

Spring 2017

# PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

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Photo: Tammie Stevens

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



## Chairman's Corner

by Johnny Bertucci

## Continuous Pentecost

As we continue in this Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, I am reminded of the prophecy given in the Upper Room in Jerusalem during ICCRS' prophetic consultation in 2013:

*"I will pour out my Spirit,  
I will pour out my Spirit,  
I will pour out my Spirit continually,  
generously, liberally and in abundance."*

In learning more about Blessed Elena Guerra, her quote "Pentecost is... continually going on in every time and in every place..." made me reflect on that Upper Room prophecy. I've recently learned that the Holy Spirit Novena that has been a part of my life for the last 25 years was initiated by Pope Leo XIII in direct response to Blessed Elena Guerra's letters. I found out further that Pope Leo XIII desired that the Feast of Pentecost be a time of special prayer for UNITY. "... in Our Letter *Provida Matris*, We recommended to Catholics special prayers at the Feast of Pentecost,

for the Re-union of Christendom..." (*Divinum Illud Munus*, May 1897).

As I believe the Charismatic Renewal is uniquely positioned to participate in the New Evangelization, I believe it is also uniquely positioned to participate in Pope Francis' call for unity. The Golden Jubilee celebration that will take place on the eve of Pentecost in Circus Maximus will be a display of that unity.

Acts 2:8-10: "And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

May we this Pentecost, through the intercession of Blessed Elena Guerra and Pope Leo XIII, renew our commitment to living out our "Life in the Spirit" as a perennial Pentecost and our commitment to unity. ♦

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



## Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer, SSND

## ★ CELEBRATION! ★

The theme of Celebration permeates this Spring 2017 issue of Pentecost Today.

The cover illustrates that we celebrate that *Pentecost is Today*—New life in Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We celebrate:

- ★ A Continuous Pentecost (p 2)
- ★ A Future Full of Hope, Deacon Larry Oney (p 3)
- ★ That we are being led by the Lord, Michelle Moran (pp 4-5)
- ★ The joyful gathering of National Leadership Groups, Msgr. Joseph Malagrega (p 6)
- ★ The *Duquesne Weekend* at The Ark and The Dove, Johnny Bertucci (p 7)
- ★ The gathering of leaders of various denominations and ministries, Dan Almeter (p15)
- ★ Fruit of the Renewal (p 9)
- ★ NSC members who have recently been called to eternal life (pp 8, 11)
- ★ *Joy and the New Evangelization*, Dave VanVickle (p 12)
- ★ *Glory Days?* Jesus is still pouring out the Holy Spirit, Fr. Rory Conley (pp 12-13)
- ★ The upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee Celebration of the Renewal, *Rivers of Living Water*, July 20-23, in Pittsburgh (p 10 and see back cover)

In all we celebrate with gratitude the gift of life in the Spirit!

## 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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# A Future Full of Hope

by Deacon Larry Oney

**G**od has a plan for all of our lives and I believe that his plans for us are for our good (see Jer 29:11). I came into the Catholic Church and became a Christian when I was twenty-seven years old. I had never been baptized—I was unchurched. I remember clearly my baptismal day. I felt like I was caught up in something special; everything was new. Everything Catholic was wonderful.

I was going down to The Bayou Lafourche to be baptized and to receive my First Holy Communion. Lafourche is French for “fork.” The ironic symbolism dramatically describes my life-changing directional shift. This indeed was the fork in the road of my life.

I went down in the water with no fear. I was anticipating. I was overjoyed. I was filled up with God’s love, his mercy, and his peace. I could not believe that I was being ushered into this great mystery of faith, of God, and of his people. My heart was spilling over with love. I could hardly believe that all the hate-filled thoughts that I had embraced in my past were now somehow separated from me.

All the indignity I had suffered as a young man disappeared as well. All the pain of seeing my family struggle for so many years and enduring the end of the Jim Crow Laws was gone. All of the humiliation in high school from a seemingly racist principal and teachers had vanished. My hatred of the people who threw the coke bottles, eggs, and gar-

bage at me and my brothers while we waited for the bus after cutting their grass had been swept away. I came out of the baptismal waters and everyone there looked like they had the faces of angels.

After my baptism my life changed. I had forgiveness in my heart. I was able to hear people in a different way and accept their truth. I could offer forgive-

**My heart was spilling over with love.**

**All the indignity I had suffered as a young man disappeared as well.**

ness to those who asked and I could accept forgiveness where I asked it. God had changed my life by changing my heart and my mindset.

In this year of the Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, I am reminded in a special way of my baptismal experience. I am reminded that what God wants to do for his people is for all of his people. In the Year of Jubilee, God wants to restore his people! God wants to restore us all to fullness—full health, healthy relationships, right seeing, and full knowledge that we are a beloved people and heirs to the Kingdom of God.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal was started by a few people asking with a sincere and humble heart for more of God’s Holy Spirit in their lives. Over the years, the Renewal has grown because people are still humbly asking the Lord to pour out his Spirit. This

yearning for God is what keeps us a humble people—we search for God constantly because we know that our lives, our ministries, and all that we do would be nothing, would mean nothing, would accomplish nothing, without God.

Scripture teaches us that the blessing of the Jubilee Year is a three-fold blessing of rest, restoration, and return. In this Jubilee Year of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, God desires to give his people rest, desires to restore what has been lost or taken, and desires to draw his people closer to himself.

