

Fall 2016

PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

God's Mercy
through Miracles
Dr. Mary Healy

The Gaze of Mercy
Tom Mangan

Year of Jubilee 2017
Walter Matthews

The Parish and the
Holy Spirit
Dave VanVickle

Toward the Jubilee
Update

The Challenge of
Healthy Growth
Charles Whitehead

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



Chairman's Corner

by Johnny Bertucci

Pentecost is not over!

"Pentecost is not over. In fact it is continually going on in every time and in every place, because the Holy Spirit desired to give Himself to all men... and all who want Him can always receive Him, so we do not have to envy the Apostles and the first believers; we only have to dispose ourselves like them to receive Him well... and He will come to us as He did to them."

— Blessed Elena Guerra

Blessed Elena Guerra was an Italian nun who founded a religious order called the Oblate Sisters of the Holy Spirit. She was the first person beatified by Pope John XXIII who called her "the Apostle of the Holy Spirit." Blessed Elena wrote a number of confidential letters to Pope Leo XIII between 1895 and 1903 calling for renewed preaching on the Holy Spirit, "who is the one who forms the Saints."

In response to Blessed Elena Guerra's first letter, Pope Leo XIII published *Provida Matris Caritate*, in which he asked the entire Church to celebrate a solemn novena to the Holy Spirit each year between the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost.

In her ninth letter to Pope Leo XIII, Elena begged the Pope to place the new century under the sign of the Holy Spirit. She asked that the new century begin with the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* to be sung at the beginning of the Mass of the first day of the new year.

Recently, I had the privilege of visiting the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Brazil and meeting Fr. Eduardo Braga, vice postulator of the cause of Blessed Elena Guerra. I accepted from Fr. Eduardo, on behalf of The Ark and The Dove, a first class relic of Blessed Elena Guerra.

Through the intercession of Blessed Elena Guerra, may we experience a New Pentecost for the New Evangelization. ♦

Johnny Bertucci is Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne
Schaezner, SSND

In Cardinal Suenens' book, *A New Pentecost?*, there is a section title on p 111, *A CURRENT OF GRACE*, in which he likened Charismatic Renewal to "a high voltage current of grace which is coursing through the Church."

Blessed Elena Guerra (p 2) was inspired to write several letters to Pope Leo XIII calling for renewed preaching on the Holy Spirit. Did she experience this current of grace?

Dr. Mary Healy (pp 3, 12) writes of her experience with the charism of healing—experiencing the current of grace in a deepened way.

The School of the Holy Spirit at The Ark and The Dove (p 11) was a time of training for young adults learning to cooperate with the current of grace poured out by the Holy Spirit. The NSC's Toward the Jubilee Campaign (p 10) exists in order to fund the future, to ensure that the current of grace has people to be conduits.

Charles Whitehead (p 15) writes of how this current of grace stirs up the process of establishing new ways of working together among the generations.

When you read Dave VanVickle's article (pp 8-9) regarding his team experience of bringing Life in the Spirit Seminars to a parish, you may want to think of that current of grace. After you read Walter's reference (p 14) to the renewed parish in *Fanning the Flame*, you might intercede for that current of grace.

There is a tension or paradox between the expressions of a "high voltage current of grace" and the prayer, "You reveal your power above all in your mercy and forgiveness" (p 4).

The current of grace is and will be flowing in the upcoming Year of Jubilee of the Renewal (pp 6-7). It is not just a time to look back but a time to be recharged and to look forward.

Current of grace: I thought it was like flowing water. I learned it is voltage! ♦

PENTECOSTToday

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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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God MANIFESTS his MERCY through MIRACLES

by Dr. Mary Healy

For most of my life I have been accustomed to praying over people at prayer meetings and in other settings. Occasionally I would see a slight improvement such as a person with a headache or stomachache feeling better. But in the past four or five years the Lord has been leading me on a journey to understand more about his healing power and how much he desires to do signs, wonders and miracles through ordinary people.

In the fall of 2013 I had a sabbatical semester—a time for focused research in a particular area—and decided to study healing, not only by reading about it in books but by seeing it in action. During that time I went, along with a team, on a two-week mission in Brazil. There we saw miracles day after day—people with tumors, crippling arthritis, blindness, deafness and many other conditions miraculously healed by the Lord. That mission was life-changing, and since then I've been seeking to put into practice what Jesus told his disciples to do: "heal the sick... and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has

come near to you'" (Lk 10:9; also see Mk 16:17-18).

I've become convinced that God wants a far greater manifestation of his healing power in the Catholic Church—not as something novel and marginal, but as a *restoration* of something that is at the heart of our tradition. The supernatural gifts of the Spirit are part of our inheritance as baptized believers. They are the normal equipment that Christ has bestowed on his bride the Church for carrying out her evangelistic mission. The use of these gifts tangibly manifests God's mercy to those who are in need of it, especially to the spiritual orphans who surround us in today's society.

