

Spring 2016

PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Year of Mission in Mercy



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Chairman's Corner

by Johnny Bertucci

"When we pray we speak to God; but when we read, God speaks to us."

— St. Jerome

When I was baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1979, one of the surprising side effects was a voracious appetite for spiritual literature, particularly books on living the life in the Spirit through the Charismatic Renewal. Today, as we continue our journey toward the Jubilee, there are new books being published that should be on everyone's must-read list.

The first is *As By a New Pentecost: The Dramatic Beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Golden Jubilee Edition* (revised with additional material), by Patti Gallagher Mansfield, a participant of the 1967 Duquesne Weekend. Those new to baptism in the Holy Spirit can discover the genesis of this movement that has touched over 120 million people around the world. For veterans of the Renewal, this book will reconnect you with its beginnings and remind you of the excitement and joy of those early years.

The second is *Celebrating a Charismatic Jubilee: A Fresh Look at Charismatic Renewal and the Charismatic Dimension of the Church*, by former NSC Chairman Fr. Bob Hogan, co-founder of the Charismatic religious community Brothers of the Beloved Disciple. As the subtitle indicates, this book provides a fresh perspective on understanding and living out the full role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The third is *The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Edition of the New Testament*. This beautifully illustrated and annotated book uses the New American Bible Revised Edition (NABRE) translation, with an introduction about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal called "An Invitation."

The fourth is *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*, published in 2012 by the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Doctrinal Commission. This book is a great resource both theologically and pastorally, reflecting on the heart of the Renewal: baptism in the Holy Spirit.

As we approach our Jubilee, be sure to read about our beginnings and reflections on our 50 years. Information on purchasing these books is available on our website at www.nsc-chariscenter.org. ♦



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne
Schaezner, SSND

Several articles in this Spring Issue of *Pentecost Today* highlight the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

In his book, *The Name of God is Mercy*, Pope Francis refers to Jesus' saying that he came not for the healthy but for the sick. And then he writes, "For this reason we can say that mercy is God's identity card. God of Mercy, merciful God" (p 9).

The story of LAMP Catholic Ministries (p 3), the ministry of Tom and Lyn Scheuring for 35 years, illustrates their "posture of mercy toward the suffering Jesus in all those we serve."

Tom Mangan, in *The New Evangelization in the Year of "Mission in Mercy"* (pp 4-5), writes that "our mission must be laced with mercy."

Msgr. Joseph Malagrega (pp 6-7) steeps us in the message from Vatican Council II, explaining that the New Evangelization must be new in ardor, methods and expressions.

We are introduced to the 2016 Leaders' and Ministries' Conference (pp 8-9) with the theme of Mission Mercy. Walter Matthews (p 14) writes that it could also have been called, "Heralds of God's Mercy."

Deacon Keith Fournier (p 13) writes of receiving a heart for the whole Body of Christ.

We are challenged to learn the ways of mercy, the ways of God, in how we interrelate with one another, the gifted elders with the gifted young (pp 10 and 12). How are we merciful toward one another and then how do we allow that mercy to spill over to all we meet?

How do we allow God to work through us? (p 15).

How closely will our identity card resemble that of our merciful God? ♦

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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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Compassion to the Poor

35 Years of LAMP Catholic Ministries

by Tom and Lyn Scheuring

A 60-hour bus trip with our family wasn't something we were particularly interested in making, but it was the only way we could get from NYC to El Paso for the month of December in 1978. We would be serving the poor in Juarez, Mexico, with Fr. Rick Thomas, SJ. We felt that God was putting a desire on our hearts to serve among the poor, through evangelization. We wanted to test that call.

Two years later, after studying Spanish and Pastoral Missiology for six months in San Antonio, and a year as "lay ministers of evangelization" in a poor Mexican parish there, we decided, through prayer, to begin a missionary service for the materially poor by witnessing to God's mercy through evangelization.

It was on March 25, 1981, the Feast of the Annunciation, that we received an affirmative letter from Cardinal Terence Cooke, of the New York Archdiocese, in response to our request to begin LAMP (Lay Apostolic Ministries *with* the Poor) Ministries. We acknowledge that date as the beginning of LAMP.

Our three children (grade schoolers at that time) were quick to point out that we needed to have some outreach to children. Thus LAMPlighters was born—a club that met monthly to help the children grow in showing love and mercy toward the poor. Marybeth Mutmanský Greene, who was on the Duquesne Weekend, and with us from the beginning of LAMP, developed and administered LAMPlighters. She

and her husband, Ed, are LAMP's Pastoral Directors.

In the beginning, LAMP Missionaries served in poor parishes, but over the years LAMP's service has expanded to include: door-to-door visits in shelters for homeless families (14,500 in NYC); large city hospitals where most patients are poor, severely disabled and permanently in-residence; a youth detention center and a first time offenders residence; pregnancy counseling (LAMP for Life) in front of Planned Parenthood in the South Bronx; nursing homes in areas of poverty; various forms of street evangelization, including the LAMP-café, a 4-days-a-week canteen truck outreach in front of two Catholic Churches in the South Bronx where a simple lunch is shared with anywhere from 50 to 140 of those in need. In addition they are offered a New Testament and a rosary, as well as a visit and an opportunity to receive prayer.

