and want to express our continued solidarity on that extremely crucial encounter. To that end, in January of this year the NSC, the ADL Steering Committee and many invited guests across the Renewal gathered in Jacksonville, Florida to sign the covenant in an inspiring ceremony that I think put a smile on the Father's face. From there we were directed to take the message back to our groups and have them sign the document as well. Below are three interesting signing testimonies I think you will enjoy.

### The Catholic Fraternity signs the Covenant of Understanding by Dan Almeter

On the weekend of April 17-19, 2015 most of the leaders of the Catholic Fraternity of North America met together in Phoenix, Arizona for fellowship and a full agenda of business. The Catholic Fraternity, includes Catholic Charismatic Communities and Catholic Fellowships (of ecumenical communities): it was formed in the late 1980's at the request of the Holy See to provide greater dialogue and collaboration among themselves and to deepen their Communion with the Successor of Peter as an essential expression of their Catholic identity. It is a Private Association of Pontifical Right.

The weekend was hosted by the City of the Lord Community. One of the main features of our meeting this year was to have a final discussion and then sign together the Covenant of Understanding. For a number of months these covenant communities had been reviewing this solemn agreement and providing input for its final draft. After a final review and discussion we celebrated the Eucharist together. The celebrant was Fr. Samuel Bandiera, a friend of the host community. After the homily, Dan Almeter, from Alleluia Community, invited the leaders of the various communities to come forward to sign the Covenant of Understanding.

The following communities were represented by their leaders at this wonderful, healing and unifying event: City of the Lord (Phoenix), Alleluia Community (Augusta, Georgia), both the English and Spanish speaking leaders of the Community of God's Delight (Dallas), Glory to God Community (Topeka), New Creation Community (Virginia Beach), People of God Community (Nanticoke, Pennsylvania), Community of God's Love (Steubenville), and Mother of God Community (Gaithersburg, Maryland). We also had some guests who either signed the Covenant of Understanding with us, or had already signed. These included Bob Garrett, the overall coordinator of Alleluia Community and an Evangelical, who provided an ecumenical flavor, as well as Paul Dinolfo, an Evangelical leader representing Sword of the Spirit in the U.S. In addition, Mr. Emigido (Miky) Torres of Mexico, leader of the Catholic Fraternity there, signed the document, representing many communities in Mexico.

Once all had a chance to sign, our stack of signatures were placed on the altar as Mass continued. Our prayer was that "the angel" would take this offering of our hearts to the Lord's altar in heaven. My sense (and for most of us) was one of deep peace, knowing that the Lord was well pleased at our attempt for deeper unity.

### The People of God sign the Covenant of Understanding by Tom Mangan

Some great thinkers have called the 20<sup>th</sup> century "the age of analysis." I prefer to think of it as "the age of the Holy Spirit." As tumultuous as it was, it was made more so by the descent of the Holy Spirit upon millions of Catholics starting with a small band of Duquesne

**The Covenant's purpose...is to have all of the disparate prayer meetings, ministries, communities, and individuals acknowledge our unity founded upon our common spiritual charism of baptism in the Holy Spirit.**

University students in 1967. That age may have ended, but God will have the last word and he will determine the outcome of this world's affairs.

Now as we journey through this new century I believe the Father has some remarkable surprises in store for us. In 2017 we will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In an attempt to respond to Jesus' words of unity as recorded in John 17 and the exhortation of Pope Francis to the Italian renewal earlier this year, the National Service Committee, under the leadership of Fr. Bob Hogan, drafted a document called "A Covenant of Understanding." The Covenant's purpose of which is to have all of the disparate prayer meetings, ministries, communities, and individuals acknowledge our unity founded upon our common spiritual charism of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

To that end, we in the People of God (an ecumenical covenant community) had a signing ceremony on February 15 at our general gathering. What a joy it was to have our brothers and sisters, about 110 strong, signifying our agreement with charismatic Christians everywhere our indebtedness to the Holy Spirit! After a short exhortation explaining the "Covenant of Understanding" each member in a moment of solemnity signed this remarkable document. I am amazed that we, Catholics and Protestants who differ in doctrine, celebrated in this brief event, a Godly moment stirred by a legacy that began nearly 50 years ago. I think in this small way we modeled the new heaven and new earth that will someday come to pass.