The gifts are not for our sake but for those whom God wants to touch through us. When Damian Stayne, a Catholic healing evangelist from England, gave a weekend conference at my parish, I was struck by the challenge he gave to our prayer ministry team. "Do you want to be used by God for healing?" he asked. "Yes!" everyone



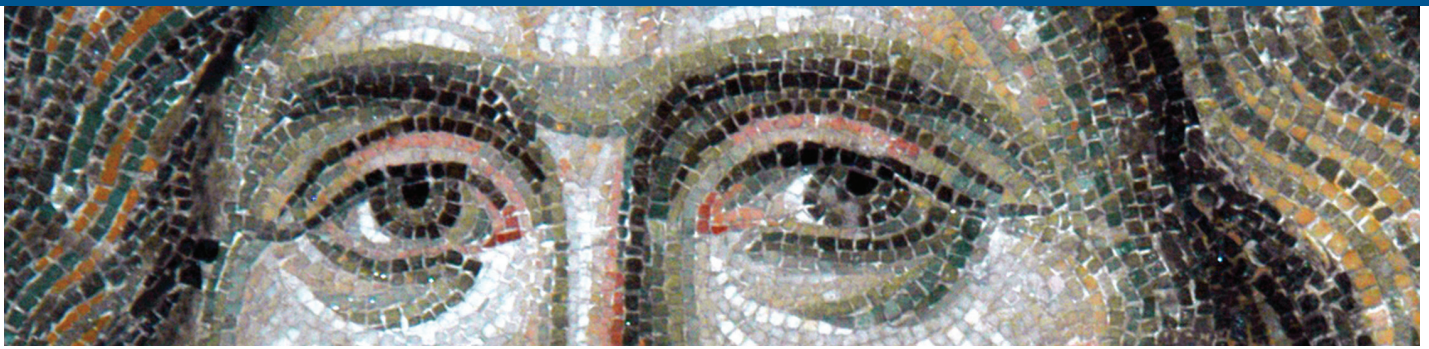
The Lord has been leading me... to understand... how much he desires to do signs, wonders and miracles through ordinary people.

shouted enthusiastically. "Then are you willing to be *seriously inconvenienced* for the rest of your life?" There was some nervous laughter before everyone said "Yes!" again.

I've found his words to be true. I believe all Christians can see healings if we learn to pray with expectant faith. But if people think you have a gift for healing, they may call or email you at inconvenient times. At a conference or prayer meeting you may find a long line of people waiting for prayer, and as you get toward the end you find it has only grown longer. You may be the last person to leave at night. But it is all worth it when you see the amazement and joy in a person healed by the Lord.

Like natural gifts, the supernatural gifts grow with practice. As we take risks in faith the Lord shows his faithfulness. One of the first times that I practiced using words of knowledge at a prayer meeting, I received in prayer only a slight impression of some specific healings. I wasn't sure if it was the Lord or only my thoughts, but I decided to step out in faith. After our time of worship I said, "I think there is a man here who has a skin condition and is also experiencing same-sex attraction; the Lord wants to heal both of these things. I think there is a woman who has spent time in jail and is ashamed of that. The Lord is taking away your shame and wants to use you to minister to other women in jail. I also think there is someone here with pain in your left ankle. The Lord is going to heal it. I won't ask you to identify yourselves, but if one of these words applies to you, come and let me know afterwards if you'd like."

[See Miracles page 12](#)



The Gaze of Mercy

Mercy goes beyond words.

by Tom Mangan

I read spiritual books in order to know God better. As it says in Hosea 6:3, “Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord.” Recently I read Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa’s *The Gaze of Mercy* and I met God! It’s not often that a book strikes me in that way, but I gained an understanding of the Father’s dazzling personality that affected me deeply. His love is unprecedented; he delights in having mercy.

I look at the parables now in a new light. “The Lost Sheep,” “The Lost Coin” and “The Lost Son” aren’t sentimental moralizing stories, but rather lessons of redemption that reveal a Father who is “a God of too-much giving, a seventy times seven God!”

In Micah 7:8 we read, “Who is like thee, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?” This humbles me; I am brought low and I want to know more of him.

In the Mass for the 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time we pray, “You reveal your power above all in your mercy and forgiveness.” Amazingly, by virtue of the Incarnation of Christ Jesus, in bending low to us in mercy, he expresses his great strength. The Incarnation has given us an incredible opportunity to really come to know him profoundly.

Fr. Cantalamessa refers to this action as “divine condescension,” a term coined by the Eastern Church to denote *kenosis* (from the Greek) a self-emptying of his will in order to be receptive to the Father’s will.

But there is more. He doesn’t simply extend mercy, but as the author says, he looks lovingly through Jesus to us with a gaze of mercy. The Father doesn’t dispense it from afar, but directly to us from his Son.

