

Spring 2018

PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

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Chairman's Corner

by Ron Riggins

Greetings! What a blessing it was to gloriously celebrate the Renewal's Golden Jubilee. In this "new season" it is time for great expectation of the new movement of the Holy Spirit. Our past Chairman Johnny Bertucci captured this in the Scripture cited in his last column: "See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 35:19)

In this new season, we are building on the solid foundation of the past. Our challenge is not to hold on to the past, but rather perceive the Holy Spirit's creative newness. If we solely hold on to the past, we don't grow. The Ark and The Dove was not reclaimed for the Renewal simply as a museum of a moment of grace 51 years ago. If that's the case, then we risk just being Renewal historians rather than Spirit-filled evangelizers moving in power.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves: "Am I open to being re-renewed? Is my

prayer life stale and use of charisms dated? Am I hanging onto the 'way it was'?"

Let's seek fresh anointing and empowerment, and prayerfully discern our openness to the Holy Spirit's newness in this "New Springtime." At the July 2017 Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh, Damian Stayne proclaimed that now is the time to cross the Jordan into the promised land (cf. Joshua 6).

As the NSC implements its updated strategic plan, we are preparing to spring forth. We are more fully embracing new media – with a new website, e-Newsletter, podcasts, and more. We have more fully engaged young adult leaders. We are committed to widening the tent pegs and seeking unity according to the "One Service for the One Grace."

Come, Holy Spirit, with your creative newness! Filled anew with holy boldness, let's cross the Jordan! ♦

PENTECOSTToday

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For Your Information

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

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Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

Connecting the Dots, i.e. Themes of the New Season

In recent issues writers have elucidated the concept of reconciling diversity: (Fall 2017, pp 6-7) Oreste Pesare wrote of, "the search for real unity in diversity by the grace of the Holy Spirit"; and Matteo Calisi (Winter 2018, pp 6-7) reminded us that, "Not all diversities are necessarily divisions!" In this issue Andrés Arango helps us to understand what this could mean from an ethnic perspective (pp 6-7).

CHARIS (p 8) is the new name for the "single service" for all of the expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Another reoccurring theme has been that of the Renewal as a current of grace. Jane Guenther (Spring 2017, p 10) referred to God's love being, "like a river current which is compelled with looking to where it can flow." Pope Francis' words, "...you are a current of grace [in which] many expressions have been born (Fall 2017, p 6). Jimmy Archer (Winter 2018) wrote of sensing that, "the Spirit is challenging us to be a current of grace." In this issue, Fr. Dave Pivonka (p 11) asks, "Are we a current of grace?" And Dan Almeter (pp 4-5) writes of the Catholic Fraternity being part of the current of grace.

The theme of the November, 2018 Leaders' and Ministries' Conference challenges us to be what we should be (p 9).

Examples of how the Spirit works in the personal lives of the faithful are found on pp 3 and 10.

Alan Schreck (p 15) exhorts us to persevere with hope and joy as we experience the unfolding of the future.

The Holy Spirit will faithfully guide us through this new season. ♦

How has God Worked in my Life?

by Ellen Gryniwicz

The first great mercy that God gave me was my birth. He gave me a healthy body and an active and intelligent mind, let me be born into an intact, loving, middle class family in the relatively stable and safe post WWII years of free and prosperous USA. My family was not overtly religious, but I was given an unshakable knowledge that I was loved, which has been one of the bedrock elements of my life.

In 1964, when I was a senior in high school, he bestowed on me his second great mercy; he led me to himself and gave me the gift of faith. This was primarily through reading the works of C. S. Lewis, who taught me the basics of Christianity, prayer, scripture reading and the need to belong to a church. I returned to the Methodist Church of my youth, and then migrated to the Episcopal Church in search of the Eucharist.

Unbeknown to the world, God was preparing the next stage in the great work of pouring out his Holy Spirit on his people, which had started at the very beginning of the Twentieth Century, spread through the Evangelical world as the Pentecostal Movement and had recently jumped into the main line Protestant Churches. As we all know, in February, 1967, at the *Duquesne Weekend* which we commemorated last year, he opened this bounty to Catholics. And his third and totally unexpected mercy to me was that I was placed, through no action of my own, right at the center of this movement. Rather than bringing me to the mountain, he brought the

mountain to me, as my home town was Ann Arbor, Michigan, which was a key part in the work of the Spirit in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Although I was in medical school in Ann Arbor, I was not present at the first prayer meeting in November 1967. My husband-to-be was already part of the group then, but I was a “late comer,” being led to the charismatic community forming there in August of 1968. As the Holy Spirit came into me in power, I found a great deal of what my Christian life had lacked: fervor in prayer, a thirst for God’s Word and greater understanding of it, and the fellowship of other believers. I gave myself to the life of the community God was forming, and it in turn formed my whole adult life.

