

Summer 2016

PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal



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Chairman's Corner

by Johnny Bertucci

Will you be ready?

Throughout my years in the Renewal there have always been large Pentecost celebrations. Pentecost 2016 has seen The Vigil Project (www.thevigilproject.com), The Ark and The Dove's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Pentecost Rally (www.TheArkAndTheDoveWorldwide.org), and International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services' (ICCRS) Pentecost of the Nations (www.iccrs.org/en/cl/pentecost-of-the-nations), to name just three.

Next year, when the Catholic Charismatic Renewal celebrates its 50th anniversary, Pope Francis will host a Pentecost celebration in St. Peter's Square. Recently, Pope Francis met with ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships (CF) to discuss the "Great Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal at Pentecost 2017." His emphasis is on unity. His desire is that the event be ecumenical, a celebration for all Christians, not just for Catholic Charismatics.

According to a report on the meeting, "He said that the Spirit is asking new things of us and that we should be prepared for the surprises of the Holy Spirit." (See www.ccrgoldenjubilee2017.org.)

The National Service Committee and Franciscan University have planned a special Jubilee Pilgrimage starting in the Holy Land and ending in Rome, celebrating Pentecost 2017 with Pope Francis. Led by Bishop Sam Jacobs and Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, a group of pilgrims will explore the Holy Land then fly to Rome and join with ICCRS and Pope Francis for the Pentecost celebration of a lifetime. Journey with us on this unique trip (www.nsc-chariscenter.org).

I sense that the Holy Spirit is already surprising us. This past year has been filled with many surprises such as purchasing The Ark and The Dove, the hiring of a Young Adult Coordinator, and a Charismatic Renewal Edition of the New Testament. The Holy Spirit spoke recently through a prophecy at an NSC meeting saying: "If I move quickly, will you be ready?" I want to be ready! ♦

Johnny Bertucci is Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

In preparing for this issue I found myself writing to various countries to contact our writers (Italy and Brazil in particular). I also noted that writers have visited many countries. As we used to sing, "The Spirit is moving all over the world." Communication over the internet has become swift and far reaching. But the Good News still needs to be proclaimed.

The poor are always with us and we are called to care (p 3). The Culture of Pentecost needs to be lived and we are called to serve (p 4). The Culture of Pentecost (p 6) still needs to be promoted. The Ark and The Dove, the location of the Duquesne University Weekend Chi Rho retreat, is available to come "home" to and the miracle continues (p 8). The Holy Spirit is still being given for "mission" (p 10). Through the grace of "newness" God is still breaking into the status quo (p 11). Focus on the Holy Spirit can renew the entire parish (p 12). The Association of Diocesan Liaisons risked moving out of its comfort zone for a couple of hours (p 13). There is joy and excitement but also call and challenge in the Year of Mission in Mercy (p 14). There is gratitude (p 14). There is God's work and God's initiative (p 15).

As Johnny Bertucci writes, "The past year has been filled with many surprises" (p 2).

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to purify us, to rouse up joy and love in our hearts, and to prepare us for the call and the challenge, for the next surprise!

Let us be ready in the Spirit!



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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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I was called to community and ministry to the poor

by Michael Firmin

God miraculously put me in touch with people attending charismatic prayer meetings at Loyola University in New Orleans in 1972. There I experienced a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. God's love flooded my parched soul and enabled me to recover a child-like faith and communion with Jesus that I remembered having at Confirmation. Baptism in the Holy Spirit put God's heart into my heart. I was given a living faith and a *knowing* that God wants to intervene at every invitation I choose to give him. Every time I asked for a word, I got it. I received it because I needed it and I was his child. I began to go out to help street people. I visited prisoners. God drew me closer to the poor. I offered hospitality to the homeless. God was giving me a vision for full-time ministry with the poor, along with living intentional community with brothers and sisters in the Lord who could hold me accountable in my journey with Jesus. Although I searched for a religious order that would meet these criteria, a priest advised me that "if God was calling me to live in community and love the poor, then just go live that way!"

I joined an inner-city New Orleans ministry called "Hope House" and there, met Beverly, with whom I shared a love for the poor and a desire for community. Married in 1974, we were soon led by the Spirit to move to Cajun country to begin an outreach for the Diocese of Lafayette. We started a prayer meeting and made healing prayer a centerpiece of the ministry. After five years and four children, we heard about the Alleluia Community in Augusta, Georgia, and moved in December of 1981.

Soon a member of the community introduced me to a citizens' committee in Augusta seeking to secure food for the poor. When I was offered the job as founding executive director of the Food Bank, I said, "God, let me know if you are in this or not!" Immediately words sprang into my mind, "I am raising up this Food Bank to be a wake-up call to my church to share the good news of my Son with the poor. My church thinks it is rich in its buildings, money in the bank and attendance at services. But its riches lie in the Good News of my Son, and I will use the Food Bank to spur my Church into action."

Give them something to eat YOURSELVES.

That word from God was enough, and I said yes to beginning the Food Bank.

Fast forward to 2008. We needed a new building for the soup kitchen. Our design cost was \$1.5 million! It was 2008, I was desperate, and prayed, "Lord, I'm too weak! I need a scripture to hang my faith on, if I'm to raise this money!" Immediately a vision came flooding into my spiritual sight. I was standing about fifty feet behind Jesus.

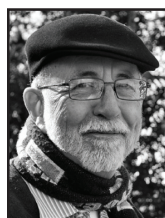
He was earnestly preaching to a large crowd seated below him. It was dusk and Jesus showed no sign of stopping. I saw his disciples talking together on the side. They looked tired. They'd heard these words before.

