

Fall 2017

PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Catholic Charismatic Renewal and Families
Kathia and Andres Arango

JUBILEE VISION
Jim Murphy

The Pentecost 2017 Message from Rome
Oreste Pesare

I see the FIRE
Linda Koontz

Fruits of the Renewal

Jubilee and Beyond
Johnny Bertucci

Anna Lurye/Shutterstock

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



Chairman's Corner

by Johnny Bertucci

Unity, that the world may believe

“That they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (Jn 17:21).

We have been incredibly blessed during this Jubilee year. Celebrations have included the fiftieth Anniversary at The Ark and The Dove in February, the Pentecost Celebration in Rome with Pope Francis in June, and the Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh in July.

Each event has stressed some aspect of unity. Pope Francis has reminded the Renewal of its ecumenical roots. Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, on Pentecost Eve in Circus Maximus, spoke about how, since ancient times, the story of Pentecost in the second chapter of Acts has been understood as a reversal of

what happened at Babel. “How many of the divisions among Christians have been due to a secret desire to make a name for ourselves,” Cantalamessa said.

Post these three celebrations, I’ve been asked to speak almost exclusively on ecumenism. Christian unity has been on the hearts of many. Recently I participated in ecumenical gatherings in Brazil. One event was hosted by an organization called ENCRISTUS. The acronym ENCRISTUS (in Portuguese) means Encounter of Christians in the Quest for Unity and Holiness. In the United States I participated in an event called Kairos 2017, an historic conference with leaders from Catholic, Protestant & Orthodox Churches, sponsored by United in Christ and hosted by the International House of Prayer in Kansas City.

Unity is born of the Holy Spirit. Division is born of the devil. A movement having as its identity baptism in the Holy Spirit should be the most united of movements. Let us show the world who Jesus is by the unifying love we show one another.

Johnny Bertucci is Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

In recent issues we have looked back at the history of the Renewal in order to reflect on, appreciate and give thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives over the last 50 years. Now we look forward. The goal is not to live or bask in the past, or to create a replica of the past. The Spirit is always poured out anew.

See, I am doing something NEW (Is 43:19), (p 14).

Are we open to new ideas (p 12) and willing to offer guidance?

Johnny Bertucci invites us to rejoice in the further development and newness at The Ark and The Dove (p 10).

Jim Murphy exhorts us to be people of joy, remembrance and gratitude (pp 4-5).

Kathia Arango highlights the words of Pope Francis regarding the importance of grandparents in a family (see cover photo, and family testimony on pp 3 and 10). In a sense, many of our readers may be like grandparents in the Renewal.

Fr. Anthony Ouellette encourages us to ponder, “So, what are we to do now?” (p13).

Oreste Pesare shares the challenge of Pope Francis who exhorts us to deeper unity through forgiveness, through reconciled diversity, and through the ecumenism of blood: the Lord is giving unity to us as a gift (pp 6-7).

On pages 8 and 9 you can read of a variety of spiritual fruit developed through the gift of the Renewal.

Sr. Linda Koontz reflects on the many areas of the Renewal where she sees the fire of the Holy Spirit at work (p 15).

Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love!



PENTECOSTToday

Volume 42 Number 4

Executive Director

Walter Matthews

Editorial Board

Jimmy Archer

Tom Mangan

Tammie Stevens

Editor

Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

Production Manager

Jean Beers

© 2017 National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. Not to be reproduced without permission. NSC office: 1-800-338-2445.

For Your Information

The mission of *Pentecost Today* is to serve and be a voice for the National Service Committee’s mission “to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.” We do this by publishing articles that instruct and give practical wisdom, with a particular emphasis on strengthening leaders and leader formation, in a visually appealing and inviting format.

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

Catholic Charismatic Renewal and Families



by Kathia and Andres Arango

We give infinite thanks to God for giving us the blessing of sharing our testimony with more than 50,000 charismatics from 127 countries at the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide. We spoke about the Renewal and the family during the Vigil of Pentecost with Pope Francis at the Circus Maximus in Rome. It was an historical and unforgettable moment. His Holiness has given great importance to two fundamental themes in the life of the Church: the new evangelization and the family. Therefore, through our family testimony we wish to share an example of the evangelizing work that the Renewal has done worldwide to bring the presence of Jesus to families.

Andres: Through a serious illness in my father's life, I (Andres) had the opportunity to meet a living Jesus. In spite of being born into a Catholic family, receiving the sacrament of Baptism when I was only two months old, and studying all my life in a Catholic school, it was only at the age of 18 that I can say that I really met Jesus. After seeking a solution in many places, a Catholic priest prayed over my dad one day and God healed him. This priest invited my family to a prayer group where we witnessed that the Holy Spirit continues acting in the Church, pouring out charisms. Then, I fell in love with Jesus and began serving God in the Renewal.

Kathia: Since I (Kathia) was a kid, I have memories of my grandmother entering my house with her Bible to lead a prayer group every week. As I grew older, the words of Pope Francis were

fulfilled in me: how important are the grandparents in the life of the family to communicate the faith! My desire to participate more in the activities of the church grew and at the age of 10 I began to walk in the Renewal in a ministry of children.