### **Experience in the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio by Jackie Temple**

With this being the year of unity within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal we held an evening of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for the sake of unity, encouraging all in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal community to gather together, especially those that have been away from community.

The emphasis for the evening was to gather as one to seek reconciliation and healing for past hurts, so that we can be reunited in the power of his Holy Spirit and move forward in unity to evangelize our personal relationship with Jesus in our families, churches and workplaces. During this time of Adoration, there were priests available to hear confessions.

The Holy Spirit was so present and prophetic words were shared, words of both repentance and healing. Jesus was working in the hearts of all those present; it was as if you could physically see the difference in how they looked as they came in and how they looked when the evening was over. As the evening came to an end, the Covenant of Understanding was introduced again and we gathered in a circle around the Blessed Sacrament and prayed for each other for an infilling of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit has changed our lives.

During fellowship, I stayed behind to thank the music minister for the church for playing the piano during this time. When the evening began, she was practicing in the church and we invited her to stay and play piano. She had never attended a charismatic event before. As I was thanking her, she shared that she

## *Prayer Card*



Heavenly Father, as we think back on all you have done for us during the seasons that have just passed and we approach the seasons of thanksgiving and the nativity of Jesus, we are reminded of your great love and generous provision for us.

Help us to be generous by sharing your blessings with our brothers and sisters who struggle in hunger, pain and loneliness. Grant us the desire and ability to reach out and share your love and compassion with them that they may know you, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and experience the peace of Christ.



felt a tangible presence of the Lord during this time, something she had never felt before. She went on to share that she was contemplating suicide and the Lord healed her that night. She had a peace that came upon her and she did not want to leave. The next day another lady shared that she too was contemplating suicide and was healed that night.

The reason I share this is because I realized in a deeper way that there are so many people who are suffering and really need that personal encounter with Jesus. It just reinforced in me how important the Covenant of Understanding is and the need for the baptism of the Holy Spirit in our world today. He makes all things new. ♦

choat/shutterstock.com

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

- ◆ For the planning committee for this year's National Leaders and Ministries' Conference November 13-15.
- ◆ For those who will be attending the conference that they may have a safe journey there and experience a renewing of their hearts and spirits.
- ◆ That the United States of America will return to being "one nation under God with liberty and justice for all."
- ◆ For pre-born babies. That they may be saved from abortion and for the women who are carrying them that they may know that they are a gift from God and not a burden.
- ◆ For the Right to Life movement.



### 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.



## Called to be Intercessors

*by Cruz-Teresa Rosero and Virginia King*

**W**e were grateful beyond measure to be able to attend the first ever ICCRS Intercession Training Course, held in Quebec on June 30 through July 5. We were inspired and encouraged to take the call to be intercessors more seriously than ever before—and to spread this call to others in our sphere of influence.

God is raising up an army of intercessors and we in Catholic Charismatic Renewal are part of the front lines of that army. Intercession is an important fruit of our life in the Spirit. It requires a keen understanding that apart from Jesus, we are nothing. Intercession, at its core, is being in union with Jesus who is forever at the right hand of God making intercession for us. We do not take on this role in our own name nor

**We also learned that we should prayerfully discern what *type* of intercession we would pursue for different situations.**

in our own power. In fact, we don't "take it on" at all. Rather, we humbly and joyfully join Jesus, who is himself our intercessor.

This emphasis on joining Jesus, on drawing nearer to him and being of one mind and heart with him through the gift of his Spirit, was the key message of the intercession training course. If Jesus is forever at the right hand of God making intercession for us, and we are his body, then we have the same role and responsibility. God knows and cares more than we do about the darkness that has fallen on our world. He has allowed it, and he has a plan to overcome it, and we are invited to be part of his plan.

There were about 450 people registered from at least 32 nations. The primary language was French, but translation was always available in Spanish and English. We often didn't speak the same language as the person next to us, but with smiles and body language we were able to communicate, while praying in tongues became our common prayer language.

Cyril John, from India, who is currently the Chairman of the ICCRS Sub-Committee for Intercession explained that an intercessor is like a magnifying glass, bringing down the "pentecostal fire of God" upon a situation as we focus rays of grace upon it through our prayers. Intercession is pleasing to God and according to 1 Timothy 2, we are all called to intercede.