On one occasion a man who was intoxicated approached the LAMPcafé. Lyn approached him, greeted him, gave him food and a drink and began to visit with him. She asked him his name (acknowledging his dignity). "Andrew" was the response. Lyn mentioned that the previous day was his Feast Day. The two talked for awhile. Lyn prayed with him, and as Andrew was beginning to leave, she called out to him, "Pray for us" (affirming his dignity by allowing him to do something for us). On the spot, with some imbalance, he put his food and drink on the sidewalk and began to pray. His prayer was extremely

reverent and very profound. When he finished, he was sober. "A poor man's prayer pierces the clouds" (Sir 35:21). He picked up his drink and food and said: "You people make me feel so comfortable." He walked away a few steps, turned around and repeated it. Walking again a few steps he did it a third time. Then he went on his way, having experienced God's mercy.

In 1999, the same year Cardinal John O'Connor gave LAMP Ministries the canonical status of "Private Association of Christian Faithful," he began a "Council of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities." Much to our surprise, he invited LAMP Ministries to be part of it. At the first gathering he asked each group to share about their movement. Unsure as to what to share, when it came to Lyn's turn, she had an inspiration to say: "Our movement is the merciful beating Heart of Jesus in his compassion for the poor." Along with the merciful beating Heart of Mary, this is the core of LAMP's spirituality. It has strengthened our posture of mercy toward the suffering Jesus in all those we serve.

Pope Francis stated in *The Joy of the Gospel*: "...I want to say, with regret, that the worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care."

See www.lampministries.org to learn more about Lamp Ministries. ♦

Dr. Tom & Dr. Lyn Scheuring have been in ministry together in the Catholic Church for their 48 years of marriage, being gifted with three children. They are



Founders and Directors of LAMP Catholic Ministries, which began in 1981.

The New Evangelization in the Year of “MISSION in MERCY”

*You've got to be
kidding me, Jesus!*



by Tom Mangan

When I study Sacred Scripture I read it as though I am doing so for the first time, I try not to anticipate what is about to happen. Then I place myself into the story and let it take me to wherever it goes. The result is almost always enlightening and sometimes downright hilarious.

As I was reflecting on this year of “Mission in Mercy,” I read the Gospel of Mark 4:35-5:5. Speaking to his disciples, Jesus says, “Let’s go to the other side of the lake.” Now this suggestion couldn’t be any more routine. Their eager response was probably not unlike something we might say: “Sure, why not?” There is no reason to deny Jesus this simple request. I can hear them say something like, “Let’s do it!”

Little do they realize what is about to happen—a furious storm develops that terrifies these seasoned fishermen. Now in the midst of this “hurricane,” Jesus is not steering nor is he bailing water—instead he’s fast asleep! (*You’ve got to be kidding me!*) Apparently this is fine sleeping weather for him. Remember, this little excursion was his idea in the first place.

We are called out into the deep where the waters are rough and we don’t yet know what that means or where that may take us.

Finally, in their fear and anger they awaken and rebuke him, “Do you not care that we are perishing?” After he rebukes the storm, he rebukes them by saying, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”

But wait, it gets worse. When they arrive safely on the other side the welcoming committee is led by a demoniac! (*You’ve got to be kidding me, Jesus!*) This isn’t what they signed on for.

When we answer the call to tell the Good News of mercy, I’m sure, like the disciples rowing to the other side of the lake, we have no idea what may happen.

Our call to evangelize is not easy. It is a daily challenge to live up to it, but I believe baptism in the Holy Spirit emboldens us. Moreover, Pope Francis thinks so too! Over the past few years he has challenged us to promote the culture of Pentecost.

The Holy Father exhorts us as missionary disciples—we are called out into the deep where the waters are rough and we don’t yet know what that means or where that may take us—but it will be full of surprises. When the disciples signed on as evangelizers, they were stepping into the unknown. They knew precious little of what Jesus had in mind. They were simply committed to a person in whom they had belief and trust and they were willing to put their lives on the line. So must we.

Like them, we never know what God has in store for us when he calls. When Jesus says, “Come, follow me,” he plays

rough. The call always stretches us. It takes us into places we never thought we could go and causes us to be more than we thought we could be. Difficulties make us look into ourselves to see if anybody is home. Pursuing the call will soon reveal who we are and whose we are.

The purpose of the Father is to stretch us into the image of his Son. We want to become more like the Master than those to whom the Master has called us to serve. To be Christ-like is no easy task. It is more important than ministry and requires great grace and trust. We need the Holy Spirit if we are to succeed in fulfilling our mission in mercy as the new evangelizers. We need his courage and strength if we are to face our culture and “go out to the peripheries” to reach sacramentalized Catholics, the unchurched and de-churched.

