

Winter 2018

# PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal



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## Chairman's Corner

by Johnny Bertucci

**Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. - Isaiah 43:19**

Three years ago I was elected Chairman of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. My term as Chairman is complete. Allow me a few reflections.

At that time of my election, I wrote that I was both nervous and excited. Ever since, I've been hanging on to God's coattails for dear life. What a ride!

We've seen the purchase of The Ark and The Dove. We've celebrated a Golden Jubilee in Pittsburgh, the Holy Land, and Rome. We've enhanced our outreach to young adults and hired a Young Adult Coordinator. We just updated our five-year Strategic/Pastoral Plan to better engage the 60-member NSC Council and ultimately better serve the Renewal.

These are just a few of the ways God has been moving. Keep hanging on because the ride is just beginning.

No one serves alone. Thanks to my wife Leslie who shares me with the world, holds me up, and edits my writings. Thanks to my family for allowing me to give up immense amounts of family time to serve the Renewal. Thanks to Executive Director Walter Matthews for support, guidance, and friendship. Thanks to the amazing members of the NSC whose care for me, the Body of Christ, and the Renewal are awe inspiring. I am blessed to be able to serve with them.

As this Jubilee year comes to an end, we realize that it is just the beginning. The Holy Spirit continues to be poured out on new generations. Let us be docile to Spirit's promptings and hang on for the ride of our lives. ♦



## Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

In this issue we look forward to a season of new life.

Just the idea of a Summer Camp Story warms some of us (p 3).

Writing of a New Season ahead in the Renewal, Michelle Moran shares the dream of Pope Francis to have the two major entities in Rome working as One Service for the Renewal (pp 4-5). Matteo Calisi elaborates on the term diversity and how it does not necessarily mean division, but that the Spirit creates a diversity of charisms and then creates harmony leading us to unity. Pope Francis calls it "reconciled diversity" (pp 6-7).

We are called to be transformed into the image of God and Gianfranco Pesare shares how music frees us to be aware of God's presence and to listen to the Word, the voice of God (p 11). This prayer then awakens us to our call to be missionary disciples who not only hear and speak the Word, but who also live it and as Mark Nimo writes, spread the aroma of Christ as we live in unity (p 10).

There is hope and expectancy for the future of the Renewal in young adults who, Dave VanVickle writes, are willing to ask for big things (p 12).

Jimmy Archer calls this time a growing season, a time of great outpouring of the Spirit flooding us with the love of God and challenging us to be a current of grace (p 15).

Finally, it a season of transition for those who are leaving the NSC and those who are continuing or just beginning (pp 8-9), including that of NSC Chairmanship from Johnny Bertucci (p 2) to Ron Riggins (p 8).

# PENTECOST Today

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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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# Summer Better than Others

## The People of God Summer Camp Story

by Tom Mangan

Sometimes I think that if it weren't for naiveté there would be no obedience. If my wife, Patty, and I knew fully what we were getting ourselves into, we may never have proceeded with the dream of founding a summer camp for young children. Armed with only prayer and desire, we set out on an afternoon adventure to find a suitable camp site that would house our third through sixth graders for a week.

Finding the proper location proved to be easy. Now we had to build a team from brothers and sisters with little or no camping experience. In a short period of time, we selected a group of counselors-in-the-making, a loving support staff and 32 unsuspecting community children to launch this noble effort.

Our vision statement was simple: "If our children are old enough to sin, then they are old enough to be baptized in the Holy Spirit!" With those words in mind we set sail in 1999.

From the start, it was our belief that an effective witness does more than inform others about the Lord, it leads them to him. We knew from our training sessions that we had a team of outstanding men and women of faith who would outshine mere words and be living examples of Christ to the children. We knew an adventure of this sort would take passion and physical stamina to succeed. The people standing alongside us had that and more.

Our camp is modeled on one established by our sister community, the Work of

**"So brief a time I have with them, Lord,  
To steady them with Thy bright word;  
A narrow span of childish days  
To set their feet in Thy great ways."**

from "Prayer at a Nursery Window"  
by Frances Stoakley Lankford

Christ, in Michigan. I worked at that camp for three years before gaining the courage to launch our own.

Our camp can be described as fun-filled, loud and crazy, with equal parts of love and laughter. There are camp fires, Bible studies, prayer times, skits and activities which include swimming, archery, hiking and crafts of all sorts. We teach courtesy, cleanliness, order and promptness.

Of course, our ultimate aim is to meet Jesus personally and to receive baptism in the Holy Spirit. Thus, our camp highlight is the Wednesday night "Gathering for Christ" in which every camper receives the laying on of hands for personal prayer. To see the children respond to the Lord within this Spirit-charged environment is delightful. Loud praise, inspired prophecies and joyful singing are the norm.

All of our campers are assigned to a boy or girl cabin where they learn to work as a unit. Each cabin has all of their meals, prayers and service activities together. They establish a cabin identity through making banners, memorizing scriptures, praying corporately and creating skits for entertainment. Except for meal times the boys and girls remain separated until they join together on Friday for a prayer meeting and on Saturday, when they present a parents' program.

The only way to describe the meal times is loud and raucous. I prefer to call it "controlled chaos." The children create table chants and sing their favorite camp songs.

People are honored at meals, and once or twice a week there is always "a cook's parade." This is a delight, not only for the children, but also for the cooks. One has to be present to actually see how meal times are conducted in order to appreciate the value they add to the joy of summer camp.