Yet even with this great gift, not every corner of my heart was satisfied: I still desired a partner for my life and fuller access to the sacraments. But as God continued to shower his mercy on me, these two needs were answered together, and became the fourth and fifth great gifts he gave me. Our community, which became The Word of God, was ecumenical from the beginning, and as an Episcopalian I was fully welcome. However, I could see that there was a deeper sacramental life among the Catholics, and I was drawn to this. Meanwhile, I was pursuing a relationship with Tom Gryniwicz, a cradle Catholic of Polish background, and our denominational differences

Let me Count the Ways!

became a live issue. He put no pressure on me to enter his Church, but we both could see the advantages of sharing our formal faith, and could anticipate the difficulties of a mixed marriage. In the end, God led me into the Catholic Church. In the three weeks before our wedding, I received First Confession, professed my faith, received First Communion, graduated from medical school, was confirmed and married. Tom says I only missed Ordination and Last Rites. Not a bad record for a mere three weeks!

God’s mercy pursued me throughout my life, allowing me to live as a Catholic in a Charismatic Ecumenical Covenant Community, to raise my family there with my equally committed husband, to practice medicine in this context, to serve this work of God in various capacities, and to follow him all the days of my life. “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.” ♦



Ellen Gryniwicz is a Family Medicine Physician, an NSC Council member, and a leader in the Word of Life Charismatic Community in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She and her husband have five children and eleven grandchildren.

Catholic Fraternity: Part of the Current of Grace

by Dan Almeter

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been called repeatedly by Pope Francis, “a current of grace.” There are many varied charisms and forms of life within this current of grace. Pope Francis himself listed some of these as “fruit of this grace” in his talk to Catholic charismatics in St. Peter’s Square on July 3, 2015: “Associations, Covenant Communities, Schools of Formation, Schools of Evangelization, Religious Congregations, Ecumenical Communities, Communities of help to the poor and the needy.” He went on to say that: “This current of grace has two international organizations recognized by the Holy See that are at its service and the service of all its expressions throughout the world: ICCRS and Catholic Fraternity.”

The Catholic Fraternity was established in 1990 under the direct request of Saint Pope John Paul II. He enlisted the help of Bishop Paul Cordes (now Cardinal Cordes) to find a network of communities which the Vatican could work with to help in their Catholic identity and formation and eventually represent the Church in offering the charism of covenant life as part of the current of grace to everyone. In saying this, we must know that there are a number of awesome and highly respected networks of covenant communities around the world who are part of this current of grace—many which have canonical status with their local bishops. Perhaps as part of the mystery of the Holy Spirit, the network of communities called IBOC (International

Brotherhood of Communities) was the group of covenant communities which the Vatican chose to work with directly and re-named it The Catholic Fraternity—authenticating our charism by giving it pontifical status. The move of the Holy Spirit

to establish covenant life is best described in Cardinal Cordes’ book *Called to Holiness*. He says, “With the renewal of grace (baptism in the Holy Spirit) and the call to holiness, the experience of the outpouring of the Spirit’s power draws some of the baptized to an even more radical commitment in the Christian life. The call to discipleship, which the Gospel enjoins on all, takes the form of a call to community life in the desire for a deeper sharing of prayer, for communion in charity, for a deepening of faith, and of witness to the world...”

In some communities the members intend to live their fellowship to Christ and their link with the Church in a covenant.”

I think what I love the most about being a member of the Catholic Fraternity is the universality and diversity of all the 120 member communities. Each has very unique charisms, has produced a wide range of fruit, and is very different in structure. But covenant is part of the DNA of each. So one of the major goals of the Catholic Fraternity is to encourage and consolidate the fruit of community life within member communities, as well as share their experiences with other associations and movements within the Catholic Church.

“The call to discipleship, which the Gospel enjoins on all, takes the form of a call to community life in the desire for a deeper sharing of prayer, for communion in charity, for a deepening of faith, and of witness to the world...”

- Paul Cardinal Cordes,
Called to Holiness

Other major focuses of Fraternity communities include: evangelization, development of young adult leadership and youth formation, power ministry through healing/miracles and deliverance, worship, spiritual direction, retreat ministry, days of renewal and formation, promotion of family life, and service to the poor through food banks, soup kitchens, prison ministry, and outreach to refugees, etc.

Each continent is blessed with the presence of Catholic Fraternity communities. A number of communities within the Fraternity are international and have thousands of members such as the Emmanuel Community and Beatitudes Community founded in France, the Community of Jesus founded in Italy, Jesus Youth founded in India and Shalom Community founded in Brazil (which has 6,000 consecrated singles alone.) Other Fraternity communities are small with as few as 30 members. However, all have major impact on their local dioceses. The number of priestly and religious vocations, as well as consecrated single life, that have come out of these communities is astounding. Some of the larger communities have their own religious orders.

One other significant goal of the Catholic Fraternity is to promote ecumenism. Pope Francis exhorted the Fraternity in Rome on October 31, 2014 with the following words: “Catholic Fraternity, do not forget your origins, do not forget that the Charismatic Renewal is, by its very nature, ecumenical.” A handful of the Fraternity communities are ecumenical—in lived relationships of Christian unity (such as the Alleluia Community to which I belong). All the communities in the Fraternity are called by our Statutes to foster authentic ecumenism through prayer, joint works of service and even evangelism.