It was getting late. They were getting hungry. One of them went over to Jesus and tugged on his sleeve. Jesus stopped in mid-sentence and the disciple said, "Master, it's getting late! Send the people home to get something to eat or they'll faint on the way!" Jesus calmly replied, "Give them something to eat YOURSELVES."

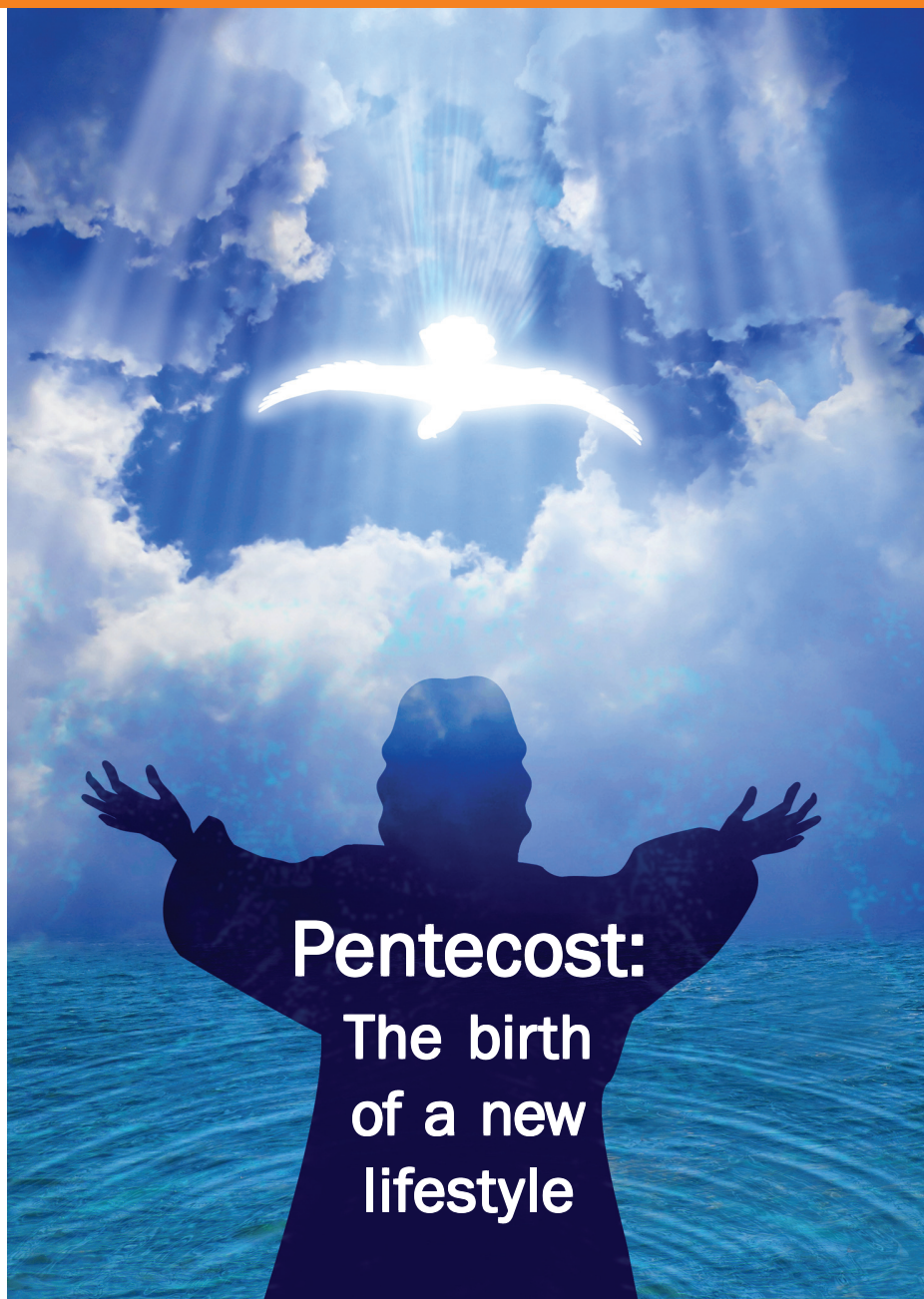
The vision ended abruptly, and I had my word. I could tell every group I asked for money that they need not look at the economy or their own financial situation. Look at Jesus, and build a place fit for Jesus himself to dine! We raised the \$1.5 million!

Without operating in gifts of knowledge, prophecy, discernment of spirits, the prayer of faith and all the other gifts that the Holy Spirit wants to pour out upon his children, my mission with the poor would have been a failure, and I would have quickly burned-out. But now, full of vigor, I can shout to all, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gifts!" (2 Cor 9:15). ♦

Michael Firmin began ministry with the poor in his native Louisiana, helping to start three faith-based non-profits before moving to Augusta in 1981 to join The Alleluia Community.



Mike founded and guided Golden Harvest Food Bank, a regional charity to feed the hungry, until his retirement in 2013. Mike now serves many men as a spiritual director, and co-directs the Alleluia School of Spiritual Direction with his wife, Beverly. He and his wife have nine children and eleven grandchildren.



Pentecost: The birth of a new lifestyle

by Salvatore Martinez

Called “to serve” in love

On the occasion of the historic presence of Pope Francis at the 37th Convocation of the Renewal at the Olympic Stadium of Rome, on June 1, 2014, the “project of new life” for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement was written by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of our “ecclesial family.”