Our compassionate staff of seniors, young adults and high school youth facilitate the action of the Holy Spirit. Everyone has a specific task that is woven into the tapestry of summer camp. I like to think that no one person can take credit for the bountiful summer fruit that is produced because it's a community effort – a convergence of great grace in folks with a variety of gifts that working together produces fresh, new life for Christ.

In 2018, we will celebrate our 20th year. We will host about 60 children, not only from Pittsburgh, but also from Florida, New Jersey, Ohio, Maryland and Canada. Every child will be welcomed with open arms and extended God's love and salvation. ♦



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



## One New Single Service for Catholic Charismatic Renewal

by Michelle Moran

**A**s many of you are aware, one of the things that Pope Francis has focused upon in his pontificate is the reorganizing of some of the Vatican structures in order to make them more fitting for their work in the service of the Church today. This has become known as “the reform of the Roman curia.” In its most extreme, this has been welcomed by some who see this move as an excellent opportunity for the removal of dead wood; others however, fear the move and prefer to cling to the perceived safety of the status quo. Reassuringly, Pope Francis in his 2016 Christmas address to the Roman curia said that, “Reform is first and foremost a sign of life, of a Church that advances on her pilgrim way, of a Church that is living and for this reason is in need of reform because she is alive...reform is not an end unto itself, but rather a process of growth and above all of conversion.”

This is the wider context in which Pope Francis has asked Catholic Charismatic Renewal to work towards establishing one new international service. It has come at a very important point in our history and will serve to enable the Renewal worldwide to continue to be faithful to its mission in the Church and in the world. We all know that the Renewal is not a movement like the other ecclesial movements. We have no earthly founder: what we know as Renewal today was born by the sovereign will of God in the Catholic Church as a fruit of the second Vatican Council and as an ecumenical grace.

At the Jubilee celebrations in Rome, the renowned Pentecostal, Dr Vinson Synan who encountered Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the early 1970’s said: “I felt sure that the Roman Catholic Church would not tolerate the Renewal and that Catholics who spoke in tongues would

soon be out of the Church. It seemed inconceivable that the Pentecostal experience could ever be incorporated into the Catholic Church.” He was, however, happy to have been proved wrong and to stand with us in the presence of the Holy Father joyfully celebrating our Golden Jubilee. Indeed, from the very early years the Renewal developed ecclesially. In 1974 Pope Paul VI appointed Cardinal Suenens as Episcopal advisor to accompany the Renewal. Then by 1985, the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office (ICCRO) that had its beginnings in Ann Arbor and Malines, Belgium was, at the invitation of Pope John Paul II, transferred into the Vatican.

In the 1990’s the current of grace was growing and spreading throughout the whole world. By 1990 a network of international covenant communities was recognized at the Pontifical level as

a private association of the faithful. This was known as the “Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships.” Their mission was to consolidate the bonds of these communities with the Catholic Church and to encourage evangelization and ecumenism. Similarly, ICCRO in 1993, received Pontifical recognition. The name was changed to International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) to emphasize that it was more than an administrative office: its role was to offer a pastoral ministry service to the Renewal in all its expressions worldwide.

For many years the Catholic Fraternity and ICCRS worked together presenting seminars and conferences. Indeed, it was during the third worldwide Priests’ retreat in Rome in 2015 when Pope Francis first gave a letter to myself and the president of the Catholic Fraternity asking us to work together ever more closely with the aim of establishing one new single service for all international Renewal. In April of 2016, during a private audience with the Holy Father he appointed ‘ad personam’ myself and Pino Scafuro, the vice president of the Catholic Fraternity to form the structure and statute of the new service with the accompaniment of the Dicastery of Laity, Family and Life.

Obviously, this task is of great importance to the Holy Father as he highlighted it even in the midst of all the preparations for the Golden Jubilee. For him the new service is more than a streamlining of bureaucracy. It is more than a simple merger of two existing Vatican bodies. He sees this as a kairos moment for all Renewal to move forward in new ways with a deeper maturity and new capacity. During the Jubilee, he reminded us that “fifty years is a moment of life on which

**“...the new service is more than a streamlining of bureaucracy. It is more than a simple merger of two existing Vatican bodies. [Pope Francis] sees this as a kairos moment for all Renewal to move forward in new ways with a deeper maturity and new capacity.”**

to stop and reflect and it is a moment to go on with more strength leaving behind the dust of time that we have allowed to accumulate.” Undoubtedly, the graces of the Golden Jubilee will assist us with this task of embracing the new by trusting ever more fully in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are currently working closely with the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. After various consultations, we have drafted the initial statute for the new service. This is currently with the Vatican canon lawyers who will work on our text and come back with a draft legal document for further perusal. It is anticipated that the new service will officially begin at Pentecost 2019. Obviously there will be a gradual transition process. In the meantime, the service to the Renewal from ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity will continue. It is vital that in this time of change we continue to move forward with the projects that the Holy Spirit has already put before us.

However, for the new service to be effective everyone needs to be involved. Real change doesn’t just happen juridically from the heart of the Church. It happens, as Pope Francis told the curia, when we are all prepared to embrace “continued conversion and purification. Without a change of mentality, efforts at practical improvement will be in vain.” Following our Jubilee, we need the courage to allow the Lord to renew everything. We need to widen our horizons and make

room for all the expressions that have grown and been birthed in the current of grace in the last 50 years. In some cases, there is a need to approach each other in humility and repentance, to heal the wounds of our history. There is also a need to foster and strengthen communion between charismatic realities, recognizing

that we are not in competition but sharers in the same current of grace. Inevitably, the way ahead will not be easy. Pope Francis has reminded us that, “in this process it is normal and indeed healthy to encounter difficulties. ... The absence of reaction is a sign of death.”