The Fraternity has brought life to each of the dioceses where they are present, providing leadership for the local church and parishes.

Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, past president of the former Pontifical Council for the Laity, in speaking about these new communities has stated: “There is an urgent need for a strong testimony and a Christian formation that is solid and deep. What a great need there is today for mature Christian personalities who are aware of their baptismal identity, of their call and mission in the Church and the world! What great need there is of living Christian communities!”

The Catholic Fraternity partners with International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) and currently they share an office in the Vatican. Last year, Pope Francis announced his desire to form “One Service” between the Catholic Fraternity and ICCRS. To provide a more seamless service to the Church in promoting the “current of grace,” both ICCRS and Catholic Fraternity will have their pontifical statutes dissolved in 2019. A new pontifical “One Service” for the charismatic renewal is about to unfold and it will include an even broader pontifical umbrella for other communities and networks of communities, as well as established ministries of the charismatic renewal, to come work in close communion with one another.

The Catholic Fraternity will be having our international conference (held every two years) hosted this time by Alleluia Community in Augusta, Georgia, June 29 - July 1. The theme is *Disciples Together in Mission*. The speakers will be from communities around the world and you can experience firsthand the fruit of this part of the “current of grace.” ♦



Dan Almeter is a leader of the Alleluia Ecumenical Covenant Community in Augusta, Georgia. For the past 5 years, Dan has also been serving on the Executive Committee of the International Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities and Fellowships.

For more information about the Catholic Fraternity and conference visit www.catholicfraternity.org

The Holy Spirit Establishes Bonds of Fraternal Friendship:

Reconciled Diversity from an Ethnic Perspective

by Andrés Arango

About a year ago some 50,000 people were gathered at the Circus Maximus in Rome, together with Pope Francis, celebrating the Pentecost vigil in the context of the Golden Jubilee of the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. It was a beautiful evening full of songs, praises, testimonies and above all fraternity among people from around the world. It was lovely to see the flags of more than 120 countries: no matter the skin color, language, age, we were all one global charismatic family. The day was also marked by a great ecumenical tinge, in which Pope Francis shared the stage with pastors and religious leaders of various Christian denominations who acknowledge being part of a current of grace marked by the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Maybe many of us have these images in our minds and hearts because we were blessed to be there or because we followed the events on television or internet. However, the question we should ask ourselves is, “Do we remember what the Pope told

us?” Or even more, have we lived the invitations of his Holiness? In this article I wish to reflect on these words from his talk during this Vigil of Pentecost, inviting us to live a “reconciled diversity:”

“If we accentuate our differences, we are at war with each other and we cannot proclaim peace... we have differences – but we wish to be a reconciled diversity. Here, we must not forget this phrase, but say it to everyone: reconciled diversity.”

(For the full text of this quote, visit our website, www.nsc-chariscenter.org)

For the purposes of this reflection, we are going to apply the invitation of Pope Francis to live a reconciled diversity from an ethnic point of view, that is, how would it be possible coming from different countries, cultures, and languages, to live our diversity in unity? This applies in a special way to the

reality of the Renewal in the U.S. which is a country formed in large part by immigrants from different parts of the world, who call this land home but at the same time value and live deeply the traditions from our ethnic roots. At the same time, feeling part of this current of grace of the Renewal does not mean that we express our spirituality in the same way: logically our way of relating to God and to our brothers and sisters is deeply marked by our ethnic roots.

1. We have differences:

Unity does not mean uniformity, rather, it is how different elements coexist forming something new, something “perfect”. Until I was 25 years old, I lived in my native Colombia, living only with people from my own city, who were Catholic and who speak Spanish. When I came to live in the United States, I realized the great diversity that exists in the human race. In these years, living in this country, I have shared with people from many parts of the

world with different languages, cultures, religious traditions. I know that as an adult immigrant, I will surely never fully come to assume a new culture. However, it is not about assimilation: the great gift we have is to live the integration, which is, despite thinking differently, speaking differently, tasting different foods, relating to God in different ways, we form a single body, the body of Christ.

2. The Holy Spirit establishes bonds of fraternal friendship:

Logically our integration as people from different ethnic groups does not depend only on our desire and intention to relate; of course it is fundamental to be able to take the first step. However, we know that it is the Holy Spirit who unites us. Sometimes, when I am giving a teaching related to the sacrament of Baptism, I ask who is the church? Everyone responds, “We!”, but who are we? The answer would be, “All of us who have the Holy Spirit,” because what unites us as church are the bonds of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it does not matter if you are in Asia, America, Europe, Africa or Oceania, we are united to each brother and sister who has been baptized, since we are children of the same Father.