While God offers us so much, we must do our part to cooperate with his plan for us. We must seek to be humble and forgive those who have wronged us. We find true freedom when we follow the example of Jesus and forgive those who trespass against us. The strongholds in our lives are broken through forgiveness and we are set free to be a new creation in Christ.

This Jubilee Year of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is a time for rest and restoration and return. Let us praise God for all that he has done for us, is doing in us, and will do through us! ♦



*Deacon Larry Oney is the founder and president of Hope and Purpose Ministries. As an international preacher and teacher, Deacon Oney*

*strives to proclaim the Kingdom of God (Mt 10:7), encourage others that God has a plan and purpose for their lives (Jer 29:11), and to help heal the brokenhearted (Jn 10:10b). To learn more about our ministry, please visit us at: [www.HopeAndPurpose.org](http://www.HopeAndPurpose.org).*



**When you travel a lot you realize actually you don't need so many things.**

**The Lord wants us to travel light.**

## Where is the Lord Leading Us?

by Michelle Moran

*An excerpt from a talk given to participants at the Gathering of the National Leadership Groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the U.S. plus international guests, in preparation for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend, February 2017.*

**I**would like to suggest to us that this is a season for traveling light. The more traveling you do, you realize the fewer things you need with you on the journey. I see tourists at airports that only go on vacation once or twice a year and they have so many bags because they cannot imagine leaving home without two-thirds of their home with them. When you travel a lot you realize that you actually don't need so many things. The Lord wants us to travel light. Now what do I mean? I think, if we're honest, all of us are carrying an excess of "charismatic baggage."

Now is the time to get away from that way of behaving and simply say, by the grace of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit I want to walk away from these things of the past that still hold me in captivity today. If there are things that hold you from your brothers and sisters because of things that happened five years ago, ten years ago, two years ago, etc. now is the time to develop a short memory and just to look toward the future and not hold on to and be held back by the things of the past.

Maybe our "charismatic baggage" tells us that some things are dangerous, we need to be careful. Of course, we need to make sure that we don't do stupid things. But sometimes we have said things were dangerous or we need to be careful because we were protecting ourselves. We don't want to be self-protective. We don't need to be, be-

cause with the Holy Spirit, as a fire around us (Zec 2), we are completely protected in the Lord. It's not a season of narrow horizons, for self-protectionism. It's a season for doors to be opened, for horizons to be widened, for us to be more inclusive than we have ever been before. So, if you have got excessive "charismatic baggage" it's time to say, I want to travel light.

I'm just going to, by the grace of God, pray for a breakthrough so that relationships that are not easy could come to a new place in the power of the Holy Spirit; **divisions** that really should not have happened can be simply repaired in the grace of the Holy Spirit, etc.

I think, now is a good opportunity (always it's a good opportunity), to repent. But particularly to repent of the things we have not seen. It's easy to repent of the mistakes we have made. But I believe that we didn't see some things happen because, in some ways we got in the way and we became a blockage to the Lord; we became a hindrance to the Holy Spirit. So, today might be a day that we repent of our disobedience, of our shortsightedness, of any ways in which we have stifled the Holy Spirit, times when maybe we allowed this current of grace to become **diluted**. In some

parts of the world the Renewal is hardly charismatic because we did not want to offend anybody. I don't know who was offended but we said let's not move in any of the charisms, we might upset people. We ended up with a charismatic renewal that [just] sings songs to guitar music. Well, I'm sorry but that's not the Charismatic Renewal. So, for any ways we have diluted the grace of the Holy Spirit, let's be repentant today.

Any ways in which we have **diverted** our eyes from the things the Lord is doing, to the things that man is doing. How many times did we get into the habit of following the latest guru in the Renewal: Fr. So and So, Sr. So and So, Mr. Whoever, Mrs. Whoever has a great ministry in healing, deliverance, or whatever they're doing. We started to look to them rather than to look to the Lord and then our eyes went off onto human people rather than to the Spirit of God. We need to repent for the times when we allowed ourselves to get diverted and we need to say "Lord, bring us back to that source of living water."

Finally, any ways we got **distracted**. I believe we lost energy at different times in our history; we lost energy on stupid things. Every leader in this room can name many stupid things that took a lot of your time and your energy but really were not things of the Kingdom. Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa has a phrase that he uses: he says, "The work of the Lord would shine forth more brilliantly if only our pride was destroyed." Wow! I'm praying that prayer in my own way, you need to make your own prayers here, you need to write your own list. I'm just sharing my areas with you. I pray, "Lord, I don't want to be proud of heart; I don't want

to have eyes that are beyond me; I only want to be where you are and where your Spirit is. Draw us back, Lord. Draw us back to the heart, that place of intimacy, where our heart beats with your heart. Where you show us the vision that you have for us in our different realities in this season of the Holy Spirit."

### Where are we going? Where is the Lord leading us?

I believe he's leading us in surprising ways. I believe he's saying to us, "Be ready," and I believe he's saying to us, "Be prepared." You need to make your own development of what this means to you. I believe the Lord is saying to us, "Think in bigger ways, ask my Spirit to expand your horizons." And I believe the Lord is saying, that the next few years are going to be years we could have never dreamed of. We don't have a road map, my friends, this is very exciting. [On the *Duquesne Weekend* when] the Holy Spirit came, the people received, and they didn't know what the next step was. We don't know what the next steps are for us but we do know that the Lord knows and we want to be in that place of faith where he leads us forward, in his ways, in his faith, and in his truth.