Our mission must be laced with mercy. Our call must be one that goes beyond words and into actions; it should be a state of being. The glory of God must shine through in all that we do.

I believe we can only give what we ourselves have actually received—and we have received a lot. The joy of the Lord, the zeal for spreading the Kingdom and the love that has been poured into our hearts (Rom 5:5) as a result of baptism in the Holy Spirit are just some of the fruit that are ours to share with others.

Pope Francis has “commissioned” us to take baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church and beyond. But even more than that, our mission includes creating a “culture of Pentecost”—a loving environment where the Holy Spirit is known and his fruit is evident.

To this end we have the Life in the Spirit Seminar, a unique instrument to bring others into this wonderful “current of grace” that we so enjoy. It can be a tool to evangelize our families, friends, co-workers, neighbors and fellow parishioners. But to use this tool effectively, we must approach people with a fresh fervor and enthusiasm. We should use every means available for our mission, including social media and other new venues at our disposal to “shout it from the housetops.”

No one can resist an honest heartfelt testimony of how the Holy Spirit altered our lives.

Though we may not be teachers and feel ill-equipped to lead a Life in the Spirit Seminar, we can still respond to Pope Francis’ exhortation to evangelize. We have a story to tell, so tell it we must. It is our personal story of how God’s grace has flooded our hearts; how it has changed us and shaped our lives.

No one can resist an honest heartfelt testimony of how the Holy Spirit altered our lives. A person with an argument is no match for a person with an authentic experience of God’s manifest presence.

In his own inimitable fashion, Pope Francis calls us on even farther by saying we should be “acting in mercy, especially to the poor.”

This witness of lifting up the lowly, acting kindly to the downtrodden, visiting the sick and praying for all those in desperate situations are visible signs of what the Holy Father has in mind. He wants to see a reflection of “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col 1:27). He recognizes that there is a hurting world that we can’t ignore—the least

we can do is demonstrate the Gospel in our corporal works of mercy. The Kingdom is here and we must go tell the news wherever we can.

Let’s be clear. Gratitude for the love of the Holy Spirit being poured into our hearts is compelling us to join in Jesus’ mission in the world. His love provides the possibility for us to go after the lost ones.

How can we suppress the desire to share with others this great grace that is now ours? It is because of what we have received that we can freely give. The greater our love, the greater is our compassion for those who have no experience of such a Savior. The burden of mission moves us to share what we enjoy with those who don’t have it.

Pope Francis says it this way, “...and with Bibles, with the Word of God, go, preach the novelty that Jesus has given us. Preach to the poor, to the marginalized, to the blind, to the sick, to the imprisoned, to all men and women...May the Lord accompany you in this mission.”

I will end where I began, with another boating sequence from John 6:16-21, where Jesus walks on the water and approaches the disciples who rowed out about three miles. Again they are terrified because the sea is rough and the wind is wild, but when Jesus draws closer they are glad to take him in and immediately they arrive at the land to which they are going.

Wow, you’ve got to be kidding me, Jesus! ♦



Tom Mangan is a member of the National Service Committee and founding member and former Overall Coordinator of the People of God Community in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

A Missionary Church

by Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia

The word “*evangelization*” only began to be used frequently in the Catholic Church since the Second Vatican Council. But the more traditional word is *mission*. And, of course, we have been a *missionary Church* since the beginning.

The Bible passage which most clearly emphasizes *mission* is: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...” (Mt 28:16-20). The passage which emphasizes *evangelization* is “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me, to bring Good News to the poor...” (Lk 4:16-19). It can be said that *mission* emphasizes the sending; *evangelization* emphasizes the Good News and the conversion.

The sixteen Vatican II documents are filled with passages about evangelization. The two documents on the Church,

Lumen Gentium and *Gaudium et Spes*, speak very clearly about the Church’s role to evangelize. But the key document of Vatican II concerning evangelization is *Ad Gentes*, which is a reflection on the missionary nature of the Church. It is here that the three arenas of evangelization were first carefully delineated: i) there is a need for evangelization of people who are already “sacramentalized” but do not have a living relationship with Jesus; ii) even in countries which are already “Christian,” there are many people who have not yet effectively heard the Gospel; iii) and *Ad gentes*, there are places in the world where people do not know the Good News of Jesus.

On December 8, 1975, the 10th Anniversary of the close of Vatican II, Pope Paul VI issued the Apostolic Exhortation “*Evangelii Nuntiandi*” (On

**We have been a
missionary Church
since the beginning.**

Evangelization in the Modern World). This document is really the foundational teaching of all evangelization that the Church undertakes in the 20th and 21st century, and the Popes that have succeeded Paul VI constantly refer to it in the teachings.

Pope St. John Paul II is believed to be the one who coined the phrase *The New Evangelization*. It can be traced back to his visit to Haiti in 1983, less than five years after he began his Pontificate. Of course, to characterize an evangelization as “*new*” means that there was a previous evangelization. He meant all the earlier efforts of the Church to spread the Gospel from Israel to Rome; from Rome to the Roman Empire; beyond the Empire to Ireland, Scotland and the Slavs; and the great evangelistic efforts of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. The peoples of America know Jesus because of these remarkable missions.