The words of the Holy Father, pronounced before 52,000 convened at the stadium and the press of the entire world, tell us how much the Pope “counts” on the Renewal, sharing its “identity and mission.” And, at the same time, how “demanding” is the request for coherence and faithfulness to the plan of the Holy Spirit, in a special way, in the life of the leaders of the Renewal.

The Pontificate of Francis is together both *kerygmatic* and *charismatic* as never before in the history of the Church. Only those who are hard of heart and the distracted do not comprehend that at the heart of the Church there is a people, the Renewal,

Pentecost gives birth to new men and women.

which serves the Lord and wants to make itself a gift for the world. A people who serves with joy and is at the *service of the joy of God* (the least in the Kingdom) *to gift the joy of God* (salvation to all men) as requested by Francis himself to the whole Church in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. With Pope Francis the Church is living a *kairós* of the Spirit, a favorable time, a new season of love for the person of Jesus professed in a vital way, not just as a ritual, as Lord and Savior. And in many, especially among those who were on the borders of faith or who were living a dead (dying) faith, interest for the Gospel and for the Church is reawakening. We cannot help but note the fact that the enthusiasm aroused by Francis is truly without precedent, so that many are crying out to a “miracle of Pentecost,” to the wonder of a faith which is returning to affirm itself with *kerygmatic* and *charismatic* flavor as at the time of the first Christian communities.

The worldwide Charismatic Renewal is on the threshold of its “Golden Jubilee” and we reiterate with conviction: the Renewal is “needed”! It is “necessary for history” that it exists; and “it serves history” as well because human history is always marked by the living presence of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is necessary that “the quality” of our love for Jesus is tangible in order to invoke the

Renewal as a “*current of grace*,” as Pope Francis has stated in the Olympic Stadium. He called for “quality love” among us, rather than quantity. Therefore it is necessary that our hearts be a “river” of love of the Spirit and not a “lake.” Often our hearts are artificial, represented by actions, decisions and works without love, carried out without sentiments of the heart; with prayers that do not touch the heart because they are without a soul, without praise that springs from life; closed lakes, without an “outlet” in the heart of history, in the hearts of brothers and sisters who we are called to serve rather than those to be “led” and “commanded.”

Outside of the love of the Spirit there is no humanity, no society, no family, no group, and no community. Away from Love nothing makes sense; one cannot find usefulness, harmony, beauty or fruit. The opposite of love is *death*. St. John reminds us: *He who does not love remains in death* (1Jn 3:14b). That is why the love of God is the greatest risk that God himself took when he decided to pitch his tent among us. If we love, he appears, and his love shines in us. Otherwise, God is far away, anonymous, inconsistent. It is only in this light that the Renewal can be seen, at all times and everywhere, as charismatic and missionary.

Francis “defines” what the Renewal is and “leads” it

It should not be forgotten *how* Pope Francis “*defines the Renewal*.” His teaching at the Olympic Stadium and taken up again in St. Peter’s Square must not be just thrown aside to sit on a book shelf but it must be taken up, read, studied and honored because a Pope has never participated for two years in a row at the Gathering of a Movement.

1. “*You are born by the will of the Holy Spirit, as a current of grace in the Church and for the Church.*”

He is calling us to our “*identity*” and “*belonging*”: it is from the “*anointing*” of the Spirit (grace) and not from the “*functions*” (role and services) that we must begin again, strengthening our submission to the person of the Holy Spirit and our communion in the Church.

2. “*The Charismatic Renewal is a great strength at the service of the proclamation of the Gospel, in the joy of the Holy Spirit.*”

This contains the sense of the “*mission*” and of “*service*” which we must give to the world. We are being called with the power of the charisms to spread the joy of meeting the person of Jesus in every place, to every person, especially to those far away and the suffering, not limiting ourselves to meeting him in the “community prayer time,” and letting the freedom of the Spirit win over every fear of being a “Church moving out.”

3. “*Everything must be based on adoration! The foundation of the Renewal is to adore God!*”

In this way our sense of the “*Lordship of Jesus* and of the *authority of God*” in our midst is reaffirmed. Adoration fights idolatry; adoration brings down pride which tempts us to want to excel over others; it is the fount of service and not of power; it quietens human reasoning because the desires and commands of God prevail.

4. “*In the Malines Documents, you have a guide, sure guidelines so as not to take the wrong road.*”

With the Malines documents (six in all, coordinated by Cardinal Leo

J. Suenens between 1974 and 1986 and which he desired as theological-pastoral Guidelines of the Renewal), the Holy Father highlights the importance of “*tradition*” and of “*formation*” along our journey. Renewal is neither invented nor improvised! The history that precedes us is holy. The “prophecy” of the Renewal is always closely related with its “memory.” These two dimensions of the Spirit cannot contradict each other!

For a Culture of Pentecost

Addressing the Renewal of Italy in 2002, it was St. John Paul II who asked *for the spreading of a Culture of Pentecost*. Even today we feel that this mandate is alive and urgent.

The world has not yet received the universal brotherhood lesson of Pentecost; the theology that dominates still lacks the culture of the miracle of Pentecost; political and social systems still lack the dynamism of love of Pentecost. To us has been requested to gift to this new millennium the “Gospel of the Holy Spirit.” How many Christians seem to live their existence without the Holy Spirit, a “pre-pentecostal” existence!

- Where there is fear, there is no Pentecost;
- where there is indifference, there is no Pentecost;
- where there is powerlessness, there is no Pentecost;
- where there is disorientation, there is no Pentecost;
- where there is confusion, there is no Pentecost;
- where there is laziness, there is no Pentecost;
- where there is individualism, there is no Pentecost!