"An intercessor must have a clean heart in order to become a good conductor of grace," Cyril said. We must ask for-

giveness for our sins and those of our respective nations. In a lively testimony of reconciliation, descendants from the British and French who conquered Canada asked forgiveness of the "Amerindian" natives, who had shared with us about the pain of being forced to embrace a foreign way of life. This witness touched our hearts as we each remembered the pain of our own lands. Afterwards, we were encouraged to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We were taught that fasting is part of intercession. Jude Muscat, an ICCRS Council member from Malta, encouraged us to fast with peace and joy: "Fasting is not a sacrifice; it is an expression of desire given to God, it is a total dependence on him; it is resting in his arms, allowing him to be in charge of a specific situation, knowing that he sustains us."

We were taught about prophetic intercession, that is, hearing the voice of God speaking to our hearts in order to show us the situations for which we should pray. We also learned that we should prayerfully discern what *type* of intercession we would pursue for different situations. Some different types of intercession include offering Masses, praying devotional prayers like the rosary or novenas, fasting and other types of self-sacrifice.

We were taught that suffering and trials are useful in intercession. We should get up in the morning and offer everything to God for specific intentions. "Intercession must be a way of life. Our hearts must be a cenacle of prayer." "Our mission is to bring others to be touched by God's love, not by force,"



*Cruz-Teresa Rosero and Virginia King in front of the Basilica of Sainte Anne de Beaulieu, Quebec.*

said Denise Bergeron, Director of the Center for Prayer Alliance in Quebec, and a member of the ICCRS Council. In this regard, the Cardinal Archbishop of Quebec, Gérald Cyprien Lacroix, encouraged us to be missionary disciples, going out to reach others.

To the sound of the song "Missionary Soul" in three languages, we danced and waved our flags in one spirit, to the same Lord who loves us all. "I chose you not because you are capable, but because I love you. With my grace I am enabling you," were the prophetic words spoken by Denise, echoing Jesus' words from scripture. ♦

*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.*

*Virginia King is a member of the NSC Council Intercessory Prayer Working Group and former Executive Director of Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal.*



*St. John Lateran Basilica*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Worldwide Priests' Retreat Rome, Italy

Reflection by Fr. Anthony G. Ouellette

I hadn't been to Rome since June of 2010 for the close of the Year for Priests, five years ago now. Flying over, I could feel a knot in my stomach over worries of whether or not I would still be able to speak Italian, after three years of work in Spanish-speaking parishes. Italian had been the first foreign language, after four years of seminary in Rome, with which I had been able to actually feel confident speaking.

Flumicino Airport, Termini, the Metro, the heat, nothing seemed to have changed in the Eternal City. My attempts to speak were either "Spanian" or "Italish" just as I had feared, the two had become one. I made my way down the cobble stone side streets, listening to the wheels on my bag clacking behind me. I rang the bell under the simple hand painted wooden sign, "Piccole sorelle dell' Angello." For three and a half years, I had come to spend my "day off" here in this little monastery of mendicant sisters. God blessed me so very much by their friendship during those years of formation.

Tupungato/shutterstock.com

After a joyful reunion, I was shown to my own poor little "priory" above the chapel and under the bell tower. I was so glad that I had come a few days early remembering how hard it was getting over the jet lag. The sisters were as kind as always, and I slept most of those first two days. I couldn't get over the flood of memories that were there waiting for me, so many hopes and dreams about what it would be like to be a priest, and now, I was already nine years ordained with earned worrisome white hairs over my temples.

A pair of bold baby pigeons stood fierce watch over their nest on the narrow stair that led up into the bell tower, a great place to sit, up above the sound of mopeds and taxis speeding through the streets below me. I was welcomed those first nights by the mosquitos of Rome. Oh yes, how I had forgotten. It all seemed like I was living inside a distant memory from childhood, half real, half imagined. I tell people that every year as a priest feels like three. So many important events in the lives of people, make your ordinary extraordinary. My memories of Rome seemed as if from another life.

I had to shake my head in disbelief remembering when the diocese said that they would pay for me to go on this trip. It seemed that they knew that this event was important and that somebody from amongst the priests should go, but, "Who would want to go to Rome for a Charismatic retreat?" I pray that my brothers will one day soon share in the incredible blessings that I have received as liaison to the Renewal. Thank you, Lord, for inspiring me years ago to be the only one to respond to that seemingly insignificant request for service.