Many years have passed and with them many people, who were part of my family, have marked my life of service to God. The Renewal has been for me the place where my family and I met and fell in love with the Lord.

It was in a Latin American conference of the Renewal that we met. We became good friends and the Holy Spirit began to kindle in our hearts the love of a couple until we received the sacrament of marriage. We have witnessed the loving providence of God. He blessed us with pastoral jobs in dioceses and the opportunity to go out on missions, testifying to many families that

when we let the Holy Spirit move in our homes, we see the wonders of God in our lives.

Living the love of God as a couple, we desired to be parents. We prayed for this and after a couple of years the Lord gave us this great blessing. However, God never lets himself be outdone in generosity: he not only granted us the grace to be parents of one, but of two beautiful twin girls. In their short five years of life, they have taught us much more of God than we have learned in major evangelization conferences. Indeed, in them we can feel every day the tenderness, the purity and the presence of God in our home. There is no doubt that this current of grace always marks the history of our family.

Last February, with 120 Renewal leaders from around the world, we were in the Retreat House, The Ark and The Dove, north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the Renewal began exactly fifty years ago. That weekend was very important for us as a family. We took our daughters. The girls enjoyed every moment. We realized how many expressions of our charismatic spirituality, such as raising our hands in prayer, laying hands, singing praises, were normal attitudes for them, and were daily

See Families page 10.



Photo above courtesy: ccrgoldenjubilée2017office.
Photo below: Sr. Mary Anne Schaezler

A JUBILEE VISION

by Jim Murphy

As the Catholic Charismatic Renewal recalls its journey of fifty years, Jubilee Celebrations are going on literally all over the world! It seems that every National and Diocesan leadership team, as well as each prayer group is finding some way to celebrate this milestone event. Rightly so!

Yet a Jubilee is more than commemorating an anniversary (although it includes that.) The Bible gives us some valuable insights into what it means to celebrate a Jubilee!

In its most basic sense, a Jubilee is a celebration which began with the blowing of a ram's horn to gather the people for the celebration. The name for a ram was Yubel, which leads to yubelation...which eventually became Jubilation and then Jubilee. So, a key element of Yubel was gathering people together to celebrate what the Lord has done.



Using that as a definition, God's people had several occasions to Jubilate. One example was when the People of Israel crossed through the Red Sea to freedom. Their enemies were destroyed in the sea. Once the Israelites reached the other shore, Moses' sister, Myriam, grabbed a tambourine and began to get the women to dance and sing. The whole camp joined in the celebration!

Yet Jubilee was more than a party. It was a recognition of the greatness and the mercy of God. Israel did not celebrate the crossing of the Red Sea as some kind of stroke of good luck, but rather as the intentional action of a merciful God! Although there was a celebration among the people, it was God-centered, not just another party. The same is true when the people who had been in exile returned to Jerusalem to live again in the holy city. As Ezra the priest-scribe is reading the Law of the Lord (Nehemiah 8) the people are overwhelmed at their own brokenness and at the same time the generous goodness of God. The leaders of the people call for a great feast as a way to recognize and celebrate all that the Lord has done.

These two accounts already lay out for us three essential elements necessary for the Renewal. The Renewal needs to be a people of joy, of remembrance and of gratitude.

JOY: St Paul admonishes us to “re-joyce in the Lord always!” (Phil 4:4). Nehemiah reminds us that “the joy of the Lord is your strength.” There must have been some joy in that Upper Room on Pentecost, because the more cynical in the group of bystanders thought they were drunk!

Joy was one of the benchmarks of the early Renewal. We were so filled with joy that some people thought we were crazy, some thought we were drunk or on drugs. But it was precisely this boundless joy and enthusiasm which became such a sign of God's presence in our midst. It was a magnet that drew so many people into this experience.

In the past fifty years, the Renewal has become more organized, more mature, more reflective...but we don't seem as joyful as we once were. We have in some ways “lost the love we had at first” (Rev 2:4).

REMEMBRANCE: A Jubilee calls us to never forget where we have come from. We are asked to remember and acknowledge our own mistakes and failures. Yet that can only be done fruitfully against the backdrop of the patient faithfulness of God's intervention in our lives. The fact that we are still here after fifty years is more of a testimony to God's faithfulness than to ours. We must be careful that we do not credit the success of the Renewal to our own efforts, but rather to the work of God. Our Jubilee must not be reduced to a list of our accomplishments, but must remain an

acknowledgement of God, and all that he has done for us. "Let Israel now say 'Had not the Lord been with us...'" (Ps 124).

GRATITUDE: If we truly keep our focus on the Lord, then we must live lives of gratitude. Our gratitude is an acknowledgement of all of the mercy, kindness, and love God has showered upon us. In the scriptures, that gratitude was more than a sentiment.

In the account of Jubilation in Nehemiah, the leaders told the people not only to be joyful and celebrate, but to share their food and goods with those who had nothing with which to celebrate.

It makes sense; if God is kind to us, how can we withhold kindness from another person? It is precisely because God is good to us that we want to be good to others. In a sense, every kind deed we do towards another person is a way to acknowledge and honor God, who first showed kindness to us.