3. Unity for the mission proclaiming that Jesus is the Lord:

“...that all may be one so that the world may believe” (John 17:21) and “You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). These two phrases of Jesus summarize this third point. We need to be united for the mission. We must live in unity so that the world believes that we are one in Jesus. Those of us who have received the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit have in our hearts the desire, not only to have a personal relationship with Jesus, but to proclaim him to others. Our fundamental mission is to proclaim that Jesus is the Lord, not only of our life, but of all humanity. There is a song in Spanish, which Pope Francis loves to sing, using precisely these words “Jesus is Lord – *Jesús es el Señor*”. Pentecost (Acts 2) makes it possible for everyone to understand each other, counter-acting the great division that Babel created (Genesis 11). Humanity will believe that Jesus is Lord because, despite our ethnic and cultural differences, it will recognize that we are disciples of Jesus because we love one another (cf. John 13:35).

I would like to end this reflection by inviting us to pray, since living a reconciled diversity is

Prayer Card



Strengthen the Renewal

“I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Romans 12:1-2, RSV



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foremost a gift from God. This is what Pope Francis reminded us when he visited the Evangelical Lutheran community of Rome at the Christuskirche. He invited everyone to ask for “the grace of diversity reconciled in the Lord”.

May we all receive this gift from God so that around the world it will end any trace of racism or division, and we can live in peace, that peace that only Jesus knows how to give. ♦



Andrés Arango is Vice-president of the Latin-American Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council and a member of the ICCRS Council.

Please pray with the NSC
for the following intentions:

Let us pray together...

- ◆ For the Leaders' and Ministries' Conference, that God would renew, strengthen and raise up leaders after his own heart.
- ◆ For an outpouring of grace for mission to serve, that ears would hear the whisperings of the Spirit and respond with a resounding "Yes."
- ◆ For a greater love and greater desire for Unity in the Body of Christ, reconciling diversity through our ethnic richness.
- ◆ For a greater collaboration in working together to foster baptism in the Holy Spirit in the Church.

*Widen the space
of your tent!*

CHARIS: A New Title For International Renewal

A few years ago Pope Francis encouraged the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) and the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships (CF) to work toward forming, on the international level, "a single service for the one current of grace." He appointed Michelle Moran, Past President of ICCRS and Pino Scafuro, of one of the member communities of CF, and their secretaries, to be responsible for its development.

Recently they released the proposed Statutes for CHARIS, the new name for this "single service" for all the expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The documents are available at <https://goo.gl/sChAHf>.

"We want everyone to share in the exciting vision. Now is the time to 'widen the space of the tent...to burst out to the right and left.' (Is

54:2)...It is our hope that the service of CHARIS will enable Catholic Charismatic Renewal to grow and be equipped for our mission. Now is the time to build closer relationships and foster unity in diversity within the Charismatic family at the international, national and local levels."

The Statutes foresee the formation in every country of a National Service of Communion. Their goal "is to build and strengthen the wide and diverse family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. They should be as inclusive as possible and open to new and emerging realities. The model focuses on communion rather than government or structure."

At the Gathering of National Leadership Groups in January, Moran said that we will need "a new mind" to catch the "vision for the new service."

At the close of the Gathering, an Ad Hoc Committee was formed to help us in the U.S. respond to this CHARIS Initiative.

It is a "new season," as the Lord spoke to us at the Jubilee Conference last July. Or as the Holy Father said in Rome during the Jubilee celebrations there, "Fifty years is a moment of life suitable to stop and reflect....and I will tell you: it is a moment to go on with more strength, leaving behind us the dust of time that we allowed to accumulate, thanking for what we have received and facing the new with trust in the action of the Holy Spirit." ♦

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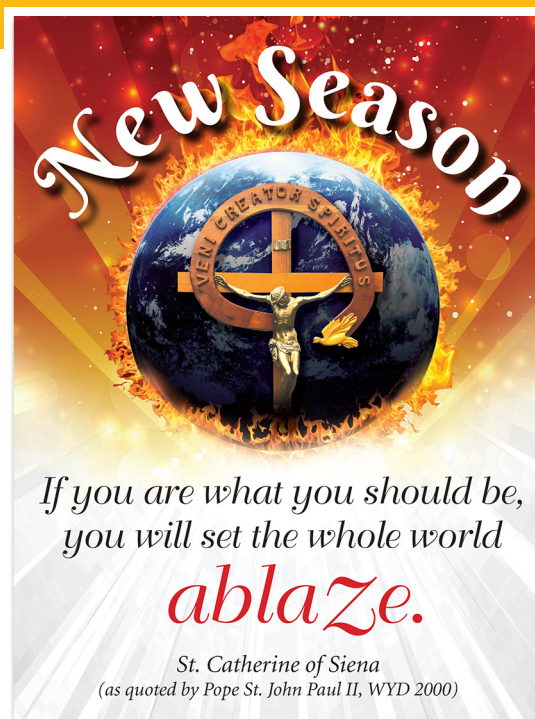
National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference

by Bill Marcotte

In the year 2000, I helped to coordinate a pilgrimage for 850 young people to go to World Youth Day held in Rome, Italy. Though wrought with many "pilgrimage-type" problems, it proved to be life changing for the majority of those who went, especially for me. One of the fruits from this experience has been to reflect upon the closing Mass and homily by St. Pope John Paul II. In the homily, he quoted St. Catherine of Siena, reminding the youth of the world, "If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!" (cf. Letter 368). Not only has this quote inspired within me a great zeal to do just that, but it has also caused me to reflect often on the ideas found in this quote, broken apart by phrases: "If you are what you should be," and "you will set the whole world ablaze!" What do these words mean to you?