To Fr. Cantalamessa the ultimate expression of God’s mercy is the Incarnation. He is overwhelmed that Jesus would vacate heaven for earth; that he would take on human flesh and fully (except in sin) identify with us. As it says in Philippians 2:6-8:

“Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality
with God something to be grasped,
but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!”

As I understand it, the author is saying Jesus would rather identify himself as the Son of Man than the Son of God, thus encouraging us in our human frailty to drink deep from the well of God’s mercy!

In Fr. Cantalamessa’s eyes mercy is personal. Rather than presenting mercy as a theological concept to be parsed and discussed, in his hands it becomes something manifest, something that is lived out, demonstrated as it was in the

life and actions of Christ. Jesus doesn't just extend mercy; he looks upon others with mercy. As with Peter and Zacchaeus, his very countenance exudes mercy.

After Peter's denial in Luke 22, we read in verse 61, "And the Lord turned and looked at Peter" with what probably was a loving gaze, a gaze that would drive him to repentance and not to despair. In those eyes, Peter saw not only the seriousness of his betrayal, but also the compassion he didn't deserve.

Zacchaeus is a further example of "the look" that would cause a person to reform his life. He just had to see Jesus, so he climbed a tree. He wasn't to be denied. When their eyes met, the result was pure mercy.

In Luke 19:5 Jesus says, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." A gaze, a meal together, repentance and restoration was the order of the day for this sinner. Mercy invited himself to Zacchaeus' house.

It's easy for one to get caught up in the word pictures that Fr. Cantalamessa paints about "the gaze." They capture the *essence* of Jesus' demeanor. To those intimate with him, words are so unnecessary, a mere look or gesture is sufficient for a loving response. Mercy goes beyond words.

This book would be incomplete if it didn't cover justice, the flip side of mercy. As I heard someone once say, "Mercy is not meant to be a loophole to drive a trainload of sin through." Mercy, like love, is one of those words in our vocabulary that can become "shop-worn."

Fr. Cantalamessa painstakingly makes clear that mercy is first a gift. It is *hesed*, a Hebrew word that in the past was often translated "mercy" but is larger, more like covenant love or faithful love. God's mercy precedes mankind's sin. In the story of Zacchaeus Jesus does not "require the five conditions that are normally demanded to obtain the remission of sin: examination of conscience, repentance, a firm resolve not to sin again, a confession of sin, and penance" (p39). Zacchaeus is transformed by Jesus' love, by his encounter with mercy. So too are we as we turn to ask, to seek, to humble ourselves.

The French philosopher, Voltaire, famously said, "God will forgive me because that's what he does." This presumption is preposterous and misrepresents God's goodness. It is

grossly one-sided as it denies his justice as well as his benevolence.

It takes intellectual honesty to balance mercy with justice and the author does it with dexterity. Without justice we have the heresy of "universalism," that all human beings will eventually be saved and without mercy we have callous legalism or strict adherence to the law. Fortunately, Jesus is a kind Master and we are in good hands with him. What he does with us will depend upon our response to his "glance of mercy!" Could we have any better response than to give it away? Mercy is a gift to be shared freely by those who have been its recipients.

This makes the Sacrament of Reconciliation inviting. Therefore, approaching the confessional with sorrowful repentance, we should expect to see "the gaze of mercy," so as to leave with gratitude and acceptance. In the words of Pope Francis, "Mercy is the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness."

Fr. Cantalamessa's book is providential in that it underscores Pope Francis' call for the "Jubilee Year of Mercy." How perfectly fitting! It so complements his call to mercy by providing an understanding of how mercy should rightly operate in the life of the Church.

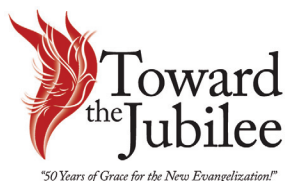
The Gaze of Mercy is not a book to be tossed aside lightly, but rather one that deserves thoughtful consideration. There is so much more to this book than can be covered here. The effort we put forth in reading this volume will be rewarded. It will improve our knowledge of God, encourage deeper intimacy and move us spiritually.

The steadfast love of the Lord
never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

—Lamentations 3:22 ♦



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.



YEAR OF JUBILEE 2017

by Walter Matthews

5-Year Committee
of the National
Leadership Groups
of the Catholic
Charismatic Renewal
in the U.S.

**Year of Jubilee
Statement**
Begins with an
invitation to rejoice
in the tradition of
jubilees and in
expectation that it
may well be an
“extraordinary time of
grace,” a “year of the
Lord’s favor.”

- Jubilee
- Short History
- Fruits of Baptism
in the Holy Spirit,
- What We Have
Learned
- Going Forward.

In preparation for the 50th Anniversary Jubilee celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in February, 1967, the 5-Year Committee of the National Leadership Groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the U.S. has issued a **Year of Jubilee Statement** that begins with an invitation to rejoice in the tradition of *jubilees* and in expectation that it may well be an “extraordinary time of grace,” a “year of the Lord’s favor.” The Statement has five parts: Jubilee, a Short History, Fruits of Baptism in the Holy Spirit, What We Have Learned, and Going Forward. What follows is a shortened and somewhat edited version of the Statement. The full Statement is available on the NSC website.