But why is the evangelization “*new*”? Saint John Paul II makes it clear that the message is not new, it is the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus’ Incarnation, Death and Resurrection; of the kerygma, salvation in Christ. He uses three phrases to explain how the evangelization is *new*: new in its *ardor*; new in its *methods*; new in its *expressions*. It is worthwhile to understand the Charismatic Renewal as a post-Vatican Council outpouring of grace, which Jesus has given to the Church precisely for the purpose of the New Evangelization. In other words, the outpouring of the Spirit, the giving of charisms, and the renewal of Spirit-filled life that

Three arenas of evangelization

1. There is a need for evangelization of people who are already “sacramentalized” but do not have a living relationship with Jesus.
2. Even in countries which are already “Christian,” there are many people who have not yet effectively heard the Gospel.
3. There are places in the world where people do not know the Good News of Jesus.

It can be said that mission emphasizes the sending; evangelization emphasizes the Good News and the conversion.

many Catholics and other Christians experience since the Vatican Council, all has been given precisely so that we can cooperate with the Church in the New Evangelization.

In a certain sense, the Charismatic Renewal seeks to fulfill the three phrases of St. John Paul II: **ardor; methods; expressions.**

Ardor: Jesus sets our hearts on fire by the Holy Spirit.

It is at the heart of the charismatic experience to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Jesus sets our hearts on fire by the Holy Spirit. It is this outpouring, this new life, this love that drives us to tell the world about Jesus. Any Church program that does not engage people with the fire of the Spirit is bound to fail. Jesus baptizes us in the Spirit precisely so that we may evangelize in power, on fire. Anyone who has the Spirit burning in his heart will cry out as Peter did in the Acts: *"It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard!"* (Acts 4:20).

Methods: the use of modern media and new methods

Clearly St. John Paul II was thinking about the use of modern media in the cause of evangelization. When missionaries came to America with Christopher Columbus, they did not have microphones or telephones or internet or any of the marvelous technological developments available to us today. But it would be incorrect just to understand new methods as simply the use of technology. The New Evangelization also uses new methods like Life in the Spirit Seminars, Schools of Evangelization, Charismatic Retreats and new types of meetings to assist people in meeting Jesus

that are extensive and daily growing. Don't be afraid to employ new methods!

Expressions: evangelization is now done by lay people and ecclesial movements.

I believe that when St. John Paul II talked about new "expressions," he was referring to a phenomenon in the modern Church, that evangelization is now done by lay people. The pre-Vatican Church relied very heavily on priests and religious. Of course, priests and religious are heavily involved in the mission today. But the involvement of lay people is impressive. As is the growth of ecclesial movements, of which the Charismatic Renewal is one of the largest! This is part of a new springtime in the Church, the flowering of vocations to evangelize in all levels and areas of the Church, including marriage, youth, children, prayer groups, communities, missionary societies, lay evangelists, lay preachers, television and radio and internet ministries, healing ministries. The list goes on.

Pope Francis has challenged us to carry on the New Evangelization in remarkable ways. His first Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, echoes these themes in practical and simple ways. He exhorts lay people to begin evangelizing immediately. He uses five words to describe the activities necessary: initiate; involve; accompany; fructify; celebrate. He tells us that evangelizing is not the result of a course, or a training, although these help. Rather, evangelizing is a result of meeting Jesus and sharing his life in deep ways, and anyone can do that (see par 24).

And I will be bold enough to say that he has given us the **Year of Mercy** pre-

Prayer Card



Descend, Holy Spirit
of Life!

Come down into our
hearts, that we may live.

Descend into emptiness,
that emptiness
may be filled.

Descend into the dust,
that the dust may flower.

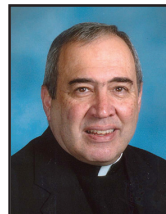
Descend into the dark,
that the light may shine
in darkness.

Prayer by Caryll Houselander



cisely as the context for the New Evangelization. Since God is mercy, you can only evangelize in mercy. The face you must show when you bring the Good News is the face of Christ, who is the mercy of God. It is out of mercy that we, on fire with the Holy Spirit, share the Gospel. As Pope Francis called himself in his journey to Mexico, so he calls us all to be *missionaries of mercy*. ♦

Msgr. Joseph Malagrega is a parish pastor in the Diocese of Brooklyn. He serves the Haitian and Hispanic Renewal, both locally and nationally. He is chairperson of the Planning Committee for the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Conference to be held in Pittsburgh.



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

For preparations to celebrate the 50th Jubilee of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 2017, that many people may be drawn into this current of grace.

For the fulfillment of Pope Leo XIII's 1897 proclamation in our time for a New Pentecost for the New Evangelization: "that throughout the whole Catholic Church, this year and every subsequent year, a novena shall take place before (Pentecost), in all parish churches."