See Pentecost page 12



Promoting the Culture of Pentecost in Brazil

by Katia Roldi Zavaris

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord” (Lk 4:18-19).

The Holy Spirit is the incarnation agent of the Word and is revealed with the anointing of Christ in his baptism. The Holy Spirit is the agent of the Good News through Christ, with signs, wonders and miracles.

Promoting the Culture of Pentecost means allowing the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, who is the witness of Christ, to remind us of everything that Jesus has taught us and, in a special way, to make us aware of our sins, truth and

justice. He is in charge of continuing the mission of God, because he penetrates, at the same time, the Trinity’s heart and man’s heart. He seeks the depths of the human heart and God’s heart.

Only through the action of the Holy Spirit of God there may be hope, fraternity and charity (see Rm 5:5). The Holy Spirit is the teacher of souls, the sanctifier, and the witness of Jesus in our hearts. If we allow the Spirit to teach our souls, then through his anointing, we can say we are true temples of the Holy Spirit, where he freely dwells and prompts us to a life

Markus Mainked/shutterstock

of testimony and conversion. Thus, we can do “greater things than Jesus did” (see Jn 14:12).

The Holy Spirit of God has worked restlessly, especially in those who open themselves to his action, in a way that everyone encounters Jesus and falls in love with him.

Promoting the Culture of Pentecost is announcing that there is a solution for all the challenges that the human race faces. And the solution is to allow that the only and true God, the only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, guides every part of people’s lives, as well as the whole society. Every human being has the right to have a personal encounter with Jesus. However, there are a great number of people who still do not know him.

From the moment one has a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and experiences God’s love, one’s heart opens and the Holy Spirit, which is power and strength from God, is accepted. In fact, the Holy Spirit, which is also fire, burns in the person’s life, changing him completely.

So, the mission of every baptized person who receives the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as a new Pentecost, is to proclaim the gospel to every creature. “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15). That’s why evangelization is an urgent need today. The world is crying out for faith, encouragement, and strength. The Pentecost of yesterday becomes present today by the rediscovery of the power of the Holy Spirit’s experience. And the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been an efficient instrument for the

Holy Spirit’s action in the Church. It really is a current of grace by the action of the Holy Spirit.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is present in many parts of the world by means of prayer groups, covenant communities, and ministries. Prayer groups are an effective way to promote the Culture of Pentecost. Indeed, they are

“open doors” where anyone can enter and meet Jesus, as they promote prayer, worship, sharing, and all the other aspects of living the gospel, through baptism in the Holy Spirit. For the goal of the prayer group is to lead its participants to

experience a personal Pentecost, in order to grow and to reach the maturity of a full life in the Spirit according to Jesus’ willing: “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (Jn 10:10b).

Another way to promote the culture of Pentecost is the Life in the Spirit Seminar or its equivalent. The seminar aims to provide its participants with a personal encounter with Jesus Christ by means of a sequence of talks and prayers whose center is the first announcement (Kerygma). In Brazil, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has more than 20,000 prayer groups. They all start their formation process with the Life in the Spirit Seminars; there are countless testimonies about changed lives from those experiences. At the Third Worldwide Priest’s Retreat, June 2015, in Rome, Pope Francis requested: “I ask each and all of you that as part of the current of grace of Charismatic Renewal you organize seminars of life in the Spirit in your parishes and seminaries, schools, in neighborhoods, to share baptism in the Spirit.”

In Brazil, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has more than 20,000 prayer groups.

Prayer Card



Lord Jesus, from the moment you poured out your Holy Spirit on the Duquesne students assembled on that blessed weekend in 1967, you have continued to pour out your gifts and blessings on millions of Catholics around the world.

Thank you for the great privilege of letting us be participants in this profound move of the Spirit!

In this Year of Mercy, may we be open to hearing your voice calling us on to deeper unity with you in the Holy Spirit and to greater service of all people, for love of whom you shed your blood.

May we remember with joy the beginning of this work and prepare to celebrate it in a way that will make others eager to share in the power and love of the Holy Spirit.



The Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been an instrument for spreading and promoting the Culture of Pentecost all over the world. It has been a confirmation of the presence of the Holy Spirit, so that we can all live the Gospel and become witnesses of Jesus Christ—“the same yesterday, today and forever” (see Hb 13:8). ♦



Katia Roldi Zavaris is President of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Brazil and is a member of the CCR Latin American Council.

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

That the upcoming Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in Atlanta will be a time of inspiration and empowerment as we prepare for our 50-year Celebration of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church.

Particularly we pray that all whom the Lord is calling to come will hear his call and respond with joyful and generous hearts, making room in their schedules and their lives for the Lord and his work. May all the practical arrangements fall into place as they should.

May we who are heirs of the Duquesne Weekend be totally generous in spreading to all we know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, who teaches us all things and brings to memory all that Jesus has told us.



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to make a secure online donation.



photo: Tammie Stevens

by Patti Mansfield

"I want a miracle!" These were words I wrote on a scrap of paper and tacked up on the bulletin board during the Duquesne Weekend, February 18, 1967. Never could I have imagined that the miracle I was praying for would be the largest ecclesial movement touching the lives of more than 120 million Catholics in every country around the world!

I've visited The Ark and The Dove several times during these 49 years for personal prayer and intercession. The most notable trip was in 1992 for three days of intercession before the Silver Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh. I invited Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM, Cap., to join us and he told me that visiting The Ark and The Dove fulfilled a deep desire in his heart. What a joy to return this year, knowing that the Renewal has now reclaimed our birthplace and that this historic site is truly our home! Like Fr. Raniero, many from around the world will enter The Ark and The Dove to touch the grace of the beginnings and receive a new outpouring of the Spirit.