In the past months I have heard so many positive stories of graces received in the Jubilee year. My prayer is that we would all enter into the spirit of the new service and through prayerful discernment ask the Lord what concrete steps we need to take in order to build, strengthen and spread the current of grace. This will indeed foster a sense of the beauty and diversity of the worldwide family of the Renewal. Pope Francis reminds us that, “this requires much prayer and profound humility but above all abandonment to the sure guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

At the Jubilee, the Constitutive Act of the new service was signed, so we are on the way. Let all of us play our part and do all that we can to herald in this new time of the Spirit and this new chapter in the history of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. ♦



*Michelle Moran, former ICCRS President, continues to serve the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. With her husband Peter she is a founding member of Stion Catholic Community for Evangelization, Brentwood, England.*

# RECONCILIATION OF THE DIVERSITY

## *What is Pope Francis asking for?*

By Matteo Calisi

**O**n several occasions Pope Francis has urged Christians to seek unity with the expression *reconciled diversity*. We find this exhortation, or more rightly appeal, in several of his speeches, as if it were the *leit-motiv*, the central theme of his Pontificate. What is he asking of all Christians and in particular to us Catholics of the Charismatic Renewal?

With the gesture of forgiveness during his visit to the Evangelical Church of Reconciliation in Caserta, South Italy in July of 2014, Pope Francis inaugurated a new way to *reconcile the diversity among Christians*. Pope Francis has laid the foundations of a great bridge towards Pentecostalism giving honor to these Christian brothers and sisters of ours, who were persecuted by a totalitarian system (the fascist dictatorship of Benito Mussolini) which also included the responsibility of the baptized of the Catholic Church to collaborate in the repression of the Pentecostals, as it has been very sadly documented. Here below is the request of forgiveness of Pope Francis:

“... these laws were sanctioned by baptized people! *Some of those who made this law and some of those who persecuted, denounced Pentecostal brothers and sisters because they were ‘excited’, almost ‘crazy’,*

*that ruin the race, some were Catholics ... I am the Pastor of Catholics: I ask your forgiveness for this! I ask your forgiveness for those Catholic brothers and sisters who did not understand and were tempted by the devil and they did the same thing as the brothers of Joseph. I ask the Lord that he give us the grace to recognize and to forgive... Thank you!”*

On that same occasion Pope Francis indicated in the reconciled diversity the feasible (practical) way for an authentic ecumenism:

“What does the Holy Spirit do? ... The Holy Spirit creates ‘diversity’ in the Church. The first Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12. He creates diversity! And truly this *diversity* is very rich, very beautiful. But then, the same Holy Spirit creates unity, and in this way the Church is one in diversity. And, to use a beautiful word

*of an evangelical whom I love very much, a ‘reconciled diversity’ of the Holy Spirit. He does both these things: he creates diversity of charisms and then makes harmony of the charisms...”*

In this *new method* of ecumenical dialogue Pope Francis invites Christians to overcome *diffidence*, to come close to each other, to have mutual esteem, to forgive each other, to collaborate, to recognize the existence of the *diversities* and to celebrate them, to welcome the gift of unity: “With this objective we need to entrust the heart to our fellow traveler without suspicion, without *diffidence*, first of all looking for that for which we are seeking: peace in the face of the one God.” I think that for the future of the unity of Christians, the words of Pope Francis can truly help us; he invites the churches and Christians to live the *differences in a reconciled way* and to love each other despite the *differences*, to love each other with the *differences*.

The Pope proposes the search for an understanding among the various Christian confessions: *diversity of the churches seen as gift of the Spirit* not to be lost in a general *unification* which would end up nullifying that spiritual riches:

“We are in the age of globalization, and let us think what is globalization – with an illustration - and what would be *unity* in the Church:

**“The Charismatic Renewal  
has a fundamental role to  
promote reconciled diversity.”**

maybe a globe, where all the points are equidistant from the center, all of them equal? No! This is *uniformity*. And the Holy Spirit does not create *uniformity*! What illustration can we consider? Let’s consider the polyhedron: the polyhedron is a unit, but all its parts are *different*; each one has its own peculiarity, its charism. This is *unity in diversity*. And along this road, we Christians do that which has the theological name of Ecumenism: we try to ensure that this *diversity* is more harmonized by the Holy Spirit and it becomes *unity*.”

Besides it is necessary to welcome the *diversity* as *kenosis* (emptying), accepting it as grace for communion. To look at the *diversity* in a healed, reconciled way, not as an obstacle, but as a necessary process that goes through purification and suffering. Christ died to reconcile us to the Father. This is the paradox of the Cross of Christ.

We must learn to accept the other in his or her *diversity*. Not all *diversities* are necessarily divisions! We must *see a church as a gift for the other churches*. True ecumenism is *an exchange of*

*gifts*. For Pope Francis “Many are the precious things that unite us! And if we truly believe in the free and generous action of the Spirit, we can learn so much from one another! And it is not a question of receiving only information about the others to get to know them better, but to reap that which the *Spirit has sown in them as a gift also for us...* Through an *exchange of gifts*, the Spirit can lead us all the more to the truth and to good.”