A ten minute walk brought me to the front doors of the Lateran Basilica. I was both surprised and relieved to find out that the whole basilica had been reserved for our time of retreat. The magnitude of such a great gift could be seen on the disappointed faces of pilgrims as they were informed and turned away. How incredibly precious and humbling, how much work and sacrifice, for this opportunity of grace to be possible? Stepping through the

tables of our smiling hosts, covered with information and welcome, you could feel a great anticipation, as if they knew about some awesome present that would be unwrapped by these days.

I often joke that trying to organize priests is like trying to herd cats, and what a great herd we were. The diversity alone was enough to make one pause and marvel. I tried guessing where my brothers were from by how they dressed. I had forgotten how richly the words “clerical attire” are defined throughout the world: blues and greys, white and black, sandals and shoes, small wooden crosses of inexhaustible variety, and then all of the religious habits as well. There were only a few others from the USA, discernable as the cats in black of the herd. Clearly, there is no possible patent pending for the “typical Roman Catholic priest,” thanks be to God!

And so, through days of prayer, conversation, lectures, homilies, meals, confessions, foot washings, sitting, standing, kneeling, encountering, sweating, crying and laughing, we changed. There was indeed an awesome present that was unwrapped and placed in each of our hearts. For me, that moment was strange. It wasn't a moment of overwhelming emotions like I had hoped but

a moment of truth, a clarity of purpose and a confirmation of my orders. It wasn't a hope or dream of what might be, nor a growing cynicism of what was, but a profound moment of truth, of what is and what I am.



“Today, I have lit such a flame in your heart. Protect this fire and run to set ablaze the hearts of men and women of this century. Time is short. Be apostles of my fire and prepare the world for the Jubilee of the new Pentecost inside the Catholic Church.”

(Prophecy, June 13, 2015, after the prayer of invocation of the Holy Spirit – 3<sup>rd</sup> Worldwide Priest Retreat –

[www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org)). ♦



*Fr. Anthony Ouellette is pastor of All Saints Parish, Kansas City, Kansas. He also serves on the Steering Committee of the National Association of Diocesan Liaisons.*

## Coming to Seattle - April 2016 Apply Today - Space is limited!



### ICCRS LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE

SEATTLE - USA

10 - 17 APRIL 2016



Teachers include:  
**Michelle Moran, Jim Murphy,  
and Andres Arango**



For more information visit:  
[www.wwccr.org](http://www.wwccr.org) or email: [LTC2016@wwccr.org](mailto:LTC2016@wwccr.org)

*For seasoned leaders - **to be strengthened**; for new leaders - **good formation**;  
for those who participate regularly in a prayer group, community,  
or ministry - **a foundation for service.***



Nave of St. John Lateran Basilica

## 3<sup>rd</sup> International Priests' Retreat

*Called to Holiness for a New Evangelization* was the theme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Priests' Retreat, held in St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome in June of 2015. This theme combined those of the first retreat in 1984, *A Call to Holiness*, and the second retreat in 1990, *Called for a New Evangelization*.

Over 1000 priests from 89 countries were in attendance. The overall aim of the retreat was to enable the priests to be refreshed and renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit. The retreat took the form of a spiritual journey following the pathway of *Evangelii Gaudium*. This journey had the themes of reconciliation, transformation, empowerment and mission.

The opening Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Rylko, the President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

Speakers included Fr. Gino Hennequez, who had been involved in the organization of the previous two worldwide Priests' retreats. He also conveyed a message from Fr. Tom Forrest. Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa gave two of the main retreat themes. Cardinal Peter Turkson

gave a biblically insightful retreat talk on the theme of reconciliation.

Other speakers were Don Livio Tacchini from Italy on 'the cost of reconciliation' that led into a time for confession and prayer ministry; Fr. Jonas Abib from Brazil, on the theme of transformation; and a time of Eucharistic Adoration led by Bishop Sosthens from Cameroon.

The Holy Father spent three hours with the priests. He addressed the priests as a shepherd and pastor. He answered spontaneous questions, one from each continent. He spoke with wisdom on a wide range of topics relating to the universal church. At the Pope's request they ended with a 'simple Eucharistic Celebration'. In his homily he spoke of the tenderness of God and how we need to allow ourselves to be drawn into God's love, mercy and divine embrace.