Jubilee

Part One begins with a quick review of the origins of jubilees both in the Old Testament and in the Church. The key Biblical texts are from Leviticus 25, Isaiah 61 and Luke 4. When our Lord stood in the Synagogue in Nazareth and quoted Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” and ended with “This text is being fulfilled today” he brought together in his person the emphases of social justice and personal and communal conversion and forgiveness contained in the Old Testament texts. “He personifies the Jubilee,” as one author put it. Authentic jubilee spirituality cannot be found apart from the person of Jesus Christ.

Nor can it be found apart from life in the Spirit begun in Baptism and renewed in “baptism in the Holy Spirit.” The recovery of Pentecost is an experience of jubilee: of freedom from the bondage of sins into the marvelous light of being sons and daughters of a loving Father; of empowerment to live in the power of the Spirit

and in turn to proclaim Jesus to others, “to show mercy” (Pope Francis) by our lives and actions.

A Short History

After the Weekend at The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center in 1967 the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit spread rapidly and worldwide. Without structure, the current of grace was first shared by American missionaries working in foreign countries, and then by the natural back-and-forth among immigrant people. In the late 1960’s, Puerto Rico and Colombia became centers from which this current of grace washed all of Latin America. Today there are millions of people there who have experienced baptism in the Spirit. Not long after, the current of grace reached the shores of Africa; and the Catholic countries of Asia and the Philippines; and Europe.

In the 1970’s, the Renewal grew fast and wide. Thousands of people attended large conferences across the country. From the fast growth of the experience, organizations, national committees, renewal centers and houses of prayer were formed. Later in the 1990s, various ethnic groups began to form their own leadership committees.

Aware that the experience of baptism in the Spirit was growing throughout the entire Church, efforts were made in the ‘70s to network on an international basis. With the assistance of Cardinal Leon Suenens of Belgium, a charismatic gathering was held in Rome in 1975 including a celebration in St. Peter’s Basilica where Pope Paul VI called the Charismatic Renewal a “*chance for the Church*.” By 1976, an international office for the Renewal was set up in Brussels which later moved to Rome and was renamed the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS).

The current of grace does not exist only in the Catholic Church. Many ecumenical charismatic prayer services have been held over the years, along with actions and prayer for unity. Besides Catholic Charismatic Renewal and the ecumenical covenant communities, other Catholics experience and promote baptism in the Spirit.

Fruits of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Of many fruits we highlight four: change of life, relationships, communities and mission.

From the beginning, lives began to change and love began to grow. Baptism in the Holy Spirit *is* a call to receive the Father's love and for individuals to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus and to become disciples. With this infusion of grace, individuals began to be transformed and with that the motivation and the ability to love has increased.

The second fruit followed: people who had been touched by this grace began to gather in prayer groups, communities, and associations to share their lives and experience. Prayer, praise and worship together became a hallmark and a fruit of renewal.

A third fruit was the formation of communities of love and support. Baptism in the Spirit has produced opportunities to grow in a love that embraces unity with diversity. One important element of this fruit has been an ecumenical impulse.

Finally, baptism in the Holy Spirit has brought with it a missionary impulse. The Holy Spirit has poured out charisms in abundance to build the Church and to evangelize the world.

What We Have Learned

In the Statement we list seven important things we have learned and need to remember and apply. Here are three of them:

◆ Catholic Charismatic Renewal needs to understand itself as both a "current of grace" and "an ecclesial movement": Be open to both special outpourings of grace (revival graces), and step-by-step building with the Lord led by the Holy Spirit. The whole movement is a "charism" for the Church.

◆ We need an "experience" of baptism in the Spirit, but also a "lifestyle" in the Spirit: Pope Francis has confirmed that baptism in the Spirit is meant for the whole Church. We seek to be a reminder in the Church of the "full role" of the Holy Spirit (union with God; transformation for holiness; ministry empowered by the charisms; building community). Our relationship with the Holy Spirit should influence every part of our lives.

◆ We need the full, mature, and discerned use of the charisms (spiritual gifts): Some of our groups show little use of the charisms, and in other places, the gifts do not come under enough community discernment. We need to understand how charisms are to be part of our daily life and parish life.

Going Forward

As we eagerly await the "surprises of the Spirit" that will unfold in our first Jubilee Year and beyond, here are four areas in which we need to make every effort to cooperate with the Spirit in moving forward. None is new; all require our attention and prayer.

Prayer Card



As we conclude this
Jubilee Year of Mercy:

We will sing of your mercies,
O Lord, forever;
our mouths will proclaim your
faithfulness to all generations!

For your merciful love was
established forever,
your faithfulness is firm as
the heavens.