The Charismatic Renewal has a fundamental role to promote *reconciled diversity*. On various occasions Pope Francis has defined it as a *current of pentecostal grace* present in most of Christianity: “This *current of grace* is present in all Christian confessions, all of us who believe in Christ.”

Pope Francis asked, “Which is the *common sign* of those who are reborn by this *current of grace*? To be changed into new men and women, this is the Baptism in the Spirit.” The common sign of baptism in the Spirit experienced in the majority of the Christian denominations worldwide is for Pope Francis, evidently, an effective and particular ‘ecumenical

## Prayer Card



### Ministry Leading to Unity

**“And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ ...”**

Ephesians 4:11-13

grace’ that helps towards the unity of Christians. It is an effective contribution to the promotion of that *spiritual ecumenism (or in the Spirit)* hoped for by the Second Vatican Council, that Pope Francis so urges: “Share the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with anyone in the Church.” ♦



Matteo Calisi, Italy, is Founder and International President of the Community of Jesus and President of United in Christ, USA.

Please pray with the NSC for the following intentions:

Let us pray together –

- **For equipping** to build up the body of Christ to attain unity.
- **For passion** to seek unity in the Renewal, fully embracing others and new ways and structures.
- **For reconciliation** with other Christians, such that diversity is not a stumbling block to unity.
- **For integration** of young adults and other cultures and entities into the goal of “one service.”
- **For fervor** in proclaiming the Gospel for increased conversion and missionary discipleship.
- **For the NSC’s newly-elected members and Chairman**, to be docile to the Holy Spirit in leading the vision and mission.
- **For the implementation of the NSC’s revised Strategic Plan**, engaging both NSC and NSC Council Members.

## Announcing the New NSC Chairman



**Ron Riggins**

With the ending of Johnny Bertucci’s third term as Member of the NSC, his term as Chairman of the Committee came to an end in January. After his re-election to a second term as a Member of the NSC, Ron Riggins was elected unanimously as Chairman. Ron came into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in 2003. He became involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal after the attacks of September 11, 2001. The NSC appointed Ron to the NSC Council in 2014. He was first elected to the Service Committee in 2015. Ron’s work on the Service Committee has been principally in the area of Fund Raising, as a member of the Development Committee and involvement with the Toward the Jubilee: 50 years of Grace for the New Evangelization Campaign. Ron has been married for nearly 38 years. He and his wife Terry are parents of three young adults and grandparents of one with another on the way. Humbled by his election as Chairman, Ron asks others to pray that he will be docile to the Holy Spirit and act with holy boldness as the NSC fulfills its mission with strategic priorities to engage young adults and embrace the call to unity. ♦

## Transitions

At its recent meeting in Miami, two NSC members ended their third terms of service on the Committee.

**Johnny Bertucci** was first appointed to the NSC Council in 2008. He was elected to the Service Committee in 2009 and re-elected in 2012 and 2015.

At the end of Jane Guenther’s term as Member and Chairman in 2015, Johnny was elected Chairman. His term was filled with the purchase of The Ark and The Dove and working to establish The Ark and The Dove as an International Center for the Renewal, “home of baptism in the Holy Spirit.”

**Jane Barz** was a member of the Diocesan Liaison Steering Committee when she too was elected to the National Service Committee in 2009. She was a bridge between the two Committees for several years. She too was re-elected in 2012 and 2015. Her work on the Service Committee focused on Outreach, Membership, and Intercession.

The Service Committee thanks them for their years of service.

Both Johnny and Jane have accepted two-year terms on the NSC Council so their input will still be available to the Service Committee as we go forward. ♦

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful!*

The Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships

## 18th International Conference

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President of  
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Jim Murphy  
President of ICCRS



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### Clergy Day - June 28



Dr. Mary Healy  
Professor of  
Sacred Scripture



Damian Stayne  
Founder of  
Cor et Lumen Christi

## NSC Elects New Members

At the NSC Meeting in late January, the Committee re-elected Sr. Lucy Lukaszewicz, DLJC to a third term, and re-elected Jim Beckman, Bill Marcotte and Ron Riggins to second terms. Newly elected were Matthew (Matt) Bourgeois, Gloria Coyne, John Hutchins, Fr. Anthony Ouellette and Dave VanVickle.



**Matthew (Matt) Bourgeois** is from New Orleans, Louisiana and has been in the Renewal since childhood growing up as a member of The Center of Jesus the

Lord. He is married and is a new father. He received his BA from St. Joseph Seminary College and spent three years as a Franciscan Friar in New York City. He has taught Theology in High School for six years, been a Campus Minister for three years, and is currently the General Manager of a print publishing company that specializes in teaching real world design skills to College and High School yearbook staffs. Over the past 18 years, he has worked with CCRNO youth group and annual Youth Conference as well as on the Southern Regional Conference as speaker, worship leader, MC and planning committees. Matt was appointed to the NSC Council in 2015.



**Gloria Coyne** has been involved with Charismatic Renewal since 1997. She is married to her husband Joe for over 35 years and has served in various capacities at her parish,

St. Ignatius of Antioch, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Professionally, Gloria is one of the principles of a healthcare technology company, HealthWeb Solutions. She is the Bishop's appointed Liaison for the

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Charismatic Renewal and, in 2014 was elected to serve on the Steering Committee for the Association of Diocesan Liaisons.

Nationally, she was also selected to serve on the NSC Council with a focus on developing priestly Involvement in the Renewal. Also, in Philadelphia, she serves on the Board of Catholic Charities and on the Committee for the Archbishop's Benefit for Children. At the Papal visit in Philadelphia, she was the local Administrator for the World Meeting of Families International Charismatic event, and most recently, was on the planning committee for the 2017 National Jubilee Conference this past July in Pittsburgh.