I go back to Joshua, to pick up a few threads: he came into a new season, Moses was dead, a new time was coming. We are in the crossover time between one season of the Spirit and the unfolding of the next season. And what did the Lord say to Joshua? First of all, he said: Get ready. Get provisions ready. Get things in place. Prepare your people, says the Lord. Prepare your people for a mighty breakthrough in the Holy Spirit so that when I come with a new visitation

people will be ready. Because it's easy to miss, even a visitation from the Lord, because you're distracted or diverted. So get provisions ready, for yourself and for your people. And then, the Lord said to Joshua, you have to leave the place where you are. Are you prepared to leave where the Lord has brought you to right now? See, we're all in that place where we think, "Whoa, this is wonderful." The Lord says no, you're a people of God and a people of God are a people on the move. So we need to be ready to move wherever the Lord asks us and to believe that he is with us. This is a time to be a pilgrim people in a way that maybe we've never done that before. The first 50 years were about establishing some things. I believe this next season will be much more about moving in the ways of the Spirit. And for that, as I said, we need to travel lightly. We are going to go to places, (that is what God said to Joshua) that we have never been before. Are you prepared for the Lord to take you to places you've never been before? Don't say you're too old, don't say you're too young, don't say any excuses, just say: "Lord, I'm ready. I'm ready for wherever you're leading me." And then, the word that the Lord gave Joshua was, "Sanctify yourself." The Lord, of course, sanctifies us but we need to be in that place where sanctification can take place. This is the place, this is the time, let's allow the Lord to do it among us and through us for his glory. Amen! ♦



*Michelle Moran is President of ICCRS. With her husband Peter she is a founding member of Sion Catholic Community for Evangelization, Brentwood, England.*



# The Gathering PLUS

February 15-18, 2017

by Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia

First, let's speak about the *Gathering of National Leadership Groups*.

In our 50-year experience of Charismatic Renewal, the Lord has poured out his Spirit in multiple ways. In the United States, this outpouring has led to various streams and expressions of renewal—Diocesan Renewal, various language and ethnic groups, communities, charismatic ministries, youth outreaches, and other charismatic expressions.

In 1995, leaders in the Charismatic Renewal felt led to gather proponents of all these expressions. And so began the *Gathering of National Leadership Groups*, a once-a-year meeting of leadership with three goals:

- ❖ That Renewal Leaders in the U.S. may know each other and share what the Lord is doing;
- ❖ That together we may listen to the Lord;
- ❖ That we may take any united action he directs us to.

Over the last 22 years, this Gathering has agreed to various statements: The **Unity Statement**, the **Vision Statement**, and the **Covenant of Understanding** are the most notable.

The Gathering has undertaken many actions: the promoting of the Life in the Spirit Seminars every Easter Time; the establishment of a Charismatic National Day of Prayer on the Friday before Lent; the sponsoring of the 2007, 2012 and 2017 National Conferences to celebrate 40-, 45- and 50-years of Renewal; and the establishment of a 5-Year Committee to outline how to celebrate this Jubilee.

Every year, in a three-day encounter, about 60 leaders gather—from the National Service Committee, the Haitian National Council, the Hispanic National Service Committee, the Filipino Alliance, the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, the Catholic Fraternity, and from other national groups.

The Year 2017 offered the *Gathering* a triple opportunity: the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the celebration of the *Duquesne Weekend* on February 17-19, and the acquisition by the Charismatic Renewal of *The Ark and The Dove Retreat House*, north of Pittsburgh. Being led to move the Gathering from January to this weekend, and led to go to The Ark and The Dove to be at the birthplace of the Renewal, the committee planned to meet where Jesus began this out-

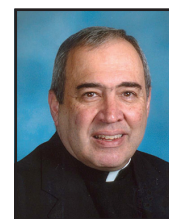
pouring in the Catholic Church. And since many international leaders were interested in coming to the Pittsburgh area for this anniversary, the Committee decided to invite ICCRS, the Catholic Fraternity, and other international leaders—a *Gathering Plus*!

So, from February 15 to 17, about 90 leaders gathered at the Embassy Suites near the Pittsburgh Airport. The Gathering had several elements. There were two teachings, one by Walter Matthews on *"The Fruits of the Renewal"* and one by Michelle Moran on *"Where is the Lord leading us?"* There was a lot of prayer and listening together. And there was a visit to The Ark and The Dove, where the Gathering members broke up into three groups, each of which spent almost an hour in the chapel of The Ark and The Dove.

During these three days Jesus spoke a very clear word: he told the leaders of Charismatic Renewal that their vision was much smaller than his. He has intentions of renewing his entire Church and evangelizing many people, and he expects us to cooperate with his plan!

The Gathering Plus proper ended on the morning of Friday, February 17. On Friday evening and continuing to Saturday, thirty more people joined us for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As we gathered at The Ark and The Dove on Saturday morning around the **Cross of the Renewal**, the entire group came to Jesus.

We were inspired by Patti Mansfield's retelling of the story of what happened at the *Duquesne Weekend* retreat. We all gave ourselves to Jesus again. May he pour out his Spirit anew! ♦



Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia is Spiritual Director of the Hispanic and Haitian National Committees, Brooklyn, New York



## The Ark and The Dove Jubilee Celebration

by Johnny Bertucci

On the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the event known around the world as the *Duquesne Weekend*, charismatics from six continents, from 17 countries, speaking 13 languages, gathered at The Ark and The Dove Retreat house outside Pittsburgh for a Jubilee Celebration.