In the morning Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa had encouraged the priests to be more expectant in faith and to enter more fully into the anointing of God. In the afternoon others gave testimony of the working of the Spirit in their lives: Msgr. Joe Malagrega of the USA shared from the perspective of a parish pastor; Bishop Luis Azcona, from the Amazon region of N. Brazil shared how his life had been transformed from being a priest with a social conscience trying to meet the needs of the people in his own way and strength, to being a priest empowered by the Holy Spirit. Now he can stand, in a fearless way, with the poor and be a voice for the powerless even at times risking his own life for the sake of the Gospel.

The final part of the day was led by Patti Mansfield from the USA and Archbishop Alberto Taveira from Brazil. They led a time for new release of the Holy Spirit. Patti encouraged the priests to be open to receive a new gift of tongues that would take them deeper in their prayer life and ministry. There were tears in those grace-filled moments, grace that will flow through the ministry of these priests into the lives of thousands, maybe millions of people's lives.

The final Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Vallini, the General Vicar of His Holiness for the Diocese of Rome. They thanked him for making the Basilica available for the entire retreat time.

The prophecy, shared in the witness article of Fr. Anthony Ouellette, see page 11, was received after the prayer of Invocation of the Holy Spirit. ♦

*From article on the Worldwide Priests Retreat at [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org).*

## The Association of Diocesan Liaison's "Regional" Strategy

by Fr. Anthony G. Ouellette, Kansas City

**T**he topic of generating greater participation by diocesan liaisons, in the Association and the annual convocation, was greatly discussed at our recent convocation in Philadelphia. As different ideas surfaced, the importance of making personal invitations and connections between those who are active and those who are inactive was identified. Given that the ADL includes all the territories of the United States and Canada, it was a little daunting to know where or how to even start.

The idea was purposed of using the organizational structures of the Con-

ference of Catholic Bishops of the United States (USCCB) and of Canada (CCCC). Each conference includes all of the Latin Rite dioceses of those countries and their territories. The USCCB groups each diocese first in an Ecclesial province and then groups each province into a region. Since membership in the ADL is directly connected to each diocese, it was a logical way for us to organize ourselves and not "recreate the wheel." We were able to identify at least one or, in some cases, several active members from each region of the USCCB at the convocation, inviting them to actively try to make some personal connection with the other liaisons of their region or ecclesial province. A simple idea, but an im-

mense help as active liaisons recognized the feasibility of what once seemed like an overwhelming endeavor. Unfortunately, while the USCCB, has a similar subgrouping of dioceses, the small number of active members present would humbly remain overwhelmed.

As a first step, I think that this initiative will help us as an Association to not only grow in representation and service of all liaisons, but also to come to a greater appreciation for those most immediately around us. Those who culturally may share many of the same blessings and struggles that we do. ♦

*For information on the Diocesan Liaison ministry go to [www.associationofdiocesanliaisons.org](http://www.associationofdiocesanliaisons.org).*

### Families from page 3

transformation of our lives by the Holy Spirit by reminding us that "if we believe God, God is here and he can transform our family here and wherever they are in this moment." Kathleen McCarthy then led a prayer of intercession for healing in family relations.

Salvatore Martinez, the president of the Vatican Foundation International Center for the Family of Nazareth, shared the call of the Renewal to the work of the "re-evangelization of the Christian family," which can only become alive through the power of the Holy Spirit. He presented the mandate received by the Renewal in the Holy Spirit in Italy through the Vatican Foundation International Center Family of Nazareth.

He concluded by inviting all to help "build this dream of love. Help us to shout out that the family is alive! Let us help make our Renewal a sign of love for the whole world."

Our event concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist with Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, with 11 priests concelebrating and two deacons also serving. We were reminded that in our experience of family we are invited to "strip away the old self and put on the new life in Christ."

It was a very full morning, filled with abundant grace. There were so many groups that came together to sponsor this event: the Archdiocese of Philadel-

phia Catholic Charismatic Renewal, *Fondazione Vaticana Centro Internazionale Famiglia di Nazareth* and many other realities of CCR including the NSC, the Haitian Council, CNSH, Filipino Alliance, ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowship. (A full list can be seen on the [WMOFcharismatic.org](http://WMOFcharismatic.org) website). Most of all there was an experience of being the family of God. The Holy Spirit was present and regardless of our language or culture, we were one in the Lord! ♦



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

## From the Executive Director

.....



by Walter Matthews

## Unity and How the Holy Spirit Surprises Us

In November 2013 my wife, Claire, and I attended the ICCRS convened Prophetic Consultation in Bethlehem. There we met a priest from Japan. He and I were in the same discussion group and later Claire and I had a chance to pray with him. As the Consultation concluded he said that he would invite us to Japan to speak.