May we, your people, forever
receive your mercy and
extend your mercy to
the ends of the earth!
Amen!

(inspired by Psalm 89:1-2)



First, pray and work for unity—unity in all our relationships, especially those in the Renewal, and unity in the Body of Christ.

Second, the Renewal in the U.S. is experiencing the challenge of passing on the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit to the next generations. However, there is hope. We are becoming aware of a number of pockets of young adults, evangelized and baptized in the Holy Spirit who are connecting through various outreaches and through social media.

See Jubilee page 11

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

1. That our parishes and communities would experience fuller "life in the Spirit" as they hear testimonies of the mercy of God and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
2. For all the ministries that equip the faithful to pray with others for healing, that the fruit of this equipping will be countless demonstrations of the merciful love of Jesus restoring health in body, mind and spirit.
3. For the Mission in Mercy to be manifest in all NSC sponsored events: at the Leaders' & Ministries' Conference in Atlanta on Nov 4-6, and the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Conference, July 20-23, 2017 in Pittsburgh.
4. That the younger generation of leaders in the Renewal will receive all the encouragement and support they need to extend the "grace of Pentecost" in creative ways to reach more and more people who are searching for meaning in our troubled world.



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Could you consider a gift today?

Visit our website
www.nsc-chariscenter.org
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God is not far off but is ready and waiting to work personally and powerfully in their lives.

The Parish and the Holy Spirit

by Dave VanVickle

About 2 years ago a young priest in my local diocese asked me to help him lead the Life in the Spirit Seminar at the parish at which he was stationed. He had recently rediscovered the beauty of spirituality with renewal in which he was raised and was anxious to introduce it to others. I have to admit that I was not excited at all. I love the Life in the Spirit Seminar and have led thousands of people through it but in the last several years it has been mostly small groups of elderly saintly women who have been through it before but attend once a year anyway.

To my surprise the first seminar we put on together had over ninety people from all ages and backgrounds. Word spread and shortly after that we did another one, only this time we had about one hundred and fifty participants, again from all demographics but mostly young professionals. We went to a different parish and this time we showed up to over four hundred participants and this seems to be the ongoing theme as we continue to work together.

Each seminar is attracting hundreds of participants. You can imagine our de-

lightful stress when we are calling prayer groups from all over the tri-state area to send prayer teams to meet the demand. It seems the Life in the Spirit Seminar and charismatic evangelization outreaches are in great demand once again. Pastors who have hosted the Life in the Spirit Seminar report dramatic results of engaged parishioners, renewed ministries and, of course, a myriad of new evangelization outreaches.

We really should not be surprised. The average Catholic parish is in crisis. They are struggling to reach their parishioners and struggling further to convey to them the life changing message of a life with Jesus as Lord empowered by the Holy Spirit. Numbers are dwindling each week. Catholics I meet across the country feel helpless to respond to the spiritual and emotional needs of their families. A recent survey said that many people just do not believe in miracles anymore. This all leads people to sense a lack of potency in the Gospel and in the Faith. In short, people are desperate for grace and power. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit loves desperation. When we turn the needs and insatiable desires of parishioners into requests for God to respond, he always does.

People are hungry for something real.

This is why I believe baptism in the Holy Spirit to be a lynch pin for parish evangelization in the United States. Think about the most common outcomes of being baptized in the Spirit. Some people manifest authentic charisms but almost everyone reports a profound conviction of the spirit of adoption, an insatiable thirst for prayer, a deep desire to read Scripture, a sense of the spiritual battle raging, the confidence to share their faith, and a new and lively experience of the sacraments. These characteristics are exactly what people are reporting back to us after going through the seminar.

The Life in the Spirit Seminar isn't the only program that is reaching parishioners and introducing them to the power of the Holy Spirit. Parishes

around the country are having amazing success in evangelization with programs like Christ Life, Alpha and many others. People are hungry for something real. These programs are not necessarily powerful because of their specific content. They are powerful because they open people up to the idea that God is not far off but is ready and waiting to work personally and powerfully in their lives. Believe it or not to most Catholics this is a revolutionary idea!

It isn't hard to open up your parish to the power of the Holy Spirit but you have to be patient. I have been working on this for five years at St. Bonaventure Parish in the Pittsburgh Diocese and we are finally seeing real fruit. People's lives are being changed and set on fire. It started by making our parish a place where the kerygma or basic gospel message was proclaimed constantly. It doesn't matter if you come to a meeting for Confirmation or

CCD you are going to hear the kerygma. We also have many parishioners who have been trained and are ready to give their testimony. If you are an evangelization volunteer it doesn't matter if you work in the kitchen or are on clean up crew you will learn how to give your testimony. We offer opportunities year round to be prayed with by fellow parishioners at Nights of Worship or different retreats. Probably the most important factor to all of this is that we have a pastor who passionately believes in the importance of baptism in the Holy Spirit. We need to pray daily for our priests to be set on fire. Our pastor speaks regularly about evangelization in homilies and various presentations. Evangelization is where your parishioners will learn to cooperate with the life of the Spirit. ♦

Dave VanVickle is the Young Adult Coordinator for the National Service Committee.