There was the Jubilee year that was more formalized in the scripture and the one we model our Jubilee year after. In the book of Leviticus, Chapter 25, the Lord instructs Israel to set aside an entire year for celebration, remembrance and gratitude. It was the formal year of jubilee. In this year, "Special unto the Lord," the people were to refrain from working the fields, letting the land rest for an entire year. The Lord promised that he would give them enough crops the year before and the year after so that the people could rest in that year and still have enough food.

Resting is really an act of faith. It says that God is in charge. He will take

care of things. He will take care of me. To be sure, this does not mean that I never work! But there is a grace in surrendering all things to the Lord and resting in his care. In our own times, Sundays, which used to be a day of rest is just as crazy as the other six! Why? People say they just have too much to do, and if they slow down on Sunday they will not be ready for the upcoming week. Something is

A Jubilee is a kind of a crossroad, a place where the past and future meet.

wrong here. I think we are all trying too hard to make things happen. We have things we want to see accomplished and we just keep pushing until we succeed. This has even trickled into the Renewal. What has happened to trusting God? Maybe we don't have to get everything done. It is so sweet when we can trust in the Lord and relax, placing all things into his hands.

Another aspect of the formal Jubilee was that God called his people to forgive debts, set slaves free, and return all land to its original, ancestral owners. I can't speak to all of that as it applies to the Renewal but "forgiving a debt" sure rings true.

As I travel around the world, I hear stories of prayer groups, or various leaders literally feuding for decades! Somebody said or did something back in the early 80's and the rift is still there. So much good has been lost because we fight among ourselves. A Jubilee year is a time to forgive. It's time to let things go, to work things out. It's time to move on.

In one way, a jubilee was the end of a period of fifty years. In another way, it was the beginning of the next

fifty. A Jubilee is a kind of a crossroad, a place where the past and future meet. The best way to prepare for the next fifty years is to find the best of the last fifty and apply them to today.

■ The Catholic Charismatic Renewal needs to rediscover and recover its deep, abounding joy.

■ It needs to remember and acknowledge its own weakness and failings, but always against the backdrop of God's faithfulness and loving care.

■ In a spirit of gratitude, the Renewal can never grow weary of giving thanks to God, but also show kindness to others.

■ The Catholic Charismatic Renewal needs to regain the ability to trust in God, working when the Lord says "work" and resting when the Lord says "rest."

Forgiving debt will go a long way to bringing a new energy into this extraordinary current of grace. We have too much more important work to do than to be bogged down in pettiness! I cannot see what lies ahead over the next fifty years, but I can see the hand of the One who guides us and protects us. We don't have to get there ourselves. The Lord is going there. He marches before us taking us on the next leg of the journey. Our place is to stay close to God. He's taken good care of us for the last fifty years....He'll do the same for the next. ♦



Jim Murphy is President of ICCRS. He does mission work for Mexico under Renewal Ministries as a country coordinator and is a speaker as President of Vera Cruz Communications.



What did God do and say at the CCR Jubilee event in Rome?

a perspective reflection by the ICCRS Director Oreste Pesare

It is now more than five months since the great Catholic Charismatic Renewal Jubilee celebrations held in Rome during the time of Pentecost, from May 30th to June 4th 2017. Now is the right time to go over it again in our mind and our heart, looking at what God did and said to the Charismatic Renewal after 50 years of its existence in the Catholic Church.

Shutterstock

You are for all the Church

First of all let me praise the Lord for the special moments he allowed us to live all together during the days of the event. The celebration of the Vigil was a great blessing for the Universal Church. Seeing and hearing the voice of the Holy Father was very important, particularly to those who came from the farthest corners of the earth. The Spirit's presence was so alive; it was a real *Kairos moment*. I felt the prophecy of Ezekiel 37 coming to life: *"there was a noise, a clattering sound; it was the bones coming together"* (v. 7).

This gives us the first message from the Lord, through Pope Francis' words during the Saturday Vigil: *"Catholic Charismatic Renewal, you are a current of graces [in which] multiple expressions have been born... inspired by the Spirit, with various charisms, and all in service of the Church... This current of grace is for all the Church, not just for some... Share with all in the Church baptism in the Holy Spirit."*

A reconciled diversity to announce the Good News to all peoples!

Something extremely important to us, that God has been shouting for a while, is that the current of grace of the Renewal is a 'body'... a 'special' body that needs to be united! And this has been the leitmotiv of the entire Jubilee event; the search for real unity in diversity by the grace of the Holy Spirit, first of all among the Charismatic realities in the Catholic Church.

Here is an excerpt of Pope Francis speech to the participants of the 16th International Conference of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Communities and Fellowships in Rome on October 31, 2014; *"The Holy Spirit does two things;*

Here are some statistics on attendance:

- ◆ 35,000 attended the Friday night celebration at Circus Maximus
- ◆ 50,000 attended the Saturday night celebration at Circus Maximus with Pope Francis
- ◆ 127 Countries were represented
- ◆ more than 50 Bishops and about 800 Priests were present from all over the world
- ◆ many others around the world followed the celebrations on social media.

He creates unity in diversity. Unity does not imply uniformity; it does not necessarily mean doing everything together or thinking in the same way. Nor does it signify a loss of identity." So, we can only build the body of Christ by setting a target of living unity in diversity, without wishing that the others become like us, losing their identities... And this for the sake of evangelizing the world.