The celebration began on Friday evening, February 17, with a keynote from Michelle Moran, the President of ICCRS. She shared how the *Duquesne Weekend* nearly did not happen because of a plumbing problem. But what began as a water problem has resulted in a river of life, a current of grace, flowing through our church for the last 50 years.

ICCRS commissioned a 9 foot tall "Cross of the Renewal" to be installed at The Ark and The Dove. On Saturday morning of our celebration, with singing and prayer by representatives from around the world, we dedicated this Cross of the Renewal as a sign of reclaiming this site as the home of baptism in the Holy Spirit. The placement of the cross is such that when anyone turns into the driveway of The Ark and The Dove, the first thing they will see is this wonderful sign of the Renewal, the crucifix with the banner *Veni Creator Spiritus*, and at the end of the banner, a dove.

Saturday afternoon, after a time of praise and worship and listening to the Lord, Bishop David Zubik of Pittsburgh celebrated a special Jubilee Mass of the Holy Spirit.

And on Saturday evening, February 18, 2017, exactly 50 years to the day when the Holy Spirit fell in power on a small group of college students, one of those students, a coed named Patti Gallagher (now) Mansfield, retold the story from that upper room chapel. With people spread throughout the building participating through video streaming to each room, we began by singing the Latin hymn, *Veni Creator Spiritus*. We continued to praise and worship, and as we again heard the story of the historic *Duquesne Weekend*, we re-dedicated ourselves to repentance, humility and openness to an encounter with the Holy Spirit.

Two prophetic words resonated during the weekend. The first prophetic word was a reading from Genesis 7:11-12. "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights." In the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, that is to say, on February 17! Fifty years ago, on the

### Prayer Card

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the great gift of your Holy Spirit first poured out on the world at Pentecost. We thank you for continuing to strengthen and enlighten us through the Holy Spirit. In this Jubilee year, we especially thank you for the fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit released on the *Duquesne Weekend* in 1967. We celebrate the blessing of that weekend and the lasting impact it has had on the Church and millions of Catholics around the world.

Help us Lord to continue to proclaim you as our Lord and to proclaim the freedom found only in you.

May we strive to fully respond to the call for deeper conversion and surrender to you in all things, especially our own personal lives. May this surrender be a mirror to others of your unconditional love and may it draw people to you.

May all our Jubilee Celebrations be filled with a spirit of joy and of love that comes from the Holy Spirit and may the celebrations be a witness to the world of your great power.



weekend of February 17, another kind of rain fell, and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal was born.

The second prophetic word was "unity." The actions of those attending spoke more to this prophetic impulse than did the spoken word. At one point during the weekend, we locked arms as a sign of our unity, representing various streams of the Renewal, different ethnicities, demonstrating our love for each other as we proclaim to the world that Jesus Christ is Lord! ♦



Johnny Bertucci is Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Ark and The Dove, Inc.

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

- ◆ Pray for a renewed enthusiasm in our prayer groups and communities to offer Life in the Spirit Seminars or Holy Spirit retreats.
- ◆ Pray that the Lord comes in a new way with a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit at these and all events where the Holy Spirit is invoked.
- ◆ Pray for all the Jubilee Celebrations being held all over the world as people remember the past and prepare for the future with joy and enthusiasm.
- ◆ Pray especially for the CCC Golden Jubilee 2017 Celebration to be held in Rome, May 31–June 4, and that it will bear much fruit in the lives of the participants and throughout the world.
- ◆ Pray for the **2017 Jubilee Conference**, July 20–23, to be held in Pittsburgh as we celebrate 50 years of Grace.



## Fr. Mike Scanlan, TOR

*by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR*

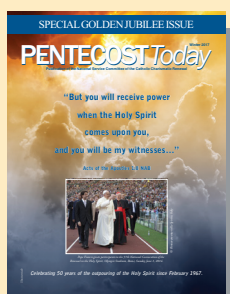
“Let the Brothers desire one thing alone, namely the Spirit of God at work within them” (TOR Rule, #32).

In 1959 Fr. Mike Scanlan, TOR professed to live his life according to this Franciscan Rule and did so until January 7, 2017, the day our Lord called him home. Fr. Mike allowed the Spirit of God to guide and direct his life even when the Lord took him to places that he either didn't particularly want to go or didn't know where it would lead him.

I had the great blessing to work closely with Fr. Mike for the first twelve years of my priesthood serving as Fr. Mike's assistant and being a part of the FIRE Team. I will always be grateful to the Lord for this blessing.

I want to honor Fr. Mike for teaching me the necessity of prayer. Fr. Mike was faithful to continually seeking the Lord's will for his life and ministry. He gave to the Lord his will and desires and sought God's will for his life. Fr. Mike would pray and then do what he believed God asked of him. Finally, Fr. Mike was obedient to God, his Franciscan community and the Church. He always saw himself as a TOR Friar and vowed to be obedient to the Lord and what was asked of him by his Franciscan Community.