There were six of us from the Chi Rho scripture study group in attendance at The Blessing of The Ark and The Dove.

David Mangan, John Rossmiller and I were participants in the famous retreat. Chris Rossmiller, Maura McDowell and Tom Mangan were members of Chi Rho, but not present on the Duquesne Weekend. All six of us shared a sense of wonderment and awe that our humble scripture study group would be used by God to spark a worldwide movement of the Spirit. Our stories and those of many others are told in my new book: *As by a New Pentecost: Golden Jubilee Edition*. When I worked on this Jubilee Edition, I was often moved to tears, marveling at the sovereign action of God.

People often ask me why God would choose such an insignificant group of people to begin such a significant work. My answer? "It's his style!" God delights to do something with nothing to show that the power and glory belong to him alone! We don't consider ourselves founders. We are simply witnesses. Charismatic Renewal wasn't **our** idea. It **was** and **is** God's idea!

Entering that paneled chapel at The Blessing this year, I was struck once more by how small and simple the space really is. In 1992 I came to The Ark and The Dove to film my testi-

mony for a video produced by a secular company. When the videographers saw the small, unimpressive chapel they decided I should tell my story the next day in front of a tree on the beautiful grounds instead. That night I prayed fervently that the Lord would do something to thwart their plans and he sent a violent rain storm, making it impossible for an outdoor filming. The "Upper Room" chapel at The Ark and The Dove is like the cave in Bethlehem...small and simple, yet the place where God chose to do an incredible thing! "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told" (Hb 1:5).

This year when Bishop David Zubik entered that same chapel to celebrate Mass, I was deeply moved and said to David Mangan, "Who could have dreamed this would happen?" The Bishop of Pittsburgh blessing The Ark and The Dove! Pope Francis mandat-

ing that we "share the grace of baptism in the Spirit with the whole Church!" **It is a miracle!**

All of us want to see this grace of baptism in the Spirit reach the next generations. The Lord began this movement with young people and he wants to propel it forward through young people. I speak here a word of prophetic exhortation for the future to my young friends: **Be radically open to the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit! Don't settle for "charismatic lite"!** As one who was there "in the beginning," I know "the cost of Pentecost" and it is real! I remember writing in my journal in 1967, "If it costs me every relationship in my life, I will not leave you, Lord. You are worthy." Sometimes, out of a desire to be accepted by peers, it becomes easy to compromise on the charismatic gifts such as the gift of tongues or prophecy or healing. These charisms are freely given but very costly to those who exercise them.

Please don't settle for anything less than a Pentecost full of fire and power and anointing! Only that kind of Pentecost will renew the face of the earth!

When you "come home" and visit The Ark and The Dove, you will see a beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the chapel. She is the Spouse of the Holy Spirit and our Merciful Mother. May Mary, Star of the New Evangelization, light our way as we move forward toward the Golden Jubilee and beyond. Amen. ♦

Patti Mansfield and her husband, Al, serve the Charismatic Renewal in New Orleans. They are recipients of the papal medal, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice. Patti has ministered on all five continents to priests and laity in the Renewal. Her newest book is As By A New Pentecost: Golden Jubilee Edition.



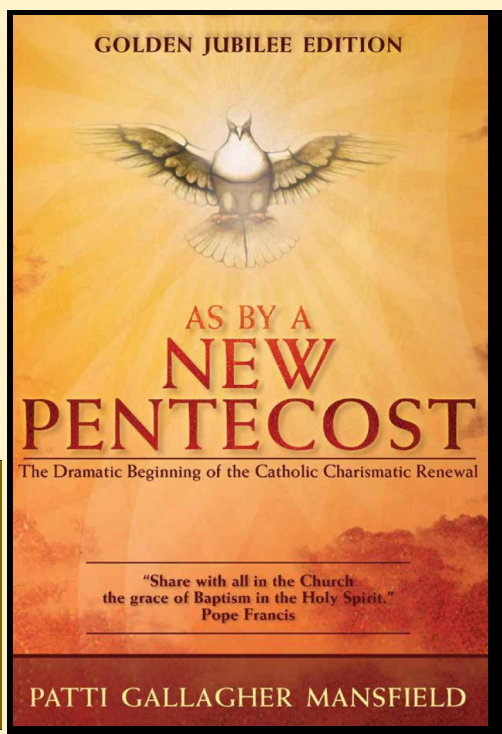
GOLDEN JUBILEE EDITION

Pope Francis has said, "Share with all in the Church the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit." This Golden Jubilee Edition contains **over a hundred pages of new material and testimonies from all the pioneers in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.** It describes the spread of this "current of grace" all over the world. There is an anointing on this book which will move you to seek more of the Holy Spirit who desires to come today... "As By A New Pentecost."



PATTI GALLAGHER MANSFIELD

For the past fifty years Patti has traveled the world bearing witness to the grace of the Baptism in the Spirit. She is an international leader, author and speaker in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Patti and her husband, Al, are recipients of the Papal Medal, *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*.



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For an autographed copy, contact Patti Mansfield at info@ccrno.org.

Mission:

The pattern and move of the Holy Spirit


by Jim Beckman

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation ... And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mk 16:15-18).