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Toward the Jubilee | **UPDATE**

"50 Years of Grace for the New Evangelization!"

Toward the Jubilee—50 Years of Grace for the New Evangelization UPDATE

To better serve the Church and move toward the 2017 anniversary of the Duquesne weekend, the NSC's *Toward the Jubilee* Campaign seeks to raise \$1 million with two goals in mind:

- Expand Spirit-filled events and electronic outreach to newer audiences—particularly youth and young adults.
- Strengthen the long-term financial stability of the NSC through the *Third Millennium Fund for the New Evangelization*.

You've helped the NSC surpass the \$400,000 mark toward our goal of \$1 million!

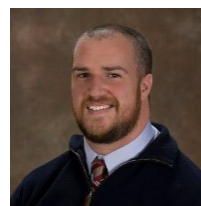
- Your support helped the NSC hire Dave VanVickle as a Young Adult Coordinator. He's on an ambitious journey to help young people encounter the power of the Holy Spirit across the nation.

Your encouragement builds up the *Third Millennium Fund* and enabled the NSC to be a lead partner in acquiring The Ark and The Dove this past year.

As a next step, would you consider financially supporting this move of the Spirit and invite others to join?



The Ark and the Dove, home of the Duquesne weekend retreat and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on retreatants in 1967 that spread like wildfire across the country and the world.



Dave VanVickle

Please pray for the success of the Campaign and consider making a gift—over your regular giving to the NSC—to foster new life in the Spirit for all as we journey toward the Jubilee.

You can start by visiting the website www.nsc-chariscenter.org.



Young Adult Ministry

by Dave VanVickle
Coordinator



Spirit in ministry, leadership and evangelization. We heard excellent presentations from Bishop Sam Jacobs, Fr. Dave Pivonka, Teresa Riggins and John Beaulieu. There was plenty of time for the attendees to ask questions and discuss issues with these seasoned veterans of the Renewal.

On Saturday evening we traveled to a nearby parish to do some ministry. There we had a wonderful night of worship with around one hundred and fifty people attending from all over the diocese. The young adults who attended the training formed prayer teams and prayed for the needs of anyone who came to them. Fr. Pivonka delivered an inspiring message and Bishop Jacobs led us in a powerful inner healing session. It was a wonderful evening and I am still receiving great feedback from those who attended.

The School of the Holy Spirit at The Ark and The Dove

Last month we were blessed to host about twenty young adults from across the country at The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center in Pittsburgh. It was an incredible experience worshipping with all these on-fire young adults in the Chapel where the outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred during the Duquesne Weekend. We took an entire weekend for what we called, "The School of the Holy Spirit" a dynamic training for cooperating with the Holy

Jubilee from page 7

Third, we must accept that the Renewal is already demonstrating new forms of being together and that this trend will continue. Our task is to continue to "share with all, in the Church, the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit" (2014) regardless of forms and structures.

Finally, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is oriented outward to the New Evangelization. It is not possible to evangelize effectively without the power of the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis has directed us in the Renewal in this way: "I expect from you an evangelization with the Word of

God which proclaims that Jesus is alive and loves all men (2014)."

Let us give thanks to the Lord for this great outpouring of the Holy Spirit and "let us implore from God the grace of a new Pentecost for the Church in America." (Pope Benedict XVI St. Patrick Cathedral 2008). If we do, we will see in the next fifty years an even greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit. ♦



Walter Matthews is Executive Director of the National Service Committee.

I was most impressed with the young adults who attended. Looking at these people I have great confidence that the Renewal will be alive and well in our generation and those to come. These were young people who were totally convicted and living in the power of the Holy Spirit. They will all go back to their homes and continue to spread the Kingdom, hopefully even more empowered and open to the work of the Holy Spirit. Please continue to pray for the Young Adult Outreach of the National Service Committee. Come Holy Spirit! ♦

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We give thanks to Fr. Ted Nekoliczak, longtime leader in the Nebraska Renewal and a donor who included us in his will. May he rest in peace.

Just the other day, we heard of another donor who included us in her will. May she rest in peace.

Please prayerfully consider including us in your will. It is a way that we can support the passing on of this grace of renewal in the Holy Spirit to new generations.

Our official title is the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the U.S., Inc.

YOUNG ADULT SCHOLARSHIPS
Again this year we are raising money in support of enabling young adults

to attend the upcoming National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in Atlanta. You can donate online or by mail (just make your check's memo "YAS") or give us a call. Last year we supported nearly 80 young adults in some way to attend.