**John Hutchins** and his wife Kim are Liaisons for the Renewal in the Diocese of Greensburg (PA). John writes, "I was born a Catholic and was a good Catholic, doing the minimal amount, by going to Mass when obligated and helping very little until we were baptized in the Spirit." For the past 14 years they have helped to organize and plan conferences, retreats for couples, families and leaders. They organized and ran Life in the Spirit Seminars. John was one of four men that started Catholic Men's Group in Greensburg. They became involved in their Church by volunteering; they also became extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.



**Fr. Anthony Ouellette** is a priest of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, ordained in 2006. His encounters with the Renewal began after high school during his service in the U.S. Navy, 1992-1998. After

one year of college, upon his discharge from the Navy, he was accepted by his archdiocese as a seminarian. It was during those years of seminary that he again had encounters with the Renewal specifically through retreats and fellow seminarians. Since his ordination, he has served as an associate pastor, a high school chaplain twice, and has been pastor for six different parishes. His current assignment is as Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish and Chaplain of Bishop Ward High School. He was assigned as the Ecclesial Assistant (Liaison) to the Renewal in 2009. As a liaison and member of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, he is the current Chairperson of its Steering Committee. Since February of 2016, he has been in religious formation with a new Augustinian public association of the faithful called the Society of St. Augustine.



**Dave VanVickle** is married and has four children. He is currently the Director of Evangelization for a parish in Pittsburgh. Dave was baptized in the Holy Spirit at

the age of fourteen at a Steubenville Youth Conference. He grew up in the Community of God's Delight in Dallas, Texas, and is a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville. He was active in the Charismatic Renewal on campus. He was hired as the NSC's Young Adult Coordinator in October, 2015. However, due to a change in personal circumstances, he has recently stepped down from that position. He is a gifted speaker who loves to evangelize and to bring the power of the Holy Spirit to all that God puts in his path. ♦

## The Call to be a Missionary Disciple



by Mark Kwaku Nimo

**T**he term “missionary disciple” has come to be associated with Pope Francis. In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel* (119, 120) he writes, “In all the baptized from first to last, the sanctifying power of the Spirit is at work, impelling us to evangelization....In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (see Mt 28:19)...Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are ‘disciples’ and ‘missionaries’ but that we are always ‘missionary disciples.’”

The call to be missionary disciples comes from Jesus Christ in the Gospels. The Popes and Church challenge all the baptized to respond to this call. The signs of the times invite every Christian to be a missionary disciple.

Given the mandate received from Jesus Christ, the teaching of the Popes, Church documents and the signs of the time, one wonders why the resistance and lack of response to the call to be missionary disciples. The experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit is obviously a reminder that the fire of the Holy Spirit has to be stirred up in all the baptized. Millions of people in the charismatic renewal testify to the transforming

power of an encounter with the love of God as Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, after the Life in the Spirit seminars. For the New Evangelization to become a reality, we need a New Pentecost.

### Three marks of a missionary disciple:

**A missionary disciple is a mystic.** Karl Rahner wrote in 1971, “The time is fast approaching in our world, when to be a Christian, one has to be a mystic or cease to be anything.” The mystic is one who has experienced God through an encounter at a deeper level of life beyond the superficial. What does mystical faith look like? Ronald Rohlheiser says that it is practice-based more than belief-based. It is characterized by extended time of personal prayer and study of God’s Word. The mystic (Christian) is the one who has fallen in love with God, longs to spend time with God, and is not ashamed to give witness. The mystic longs to gather regularly with others in community (koinonia) for Eucharist. The mystic is counter-cultural, proclaims Jesus as Lord, lives a life of radical discipleship, is prophetic and not only speaks the word of the Lord but lives it.

**A missionary disciple spreads the aroma of Christ.** St. Paul exhorts the Church of Corinth to spread the

fragrance (aroma) of Christ (2 Cor 2:15). Are we willing to risk it all for Jesus, like the woman in the gospel (Jn 12:3) who broke her alabaster jar of costly perfume to anoint the feet of Jesus? All the baptized have received the anointing but sadly many of us are safeguarding it in the “alabaster jar.” We have to be willing to take a risk and be “fearless apostles” who “make a mess” (shake things up). The Spirit makes us “smell right.”

**A missionary disciple fosters unity in the Body of Christ.** In order to give credible witness to the gospel, unity is essential. Jesus prays, “...that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me” (Jn 17:20-21). Dr. John Armstrong describes this as *missional ecumenism*. This means that Christians consciously choose to love each other (build genuine friendships), respecting differences, but advancing the mission of Christ in the world. It cost Jesus his life to love each one of us. The call to be a missionary disciple is a call to costly love. To be missional is to get into the “mess” and “good” of humans just like God the Father did by sending (*mission*) Jesus his Son, in the power of his Holy Spirit. We are *co-missioned* to participate in a mission which is essentially God’s.

The Church does not have a mission. Rather, mission has the Church! Let us claim our true identity as missionary disciples and live like it. ♦



*Mark Nimo is a missionary disciple who seeks to serve all of God’s children with the joy of the gospel. He believes that you cannot give what you do not have.*

# Praise and Song Transform us into the Image of God

by Gianfranco Pesare

“As Moses came down from Mount Sinai...he did not know that the skin of his face had become radiant while he conversed with the LORD” (Ex 34:29).