It seems from the very beginning, the Holy Spirit was given for “mission.” I was recently asked what I am seeing out across the country when it comes to the Renewal, especially with young adults. When I consider that question, I find myself somewhat perplexed since much of what I see is not necessarily connected directly with Charismatic Renewal. But the tie is unmistakable. Those who are spearheading many of the apostolates and ministries that are bearing great fruit have their beginnings in an encounter with the Holy Spirit.

FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) is doing what they call *Spiritual Boot Camp* weekends on college campuses all over the country. These have been immensely powerful, bringing college students into an encounter with the healing power of Christ and with the person of the Holy Spirit. I have experienced a couple of these weekends myself and have witnessed the encounter. The experience reminded me of the Life in the Spirit Seminars I used to do.

Also this past year, I have had several experiences with a new ministry called St. Paul Street Evangelization. Again, not formally connected with Charismatic Renewal, but bearing amazing fruit in places all over the country. And one of the groups that seems uniquely drawn to their ministry is young adults and teens. I recently had them come to Denver to do a series of trainings. What a beautiful thing to see seminarians and lay people out on the streets of Denver and in our large public parks boldly witnessing to Christ. The power behind that witness is the Holy Spirit, whether it is connected to the Renewal or not.



I start to see a thread emerge—it's conversion.

I also have had the privilege to be involved in a number of projects around the country aimed at discipleship of young people. Discipleship camps for teens and young adults, and trainings in numerous dioceses to help adults learn the skills needed to do ongoing discipleship with these young people. I can honestly say that the camps I have been involved with have been some of the most powerful experiences I have witnessed in almost 30 years of active ministry.

As I muse on all these experiences, I start to see a thread emerge—it's *conversion*. In Acts, when we read about the first Pentecost, what immediately happened after the coming of the Holy Spirit? Peter got up and preached the Kerygma, and over three thousand people were converted! And not just initial conversion, but ongoing conversion and intentional discipleship. Acts tells us that they, “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers . . . And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:42, 47). The pattern? Evangelization, conversion, invited into community and fellowship, rooted in relational prayer, ongoing discipleship, and mobilized for mission. This was the pattern of the early Church, and nothing has changed for us today. This is still the pattern and move of the Holy Spirit!

The *Catechism* tells us that the Holy Spirit converts the human heart (1989), and leads the faithful to all truth (91, 737). He enlightens, strengthens, and renews the Christian (1695), and helps and sustains faith (683-684). And it is the Holy Spirit who is the master of prayer (741, 2766) and the source of all holiness (749). This is exactly what I see the Spirit doing today in many places all across the country. ♦



Jim Beckman is a Professor at the Augustine Institute in Denver where he serves as a Lecturer of Leadership and Discipleship. He is a member of the National Service Committee. He and his wife, Meg, live in Highlands Ranch, Colorado with their five children.

freya-photographer/shutterstock

Young Adult Ministry

by Dave VanVickle
Coordinator



The Grace of "Newness"

With the 50th anniversary approaching I have been praying and thinking a great deal about the graces of the Renewal. From my perspective as a "church worker" I consider the grace of "newness" to be one of the greatest gifts of the Renewal. We believe that God can always do something new. This may seem overly simple but look around at Mass. Not everyone is expecting something new, not from God, nor from the Church, nor from us. Now look at a person who is baptized in the Spirit and you will see someone with the firm conviction that God often and actively intervenes in history and sends new currents of grace each and every day. Each prayer time, each Mass, each prayer meeting and each encounter offers the possibility of a new and powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There is no drudgery in life in the Spirit. We should always be looking for the new graces.

One of the new gifts, particularly for young adults, has to be the video series, "The Wild Goose" by Fr. Dave Pivonka. I had the honor of being a part of it. It isn't directed toward young people but Fr. Dave went out of his way to include several young adults who are living lives empowered by the Holy Spirit. Countless people have told me, "I thought that all that 'stuff' was for my parents."

We should always be looking for the new graces.

One person in particular, after watching the series, told me, "I heard about that charismatic stuff from my aunt but I didn't know the Spirit still moved that way!" We should all be looking for new graces and inspirations that will engage the world of today and break into the status quo, bringing this grace of newness. God can do something new for all of us. ♦

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"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty." Zechariah 4:6

Spirit-led religious and parish life

by Br. Sean Stilson, BBD

Years ago Fr. George Montague, SM and Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD felt the call to found a charismatic religious order. Their goal was to show that the Charismatic Renewal is not meant only for those people who like a particular style of prayer, but is intended by God to renew the entire Church, including religious life and parish life. Their desire came to fruition with the founding of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple.

A few years later they were entrusted with the care of St. Mary Magdalen parish in San Antonio, Texas. They intended to show that an entire parish can be renewed through a deeper focus on the Holy Spirit. Fr. Will Combs is currently the pastor of the parish; he strives to form lay people to recognize and use their charisms for the building up of the Church.

I joined the community almost six years ago. I had been involved in the Charismatic Renewal from my youth, so I was happy to discover a religious order whose primary mission is to open others to the full role of the Holy Spirit, including the charisms. I have just finished my pastoral year as part of my seminary training. The pastoral year is focused on engaging in a wide variety of ministry rather than taking classes. Besides the knowledge and skills I have gained and my deepened love for God's people, I have also had a lot of practice trusting the Holy Spirit. When I am scheduled to give a talk, lead prayer, or do some other form of ministry for which I have inadequate skill or insufficient time to prepare, I hand it over to the Holy Spirit, trusting that he cares more about the people than I do and will enable me to minister effectively.