In this year's National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference to be held in Dallas this November, we will be presenting on these very topics! We live in a very exciting time in the Church today as we are truly experiencing a New Season of Grace! As we begin these next 50 years of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, we see Pope Francis exhorting all Christians to "unity in diversity" and changing organizational structures to prepare (in my opinion) for a greater and renewed outpouring of the charisms of the Holy Spirit among the whole Christian Church. We are beginning to see an increase in ecumenism where Catholics, Pentecostals and Evangelicals are seeking forgiveness from each other for perpetuating disunity, and actually coming together publically to profess that Jesus is Lord! We are in a season where the Holy Spirit is bringing about what recent popes have termed the "New Evangelization" and, therefore, a need for a "New Pentecost!" And more Catholics are becoming aware of the power of the Holy Spirit received in all the sacraments!

I thank God that we are experiencing a new season of grace, because it is needed for the ever-increasing battle between the



powers of darkness and kingdom. St. Paul reminds us, "Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Pt 5:8). The world is under attack by Satan, and we are in the battle! Our bishop here in the Diocese of Phoenix, Bishop Thomas Olmsted, wrote in his Apostolic Exhortation to our men, "Into the Breach," the following:

"This battle is occurring in the Church herself, and the devastation

is all too evident. Since AD 2000, 14 million Catholics have left the faith, parish religious education of children has dropped by 24%, Catholic school attendance has dropped by 19%, infant baptism has dropped by 28%, adult baptism has dropped by 31%, and sacramental Catholic marriages have dropped by 41%. This is a serious breach, a gaping hole in Christ's battle lines."

St. Catherine of Siena gives us the answer to this! "If you are what you should be...". Who should we be? Simply put, we are all called to holiness! To be saints! We are baptized into Christ, as Priest, Prophet, and King, called to fan into flame the Holy Spirit within us. To die to self and know that it is, "no longer I, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20). This is the prerequisite to setting the world ablaze! And as we are all called to holiness, we are also called to mission! As St. Pope John Paul II has said, "Every member of the faithful is called to holiness and to mission" (Mission of the Redeemer, 90). We all have our own unique mission given to us by our Lord. Fulfilling that mission, through the power of the Holy Spirit will set the world ablaze!

All are invited to the Conference to dive deeper into this quote of St. Catherine of Siena. We all will discover a deeper understanding of who we are in Christ Jesus and be better equipped to set the world ablaze. ♦



Bill Marcotte is a member of the NSC. He is the Planning Committee chairman for the 2018 Leaders' and Ministries' Conference. For more information about the conference, go to www.nsc-chariscenter.org

The Holy Spirit, “Father of the Poor”

(Sequence for Pentecost)



by Marybeth Mutmansky Greene

During those most pastoral and intimate moments when Jesus shared his last earthly Passover meal with his apostles and established the Eucharistic covenant, he made many promises regarding the Holy Spirit, one of which was to send them the Advocate who would “teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you” (Jn 14:26).

When the Gospels were communicated by word of mouth and eventually written, one of the passages that the Holy Spirit had inspired the evangelists to record is the account in Matthew 11:2-5 and Luke 7:18-22, when John the Baptist, imprisoned by Herod, sends his disciples to Jesus to ask if he is the One to come, or should they look for another. Jesus’ answer echoes Isaiah: “Go tell John, the blind see, the deaf hear, and the poor have the good news preached to them...” Along with the miracles that Jesus was enacting that proclaims him the Lord, he includes the poor receiving the good news.

These passages are significant to me because they combine the amazing presence and power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church (and, praise God,

in me, especially through baptism in the Holy Spirit which I experienced during the *Duquesne Weekend* in 1967!) and the central importance of sharing the love of Jesus with the materially poor.

Which brings me to LAMP Catholic Ministries, the evangelization outreach with the materially poor begun in 1981 by Tom and Lyn Scheuring. For these 37 years, our mission has been one of serving the materially poor, mostly one on one, emphasizing respect of their dignity, listening to their story, sharing our witness, and then praying with them and reading the Scriptures with them. It is a call, a responsibility, but mostly a joy that is hard to imagine if you have not experienced it, and witnessed his transforming power at work in his beloved poor. In New York City, we reach out through a variety of ministries at sites where the poor find themselves: in shelters for homeless families, in hospitals and nursing homes, in poor parishes, on the streets where we encounter the poor (including the poor in the womb), in a youth detention center and a neighborhood center serving first time offenders and others in the South Bronx community.