This is what happens when we are in God’s presence, when we listen to his voice, to his Word. The book of Genesis says that “God created man in his image” (Gen 1:27). Not a static image as if it were a painting, but a dynamic one which increases and decreases the likeness to God according to how man exposes himself to God’s presence.

Pope Benedict XVI affirms that “faithfulness to prayer gradually transforms us into the divine likeness.” Prayer helps us to carry out God’s plan for us: become his image, be transfigured, be transformed in Christ. “All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit” (2 Cor 3:18).

The protagonist of prayer is the Holy Spirit who comes to help us because “we do not know how to pray as we ought” (Rom 8:26) and guides our prayer. Without the Holy Spirit we can’t do anything. Prayer that transforms belongs to those who are docile to the work of the Holy Spirit.

The type of prayer that has characterized the Catholic Renewal since its origins is the prayer of praise. It was, in fact, the first fruit of the Holy Spirit in the early Christian Church: at Pentecost “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...speaking of the mighty acts of God” (Acts 2:1-13). In the centurion’s

house, “While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word... for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God” (Acts 10: 44-46).

Mary, the mother of the Lord, filled with the Holy Spirit sang, “*My soul magnifies the Lord.*” Praise is more of a consequence of the work of the Holy Spirit rather than the work of the human mind. When we praise God, we are responding to our priestly vocation received at baptism to form a “a spiritual house and a holy priesthood” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 784). The duty of the priest was to “offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God” (1 Pt 2:5) that is “a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name” (Heb 13:15). Every day in the liturgy the celebrant repeats: “It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For, although you have no need of our praise, yet **our thanksgiving** is itself your gift, since our praises add nothing to your greatness, but **profit us for salvation**, through Christ our Lord. Amen!” (Common Preface IV Praise, the gift of God).

**In order to be complete, praise needs song** which is the key that opens the secret doors of our heart and allows the Holy Spirit to work in us. This has been my experience. For many years I’ve been praying with my guitar and my Bible which together with the power of song help me to experience God’s healing, forgiveness, prophecy and



Photo by Kaitie Schneider

contemplation. This is the secret of a good worship leader. Singing God’s Word is fundamental in our spiritual battle because it makes the devil flee. As St. Ambrose said, “He who sings the Psalms with art takes away the devil’s weapon.” An inspired song has the power to lift up the congregation “on eagle’s wings” and reach the heavens giving a general interior deliverance. “In this way they participate in the purpose of the liturgical words and actions: the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful” (CCC 1157).

“*Nothing* raises the soul,” says St. John Chrysostom, “and frees it from earthly affections and bodily ties, to fill it with love for true wisdom, causing in it a dislike for all things of present life, as a harmonious melody and the rhythm of a *Divine* canticle.”

It is true: Praise and Song help us to become holy, in the image of God. ♦



Gianfranco Pesare is one of the leaders of the Magnificat Dominum Community of Foggia in Italy. He is a worship leader, songwriter, and he led the Pentecost Vigil at the Circus Maximus in Rome in June 2017 with Pope Francis on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee.

## New Deacon And Two New Parishes For Brothers Of The Beloved Disciple

by Fr. George Montague, SM

2017 was a year of stretching for the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple. Already in charge of St. Mary Magdalen Parish with six Sunday Masses, we were asked by the Archbishop of San Antonio to take over two more inner city Parishes, St. Henry with the Charismatic Center attached and nearby St. Philip of Jesus. We are honored by the confidence Archbishop Gustavo has shown in us by committing to us the faithful of these two largely Hispanic communities. We were hoping we would have another year's time when Brother Sean would be ordained a priest and would be able to help, but we are trusting in God's providence, the blessing of the Archbishop, and the resilience and pastoral experience of the new pastor, our own Father Bob Hogan. Both parishes have a charismatic prayer group with an eagerness to proclaim baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Charismatic Center is now under Father Bob Hogan, pastor of St. Henry.

Brother Sean Stilson, was ordained deacon on November 15, and we look forward to his ordination to the priesthood in early June. He expects to be assigned as parochial vicar of the two new parishes with Father Bob.

As for our "mother" parish, St. Mary Magdalen, pastor Father Will Combs, is assisted by parochial vicar Father John Francis Bentley. Marianist Father George Montague helps out with weekend services while continuing his teaching at St. Mary's University and coordinating the community. Presently, inspired by the successful use of the cell system in St. Boniface parish in Florida, the parish is introducing the same system here, which is already bearing fruit. We are grateful that some of the members

of the original group in Florida have helped us get started.

At our Christmas retreat we determined to take on the greatest challenge the church faces in the United States today: ministry to young adults. Numerous statistical studies have shown that the church is losing a large percentage of that group. Our methods need to be adapted to the culture in which our young people find themselves. It is our

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hope to foster cells of young adults that expand and multiply. We ask for your prayers for this important mission. ♦



**Young Adult Ministry**  
 . . . . .  
 by Dave VanVinkle  
 Coordinator

### Hungry & Open

What does it look like when this generation of young adults experiences the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit? From my experience it is similar to what was experienced fifty years ago at the beginning of the Renewal with a few small differences.