That the Holy Spirit would renew our hope and that we would each find opportunities to reach out, mentor, witness to, and empower for leadership all those, especially young adults, who are open to this grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.



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But Jesus is going to Atlanta and he is always busy.

"Come now, let us leave..."

An Invitation to the 2016 Leaders' and Ministries' Conference

In the Gospel of John, Jesus had to pass through Samaria on his way from Judaea to Galilee (Jn 4:3-4). Some of his followers couldn't go with him because Samaria was off limits for them.

I suspect that Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews and "a nighttime disciple" of Jesus (Jn 3:1-2), was one of those unable to make such a journey. I want you to imagine Jesus enlisting Nicodemus as a travel companion: "Nicodemus, I'm off to Samaria—care to join me?" "I can't go there," he replies.

Now I want you to think of Jesus inviting us to go to Atlanta for the 2016 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference. Our restrictions aren't the same as those of Nicodemus, but we do have serious obstacles preventing us from making the trip. Actually,

there may be a lot on our plate at the moment—we all have very busy schedules. In fact, our lives are fairly busy. But Jesus is going to Atlanta and he is always busy. When I think of it that way all I can say is, "Yes, Lord. I'll go to Atlanta with you."

I've been to my fair share of conferences and I have heard some of the very best speakers. I've worshipped with hundreds and thousands of people. I don't need to be pumped up nor do I need to jump start my faith. However, I do need to be where Jesus is and I want to be with his people.

Praise, worship and blessed fellowship are the air that I breathe. I must have these vital elements of the Christian life to sustain my living faith and my precious love of God. For those reasons, I am off to Atlanta. Come with me, please!

There will be anointed speakers with excellent words of wisdom for us. There will be glorious worship and relaxing fellowship. The presence of Almighty God awaits us. It will be an unforgettable time, so won't you come?

Let me give some particular information about our gathering this year. Dave VanVickle, our Coordinator of Young Adult Outreach, will speak. He will bring a fervor and freshness that will invigorate the young and inspire the elders among us. Everyone will be amazed at his wisdom. Sr. Lucy Lukasiewicz comes with joy direct from the Holy Spirit. Her gentleness will both touch and light us with the fire of God's abiding love. Jim Murphy will bring his powerful teaching gift. With it we will learn some of the deeper things of the Father's Kingdom.

Together, this team will enlighten and deeply challenge us as we continue our spiritual journey. I expect our lives to be changed significantly as a result of our exposure to these gifted teachers of God's Sacred Word.

This Leaders' and Ministries' Conference will be more ethnically diverse than ever and there will be an even bigger emphasis on young adults than in the past. Our theme, "Mission Mercy," will underscore Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy. The workshop sessions will highlight men and women who have been called by God to serve the poor and marginalized—men and women who have been empowered for personal holiness to work for over four decades with those brothers and sisters who desire to experience the touch of our merciful Father.

They will raise our awareness of the importance of living out our faith in

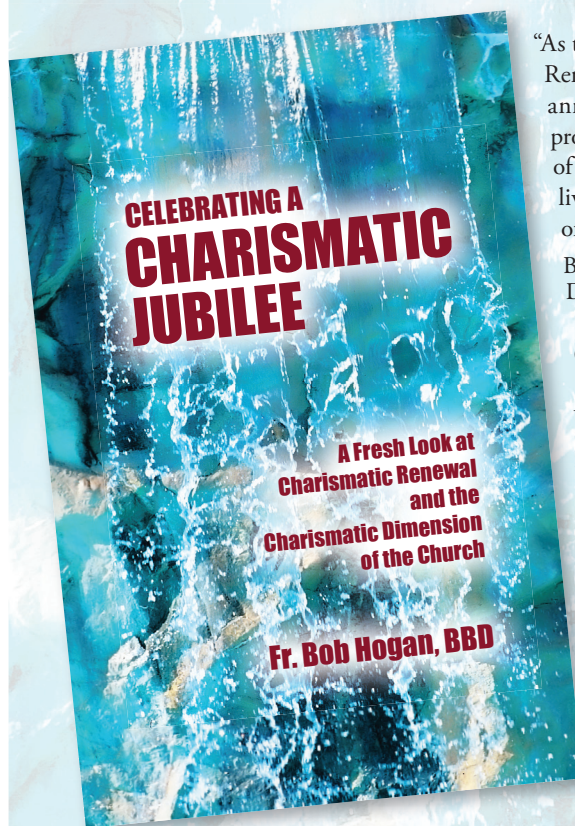
visible ways that demonstrate the love and mercy that is part of our Catholic heritage and mission as charismatics. These ministers will challenge us with more than words. They will challenge us with their witness—their very lives.

As I said in the beginning, I believe Jesus will be in Atlanta this November and I

plan to be there with him. I hear him saying, "Tom, you may not feel up to it, but would you join me on this mercy mission?" My heart leaps within my chest and I can only say, "Yes, Lord. I can't think of a better place to be!" ♦

Tom Mangan is a member of the National Service Committee.