Many times Pope Francis (and his predecessors) has spoken about the importance of seeing Jesus in our forsaken, discarded, despised brothers and sisters. In *The Joy of the Gospel*, he laments: “I say, with regret, that the greatest discrimination that the poor experience is the lack of spiritual care” (#200). This is the sole reason for LAMP’s existence!

My husband Ed has been serving as a LAMP Missionary at a parish on 42nd

Street in Times Square, Manhattan for the past 22 years. He has many experiences being one with poor brothers and sisters on the streets who suffer the devastating circumstances of poverty and homelessness. Through a “Fellowship” that he directs, he and other LAMP Missionaries invite people to come to the rectory for a time of communal spiritual reflection on God’s Word. Jeremy, who begs on the street, comes regularly.

Jeremy is a disabled war veteran. He is also a faith-filled Catholic and his humility and loving way is an inspiration to the LAMP Missionaries. Although he suffers severe chronic pain, he never mentions it except if asked. What he does bring up at every meeting is how he is unable to forgive himself for what he did in wartime. Recently the LAMP Missionaries asked if they could pray with him, asking the Lord’s healing physically, and for the grace to be able to forgive himself. The Sacrament of Penance was also encouraged. As they prayed with Jeremy he began crying. He received the gentle healing touch of the Lord. He said that he had not cried in 20 years! He left being filled with peace.

Loving the poor is an attitude that can begin with a smile, a meeting of the eyes of the other with compassion, a kind hello, and can build from there. We can all do it, because we have experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who gives us gifts for just such relationships.

Imagine what the world would be like if we all would be roused to surrender to the loving, powerful Holy Spirit, and would embrace in a fuller way, Jesus living in the poor among us. ♦



Marybeth Mutmansky Greene ministers as a member of Lamp Ministries in New York City.

Baptism in the Spirit:

Grace for Personal and Communal Renewal

by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR

The single greatest experience of my life for personal transformation was undoubtedly baptism in the Holy Spirit. I was a twenty-year old kid, longing to love God and be faithful to him and his Church but so often fell short. I didn't seem to have the power to live the type of Christian life that I believed God intended for me.

Romans 7 summed up my experience, why do I do things I don't want to, and can't do what I want. Baptism in the Spirit brought a grace that transformed my life. It brought me power, a greater love of Jesus, a more profound faith in his presence in the Blessed Sacrament, a deeper desire for prayer and study of the Word of God, and a clarity on the call to holiness that the Lord had placed on my life. After living in the grace of this encounter with the Spirit of God, my brother had an insight that was on the mark, "Dave is finally the person that he has always wanted to be."

Baptism in the Holy Spirit brought tangible renewal in my life. My priorities began to change and this was evidenced by how I used my time, how I spent my money, and with whom I spent time. I began to surround myself more with people who have the same desires, hopes and dreams as I have. Jesus as the Lord of all my life, not just parts, became paramount.

John the Baptist stated that Jesus would baptize us in the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire obviously produces light which allows us to see more clearly. A grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit was that I was able to see things in my life that the Lord wanted to root out and heal. I came to understand that my image of

*"Baptism in the Spirit
brought a grace that
transformed my life."*

God was not consistent with who he is. I also was able to see myself more clearly. I came to understand that I was blind to certain fears, hurts from events of the past, and patterns of sin. As God's Spirit was renewing me I was changing. I was becoming more patient, loving, kind and even had, at times, a greater self-control. Now, it's not like I never have challenges anymore but that God has done a mighty work in my life.

I believe the grace of renewal brought about by baptism in the Holy Spirit is a grace available for everyone. How we experience this grace is going to be varied but the change brought about from this encounter with God's Spirit is a grace of transformation, conversion and holiness.

These graces also have a profound impact on a community. I am often asked how we can bring about renewal and transformation in a prayer group, Bible study, or parish, and I believe that the

answer is the same for any of these communities.

There can be no communal renewal if there is not authentic personal renewal. To the degree that individuals in a particular community are experiencing renewal then the community will also experience this grace. And the opposite is also true. If we as individuals are static and apathetic in our faith, the community is going to have similar traits. If our speech is degrading and critical and if we gossip, how can we be surprised when we discover a spirit of disunity and suspicion in our communities. It is our behavior that has invited and fostered this disruptive spirit.

Pope Francis has spoken of the Renewal as a current of grace. For a moment imagine our communities as a type of lake or sea. Each individual in a community is a type of stream that flows into this body of water. What do we bring to this larger body of water? What is the source of our stream? Are we bringing fresh water of mercy and kindness or polluted water of anger and jealousy? Are we a current of grace? The purity of the water in the lake depends on each of us and the type of water we bring. Let us seek to be transformed by the Holy Spirit so that we can be a part of the transformations in our local communities. Come Holy Spirit. ♦



Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR is the Director of Franciscan Pathways, an evangelistic outreach of his Franciscan Community.