We did not hear anything further until last October when we received an email officially inviting us to come to Japan and speak in late August of this year.

Thus began a journey of faith and trust which was a very blessed experience of the surprises of the Holy Spirit—doing something we had never thought we might ever do. We are grateful to the Lord and to the priest and Renewal leaders from Japan who invited us.

While travelling to speak and minister in Japan is not in my job description or in the purview of the National Service Committee it is an example of the NSC's desire to reach out to, and build bridges with, the many ethnic, covenant community and other expressions of the Renewal. As it happened, the weekend after the trip to Japan, Claire and I were again on the road, this time to the Portuguese Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference in Attleboro, Massachusetts. Another surprise of the Spirit!

It is part of the mission of the NSC to work to build unity in the Renewal for the sake of fostering baptism in the Holy Spirit in the whole Church. As Pope Francis said last year to the Renewal, "Seek the unity of the Renewal, because unity comes from the Holy Spirit and is born of the unity of the Trinity."

This year Pope Francis spoke of "unity in diversity" and offered the example of a polyhedron, "which reflects the confluence of all the parts that maintain their originality in it and these are the charisms... Unity in the diversity of expression of reality [of the work of the Holy Spirit]."

Another surprise of the Holy Spirit, which also came last fall, was an invitation from Salvatore Martinez (see p 3), to collaborate on a Renewal Celebration during the World Meeting of Families. We had many obstacles in pulling off the Celebration not the least of which were the issues of security. Even up to the last week the question was: could we get our Principal Celebrant and Homilist, Cardinal Peter Turkson, to the Wells Fargo Center for our Mass and get him back inside the secured zone in time for the Festival of Families. When Salvatore arrived in the U.S. and learned of the difficulty he called an Ambassador he knew from South America, who in turn called a Philadelphia city official who was able to get a plainclothes policeman to pick the Cardinal up at his hotel in the no traffic secured zone and take him back to his hotel in the same zone. When we trust in the Lord he acts in amazing ways.

Please keep in your prayer a Luncheon for Bishop-Friends of the Movements and New Communities. Please pray that those the Lord wants there will respond so that together we can explore how the movements and new communities might assist the Church with the New Evangelization in the U.S. As Pope Francis said last November to the participants in the Third World Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, "The Movements and New Communities that you represent are moving towards a deeper sense of belonging to the Church, a maturity that requires vigilance in the path of daily conversion. This will enable an ever more dynamic and fruitful evangelization... You have already borne much fruit for the Church and the world. You will bear even greater fruit with the help of the Holy Spirit, who raises up and renews his gifts and charisms." ♦

## Friends of the NSC

As we move forward in the work we do on your behalf in the Renewal (fostering the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit on the National level through *Pentecost Today*, our National Leaders' and Ministries' Conferences, and, now, our recent hiring of a Young Adult Coordinator charged to work to strengthen this dimension of the Renewal) **thank you** for your ongoing support. We have received these encouraging notes:

—Please find enclosed a donation from our prayer group. We thank you for the work that you do!

—Thank you for the work you do and may God continue to bless all your endeavors.

—Keep up the great work and ministry that all of you are doing. Thank you.

The summer was lean as concerns about the economy slowed support. If you were not able to give during the summer please consider a gift this fall. Both our regular Fund Raising and the *Toward the Jubilee* Campaign (seeking donations over and above current fund raising donation) need your support.

If you are not aware of the *Toward the Jubilee* Campaign and its purposes please visit our website where the Campaign is explained.

In preparation for the remembrance of the dead in November we have just mailed our Memorial Appeal. We encourage you to remember those in the Renewal and in your families who have died and consider a gift in his or her memory. You can also honor someone, for example your prayer group leader, pastor or Liaison. You can download a form on our website.

Finally, leave a legacy to pass on this grace to the next generations: remember us in your will. ♦

### Feedback:

We would love to hear from you; please visit our website [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org) and fill out our online evaluation. Thank you!