A MUST-READ for everyone in the Renewal!



"As the Catholic Charismatic Renewal celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2017, Fr. Bob Hogan provides truly a fresh reflection of the role of this Renewal in the lives of individuals and in the life of the Church."

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FR. BOB HOGAN, BBD is a former Chairman of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He and Fr. George Montague co-founded the Charismatic and Religious Community, the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple. He is the Director of the Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Fr. Hogan is a gifted teacher and travels across the country to speak.





Charismatic Renewal and Young Adults



by John Beaulieu

Houston, We Have A Problem

“The United States Catholic Church has a young adult problem.” I cannot tell you how many times I have heard that statement over the past few years. Between 70 and 80% of young Catholics who are active in their faith at age 15 are inactive by age 28. They leave the Church for a non-denominational congregation (often with a Pentecostal style of worship) or they fall into the ever-expanding category of people who label themselves as a “none.”

That Is Your Problem, Not Mine

But I do not think it is fair to say the Church has a young adult problem. Young adults are not the problem. If anything, they are the great hope for the Church. The challenge for the Church is to present the fullness of the faith to young adults in a way that is transformative and transcendent and empowering for young people to live the faith. In that way, charismatic renewal is our great hope and holds the key to reclaiming lost generations. The Holy Spirit is the only one who can, in times of great

relativism, materialism, and growing atheism, break through the great cloud of deceit and indifference and like a lighthouse, guide the young Church back into his loving arms.

Do You Even Know Me?

So much has been written about this current generation. They have been labeled as “Generation Y,” the “Mosaics” and the “iGen.” They have been described as narcissists, self-centered, entitled, hedonistic and lazy. We need to stop labeling young adults and start getting to know them. Many of the young adults I know struggle with self-identity, anxiety and depression. They are not hostile towards religion, they just have not seen a true living witness of a joyful disciple. They have become skeptical of institutions—especially religions. The sexual scandals of the Catholic Church, not to mention the throw-away attitude towards life and marriage that have been the hallmarks of their culture have left them questioning everything.

Redeemed, Restored, Renewed

Fortunately, I see many places in the Church today that are able to break through and reach young adults with the message of Christ’s love. The common factor in most of these ministries is that they lead young adults to baptism in the Holy Spirit. There are smaller parish-based ministries that sponsor Life in the Spirit events and prayer gatherings for young adults. In many areas these extend to diocesan-wide events that both engage and inspire young adults to live as joyful disciples through the power of the Holy Spirit. On the national level, ministries like NET, Life Teen and FOCUS are leading their missionaries to a deeper encounter with the Holy Spirit and sending them forth with his power and love to transform the lives of those they serve. These missionaries are impacting the lives of hundreds of thousands of other young Catholics each year.

On the campus of Franciscan University where I work, hundreds of students go through a Born in the Spirit retreat each semester. This is part of the transformative experience of being a student at Franciscan and helps

[See Young Adults next page](#)

prepare the graduates we send forth to serve the Church in lay and religious vocations and ministries. The Holy Spirit is active and alive in the hearts of young Catholics and he is renewing and restoring the hearts and lives of young adults everywhere he is invited.

A New Pentecost

There are a few things that are essential to reaching young adults with the message of renewal through the Holy Spirit. First we need to understand that the Holy Spirit will come in the way he sees fit for this new generation. Too many leaders in renewal are expecting the Holy Spirit to show up and do what he did twenty or thirty years ago. This will only limit and stifle what the Spirit wants to do today. Second, young adults need mentoring and accompaniment based on authentic love and relationship. Young adults will not really care how much we know until they know how much we care. Finally, we need to be empowering young adults for mission. Young adults want to make a difference. There has never been a bigger "difference maker" in the life of the Church than

Pentecost. We need to pray for this to happen again for this generation.

Ask the Holy Spirit to Renew Your Hope

Brothers and sisters, do not be afraid to trust the Holy Spirit with the task of renewing the Church today. Do not lose hope that the gift given on Pentecost and renewed in our time will continue his work in the hearts and lives of young Catholics. Support the work of those who bring renewal to young people and pray for their efforts. ♦

John Beaulieu works in the Christian Outreach Office at Franciscan University. He developed his passion for ministry while traveling as a missionary with NET ministries. During his thirty years of ministry John has spoken to thousands of teens and adults each year at parish, diocesan and national events. John lives in Steubenville, Ohio with his wife Lisa and their five children.






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Young Adult Ministry

by Dave VanVickle
Coordinator



Pray, Relate, Witness and Empower

Do we want a renewal of young people? The response I have gotten from those in the Renewal is a resounding, “Yes!” I’ve gotten the chance to speak with Renewal leaders from around the country, all with one question: “How do we pass on the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit to the next generation?” I am sure there are many complicated solutions, programs and processes that seek to answer that question but I think it’s simple. I think four elements are essential to passing on to my generation the new life we have found. Those elements are Prayer, Relationship, Witness and Empowerment.