**Ready
to be
FULLY
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by GOD**

In February, on the anniversary of the *Duquesne Weekend*, a team from the NSC had the privilege of leading students from Ohio University's Newman Ministry on a Life in the Spirit retreat. It was an awesome weekend both for the students and for the team as well.

It was clear to me that these students were hungry, prepared and totally ready to deepen their personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. During small groups and social times the team engaged these young adults and right away could tell it was a really special group who were ready to be fully engaged by God for the building up of the kingdom.

On Saturday night we prayed over all of the students who came forward and God moved mightily. Several days later I heard from the campus minister about healings, new life and budding charisms during the prayer times. I could sense and feel plenty of deliverance happening during the

prayer session and new freedoms were reported subsequently.

I was continually reminded, during the weekend, about a piece of wisdom that Michelle Moran shared at an event I was present for at The Ark and The Dove retreat center in 2017. While talking about the *Duquesne Weekend*, she pointed out that the students who experienced the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit were well prepared. They were well catechized, had a living faith and they were hungry for more. In short it was fertile ground for the rain of the spirit. We clearly saw that these Ohio University students were well prepared, in part, because of their campus minister faithfully serving and leading them to discipleship. It was fertile ground and the Holy Spirit responded mightily.

Please pray for these students as they grow in their new life with the Holy Spirit. ♦

Dave VanVinkle is a member of the NSC and the Director of Evangelization for a parish in Pittsburgh.

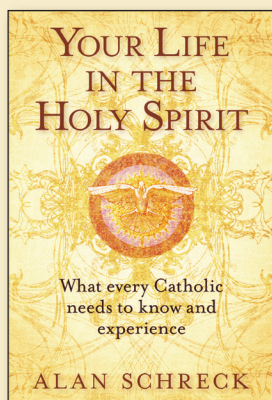


Young Adult Ministry

by Dave
VanVinkle

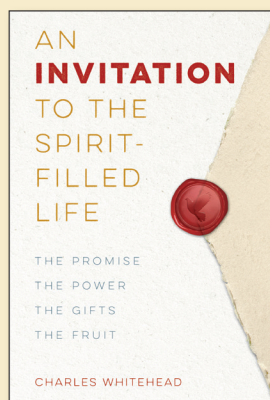
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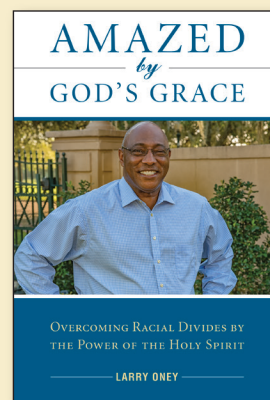
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Multi-Cultural Unity

by Josephine Cachia

Since celebrating the 50th year of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, it has seemed appropriate that I look back to the past and take notice of the circumstances and experiences that brought me to this moment in time. Regarding my experiences in the Diocese of Brooklyn with many multi-cultural communities I can emphatically state that they have changed my understanding both of myself and of people of various ethnic backgrounds.

I am more open to listen, to observe and to relate with people who have different points of view. I have changed my approach to fostering unity in order to allow God to create something new and wonderful.

It is uniquely rewarding to encounter communities of different languages who desire to serve the Lord and

work together to build up the Body of Christ. As we grow together in friendships we radiate the Love of God and are equipped to evangelize without fear and hesitation.

During 2018 our prayer is that we continue to answer the call to serve the Lord with hearts full of gratitude and thanksgiving. Incorporating the charisms of the Holy Spirit and sharing our stories of faith, we walk together to bring light into the darkness, hope in times of despair and joy in times of sorrow. Our Diocese has been blest in myriads of ways with committed and inspired leadership in the English, Hispanic, Haitian and Filipino prayer groups. This is the work of the Lord and it is glorious in our sight. ♦

Josephine Cachia is the liaison and director of charismatic renewal in the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, NY.

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From the Executive Director

by Walter Matthews

More Transitions

About mid-2017 Jean Beers, the Production Manager for *Pentecost Today* announced that after 27 years of service she was retiring. She served alongside three Editors (Ron Ryan, Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM, and Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND) and countless configurations of the Editorial Board. In addition, Jean assisted with many side projects including the design and layout of the NSC Leaflet Series. We pray for the Lord's blessing as she watches the waves lap onto the shores of Whidbey Island.

Stepping into the role of Production Manager is Sharon Fox. Sharon was baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1982. She worked for Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal from 1988 to 2007, when she left to serve in Rome at the ICCRS Office until the end of 2008. She has also served with Holy Spirit Ministries in Denver for 2 years and worked with Tom Curran in his ministry for 5 years. Currently, she works fulltime in her home parish. Welcome aboard Sharon and may the Holy Spirit empower you as you serve in this new capacity.

A third transition concerns Dave VanVickle whom we hired as the NSC's Young Adult Coordinator in October 2015 with the funds available from the *Toward the Jubilee* Campaign.