Thank you Lord for the witness of Fr. Mike Scanlan, TOR. It is my joy to call him my brother. ◆



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# FRUITS OF THE RENEWAL



## **The Charismatic Renewal and the Unity of Christians** *by Matteo Calisi*

Reconciliation among Christians, spiritual ecumenism is what stands out in my life as a fruit of the Charismatic Renewal, of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. And it began with a prophetic sign. May 1981, under the direction of Cardinal Suenens, the International Office of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal was moved from Brussels to Rome to be at the heart of the Church. To celebrate the event over 500 leaders were invited to an International Leaders' Conference in Rome and among them were prominent Evangelical and Protestant guests.

One of the special guests was Pastor David du Plessis, who was also popularly known as Mr. Pentecost and he always wore a 70x7 pin on his coat lapel. Now Bari, the city where I was born in Italy, is a very ecumenical city and I was sharing with Mr. Pentecost the burden on my heart for Christian unity. At a certain point David took off the 70x7 pin from his coat and put it on mine, saying to me, "Now, Matteo, the mission is yours." Today reconciliation between Christians and spiritual ecumenism is my primary mission working in response to the desire and prayer of Jesus (Jn 17:21-22). ♦

## **Charismatic Conferences in Southern California** *by Dominic Berardino*

Our (SCRC) Conferences in Southern California mushroomed forth during the early days of the Renewal. I help to oversee planning and preparations for the annual Southern California (SCRC) Summer Convention. Through the 1980's and 1990's, God's Spirit brought significant growth to this event. In recent years attendance has averaged from 8000 to 10,000 participants. A community of over 500 hardworking people volunteers to serve the varied selection of talks and activities at this Convention. Participants report accounts of life-changing conversions, power encounters with the kingdom of darkness, sovereign experiences of baptism in the Spirit, healings and even angelic appearances! God's work for this Renewal is far from finished. The Spirit does not lead us to be idle, but to be humble servants in the church and the world. ♦



## **A Great Adventure with Surrender** *by Gloria Coyne, Philadelphia, PA*

From a simple group of college students on a retreat, it amazes me to reflect on what God can do and how many lives can be transformed, if we just say "Yes" to baptism in the Holy Spirit. "For I know the plans I have for you..." (Jer 29:11). When I allowed the Holy Spirit to become the center of my life, everything changed. There was a new depth and fire to my faith. God isn't just a part of my life, he IS my life! There was a refocusing of all my activities, in the marketplace, my marriage and in the church. For the first time, I had a hunger for Scripture and the Sacraments. I understood how to pray, instead of just asking for things. I learned how to praise and worship God. With ministries I never imagined and the community of believers I've met along the way, it has made my life to this point, exciting, and yet, I know there's more to come! ♦



# Rivers of Living Water

**The living waters flow  
out from the Living God.  
He possesses the  
running river of his  
life-giving Spirit.**

by Jane Guenther

As the planning committee for the Jubilee Conference gathered and we were discerning Pope Francis' words to the Renewal and the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, it seemed that in order to properly depict the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit, we needed to be entering the "rivers of living water" (Jn 7:38).

Immersion in the living water provides cleansing and nourishment. Historically, we see that the Jewish ritual provided for numerous purifications by water. The high priest was to bathe to be prepared especially for the great Day of Atonement. We experienced this in the Jubilee Year of Mercy that occurred last year, an invitation to enter into the cleansing water. It is understood that Christ instituted a new mode of purification at the wedding at Cana. He foretold it in symbolic manner when he changed water destined for ritual cleansings (Jn 2:6) into wine, which symbolizes both Spirit and the purifying Word (Jn 15:3). In the Dictionary of Biblical Theology, it goes on to state that the eschatological waters hold an important place in the perspective of restoration of the people of God. It says that God will distribute in abundance the purifying waters which will cleanse the heart of man and thus enable him

to fulfill faithfully and completely the Law of Yahweh.

It is Christ who brings life-giving waters as was promised by the prophets. It is in his own baptism in the Jordan River that he lowered himself into the waters of repentance for sin, our sin. Through this he brings about, in his ascent out of the waters, an encounter as the Spirit descends as a Dove of Peace. This time the Dove is no longer a symbol of reconciliation as in the days of Noah, but rather a visible presence of the divine life that flows down upon man. This gift of true encounter with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as heaven meets earth, gives way to our divine life in the Trinity. When we dwell in the heart of the Trinity, it is our heart that changes. The living waters flow out from the Living God. He possesses the running river of his life-giving Spirit. We are not just speaking of one river, but rivers. A river by nature has excess. It is flowing. There is no situation where God's goodness cannot provide sufficient grace.

The water is living. It is vivacious. It is life-giving and changing. By its very nature it brings hope, life and joy to our lives. We are called to be fruitful. One of the intentional ways of being fruitful is to live the fruits of the Holy

Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (Gal 5:22-23).

We should remember that the reason for the image of the river is that it reaches beyond our own lives. Just as God is love, his goodness overflows from his throne down to the shores of earth. God's love is spilling over into the lives of others. He is like a river current which is compelled with looking to where it can flow. We might want to hold on to what God has given us. Don't. The best thing is to acknowledge it, find a scripture that accompanies it, thank God for it and in your abundance share God's glory with others. The moment we try to capture and hold on to that blessing, like water in our hands it flows out and cannot be held. We must live our lives in the present.