Here again Pope Francis to the Catholic Fraternity in 2014, recalling Blessed Paul VI's Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*: "The power of evangelization will find itself considerably diminished if those who proclaim the Gospel are divided among themselves in all sorts of ways. Is this not perhaps one of the great sicknesses of evangelization today?... From this comes Pope Francis' official request to ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity to create a new 'one single service' for the one current of grace of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, serving in unity all the various Charismatic realities in the Catholic Church in their specific and diverse identities.

This is what I feel the Spirit is doing, following the already quoted prophecy of Ezekiel 37: "...I shall put sinews on you, I shall make flesh grow on you, I shall cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live... The breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army" (v. 10). A significant word in this direction was given by Mary Healy at the Jubilee Duquesne celebration in February 2017: "The Lord is giving us unity as a gift. Renewal has gone through many different divisions. There is going to be a reconciling of relationships..."

The ecumenism of blood

The search for real unity in the Body

of Christ also calls us to create new relationships with other Christian Communities and Churches who are open to it. Listen to God speaking to us through the words of Pope Francis during the Saturday Vigil: "Today the unity of Christians, united by the work of the Holy Spirit, in prayer and in action for the weakest, is more urgent than ever. Walk together, work together. Love each other. Love each other... Today there are more martyrs than in the early times. And this is the ecumenism of blood."

We can reach real unity in the Body of Christ only through the great meaning of forgiveness offered to others, including enemies, in imitation of Jesus. Forgiveness is the important tool of which the Lord has equipped us to build the kingdom of God, according to his heart. In fact, although none of us can undo the wrong done by creating and living divisions at all levels, each of us can – and is strongly called upon to do so – remedy the evil done realizing concrete actions of forgiveness with our own neighbours, in our own families, in our own group and community, in our own church, and finally between brothers from different churches. I really feel that the Spirit of God is preparing us for a new large persecution in the next future. Only disciples "united" and "on fire" will be able to overcome in this new time and, as martyrs, sow new blood to grow the kingdom of God.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit, praise and service to man

To conclude, let us listen to God, always through the words of Pope Francis during the Saturday Vigil, about the need of true fruits of the Spirit in our life: "Jubilant, cheer, joy, fruit of the same action of the Holy Spirit! Either the Christian experiences joy in his or her heart, or there is something wrong. The

Prayer Card

I will Pour Out My Spirit

"Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God, And there is no other; And my people will never be put to shame.

"It will come about after this That I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

"Even on the male and female servants I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

Joel 2:27, 3:1-2

joy of the announcement of the Good News of the Gospel...". Anyway "I can praise profoundly, but if I do not help those most in need, it is not enough... Baptism in the Holy Spirit, praise, service to man. The three things are indissolubly joined."

Let anyone who can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches! (Rev 2:7). ♦



Oreste Pesare is the Director of ICCRS and the author of My Soul Magnifies the Lord... The Holy Spirit in action in my life.

Photo: Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner

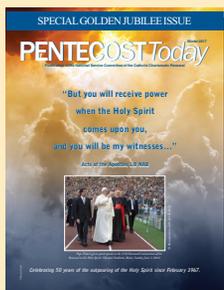


FRUITS OF THE RENEWAL

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

Let us Pray Together

- ◆ For the grace to receive the Holy Spirit being poured out upon mankind in these days
- ◆ For an increase and awareness of the charisms and gifts of the Holy Spirit used in every day life
- ◆ For a generosity of heart towards the 'next' generation enabling them to be welcomed and mentored
- ◆ For a re-generation of hearts in all people so they will continue to dream dreams.
- ◆ For the continuation of effective, enthusiastic witnesses of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, drawing people into a deeper relationship with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ For the upcoming election to the National Service Committee replacing four members, and election of a new Chairman.



ORDER EXTRA COPIES

Extra copies of the 50th Anniversary Edition of *Pentecost Today* are available for Conferences, Days of Renewal, Prayer Groups, Communities and Ministries for a nominal donation. Call 1-800-338-2445 or email conference@nsc-chariscenter.org.

Metanoia by Jimmy Archer, Fairmont, WV



On a warm summer's night in July of 1975 a small group of young adults came together to pray with me to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. What happened that evening changed my life forever! Born into a good Catholic family, I went through the motions of receiving all the sacraments not really comprehending the grace that was being afforded to me. Unaware, by the time I was a young adult I had walked very far away from the faith, living a very worldly life. But that night after four weeks of preparation, when those faithful young adults laid hands upon me praying for the outpouring of the Spirit, my heart was transformed! I had a life-changing experience of the Father's love being poured out by the Holy Spirit that caused a great *metanoia* in me. Jesus is Lord now and forever!



Fruits of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in My Life by Kristina Cooper, Editor of Goodnews magazine, London, England

Coming into contact with the CCR as a volunteer in Panama, 35 years ago totally changed the arc of my life. Although a practicing Catholic I had a very secular mindset. I wanted to make a difference but saw this as all up to me. The baptism in the Holy Spirit opened my mind to the reality of the Trinity, and how the Lord through his Spirit is actively at work in the world, not only helping us to overcome personal sins and struggles but enabling us to do far more than we could have imagined through his grace. I realized that Jesus is the key to everything. Thus, instead of becoming a foreign correspondent as I originally intended, I chose to work for the CCR in the UK to help open people's eyes to the reality of all that God has for them.