What we have  
seen and heard

by Steve Clark



## The Growth of the Renewal: Communities

by Steve Clark

**A** number of years ago, while I was visiting one of our communities, the Ligaya community, I was walking down a major street in Manila. I heard some music being broadcast to all who were nearby and recognized a song often sung in the charismatic renewal. I went to find out where it was coming from and found what looked like a storefront church that was evangelizing on the street. When I got closer, I could read that they were advertising a Life in the Spirit Seminar that would begin that weekend. When I got closer I found out that the “storefront church” was a covenant community.

To me this was a surprise. I thought I was familiar with the communities in Manila, and here was one I had never heard of. My surprise increased when I turned onto the next major cross street and came across another “storefront church” meeting in an old movie theater and found that it too was a covenant community. I gradually learned that in Manila and many countries in

the world, there were hundreds of Christian communities, covenant communities and others, that had grown out of the charismatic renewal.

In 1998 and then again in 2004 Pope John Paul II held a rally on the eve of Pentecost for the new movements like the charismatic renewal and the new communities like the charismatic communities at which an estimated 500,000 people gathered. On the latter occasion he said, “I energetically repeat what I said on that occasion (Pentecost 1998): the ecclesial movements and the new communities are a ‘providential answer’, ‘inspired by the Holy Spirit’ given the present need of new evangelization, for which ‘mature Christian personalities’ and ‘strong Christian communities’ are needed.”

Charismatic communities go back to the very beginning of the Renewal. The date normally given for the beginning of the renewal is 1967. As the Renewal began to spread, communities began to form, two of the first being at Notre Dame and in Ann Arbor. By 1970 when the Catholic Charismatic Re-

newal Service Committee (CCRSC) was established, (forerunner of the current National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal), the communities had provided significant endeavors for promoting the Renewal. They had developed the international conference, the national communications office, the magazine that later became *New Covenant*, and Charismatic Renewal Tapes and Literature, all of which worked under the CCRSC to feed the early explosive growth.

Since then, both the broader renewal, mainly found in prayer groups, and the charismatic communities have spread to almost every country in the world and have touched millions of people. The community of communities I belong to, the Sword of the Spirit can be found in over 40 countries and adds new communities every year. We do not just develop communities, but we also sponsor many outreaches. We are perhaps most known for our outreaches to young people. But there are many other charismatic communities that begin new communities and sponsor outreaches—like the ones I discovered in Manila. ♦

The National Service Committee-Chariscenter USA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions to defray the cost of this publication are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please mail to:

National Service Committee  
Chariscenter USA  
PO Box 628  
Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628

Tel. (540) 972-0225

[www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org)

### National Service Committee members:

Johnny Bertucci (Chairman)  
Jimmy Archer  
Jane Barz  
Jim Beckman  
Caroline Gambale-Dirkes  
Bp. Sam Jacobs  
Sr. Lucy Lukasiewicz, DLJC  
Tom Mangan  
Bill Marcotte  
Ron Riggins  
Casey Sprehe  
Tammie Stevens

*Steve has been one of the first leaders of the Charismatic Renewal, serving as chairman of the Charismatic Renewal Service Committee and author of many charismatic books and articles. He is retired from most executive responsibility but still writes and speaks to groups and at conferences.*

# PENTECOSTToday

PO Box 628 • Locust Grove, VA • 22508-0628

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
National Service  
Committee



Published by the National Service Committee of the  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc.

## The Vision Statement of the National Service Committee

Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all people to experience the Holy Spirit who opens us to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and the love of the Father.

The Holy Spirit empowers us for personal holiness, renewed Catholic life, and evangelization.

- **Subscribe today! Call 1-800-338-2445**
- or visit [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org).
- \$10 suggested annual donation requested.
- *If you have received more than one copy of this publication, please return all the mailing labels and we will make the necessary corrections.*
- *Note: we send Prayer Group contacts a copy. If the contact is also a donor you will receive an individual copy. There is no need to send us your two labels.*

**2016 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference**  
**Atlanta, Georgia / November 4 - 6**

# SAVE THE DATE



# MISSION

Mercy

Keynote talks by  
**Jim Murphy**, and  
**Dave VanVickle**  
*(newly hired Young  
Adult Coordinator for  
the NSC)*

**1-800-338-2445**

Website info will be  
posted after 1/1/16

**Winter (Early Bird)  
Rates through 4/30/16:**

\$59 per person  
(Individuals & Married Couples)

\$50 per person  
(Young Adults 35 and under)\*

\$25 per person  
(College or Graduate Students)\*

\*Limitation does not apply to  
YA & CS (rate stays the same  
throughout)