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water'" (Jn 7:37-38). Whether gathered together at this Jubilee celebration or in your own community, let us seek to see the abundance of this living water flowing amongst God's people so that his Spirit can renew the face of the earth. For more conference information see ad on page 16 and visit the NSC website. ♦

*Jane Guenther is Conference Administrator for the Jubilee Conference, Director of the Catholic Renewal Center for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and ICCRS Council Member for North America, Central America and English Speaking Caribbean.*



## IN MEMORY

*In a little less than a month, three of the former members of the National Service Committee departed for heavenly glory.*



### Aggie Neck

On March 23rd, former NSC Chairman Aggie Neck went to be with the Lord. I had the privilege of ministering with her for the last 17 years of her life.

We served together on the Steering Committee for the Southern Regional Conference. She then mentored me when I was elected to serve on the National Service Committee.

During Aggie's tenure as Chairman of the NSC, we adopted our Vision and Mission Statement, which guides our actions to this day. Aggie mainly influenced my life through her anointed teaching. One of her favorite themes was: "Without a vision, the people perish."

Her deep abiding love of Jesus, her knowledge of Scripture and the Catechism, and her ability to present practical ways to grow in our faith made Aggie the gifted teacher everyone loved. She was a leader, teacher, worshiper, mentor, and friend. We will miss her.

Johnny Bertucci  
Chairman, NSC



These three join the previous eleven members of the NSC who have died:

- ✠ Fr. Jim Ferry (1977-83); died 1989
- ✠ Fr. Emile LaFranz (1990-95); died 1995
- ✠ Fr. Ralph Weishaar (1984-90); died 2000
- ✠ Fr. Hal Cohen (1973-82); died 2001
- ✠ Bishop Joseph McKinney (1978-82); died 2010
- ✠ David Thorp (1984-9; 2002-4); died 2011
- ✠ Fr. John Randall (1977-83); died 2011
- ✠ Fr. George Kosicki (1970-75); died 2014
- ✠ Gerald (Gerry) Mader (2005-13); died 2014
- ✠ John (Jack) Brombach (1975-84); died 2014
- ✠ Fr. Michael (Mike) Scanlan (1975-78); died 2017

May each of these who served this great Renewal so well, rest in peace.



### Marilynn Kramar

Marilynn Kramar's legacy speaks of the woman she was. She leaves behind two children, five grandchildren, and hundreds of spiritual children, especially of Hispanic back-

ground. When she passed away, many cried out from the heart: "I have lost my mother!" At her all-night Wake at the Porciuncula, the Evangelization Center that she founded and an integral part of Charisma in Missions, there were countless witnesses of all ages, including priests, who spoke of how she touched their lives.

Marilynn converted to the Catholic Church from the Assemblies of God in 1972. She served as a member of the National Service Committee (1984-1990) and was also a founding member of the first Hispanic National Committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (Comité Nacional de Servicio Hispano, CNSH).

Evangelizing in the charismatic way was her call and her passion. She suffered a physical difficulty that led to her death while she was preaching the Life in the Spirit Seminar, asking her audience not to remain stagnant - "No se estanquen" - Allow the Holy Spirit to move within you!

¡Gracias Marilynn!

Cruz Teresa Rosero  
Member, CNSH



### William J. Beatty

William (Bill) J. Beatty died March 24 after an eight year battle with a rare lung disease. Bill was the Associate Director of the National Service Committee from early 1980 to May,

1984 when he succeeded Kevin Ranaghan as Executive Director. He served in that position until 1993. He was one of the few Renewal leaders to serve on the NSC twice. The first was from 1975-77 while he was still in Augusta, Georgia where he and a handful of others had formed the Alleluia Covenant Community. His second time on the NSC was from 1985-1994 after he had become Executive Director.

Bill was a larger than life man of God who served well in so many ways. His constant theme was how much God loves each of us. His vision was wide, challenging and inspiring. His sense of humor defused many difficult situations. He loved his wife and family, the Lord, the Renewal and the Catholic Church. He was my mentor for the nearly nine years we worked together, and a friend for over thirty years. I was blessed to attend his funeral and burial. I was even more blessed to throw a shovel full of dirt into his grave. May he rest in peace.

Walter Matthews  
Executive Director, NSC



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## Joy and the New Evangelization

I have recently been dealing with serious medical issues in my family. It has been difficult but we can feel God's hand in all of it. In the last four months I have been asked countless times how I can remain so happy. My answer is usually, "Oh this is not happiness you are seeing. It is joy." Is there a difference? Absolutely, yes. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and when the Holy Spirit is present in a soul nothing can take that true joy away. This is a compelling reason for young adults

to join the Renewal. They need joy and they will see a true and lasting joy in the Renewal.

Studies show that as social media takes over more and more of our lives that we are less and less happy in every way. The problems of life, injustices and jealousies can take away happiness in an instant. I recently had a conversation with a couple who just got back from vacation and the wife admitted that, while away, she spent a great deal

of time wondering if another destination might have been better. This whole "happiness" thing is fleeting.

I believe one of the charisms of the Renewal is to demonstrate the joy of the Lord. This joy does not come and go but is lasting and true. In our day and age this is a more powerful demonstration of the power of God than even profound miracles. Joy is an essential element of the New Evangelization and the Renewal. Modern man asks for signs. I can think of no greater sign than a lasting and deep joy. "The Joy of the Lord is our Strength!" ♦

## Glory Days?

*"I hope when I get old I don't sit around thinking about glory days..."*  
Bruce Springsteen

by Fr. Rory T. Conley

On that Thursday evening in March more than 150 people gathered in the parish hall for the first session of the Life in the Spirit seminar.