Love Poured Out by Jane Barz, Tripp, SD



One of the many fruits of the Holy Spirit in my life is the understanding of how much God loves me and desires for all his people to know God's love in their hearts. Before the first Charismatic Conference I was to lead, I prayed, "Lord, help me to love your people as you do." As I stood to welcome those attending the conference, I looked out and for a split second was granted an understanding of God's immense love being poured out upon all those present. It was a time I have never forgotten. In that moment, I began to understand in a fuller way how much God loved me and wanted me to help others experience that love too. In 2001 God called me into an Inner Healing Ministry. As people received healing and understood in their hearts the love of God, they experienced freedom and healing that can only come from God. They were blessed. "We love because he first loved us" (1 Jn 4:19).

FRUITS OF THE RENEWAL



Pastoral and Prophetic Gifts by Dorothy Ranaghan, South Bend, IN

Fifty years ago, being baptized in the Holy Spirit changed my life forever. Though an introvert, I found a new boldness that enabled me to sing, dance (yes that happened) and give talks on stages before thousands all over the world. But the sweetest fruit of the Renewal came with the reception of the pastoral and prophetic gifts, as we now had the tools with which to build the community for which we had longed. The People of Praise, a charismatic, ecumenical covenant community is now 46 years old. The ecumenical part was a big surprise since I grew up in a pre-Vatican 2 un-ecumenical age. Yet it was Protestant neo-Pentecostals who had a major role in bringing the Pentecostal dimension to Catholic awareness. What unites us is greater than what divides us and not just theologically. At an ecumenical conference in Brighton, England in 1991, I was deeply moved by a new realization that our unity in the blood of Christ is stronger than international borders and loyalties as well. Currently, I treasure the relationships involved in the "Gathering in the Holy Spirit." Every two years since 2001, charismatic non-denominational and Roman Catholic leaders have met in Rome. It has enabled us and the Vatican to gain a greater insight into this fastest growing segment of Christianity. At 75 years of age, even with a new titanium knee, I can no longer dance for joy. But my heart still stirs with the praise of God, and I can still taste the sweet fruit of the charismatic/Pentecostal renewal.



Called to Train Evangelizers! Ephesians 4:12 by Bill Marcotte, Tempe, AZ

In 1981 I was invited to attend a Protestant bible study on the campus of Arizona State University. It was there I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and my life changed forever! "From glory to glory," our Lord led me to the City of the Lord, where I was transformed and formed as a Catholic man through households, discerned my vocation of marriage, met my saintly wife Beth, started our family and began the work of the New Evangelization with youth. The Holy Spirit then led me to begin a Catholic School of Evangelization where over 70 young adults made a nine-month commitment during the years of 2000-2007. During that time I was asked to become a Diocesan Director of Evangelization. Today, as a Pastoral Associate, I am focused on the evangelization and formation of adults through leading our parish RCIA team and implementing the Christ Life series.



The Fruit of the Gift of Teaching by Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD, San Antonio, TX

I was baptized in the Holy Spirit at the age of 17. This led to my reading the New Testament, and marking it up, every day. I had a hunger to learn from the Word of God. In our prayer group the Lord would often give me a word of Knowledge or Wisdom that was rooted in my daily pondering of the Word of God. Eventually I was asked to teach. I learned to prepare teachings with my Advocate-Teacher, the Holy Spirit. He would lead me to appropriate Scriptures; give me insights into the Scriptures; give me practical stories and applications; and throughout the week would give me ideas for the teaching through the daily events of my life. I learned to both prepare well with the Holy Spirit, and to be open to the Spirit's "on the spot" inspirations right before or during the teaching.



Sr. Bernadette and Sr. Mary Gianna welcome visitors to The Ark and The Dove.

The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ partner with The Ark and The Dove

by Johnny Bertucci, Chairman, The Ark and the Dove, Inc.

How blessed we were to be able to purchase The Ark and The Dove in time to celebrate the 50th Anniversary at this historic site of the “Duquesne Weekend” where 50 years ago the Holy Spirit fell in power on a handful of Duquesne University students.

The blessings during this Jubilee year continue. On October 1st, the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ (DLJC), the first religious order to be formed out of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, arrived at The Ark and The Dove to administer this historic home of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The DLJC are a Franciscan Charismatic Religious Community of Diocesan Rite. Called to witness to the Gospel, they seek to draw all people into a personal relationship with Jesus through the transforming power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. This flows from a deep life of prayer, praise and on-going conversion in loving commitment to one another. Their apostolate includes prayer, praise, and evangelization.

Mother Juana Teresa Chung, DLJC, Superior General of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ expressed her joy in responding to the invitation from The Ark and The Dove Inc. to administer this historic home of baptism in the Holy Spirit. She thanks Most Rev. David Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh for offering his warm welcome to the Sisters.