Our community is happy to announce that Fr. Bob Hogan has recently re-

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This is a Franciscan and charismatic religious order of sisters, contemplative with evangelistic apostolates.

leased his first book, *Celebrating a Charismatic Jubilee*. It is a fresh look at the history and nature of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as well as an explanation of the charismatic and hierarchical dimensions of the Church. Anyone who wants to be able to explain and defend the Renewal would be helped greatly by this book.

We appreciate your prayers for the growth of our community in holiness, apostolic effectiveness, and number. ♦

Pentecost from page 5

For most Christians the Holy Spirit still remains *unknown* (Pope Leo XIII, 1897): very often he is a stranger to our religious culture, to the dominating cultural tendencies, to the catechetical and homiletics, to education in the areas of family and scholastic. At best, for most Christians, as affirmed by Pope Francis, the Holy Spirit is a *luxury prisoner* (May 9, 2016).

The *Culture of Pentecost* calls for those “devoted to the Spirit,” not “cultured” men and women who put God into a world of ideas and books. We need witnesses, who give citizenship to the Spirit, who are a reminder of the relevance of the Spirit and who do not desire notice other than to bring honor to God. The *Culture of Pentecost* is to be lived!

Pentecost gives birth to new men and women. A new “life style” is born, a new culture is born, which is spiritual in nature and it can neither be bought nor learned. It is something with which every person can experiment, so that they are able not only to resist evil, and to fight evil, but to defend good, to nourish good. At Pentecost true interior life of human history begins: Pentecost men and women learn “from within” what it means to live, to love, to suffer, and to lay down one's life for that in which you believe.

The *Culture of Pentecost* is the definitive truth with regard to everyone, in light of the true power that God gives. It is the final redemption of the fundamental truths of God over every deceit, lie, and falsehood of the present times,

without “delegating” to others one's personal commitment to always make space for the miracle of the Holy Spirit in human life. ♦



Since 1997, Salvatore Martinez has been the first lay person to lead *Rinnovamento nello Spirito Santo* (the *Renewal in the Holy Spirit in Italy*). He is also President of the Vatican Foundation “International Center Family of Nazareth,” for the development of the Magisterium of the Family in the world, with special mission to the Middle East. He is Consultor of three Pontifical Dicasteries: Laity, Family, and New Evangelization. Conference speaker in 35 countries on five continents on spiritual and social themes and has published 27 books.

The ADL Convocation and “Mission in Mercy”

by Steve Toth, Toledo, Ohio

The Association of Diocesan Liaisons (ADL) recently gathered for our annual convocation April 11–15. The theme this year was, in union with Pope Francis and the other National Leadership Groups, “Mission in Mercy” and was presented by Charles and Sue Whitehead from London, England.

We were wonderfully hosted this year by the Alleluia charismatic covenant community at their facilities in Augusta, Georgia. It was, for us who attended, an immersion in the 40 plus years of experience of the Whiteheads in their mission of leading God’s people to Pentecost and beyond. It was also an immersion in the life of the Alleluia Community.

The Whiteheads shared with us their experience of how the Holy Spirit worked through them to go to unexpected areas of mission with non-Catholic brothers and sisters, youth and the unchurched. They told many stories of the Holy Spirit moving mountains to open doors for mission. Their personal experience interspersed with many quotes from scripture, Popes, saints, and *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* led us to the shared conviction that we need to go to “the fringes” in ministry.

They reminded us that we have been baptized (immersed) in his Spirit. The process has begun but it is by no means over and the only way it can continue is by sharing what we have been given.

Of course, this is not always a comfortable thing to do but Charles pointed out that “when we walk in the current will of God for us we are at peace.”

We were given a chance to get out of our comfort zone and team up with community members and go on an “ultimate treasure hunt.” We prayed for a short time and asked the Holy Spirit for clues of where to go and descriptions of people to pray with. It was an amazing experience!

This is but a sample of what takes place when the ADL gathers together. We encourage all liaisons to join us next year. You will not be disappointed. ♦

For information on the Diocesan Liaison ministry go to www.associationofdiocesanliaisons.org.



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More information will be available soon on our website.



A weekend filled with: Praise and worship, morning Masses, General Sessions, Friday evening Healing Service with Damian Stayne of England, Preaching Saturday night by Fr. Mario Castenada.
Witnesses by Patti Mansfield, Ralph Martin, Marilyn Kramar, Dr. Vinson Synan, Dave Mangan, Ray Caparros, Dave VanVickle and others.
Tracks on Friday and Saturday mornings and afternoons will include Filipino, Haitian, Hispanic, Youth and NSC English.
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Join us for an “extraordinary time of grace.” You will not be disappointed.

From the Executive Director

.....



by Walter Matthews

Ribbons, Cultures and Honoring

I was blessed to be asked to be one of the five scissor-wielding ribbon cutters at the Ribbon Cutting and Eve of Pentecost Celebration at The Ark and The Dove. I had never ever been to a ribbon cutting but it was a moving experience to stand alongside Dave Mangan, Sr. Nancy Kellar, S.C., Fr. Joseph Mele (representative of the Diocese of Pittsburgh) and Johnny Bertucci to officially “open” The Ark and the Dove for its new phase of service to the Church and to the Renewal. As Johnny says elsewhere in this issue, it was and continues to be one of the surprises of the Holy Spirit. As we say down South, “y’all come!”