Much of what they experience is internal and deep. Like so many before them I hear reports of a deep internal knowledge of sonship, a desire for prayer, hunger to read scripture, an awareness of spiritual warfare and renewed faith in the true presence of the Eucharist. Overwhelmingly we hear about incredible emotional and spiritual healing experienced as a result of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Young Adults are also experiencing charisms. So many report feeling empowered in their daily life and ministry with prophetic gifts and a

greater sense of God speaking to them. We are also seeing charisms of healing and a new generation of young adults unafraid to ask God for big things while praying with others. It is almost weekly that I get a report from an excited young adult who prayed for healing for someone at a prayer meeting or retreat and experienced a miraculous healing or movement from God.

I do see a deficit in the number of young adults who are opening themselves up to the gift (charism) of tongues. It is a major lack in the upcoming generation of the Renewal. I do believe there is a positive side to this lack though. Most young adults do not experience the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit in the context of a covenant community or even an established regular prayer meeting. They are not witnessing the same manifestations of the Spirit that so many of us have had the benefit of over the years. They may not be as open to tongues because they just have not been exposed to it.

Regardless of how young adults are experiencing the Renewal they are hungry and open and we should expect big things. ♦



## Do not Fear! Stand your Ground and See!

by Fr. Anthony G. Ouellette

The Association of Diocesan Liaisons is now preparing for our annual convocation. It will take place this year at Our Lady of Peace Retreat House in Beaverton, Oregon, April 9-13. It's been over five years since we have gathered on the west coast, so I hope that this will allow some new connections and some reconnections with those who have been absent in recent years. I always look forward to gathering with you and taking a break from our pastoral ministry for some time of formation and fellowship.

For our intellectual formation, we will have Jim Murphy, the new president of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, as our presenter.

After five years of our coordinated thematic approach to prepare for the celebration of our Golden Jubilee, we now will focus on a strategy for moving forward into the coming season. He will be presenting through the perspectives of Scripture, psychology, and pastoral life, about attitudes to be embraced and "must do" action items to be worked for moving forward.

For our spiritual formation, we will have Joel Kibler, the President and Superior of the Brotherhood of the People of Praise Christian Community, as our retreat director. The Brotherhood is a religious community of celibate men, lay and clergy within the People of Praise Christian community with houses in St.

Paul, Minnesota, and Portland, Oregon. He has much experience to share with us through his years of retreat work and spiritual direction.

For some human formation, we will have our normal opportunities of food, conversation, and fellowship in the Spirit. We will also share an outing to the Pacific coast following a morning Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral with Bishop Peter Smith, who born in South Africa, came to the United States to join the People of Praise community before entering the seminary. Dinner that evening will be served at the famous Camp 18 Restaurant for some authentic Pacific Northwest culture and cuisine.

Liaisons and associate liaisons, please consider this invitation for formation and fellowship, so that we can see together the great work that Jesus is doing in his Church for the world. ♦

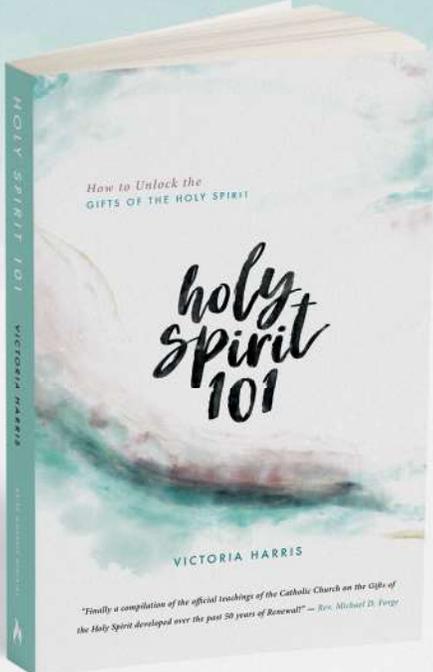


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"Finally a compilation of the official teachings of the Catholic Church on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit developed over the past 50 years of Renewal!" — Rev. Michael D. Perge



## From the Executive Director

by Walter Matthews

### Rocks in the Pond

The image of the ripple effect of rocks thrown into a pond comes to mind when I think about what the Lord has been doing among us prior to, during and already since the Jubilee Year of this great Renewal. The bigger the rocks, the bigger the ripples.

### NSC Election

As you can read on pages 8-9, there are many changes or ripples within the NSC itself. Four people transitioned off of the committee, including Bishop Sam and Tammie Stevens who resigned early (see *Pentecost Today*, Fall Issue, p 11). Four members were re-elected and five were newly elected. Three continue in their current terms. Imagine five new people in a group of twelve, a good Biblical number. Additionally, the Chairman is new in his position.

### One Service

Then there is Pope Francis' call and challenge that the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) and the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships (CF), having put their offices together in 2014, in the words of the Pope, "to work together as a sign of unity and to manage the resources better" should seek to become "one single Service...[for] the single current of grace." The two entities were entrusted with planning the Jubilee Celebration that took place in Rome at the Circus Maximus and at various other venues in Rome last Pentecost.

In his message to the CF in 2015 on the 25th anniversary of its Pontifical

approval the Holy Father commented about their same office, "giving thus the testimony of one only current of grace manifested in the great diversity created by the Holy Spirit." Thus began work on new statutes for the new structure that the Holy Father envisions, not a merger but an "umbrella" for all the structures, groups, communities and ministries birthed in the Renewal over these fifty years.

Writing with the mind of the Holy Father, Michelle Moran and Pino Scafuro, appointed by Pope Francis to develop the new service and statutes, wrote last September, "In this new time of the Spirit it is our intention that the service at the international level should be lived in a similar way at continental and national levels. So we ask you to do all that you can do to deepen the communication between all the expressions of CCR in your nations and regions."