The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ will partner with The Ark and The Dove. Their charism of prayer, evangelization, and hospitality align perfectly with The Ark and The Dove’s vision “to foster unity with those who have received this outpouring and to extend that grace for generations to come.” To have such a community administering the home where the contemporary outpouring of baptism in the Holy Spirit in the Catholic Church began is possible only by the grace of God.

Sister Bernadette and Sister Mary Gianna have taken up residence in The Dove, the smaller of the two buildings on the property. It is already evident by their infectious joy, piety, love, and

Families from page 3

acts in their lives. In our minds and hearts resonated the fact that, perhaps, among those present at that time, they would be the only ones who could witness and celebrate another 50 years of the Renewal. That is why at the moment of prayer, we asked God that our children could be a sign that this current of grace will continue to bring the power and action of the Holy Spirit to new generations for many more decades.

When we fall in love with Jesus and let the Holy Spirit move in our lives, we see the hand of God acting. We need to respond faithfully to the invitation of Pope Francis to be evangelizers who bring the presence of Jesus to our homes. Today, more than ever, we want to repeat the words of Joshua in the Sacred Scripture: “Respect the Lord and serve him with sincerity and loyalty... For my part, my family and I will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24: 14-15). ♦



Kathia is the president of the Hispanic National Service Committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States and Canada. Andres is the vice-president of the Latin-American Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council and member of the ICCRS Council.

gift of hospitality that all who visit will find their home at The Ark and The Dove.

“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall be continually in my mouth” (Ps. 34:1). ♦

NSC Transitions

Two of the members of the National Service Committee announced their resignations shortly after the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh in July.

Bishop Sam Jacobs informed the Committee that for a number of personal reasons he was resigning effective September 1. The Committee knew that in electing (re-electing, more accurately) Bishop Jacobs in 2014 and then again earlier this year that his focus was to help us reach the Renewal's Jubilee in the best way and to help the Renewal celebrate the Jubilee and then move forward from it.

We are grateful for his time and energy. Bishop Jacobs has accepted the



Committee's invitation to join Archbishop Robert Carlson of St. Louis once again as Episcopal Consultant, a position he held for many years prior to 2014.

Tammie Stevens, formerly of Seattle, was first elected to the Service Committee in 2011, was re-elected in 2014 and also earlier this year. In January 2016 she moved to Pittsburgh to assist the Service Committee and the emerging Board of The Ark and The Dove. She has now accepted a two-year

position with the ICCRS office in Rome. Tammie's service for the Service Committee has been in several areas most notably for *Pentecost Today* and the NSC's website. We pray the Lord's blessing as she makes this transition.

In January two other current members, Johnny Bertucci and Jane Barz, will reach the "three terms of three years" limit and will transition off the Committee at that time. We will write more in the Winter 2018 issue. Elections to the NSC will take place in January. Please pray that the Lord will raise up other leaders to serve as we move forward into the post-Jubilee new season of grace. ♦

FRIENDS OF THE NSC

Every ministry in the Renewal is dependent upon the support of those who have experienced the fruit of the ministry, or agree with its Vision and Mission, or hear the Lord calling them to support it. Some donors do so for all three reasons or for two of them. Our donors fit all of these possibilities.

- You believe in the Vision and Mission of the National Service Committee. You believe that having a strong National Leadership Group is vital to the health of the Renewal especially now as we begin to move forward into a "new season." You have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and want to see others experience this grace.

- You have participated in one of the NSC sponsored Conferences such as the 50th Jubilee Anniversary Conference this past July in Pittsburgh or one of the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conferences held most recently in At-

lanta (2016) or Northern Virginia (2015). You are a recipient of *Pentecost Today* and value it, and want to see it continue. You are excited about the outreach to young adults that Dave VanVickle is doing.

- The Lord has blessed you and you can be generous and he has encouraged you toward us or you have the widow's mite and want to give it all to the Lord and he has pointed you to us.

Friends, as we approach the end of this Jubilee Year we need an extra generous donation to help us move forward into the next 50 years of Renewal, to end the year with our Income above our Expenses (currently we are projecting being nearly \$30,000 in the red), and, hopefully, deal with our debt of \$60,000 payable to other Renewal ministries such as the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services in Rome and The Ark and The Dove.

Please prayerfully consider what you can do by year end.

Also, prayerfully consider including us in your will and financial plan. If you have not received our "Legacy of Fire" *Planned Giving Program* brochure please contact us and we will send it right out.

We want to acknowledge, thank and pray for Ramona Thompson of Melbourne, Florida, who left us 5% of the residual of her estate. While we have not received it we know that it will be a blessing.

Finally, for those 70 ½ or older taking the Required Minimal Distributions, a direct donation from your IRA has tax benefits for you.

Help us go forth into the future freed from any encumbrance: a future filled with hope.



Young Adults in the Renewal?

Here are some things

you might not know.



For many young adults in the Renewal their connection is evangelization.

Where are all the young people? A painfully common question I get to answer all the time to long time members of the Renewal. My answer is usually, “There are more than you think but you have to look for them.” A better question might be, “Why are the young people, who fully embrace a charismatic spirituality, not connected with the Renewal at large?” Here is the answer to that and some other things you may not know about Young Adults in the Renewal.