TOWARD THE JUBILEE

In mid-September, we held a Campaign Luncheon in Ann Arbor, Michigan with 45 attendees. A talk was given on the Renewal's History and Purpose as well as about the new initiatives of The Ark and The Dove and the Young Adult Coordinator's work. About \$12,000 in gifts and pledges were raised. We are grateful to those who came and those who gave. If you would like to sponsor a Campaign Event in your area please contact us.

Miracles from page 3

After the prayer meeting, not one but *two* men came to me separately. Both had a skin condition and same-sex attraction, and in both cases the word had greatly stirred up their faith that they would be healed. And not one but *two* women came to me separately; both told they had been in jail, and one said the word confirmed her sense that the Lord was calling her to jail ministry. No one came to mention a hurt ankle, however... but later the prayer ministry leader told me that *two* people had come for prayer for pain in their left ankle, and both had been completely freed from pain. The Lord gave me double for my trouble!

I'm becoming more alert to opportunities to use healing in evangelization. Recently I was at a conference in a secular venue and I began chatting with the young woman who was working the

coffee bar. I shared with her a little about the conference, which was on the Holy Spirit. She told me she was Catholic but had stopped going to church because she was a single mom living with her boyfriend. As I shared with her about God's love, it was evident that she missed having a connection with God. I asked her if she had pain anywhere in her body and explained that Jesus is alive and he loves to heal. She did have severe back pain. So I prayed a very simple prayer over her back, and the Lord instantly took away her pain. There were tears in her eyes; clearly the Lord was using that outward sign to touch her heart. I encouraged her to look for a priest to talk to and return to church, where the Lord was longing to welcome her home.

I believe the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is entering a new phase. In the

early decades God raised up people with extraordinary healing gifts such as Fr. Emiliano Tardif, Fr. Ralph DiOrio, and Sr. Briege McKenna. They are pioneers who have cleared a path and helped Catholics realize what is possible. But now Jesus is calling *all* his disciples to proclaim the gospel with great faith that God will accompany our witness with signs, wonders, mighty deeds, and distributed gifts of the Spirit (see Heb 2:4). ♦

Dr. Mary Healy is professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and chair of the Doctrinal Commission of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services. She is the author of Healing: Bringing the Gift of God's Mercy to the World.



Association of Diocesan Liaisons Hold Convocation at Alleluia Community

by Chuck Hornsby, Savannah

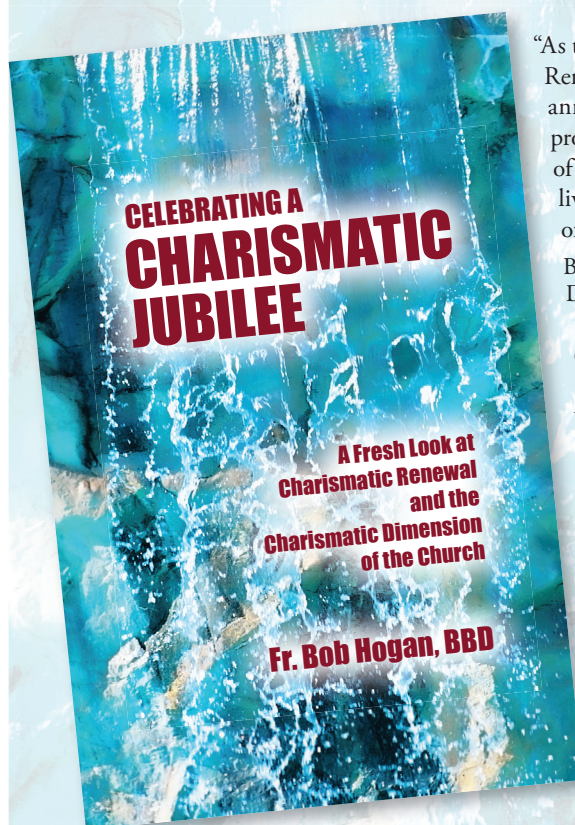
This year the ADL Convocation was held at Alleluia Community in Augusta, Georgia. It was a departure from our normal gathering because we stayed in private homes of Alleluia members rather than at a retreat center. Most of our liaison meetings took place in a nearby church hall with Alleluia providing sound and music support and most meals were catered by one of the original founders of Alleluia Community. We also went to the Alleluia Thursday night prayer meeting that was attended by over 400 people of all ages. We participated with community members in a form of street evangelism and prayer ministry called a "treasure hunt" on another day and had a good time on our outing which included a "mini-Masters" miniature golf tournament. Charles and Sue Whitehead provided us with some masterful insights into mission and mercy, our convocation topic for this year, and we took care of all of our association business.

What stood out this year was the cross-pollination of two leadership renewal streams. Liaisons and covenant communities have both provided significant direction to the Renewal over the years often on parallel but separate paths. For the ADL this was a chance to see an ecumenical covenant community up close and to experience their unique charism. For Alleluia members this was an opportunity to see and serve a part of renewal leadership unfamiliar to them. We really enjoyed each other and for all it was a delightful opportunity to practice what Pope Francis calls unity with diversity.