I had the chance, one summer, to volunteer at the offices of the Community of God’s Delight, in Dallas, Texas. I did light office work and occasionally moved furniture. In

between tasks I had the chance to spend many hours talking with Bobbie J. Cavnar, a leader of our community and the Renewal at large. Those conversations with Bobbie played a pivotal role in my spiritual life. One of the things I remember most clearly was how often I found out he had been praying for me. He’d say something in passing like, “When I was praying for you this morning the Lord said....” It was clear that I was a daily focus of his prayer while volunteering there. He also invited me into his life. We talked all about our families and struggles and he would ask about my week. He wanted a real relationship. Bobbie was a very wise and gifted teacher but he rarely used the time to teach. Instead, I remember him telling me what the Lord had done in his life. That witness was so compelling I desperately wanted what he had. Finally, and perhaps most shocking at the time, Bobbie was not afraid to empower me. When someone came to the office for prayer he often invited me to participate, often even letting me lead prayer. Under his guidance I learned how to pray with and for people and the proper use of the charisms.

To cooperate with the renewal of the next generation it’s very simple. We can all imitate what Bobbie did for me. We need to pray for them, invite them into real relationship, witness to them and then empower them to become leaders as well. Come Holy Spirit! ♦

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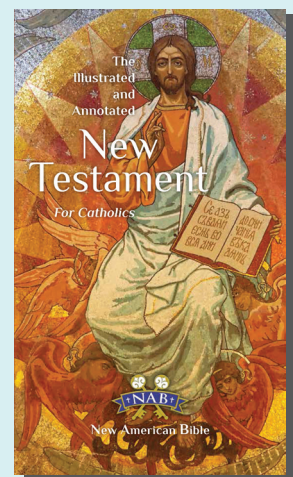
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Called to be a missionary

by Deacon Keith Fournier

My life was profoundly changed by an encounter with the Holy Spirit over four decades ago which assisted my return home to the Catholic Church into which I had been baptized as a child. It is the same Holy Spirit which has also given me a heart for the whole Body of Christ and set my life on a path of collaboration with other Christians, across the confessional spectrum.

The Holy Spirit opened the word of God to me and I fell in love with the teaching of the Church. After a time of discerning a monastic vocation, I knew the call to Christian marriage as a vocation. The Lord brought me my beloved bride, Laurine. We recently celebrated 40 years of marriage, have five grown children and seven grandchildren. The Holy Spirit gives us the

grace we need to live our Christian marriage as a vocation and family as a domestic church.

The Holy Spirit led me to the early Steubenville miracle led by Fr. Michael Scanlan. After a degree in theology and philosophy, I went to Law School, to represent our youngest neighbors whose lives are taken by the evil of "legal" abortion. The Holy Spirit opened my eyes to the great Social teaching of the Catholic Church. After serving at the University, I dedicated my legal career to defending life, liberty and family.

I was ordained to the Diaconate in Christ twenty years ago and began my study of theology. I hold a Masters in Theology from the John Paul II Institute and am still working toward

completion of the PhD in Moral Theology from the Catholic University. My purpose is not career change. I believe we are in a new missionary age and I am called to be a Missionary to a collapsing western culture and I want to be faithful and effective.

The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church and the source of her power for such mission. The Church needs to rise up in this hour with the same power with which she transformed the world of the first centuries. She will, by the power of the Holy Spirit! ♦

Deacon Keith Fournier is the Founder and Chairman of the Common Good Foundation. He is a constitutional lawyer, a published author and a popular speaker.



He and his wife Laurine have five children and seven grandchildren. He serves St Stephen Martyr Parish in Chesapeake, Virginia.

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From the Executive Director

.....



by Walter Matthews

Heralds of God's Mercy

In his proclamation of “The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy,” Pope Francis called each of us to “constantly contemplate the mystery of mercy...[and] at times...to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives” (2-3). Later, “The Church feels the urgent need to proclaim God’s mercy. Her life is authentic and credible only when she becomes a convincing herald of God’s mercy” (25).

So too the Renewal. Thanks be to God for the many “Ministries of Mercy” that have been birthed in and through the Renewal. LAMP Ministries (see p 3) is a shining example of lives transformed and encouraged by the Holy Spirit working to serve the poor and needy in inner cities, garbage dumps, outside abortion clinics, in food banks—and yes, even on college campuses.

One of our Strategic Priorities is to: “Identify, make known, and encourage outreach in the Holy Spirit to the poor.” We are in the process of identifying such ministries and so listing them on our Renewal Contacts Database on our website. Our hope is to re-enkindle this charism in the Renewal, to stay connected to these servants and continue to offer support through our prayer and resources. We hope to utilize our website, *Pentecost Today*, eNewsletter and other media to promote what God is asking of us through Pope Francis, to be “close to the poor.”

If you are actively engaged in a “ministry of mercy” to the poor, needy, homeless, those in prison and so on—and are doing such in the power of the Spirit (or know of some such ministry), we want to know. Please contact us.