Most young adult charismatics do not even know what the Charismatic Renewal is. This may sound strange but the vast majority of those young people who have been baptized in the Spirit and actively embrace the spirituality of the Renewal have no idea what the Renewal movement is and where it came from. This is a positive and a negative. On the positive side it reflects the sovereignty and wildness of the Spirit. He blows where he wills and titles and organizations cannot limit his move-

ment. On the negative side this lack of connection to the Renewal at large can at times impoverish what should be a rich and deep spirituality because of a lack of formation.

The young people in the Renewal are staunchly orthodox. As curious as they are about the origins of the Renewal they also want to know how charismatic spirituality fits with the teaching and tradition of the Church. It is not that they look skeptically at the Renewal but they, like many others, want to see that connection to the saints, theology, liturgy, the priesthood. This should be embraced because it is the Spirit that gives this longing.

They are almost entirely focused on evangelization. For many young adults in the Renewal their connection is evangelization. They want to share Jesus with the world but they want to be empowered to do so. This makes them deeply interested in the charisms. For young adults to be baptized in the Spirit is to be a missionary to the world. Would that all of the Renewal felt that way!

Young Adults are embracing the Charismatic Renewal and we can look to them for new ideas and offer the incredible guidance of fifty years’ experience of empowerment in the Holy Spirit. ♦

Photos: Something Like Real Pictures





So, what are we to do now?

by Fr. Anthony G. Ouellette, Chairperson of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, Pittsburgh

During our Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh, I found myself being drawn back to the events of the Exodus, to Moses and Joshua, and to the shores of the Red Sea as the chariots of Pharaoh begin their attack on the children of Israel. It is in this moment, with backs to the sea and no means of escape, that God speaks these words to his people through the mouth of Moses:

“Do not fear! Stand your ground and see the victory the LORD will win for you today. For these Egyptians whom you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you have only to keep still” (Ex 14:13-14).

Does this Exodus event speak in any way to us at this moment in the Renewal? I do not think it is hard for us to recognize that we are being pursued by “the World” who either wants to drag us back to slavery in chains or simply destroy us and our new freedom, lest others too discover its possibility through our witness. The testimony of many during these days of Jubilee is an even greater experience of the power of the Holy Spirit, but is it any wonder? We see “the World” gathering its forces with greater and greater strength and speed to destroy us and the very foundations on which we stand.

“Do not fear,” which often requires great amounts of prayer, begging to be consoled by the Father’s promises. “Stand your ground,” which is an invitation to remain in a state of vulnerability, knowing that by our human

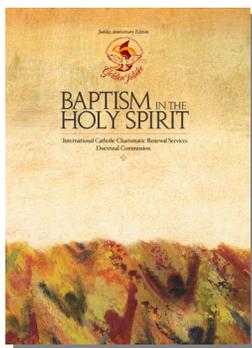
capacities alone, we do not have the means to defend ourselves. “See the victory,” which calls us to become witnesses so to raise a hymn of praise. “The LORD will fight for you; you have only to keep still.” The invitation for stillness, often a professed Charismatic’s struggle, is the necessary background for God to fight for his beloved bride.

As wonderful as our celebrations have been this Jubilee year, custody of The Ark and The Dove, Pentecost in Rome with Pope Francis, the Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh, I still do not believe that Jesus has yet fulfilled his prophetic promises. Come, Lord Jesus, and reveal your awesome love for us and in us, for the victory belongs to you alone, Amen, Alleluia! ♦

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

NSC ANNOUNCES:

From International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services
Doctrinal Commission



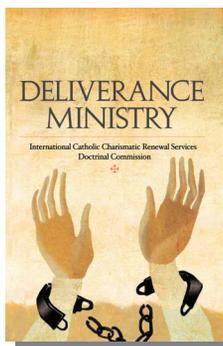
Baptism in the Holy Spirit Jubilee Anniversary Edition

With updated text, including many quotations from Pope Francis. A must read for anyone in leadership in the Renewal and for those in formation.

“Never could I have imagined that the miracle would involve the worldwide outpouring of the Holy Spirit so

beautifully described in these pages.” *Patti Mansfield, pioneer of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.*

\$9.95 20% discount for 5 or more (plus s/h).



Deliverance Ministry

The purpose of the document is to show how deliverance ministry is grounded in Scripture and Tradition, and to offer sound guidelines for practicing it in accord with Catholic faith.

“This work shows that deliverance ministry can be a transformative part of parish life that the Holy Spirit can use to bring freedom to God’s people.” *Neal Lozano, founder of Heart of the Father Ministries.*

\$9.95 20% discount for 5 or more (plus s/h).

To order call 1-800-338-2445

**From the
Executive
Director**



.....
by *Walter Matthews*

NEW THINGS

How many of us have heard the words of Isaiah over these years, “See, I am doing a new thing!” (43:19). If you read the summer issue of *Pentecost Today* you saw and, hopefully read, Dave VanVickle’s column entitled “I am about to do a new thing.”

Are we open to God’s surprises?...

**Do we have
the courage
to strike out
along the
paths that
God’s
newness sets
before us?**

At the 50th Jubilee Anniversary Conference, this was certainly the thrust of talks given by Michelle Moran, former President of ICCRS and Damian Stayne, evangelist and teacher known for the “signs and wonders” following his preaching.