Next year's convocation will be held in conjunction with the Jubilee celebration in Pittsburgh. See you there!! ♦

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

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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.





by Walter Matthews

I Have a Dream

With due respect to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I have a dream, a Jubilee dream. It was stirred up recently in two ways.

First, I visited Christ the King Catholic Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan when in town for a *Toward the Jubilee* Campaign Luncheon. Christ the King has many parishioners from several covenant communities in the area, as well as former members of those communities, and many people who moved there to become members. It is a self-described “charismatic Parish” (Mission Statement). It is one of only a handful of such in the U.S.

The second stirring was from a phone call we received from a former Diocesan Liaison who has migrated to the South. He had this question for us: “What is your vision for parishes?” I have to admit that when I heard it, I laughed and thought to myself, “We don’t have one,” because, truth be told, the NSC has probably not talked about such in years. It has come up from time to time, but the experience of many of the members over the years has not been all that hopeful.

I then remembered that those of us privileged to be part of the Heart of the Church Consultation in 1990 that wrote *Fanning the Flame: What Does Baptism in the Holy Spirit Have to Do with Christian Initiation?* wrote:

“The parish... is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.”

“The recovery of the baptism in the Spirit and the charisms is needed in all the institutions of the church. Religious orders, Catholic universities, associations of the faithful, specialized movements, all need this touch of the Holy Spirit today...We, however, are focusing on the parish because it is there that the needs of the overwhelming majority of Catholics can be addressed.

In our vision, a renewed parish is a community worshiping in vibrant liturgy, bonded together by the Holy Spirit, serving one another, committed to ongoing conversion and growth, reaching out to the inactive, the unchurched and to the poor. Such parishes confront us with the gospel and evangelize our culture. In these communities, as in the Acts of the Apostles and the early church, the charisms of the Holy Spirit are identified and welcomed” (pp 23-24).

There is more. I encourage you to find your copy, dust it off and re-read it, especially pages 22-28. If you have never read it, I encourage you to get a copy and read it. Allow the Holy Spirit to stir your heart and then begin to pray that such a vision, a dream, will become a reality.

Pope Francis wrote in *The Joy of the Gospel*, “The parish is not an outdated institution...if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptively, it continues to be ‘the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters’...It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.” Then he

added, “We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented” (28).

This is where “baptism in the Holy Spirit” comes in:

An indispensable element in a renewed parish is ongoing conversion in the lives of the pastor and parish staff. Pastoral leaders must have not only the vision for the spiritually renewed parish, but the personal experience that will enable them to witness and minister the life of the baptism in the Spirit to others. This points to the vital importance of the formation of seminarians and the ongoing spiritual formation of parish clergy and staff in the baptism in the Spirit (*Fanning the Flame*, p 24).

Pope Francis has said to us, “I expect from you that you share with all, in the Church, the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit.”

I have a dream, a Jubilee dream that moves us beyond next year’s celebration into a part of our work for the next fifty years. ♦

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The challenge of healthy growth

Recently everywhere I have been, people have been talking excitedly about the 50th Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in February 2017, and many are planning to come to Rome for the Pentecost Celebrations in response to the invitation of Pope Francis. So it is clear that the Renewal is still very much alive and active in most countries. What is also clear, however, is that the forms it takes today are changing a lot from earlier times. Today there are often fewer prayer groups than in the 1970s and 80s; Days of Renewal and similar events have declined in numbers and frequency; most big conferences attract fewer participants than earlier. Today there are often only a few younger people and families with children at these older style events.

Are these bad things? Do they indicate a decline in commitment to the Renewal? Not necessarily, as there are now other newer style meetings and conferences strongly supported by families and younger people. These of course are essential for the future

of the Renewal, and what is interesting to note is that they are usually regarded as a normal part of the life of the Church by those who attend them, and are not seen as something odd for those “who like that sort of thing,” which was often the case in the past. They have come into being because the older, more traditional expressions of the Renewal were no longer meeting the needs of families and younger people. There were clashes between those who liked the old praise and worship songs and those brought up in the modern style with lots of new songs; parents wanted their children to be formed in their faith and not just to be entertained or offered a baby-sitting service; the older leaders needed to be willing to make way for the younger ones with new ideas. The process of establishing new ways of working together is positive but challenging and usually leads to healthy growth for all—but it can be a painful process.

The most exciting things in all of this are that baptism in the Holy Spirit

remains absolutely key for both young and old, and among the younger people in particular there is also a strong commitment to Spiritual Ecumenism, as promoted by Pope Francis. So while everyone needs to adapt to our changing times and to work together, there is no loss of commitment to promoting and living the new life in the Holy Spirit. *Alleluia!* ♦

Charles Whitehead is a Life Member of the NSC of England. He served as President of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council from 1989 to 2000. He is married to Sue, with 4 children and 6 grandchildren.



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