### A Large Rock

I for one give thanks that for 25 years we have been gathering many of the National Leadership Groups annually for prayer, reflection, fellowship and unity. I am grateful as well for other initiatives to build or repair bridges and relationships that had been broken. In preparation for the Jubilee, we declared a Year of Unity and developed a Covenant of Understanding to support it. The Covenant is still available to read and sign on our website.

In Michelle's words at the Gathering of National Leadership Groups in January, we need a vision for the new service, and a new mind. The train has left the station. The rocks have hit the pond. Show us your way, O Lord. ♦

## FRIENDS OF THE NSC

Thanks to the generosity of many donors who gave gifts in the month of December as part of their Christmas or Year-End giving, we ended the Jubilee Year in the black providing resources for moving forward with our revised Strategic Plan as well as with our current service and outreach to the Renewal and young adults.

We are especially grateful to Bishop Sam Jacobs who decided to give his "Legacy of Fire" Planned Gift early rather than naming us in his will.

In the months to come you will hear more about our "Legacy of Fire" Planned Giving Program as well as our newly announced Sustaining Partner Pledges as we move into this "New Season", as proclaimed at the Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh in July.

To move forward well we need each of our readers to become donors so that we can do even more on your behalf to bring the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit to the Church, as Pope Francis has asked of us. We ask our donors to be generous as we seek to "fuel the fire" set ablaze in the Jubilee Year with the "wood" of your prayer and generosity.

One final word: we thank the donor who gave a Year-End gift in memory of Aggie Neck, who served as the first woman Chairman of the NSC and was Chairman for a record seven years. May she rest in peace. Gifts in memory of a deceased or in honor of the living may be made at any time. We pray for our donors and those who have died in daily staff prayer and at NSC in-person meetings. ♦



## Sensing the Move of the Spirit

by Jimmy Archer

*Editor's Note: Beginning with this issue we are changing the name of this column to Sensing the Move of the Spirit. We will invite writers to give a sense of how they see the Spirit moving us forward.*

**M**any are sensing a "New Season," a growing sense of a great "Tsunami of the Holy Spirit" coming upon us as we move from this Jubilee Year into the next fifty years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. A great outpouring that will envelop first the Church and then the World!

First and foremost, this great move of the Holy Spirit must start in our own hearts! Here are two excerpts of prophetic words spoken at Circus Maximus June 2, 2017: Ralph Martin, "There's nothing I want more than your love for me. I'm longing for your love." And Michelle Moran, "The Lord says, are you thirsty? Are you thirsty? Do you thirst for me? Because my world is dry, my world is a desert, but my water is flowing. My water of life is flowing upon you, upon your church and out to the world."

Mary Healy gave this word at the 50th Anniversary Celebration at The Ark

and The Dove: "The Lord is asking us, Charismatic Renewal, to cry out to him from our deep, from the depths of the thirsty world, from the depths of the thirsty church; deep cries out to the deep of God. God is calling us to worship him from our depths, to cry out to him from our depths, for his Spirit to be poured out!"

Pope Francis' words cry out to us; Catholic Charismatic Renewal, you are a current of grace. This current of grace is for all the Church, share with all in the Church the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. He says; If we are to be a current of grace, then we must exhibit the fruits of the Spirit in our daily lives, remain a people of praise and be at the service of man. The Holy Spirit creates unity in diversity and we must live a "reconciled diversity" to announce the Good News! 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.

I sense the Spirit challenging us to be the current of grace we are called to be, together in unity, becoming missionary disciples, cooperating with the Holy Spirit for the life of the world! ♦

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## IN MEMORY

### Ros Hernandez

Ros Hernandez was truly a gentleman. He served the Lord wholeheartedly without any reservations. His focus was to give glory to the Lord through his commitment to Charismatic Renewal in San Antonio, Texas. He served on the NSC from 2001-2007. While serving with Ros for several years on the NSC Executive Committee with Aggie Neck, our Chairperson, Ros displayed his varied gifts of communication, finances and also his heartfelt love for all of God's people. What remains especially in my memory of him, is the joy he demonstrated in times of difficulty. His life and his witness of God's saving mercy were apparent in all that he accomplished on the Local and National levels. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

*- Josephine Cacchia, Former NSC Member*

Ros joins the previous fourteen 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** (1984-91; 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
  - Aggie Neck** (1999-2009); died 2017
  - William (Bill) Beatty** (1975-1977; 1985-1994); died 2017
  - Marilynn Kramar** (1984-1990); died 2017
- May each of these who served this great Renewal so well, rest in peace.*

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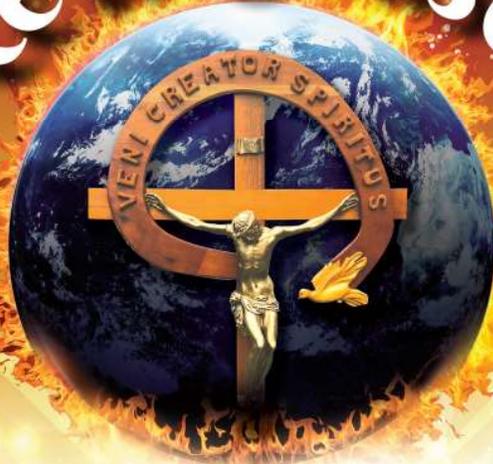
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# New Season



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you will set the whole world*

# *ablaze.*

*Pope St John Paul II*

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