The NSC is experiencing “new things” in the departures of Bishop Sam Jacobs and Tammie Stevens, the soon departures of Johnny Bertucci and Jane Barz and the election of four new members and a new Chairman in January.

For me the new Chairman will be the tenth person to be elected to serve since I came to work for the NSC in May 1984. Each new Chairman brings newness, something Pope Francis has spoken about on a number of occasions. “Newness,” he said in 2013 shortly after his election, “often makes

us fearful, including the newness God brings us, the newness God asks of us.” In a later homily he asked, “Are we open to God’s surprises?...Do we have the courage to strike out along the paths that God’s newness sets before us, or do we resist, barricaded in transient structures that have lost their capacity for openness to what is new?”

The purchase of The Ark and The Dove and, more recently the coming into service there of two Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, is of such newness.

So too is the move on the international level requested by Pope Francis of bringing together ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships for “one service for the one grace.” This has implications not only for them, but also, in the hope and prayer of Pope Francis, for this Renewal (in its broadest sense) on the national and diocesan levels. In fact, at the Gathering of National Leadership Groups in January we will begin to discuss with our ethnic brothers and sisters and the Catholic Fraternity its challenges, its “newness,” for us.

The Renewal’s first Jubilee year is coming to an end. The celebrations are drawing to a close but the challenge to go forward is clear and loud and “new,” in the time honored understanding of Isaiah.

Again, our Holy Father, “The newness that God brings into our life is something that actually brings fulfillment, that gives true joy, true serenity, because God loves us and desires only our good.”

Are we open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit, “or are we closed and fearful before the newness of the Holy Spirit” (Pope Francis, May 19, 2013).

Last issue I encouraged, “the Renewal in all the expressions of ethnic groups, covenant communities, prayer groups, ministries and Diocesan Renewal to find a time and a way in this Jubilee Year to do something to honor and remember those who were and are the stones upon which this Renewal has been built.”

It is not too late!

In this vein I want to honor some of those who loved and shaped me in the early days: those who have died, Fr. Joe Neville, S.J., Fr. Owen Lally, CP, and Molly Fischer; and those still living, Fr. Bob McGuire, S.J., Fran Hinzmann, Sr. Betty Igo, FSP and others too numerous to name. *Ad multos annos.* ♦



I see the FIRE

What we have
seen and heard

by Sr. Linda Koontz



The one who will come after me... will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and FIRE (Matt 3:11).

The fire of the Holy Spirit is not meant to be the missing ingredient in our walk in the Spirit. Without the fire we are like a beautiful lamp without electricity. God has given us the Holy Spirit to produce the fire of God in our hearts. The fire is the presence of God, the presence and action of the Holy Spirit, the anointing to do what I can't do by my own power. The fire is the fervor and passion that inflames the heart of each disciple of Jesus to make him known. The fire is God's love made real to us!

I see the fire of God that is present in the Charismatic Renewal when the gospel is declared among the poor (see James 2:5). God chose the poor people of this world to be rich in faith and to possess the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

I see the fire come when God's people enter into praise and worship. When Jesus is honored as Lord and Savior the fire of God is experienced. "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto myself" (Jn 12:32). True worship brings the presence of the Holy Spirit and con-

viction of sin comes, cleansing comes and healing comes.

The fire of the Holy Spirit burns away our lukewarmness and releases a passion to make disciples. Zeal to seek those who don't know Jesus is the mark of a true disciple. Wherever the Good News that Jesus took my sin upon the cross and thereby reconciled me to God and gave me the gift of eternal life is preached, the FIRE is present, as Jesus promised. Go into the whole world (see Mt 28:19) and they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word with signs following. Signs, wonders, and miracles accompany the preaching of the gospel.

I see the fire when disciples obey his last command to us, GO and TELL! Go and tell means publish it openly and do not change the gospel. The Fire of the Holy Spirit is present to cleanse, set free and heal all who receive the Good News.

"Does not my word burn like Fire? says the Lord" (Jer.23:29). I see the fire among those who fill themselves with God's word and believe it. Only the hungry and the humble receive the

Holy Spirit Fire from God. If we ask and keep on asking we will receive. Without the FIRE there is no evangelization, change of heart, or living for God. Look for the fire if you want to know where God is present. You will see it!

Sr. Linda Koontz SNJM has ministered in Juarez, Mexico among the poor for many years. She is an evangelist and speaker for charismatic conferences nationally and internationally.



Planned Giving Program

"Legacy of Fire"

Your planned gift to the NSC will bless others and extend the legacy of your baptism in the Holy Spirit for generations to come. We ask you to please consider a gift to the National Service Committee when you make your will or update it. Making a gift to the NSC can be as simple as adding a codicil to your existing will or estate plan.

You may use this or a similar statement: "I/we bequeath \$ _____

(or % of my residual estate) to the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. P.O. Box 628, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628."

Please let us know if you have included us in your will so that we can properly thank you.

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

Please mail to:

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

Tel. (540) 972-0225

www.nsc-chariscenter.org

National Service Committee members:

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

PENTECOST Today

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

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
National Service
Committee

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

The Vision Statement of the National Service Committee

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

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

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



“Bring baptism
in the Holy Spirit
to the whole
Church.”