Four days later, on Sunday morning, another 50 people gathered in the same hall for *their* first session of the seminar. Glory days from the past history of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal? No. These events occurred in March of 2017 in this Golden Jubilee Year of the Renewal.

The organizers of the seminar—the pastor of the parish, the deacon and the fifteen members of the evangelization committee—were overwhelmed by the response. For a few years they

had been working together to bring to the parish the principles of discipleship through homilies, faith formation activities and occasional post-Communion witness talks.

Although the pastor had come of age when the CCR was at its previous height, he had little real awareness of it. As for the rest of the committee, while some had heard the term "Charismatic Renewal" they didn't know what it was and none of them had heard of the Life in the Spirit seminar.

As the committee members gathered regularly for prayer and discussion about promoting discipleship in the parish, they found themselves on a journey which led them to embrace the spirituality of the Renewal. This prompted them to offer prayer services for healing in the parish for the first time. Along the way men's and women's prayer groups were formed by members of the committee as well as new ministries for the divorced and for

middle school youth. Bible studies, the ChristLife series and presentations on *Unbound* deliverance ministry followed. Praise and worship music was also introduced at a Sunday Mass twice a month.

While the response to these efforts was good for a parish of 800 families, only a portion of the parishioners were participating in these activities. Their most recent effort, bi-monthly presentations of Fr. Dave Pivonka's DVD series on the Holy Spirit, *The Wild Goose*, had eighty participants at the start. During the course of this series the committee members pledged to fast on Fridays in hopes that their physical hunger would bless the parish with a hunger for the Spirit.

In the fall of 2016 the committee decided to offer *The Gift-Life in the Spirit Series* produced in 2015 by the Renewal in the U.K. as a Lenten exercise for the parish. Wrong liturgical season of course, but a time when Catholics are willing to do something more for their

Continued next page

spiritual growth. Two Sundays before the *Gift* series was to begin the pastor gave a witness talk on his own experience of baptism in the Spirit at all four weekend Masses. Among other things he told the parishioners that it lead him to a deeper experience of the love of Jesus. He also told them it was the most important event in his life since the day of his ordination twenty-seven years before. The next Sunday the deacon of the parish, an army veteran of many recent conflicts, shared how baptism in the Spirit had brought him healing and unspeakable joy.

But still, after all the seed planting and blessings received, no one on the committee expected the response of the parishioners. The sign-ups for the series were brisk to start with and then they just kept coming. On the last few days before the first session the numbers doubled to over two hundred. Parishioners who had never come to anything before were signing up and

people from other parishes as well. Even a few former Catholics who now worshiped as Pentecostals wanted to come. The numbers for Thursday night far exceeded what the committee was prepared for but everyone who called or emailed was welcomed to join. The committee members reasoned, "If the Spirit is sending these people, who are we to say 'no?'"

When all the people who had signed up converged on the hall, it was a logistical challenge for the committee to find places for them all and facilitators to guide each small group. In spite of the confusion, the committee members were giddy in the excitement of seeing what the Lord was doing. Clearly the Holy Spirit was moving in the hearts of his people *who only needed to be encouraged to invite him in.*

Five weeks later 204 people received prayer for baptism in the Holy Spirit. One participant wrote of the experi-

ence: "I have not spoken in tongues, but I have spoken with love to my family and friends. Three days later and I am still at peace and full of happiness and thankfulness." Another said: "It was truly a beautiful evening to witness the love, joy and peace throughout the room. These feelings carried over to my ride home. I started praising God for a wonderful night. I continued to praise and ask the Holy Spirit for his gifts. After saying 'Come Holy Spirit' several times I started to sing 'Come Holy Spirit.' Next thing I knew I was singing in tongues! It was truly amazing.... a beautiful melody that only he could interpret from my heart!"

The first praise hymn sung during the series was Jim Cowan's "Come Into My Heart" and the last was Matt Maher's "Your



Grace Is Enough." Glory days indeed! ♦

Fr. Rory Conley is pastor of St. Mary's Church in Bryantown, Maryland.

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by Walter Matthews

## A Jubilee and a Journey

**M**y last column, entitled “I Have a Dream,” was written six months ago on September 30. On October 15, my wife Claire was involved in a major automobile accident in which she suffered a smashed left hip socket, broken bones and a smashed ankle in her right leg, and ten “broken, cracked, bruised” ribs. She survived, as did the motorcyclist who had strayed across the county road not far from our parish church into the dead center of the front of our car.

We are very grateful Claire survived. She has had four surgeries, spent four and a half months in a skilled nursing and rehab center and nine days in a rehabilitation hospital. She was discharged to home health care a month ago. After three weeks, she begins outpatient physical therapy tomorrow. She still has a long way to go. The surgeons have indicated a timeframe of her not being able to walk independently for a year after the accident. It has changed our lives.

Yet it is our, the Renewal’s, Jubilee and a time, I wrote in the “Special Golden Jubilee Issue” “for giving thanks for what the Lord has done in our lives, in my life!, and acknowledging that it is not something we have earned or merited but rather it is the reception of a great grace.” There I was talking about baptism in the Holy Spirit, but I could have been talking about the salvation won for us on the cross—as well as

grace amidst the challenges of this personal journey.