At the NSC Meeting in January, Dave shared that after much prayer and discernment; he had decided to step down from the position of Young Adult Coordinator to focus on the personal and medical needs of his family. In the subsequent Election Process, the Service Committee decided, in light of his significant contributions to our mission to put him on the Election Ballot. He was

subsequently elected for a 3-year term ending January 2021. He will continue to be involved with young adult outreach through his participation on the Strategic Priority #4 Team, which is focused on young adults, as well as through other initiatives as his schedule permits.

One of the cornerstones of our Strategic Plan, first adopted in 2015, and the NSC's ministry and outreach, remains Priority 4, *Empower Young Adults* [through baptism in the Holy Spirit] for evangelization, ministry and worship leadership, and community life.

The Team, headed by Casey Sprehe, is moving forward with these five sub-priorities:

- ◆ Provide opportunities for baptism in the Holy Spirit and formation (including passing on the origins of the Renewal) for young adults and young families.
- ◆ Multiply "Schools of the Holy Spirit" regionally.
- ◆ Develop and implement a Healing and Deliverance Seminar.
- ◆ Develop Strategic partnerships for the training of worship leaders to help with charismatic worship teams.
- ◆ Form a model to support and implement community life in the Holy Spirit in the Parish.

They and the Service Committee as a whole will continue to build on the network of relationships that Dave was able to build while serving as Young Adult Coordinator. Later this year the Committee will prayerfully examine what we might be looking for in the next Young Adult Coordinator.

We may never know the deeper meaning of these transitions, but they reflect the reality that this Renewal and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit continue as we move forward in the second fifty years! ◆

What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Cor 4:18).

FRIENDS OF THE NSC

We recently received a note from the leader of a small prayer group:

"I want to thank you for sending me all this time, Pentecost Today. We are a small group going back to 1976. Most of us are retired now. I want to send you the \$10.00 from a few of us. I am so happy to receive it and now it's time to give and be happy too, and I am. My life changed in 1976, when I went to the Atlantic City Convention. Some from our prayer group went. I was the only one who went to hear Fr. Tom Forrest's talk on Poverty, because I was in poverty. He changed my life and I went up to him and spoke to him. Well, that's enough; I don't want to go on and on. I give the Lord all the Glory."

It is a blessing to serve the Renewal through the ministry of *Pentecost Today*. To continue to do so, we ask all recipients of *Pentecost Today* to make a \$10 annual donation in support of *Pentecost Today*, and all of the ministries of the National Service Committee.

For our donors, thank you for your faithful support. Please consider becoming a *Sustaining Partner* by pledging a monthly, quarterly, or annual gift of any amount as we move forward in this "New Season" for the Renewal. And don't forget our "Legacy of Fire" Planned Giving Program. Again, for more information, please visit our website or give us a call. ◆



Persevere with Hope and Joy

by Alan Schreck

God has done and is doing great things through the Renewal in the Church and the world, so our first response should always be *gratitude*. Give glory, praise and thanks to God!

My sense of how the Spirit is moving us today is twofold. First, we need to persevere in doing all that the Church has called us, as Catholics, to do. Pope St. John Paul II taught that with the Second Vatican Council the Church rediscovered her charismatic dimension. The Council clearly states that *all* the charisms (cf. 1 Cor 12, Eph 4 and Rom 12) “are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation” (Lumen Gentium 12) and that “*each* of the faithful [have] the right and the duty of exercising them in the Church and in the world...in the freedom of the Holy Spirit...” (AA 3). Priests are exhorted to “discover with faith, recognize with joy, and foster with diligence the many and varied charismatic gifts of the laity, whether these be of a humble or more exalted kind...” (PO 9). Our “marching orders” are from the Church, including

the many pastoral statements of popes, most recently Pope Francis who exhorts the Renewal to spread the grace of “baptism of the Spirit” to all. Our age sorely needs this; we must be absolutely convinced of the importance of this for the Church and the world (and for each of us personally), especially for the work of evangelization. (As Fr. Cantalamessa has said, “No new evangelization without a new Pentecost!”)

The second thing I sense is that we must not become discouraged. The Lord is in charge! On Palm Sunday of this year, Pope Francis spoke of the joy of those who praised Jesus coming into Jerusalem...yet this joy and praise made some uneasy. “And so the celebration of the people ends up being stifled. Hope is demolished, dreams are killed, joy is suppressed...and charity grows cold.” So he asks: “Where is our heart focused? Does Jesus Christ continue to be a source of joy and praise in our hearts?” Joy and hope are two of the most important fruits of this Renewal. Let us not lose them! Ask the Holy Spirit to stir them up. I’m a Church historian, but (even with prophetic words) I am convinced that no one knows God’s greater plan for the Renewal...none of

us clearly sees how the present fits into the “big picture” or how the future will unfold. Our task is to be faithful to what the Lord has given each of us to do in the present—with perseverance, and with his gifts of hope and joy. Thanks be to God! ♦

Alan Schreck is a professor of theology at Franciscan University and a member of the Community of God’s Love charismatic community in Steubenville, OH.



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

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