In this Year of Mission in Mercy, one of our four emphases is to “promote a culture of Pentecost.” Allow me to quote from the NSC and other National Leadership Groups’ Statement (available on our website):

Our mission includes bringing to “life that *‘culture of Pentecost’* that alone can make fruitful the civilization of love and friendly co-existence among peoples,” as Pope John Paul II encouraged us in 2002, and Pope Benedict echoed. For the two Popes “culture” is certainly more than prayer meetings or even other religious activities. It embraces all that the Church is! Pentecost is to be a living, experienced reality within the Church “where the Holy Spirit is known, loved, and frequently invoked; where the whole way of life flows

from the active presence of the Spirit and his gifts.” (ICCRS’ *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*, p 93).

The culture of Pentecost is not to be confined in the Church but through the Church needs to spread in our society in our economics, politics, international relations, and, of course, our “culture” in the sense of the arts, music, film and so on, transforming a “culture of death” into a “culture of life”; with an uncompromising commitment to the human dignity of all persons; and a passion that true justice, with mercy and love, be available to all.

This is a mission of global proportions. It moves us from our daily lives of witness to lives that, to quote the bumper sticker, think globally and act locally. This mission needs to be come part of our very souls. We are called and challenged to move beyond our comfort zones.

We are called to “teach about this dimension of the call to mission and to challenge all to see the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our day in new and deeper ways.”

One of those who has so taught us is Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia of the Diocese of Brooklyn. He celebrates the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood this June. We rejoice in his faithfulness and service to the Church and the Renewal especially among Haitians and Hispanics but truly for all the Renewal in his leadership of the Planning Committee for the Gathering of National Leadership Groups over the last ten years and his chairing of the 40th Conference held in New Jersey in 2007, the 45th held in Philadelphia in 2012, and the upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration in Pittsburgh for our Jubilee. *Ad Multos Annos.* ♦

Friends of the NSC

Thanks to the blessing of Martha Ann Maloney’s bequest, (see last issue) our regular Fund Raising income was \$34,546 above budget as of April 30 taking pressures off our usual spring cash flow issues. Without her bequest, we would have been \$10,000 below budget projections. Every donation counts. If you have not given recently, please consider a gift by mail or visit our secure website.

Thank you to the donor Prayer Group who gave *in memoriam* of Lina Camilleri. May perpetual light shine upon her!

Toward the Jubilee

The special Campaign over and above regular giving is nearing the \$400,000 level. We are grateful to all those who have so far responded to it.

Toward the Jubilee has enabled us to hire Dave VanVickle as our Young Adult Coordinator, and make a down payment on The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center in Pittsburgh, home of baptism in the Holy Spirit (which was later purchased with a loan). It has also increased the funding of the Third Millennium Fund for the New Evangelization, and supported the ongoing ministries of the NSC.

To read more about the Campaign visit our website. In early May, we sent a Press Release about the Campaign to diocesan newspapers and radio stations in over 20 cities and to key Renewal leaders across the county. The press release is also on our website.





What we have seen and heard

by Sr. Ann Shields, S.G.L.



Spreading the gospel here and around the world

God “entered” my life in two most remarkable ways in 1967 and in 1971. While I had not been introduced formally to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal until a little later, I came to realize through those two personal events that there really was the Living God who cared for us all and who cared for me, loved us all with a love beyond all telling and loved me personally as well. It is the “old” story of learning for years about Christ and then coming to “meet” him in a most remarkable way. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal “confirmed” my own experience and opened me to willingly spend myself and to be spent in order to help as many as I could to really know him and love him and serve him, not just in this life, but forever!

Through my participation in Catholic Charismatic communities in Steubenville, Ohio at Franciscan University and in the Word of God Community in Ann Arbor, Michigan, many relationships were built. I became acquainted with two men, Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck who were in the same parish as I, Christ the King Parish in Ann Arbor. Through common events and

service (FIRE Rallies), we began to realize that God was asking for some particular service at home and abroad from the three of us. Renewal Ministries was formed in the early 80’s (I became a part in the late 80’s) as an organization devoted to Catholic Evangelism through television (*The Choices We Face*); Catholic radio (*Food for the Journey, Fire on the Earth*); writing of books and articles; producing CD’s, DVD’s and through parish evangelization and mission work. (Ralph, in particular, has been asked to minister at priests’ convocations and meetings of Bishops. He also serves as a full Professor at Sacred Heart major seminary in Detroit.)

We began to experience, in those early years, requests to speak and serve not only in the US but in many parts of the world. I personally have been privileged to speak in 32 different countries of the love of God for us and the need to respond to him through the power of the Holy Spirit. Overall, Renewal Ministries is serving in teaching in North America and in mission work in 40 some countries which Peter Herbeck oversees. People from across North America who have experienced

the power of the Holy Spirit have volunteered to join Renewal Ministries’ country coordinators in spreading the Gospel and bringing both spiritual and medical aid to many.

This was all God’s work and God’s initiative—and continues to be. If you’d like to learn more about God’s work through Renewal Ministries, go to our web site: www.renewalministries.net. You will see a link to a 20 minute video where we tell the story of God’s Holy Spirit at work in us and through us.

The Holy Spirit is ever new, seeking daily to bring many who are lost or confused safely home! Here in North America where I spend most of my time, I see so many people in so many parishes, baptized and confirmed who perhaps know about God but they have not heard or sometimes have even ignored the graces that God is always seeking to give to those who ask...God never forces us to follow him but he is always pursuing us for our good and for our happiness. We never cease to be grateful for the ways God has and is using us to reach many. ♦

Baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1971, Sr. Ann Shields, S.G.L., is an internationally noted conference and retreat speaker, and the author of numerous books on Catholic spirituality. She is a member of The Servants of God’s Love, a charismatic religious community. Sr. Ann was awarded the Benemerenti Medal by Pope Benedict XVI in September of 2012 for service to the Church.

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