Related is another of our Strategic Priorities: to identify, link and support ministries in the Renewal doing evangelization so as to strengthen the Renewal’s contribution to the New Evangelization. Here we presume that all prayer groups and covenant communities are in some way evangelistic! We are specifically looking for those persons, groups and teams engaged in evangelistic activities at the trans-diocesan levels, or through media (blogs!).

As Pope Francis said in his address to the Renewal last July, “And this is the most important service—the most important that can be given to everyone in the Church: to help the People of God in their personal encounter with Jesus Christ, who changes us into new men and women, in little groups, humble but effective, because it is the Spirit that works.” He continued, “And with Bibles, with the Word of God, go; preach the novelty that Jesus has given us. Preach to the poor, to the marginalized, to the blind, to the sick, to the imprisoned, to all men and women. The Spirit is within every one, who wishes to be helped to open wide the door to make him flourish again. May the Lord accompany you in this mission, always with the Bible in hand, always with the Gospel in your pocket, with the Word of Christ.”

Our hope is to encourage this charism in the Charismatic Renewal. If you are engaged in such a ministry or know of one, please let us know.

Finally, come join us in Atlanta this November. Our theme is Mission Mercy. We could have called it “Heralds of God’s Mercy”. ♦

Friends of the NSC

We want to publicly thank the thirty-seven donors who contributed last Fall to our Special Appeal for money for scholarships to assist young adult and college students to attend the National Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference in November in Herndon, Virginia. We raised nearly \$5,000 and we were able to assist nearly 100 young adults in some way.

We also want to thank the donors who gave *in memoriam* for Linda Basta and Bishop Thomas Donato. May perpetual light shine upon them! You can give an *in memoriam* or an *in honor* gift at any time, just indicate such with your donation.

In a special way, we give thanks to the Lord and to Martha Ann Maloney who died last year and remembered us in her will. Her bequest of \$44,364.22 came to us earlier this year as an unrestricted gift and will help greatly with the Committee’s Ministries and Mission.

Ms. Maloney became a donor in 1990 and gave something nearly every year since. Her highest giving was in 2012 when she gave \$120. Her total giving was \$1,006!

May her soul be blessed and rest in peace.

Please consider remembering the National Service Committee in your will and financial planning. If you have any questions, please contact us in the office. Also for those 70½ the IRS has made permanent the exclusion from income of up to \$100,000 per person, per year, for IRA distributions which are given directly to charities. Check with your accountant or financial advisor.



Advancing Charismatic Renewal

My life changed the night I attended my first prayer meeting and Mass at Loyola University, Los Angeles. The baptism in the Holy Spirit was not mentioned. Nobody prayed over me. Yet, I experienced joy bubbling up deep inside followed by unknown words emerging from my lips. When the Mass concluded, a spiritual inebriation came over me and I could hardly walk out of the Chapel! Intuitively, I knew I had to become a part of whatever this was.

From this early campus prayer group, the ministry of SCRC (Southern California Renewal Communities) was about to sprout forth. By God's grace I have been allowed to labor continuously with SCRC since its inception nearly 45 years ago.

SCRC is perhaps best known for its consistently large annual end-of-summer Charismatic Convention. Over 10,000 people attended last year. But numbers are not God's gauge of spiritual fruitfulness. Just as baptism in the Spirit does not guarantee problem-free ministry.

Once while being particularly overwhelmed by problems and financial challenges facing the ministry, I questioned the Lord: "Have the hardships and sacrifices I've made in your service really made a difference?" Later that day while at a supermarket, the cashier's face suddenly lit-up all aglow. Beaming, she said, "You're from the SCRC Convention, God changed my life there!" My question was answered.

Charismatic grace involves a sacred responsibility to help bring God's Kingdom into people's lives. I have joyfully witnessed huge numbers of people touched by the living reality of Pentecost who went on to special callings and services to others. Sadly, I have seen many who did not nurture life in the Spirit, and their new wine turned sour.

Recently, a church invited me to present a one-day Charismatic Seminar. The morning I arrived I was shocked to learn that the prayer group I was expecting assistance from had disbanded! (Having helped conduct over 400 past Seminars I know how essential a team is.) A crowd gathered in the church.

Later that day, things became more awkward when it was time to lead prayer for baptism in the Spirit. Three priests entered their confessionals and lines of newly arriving people began forming inside the church. I wondered if this distraction would hinder receptivity to the Spirit's graces? I decided it was more Jesus' problem than mine and proceeded with a general prayer. Next came helping the attendees yield to tongues. Five minutes passed while the praise tongues increased in volume. Ten more minutes went by as the unction (blessing) grew stronger and the crowd soared in the Spirit. I became more convinced that God's mission for Charismatic Renewal is not finished, as did the parish prayer group which started up again. ♦

Dominic Berardino is President of SCRC, based in the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He is married to Sandy who has worked alongside him at SCRC for the majority of its history.

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