Thanks to our young adult children I was able to speak at the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware’s Conference the Saturday after the accident, attend and serve as Chairman at the National Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference in Atlanta in early November, and, more recently, attend the Gathering of National Leadership Groups and the Jubilee Celebration held at The Ark and The Dove in mid-February. I know there was grace in all of these events!

Even more so there has been grace in these months, especially for Claire. She will tell you of the power of the Father’s love reaching out to her in the millisecond between when she saw the motorcyclist come across the road toward her, and in the power of Jesus’ name she began to say repeatedly. She knows that she would not be alive except for that love and power—and she knows that she would not be as far along in her healing and recovery without all the prayer (and fasting!) that has been done for her.

At the end of the “Special Golden Jubilee Issue” Mary Healy encouraged us to “celebrate the Jubilee as *rest...as release...[and] as return* by returning to our first love, the passion for Jesus that was kindled in us by the Holy Spirit, and to childlike trust in God and openness to his gifts.” I pray you are doing so. This Jubilee *is* a wedding feast, let us rejoice.

In the words of Pope Francis, “In this Jubilee Year, let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of throwing open the doors of his heart and repeats that he loves us and wants to share his love with us.” ♦

## FRIENDS OF THE NSC

Since last Fall we have received gifts honoring the following:

Norm, Sarah and Tis Alexander  
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Spirit of God Prayer Group (Virginia Beach)  
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Gifts were also given in memory of:  
Narcisco and Josefina Albarracin  
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We also give thanks and ask your prayer for Barbara Mann who left us \$10,000 in her will.

## AN INVITATION

In this Jubilee year we have added the phrase “and Beyond” to our Toward the Jubilee Campaign. We want to invite you, whether a current NSC donor or not, to consider a pledge or gift to the “and Beyond” Campaign.

Please visit our website to see short videos from Bishop Sam Jacobs and Johnny Bertucci. In his video, Bishop Jacobs asks

# Charismatic Leaders Fellowship Meets in Tulsa

What we have  
seen and heard

by Dan Almeter



For over 45 years, the Charismatic Fellowship (CLF) has been meeting in the U.S. This group was formerly known as the Charismatic Concerns Committee and was formed about 1970 for charismatic leaders of various denominations and ministries, to openly and freely discuss controversial topics within the broad charismatic renewal. This year's meeting took place February 20-23, 2017, on the Campus of Oral Roberts University. The history of participants of this gathering is like reading a Who's Who among charismatic leaders—many who have gone on to be with the Lord. But we were still graced with some “old wine” like Rev. Vinson and Carol Synan and Rev. Larry and Nordis Christenson. We also had international representation of leaders from Canada, Kenya, Italy, England and Brazil.

The list of topics that this group has discussed literally covers the whole range of issues confronting the charismatic renewal and the Church in the past 50 years. There is one general focus, however, that remains the same. This is a deep desire to see unity within the Body of Christ. It was out of this group that the historic 1977 Kansas City Conference on unity came about as well as the NARSC Conferences in New Orleans (1986/1987), Indianapolis (1990), Orlando (1995), and St. Louis (2000). And the focus for unity continues. Among other topics discussed, this year we heard from Matteo Calisi (Italy) about a 2017 conference on unity being planned for church and ministry leaders around the world—again in Kansas City—October 24-26, 2017. Go to [unitedinchrist.com/kairos-2017](http://unitedinchrist.com/kairos-2017) for more information.

While the talks at CLF are rich in and of themselves, it is the time spent building relationships with one another that gives CLF its irreplaceable value. Discussions over lunch and dinner or the rising early enough to have a long breakfast with brothers and sisters to hear about what the Lord is doing in their “neck of the woods” and to share common victories as well as common struggles, is key. There is a genuine sharing of gifts that takes place during our days together and that often spills over into our respective churches and ministries at home.

Next year the Charismatic Leaders Fellowship will be held in Augusta, Georgia and hosted by the Alleluia Community from Monday to Thursday, February 19-22. The annual meeting is by invitation only. But if you are a Catholic leader and have further interest, contact the conference administrator, Kurt Eyrich, at [kurteyrich@gmail.com](mailto:kurteyrich@gmail.com). ♦

*Dan Almeter is a leader in the Alleluia Community and North American Executive Member of the International Catholic Fraternity of Communities.*

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you (and me) to support the NSC in this *Toward the Jubilee Campaign and Beyond Campaign*. With your support we can make a difference for the future. He then shares his own commitment to make a difference by making a pledge of \$5,000 in this Campaign.

We want to encourage you to take up this challenge to be stretched in your generosity to reach the next generation.

Consider making a pledge for one, two or three years at a level that indicates your thanksgiving to the Lord for the blessings you have received through the Renewal and baptism in the Holy Spirit and your faith and trust in God's provision for you and your family as you go forward.

\$10, \$20, \$30, \$100 a month, or a \$1,000 or more a year—or at any level between and beyond!

If you have given to the Campaign over the last few years by gift or pledge, we ask you to consider an additional pledge or an additional gift at this time. We need your step of faith and trust in the Lord so that we too can take additional steps of faith as we move forward in this current of grace the Lord has been pouring out in the Catholic Charismatic Church since 1967 into the next fifty years.

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**Registration:** 3 day \$70; 4 day \$80 Discount rates for youth and children. Meal plans available. For more information and to register for the Conference go to [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org) or call 1-800-338-2445.