

Spring 2019

PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

*And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind....*

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Acts 2:2,4 (NABRE)

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



Chairman's Corner

by Ron Riggins

We're here to stay!

Someone recently commented that the National Service Committee ("NSC") would go away once the National Service of Communion ("NSoC") in the U.S., as called for by CHARIS, is established. Many have misunderstood the CHARIS-related changes, perhaps given the similarity of names of the NSC and the NSoC. So, to be clear, the NSC is not "going away" ... *it's exactly the opposite.*

The NSoC will not be a "governmental" structure or a "Supra National Service Committee" ... but is being organized to promote communion among Renewal groups to accomplish CHARIS objectives. The NSoC's effectiveness will depend on the ongoing work by leading Renewal entities – *like the NSC.*

The NSC will be "boots on the ground," working in unity with others to foster the

grace of Pentecost. We will continue what we do now ... *but at an intensified level* ... once the NSoC is established.

Well before the CHARIS announcement, the NSC engaged in intensive strategic planning. The purpose was to increase our capacity to foster baptism in the Holy Spirit through more effective social media, empowering young adults and strengthening the use of charisms. Such planning led to formulating a new tag line to concisely describe how the NSC serves the Renewal: *"We work together to foster baptism in the Holy Spirit in the Church."*

CHARIS was announced last year as we were finishing our plan. *What a graced moment it was when we realized that every initiative in our plan supported the CHARIS objectives.* The Holy Spirit had led us to anticipate the NSC's ongoing collaborative work in support of the NSoC.

But we were thinking too small! Now realizing our role is bigger than we planned, we have commenced additional fundraising to fulfill the CHARIS commission: to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church. ♦



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

Articles in this issue of *Pentecost Today* emphasize that Pentecost is TODAY!

In the Chairman's Corner, Ron Riggins clarifies the role of the NSC in relationship to the NSoC which is being organized to accomplish CHARIS objectives (p 2).

People are still being baptized in the Spirit through various forms of *Life in the Spirit Seminars* (p 3).

The Current of Grace continues to flow (pp 4-5).

Healthy family (p 6) and community life (p 12) are sought out.

Hispanic Renewal (CNSH) is flourishing (pp 7, 15).

Pope Francis has called the Renewal to a new level of unity and sharing baptism in the Spirit through CHARIS (p 10).

We are growing in our intercessory prayer, learning to intentionally listen for the direction of the Holy Spirit to guide us and refine our prayer (p 11).

We are called to be partners in ministry (p 13).

We are growing in our theological understanding of Charismatic Renewal as well as our experiential identity, both aspects pointing us to the fact that this Renewal is called to be a reminder in the Church of the full role of the Holy Spirit (pp 13-14).

The Spirit is active internationally, a featured setting being Brazil (p 15), celebrating 50 years during 2019, with over 15,000 leaders gathering for Leader Formation in January.

And, almost as if we are starting up again, to be renewed in the Spirit, the *NSC Leaders' and Ministries' Conference* will gather in November to deepen our understanding of our experience as we pray and contemplate, *"Come, Holy Spirit!"* (p 8). ♦

PENTECOSTToday

Volume 44 Number 2

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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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New Life for the Life in the Spirit Seminar

by Fr. Rory Conley



As related in the 2017 Summer issue of *Pentecost Today*, our parish of St. Mary's had an amazing experience of the Life in the Spirit Seminar in Lent of that year. Our evangelization committee had decided to offer the Seminar as an opportunity for spiritual growth for our parishioners. We were expecting 50 or 60 people to sign up but we had over 200 come to our first sessions. What made this particularly remarkable is that our average weekend Mass attendance is about 500 adults. Parishioners who had never participated in any faith formation activities before came to this one. In my 30 years of parish ministry I've never seen a response like this to any other "program" or event. It was clearly a work of the Holy Spirit. Our team could see that the Holy Spirit was moving the hearts of his people. They only needed to be encouraged to invite him in. For the presentations of the Seminar we use the DVD series *The Gift: A Life in the Spirit* series produced by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United Kingdom in 2015. The video presentations were immensely popular. Virtually all who began the Seminar received prayer for baptism in the Holy Spirit at the conclusion of the series.

Following the conclusion of the Seminar, we continue to offer bimonthly faith formation opportunities using the same successful format of meal, praise and worship, presentation, small group discussion and closing praise. Two years later we continue to have approximately 120

adults participating in these sessions. Also, three months after the conclusion of the Seminar we launched a charismatic prayer group and we average 40 participants in these bimonthly gatherings.

After participating at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Renewal in Pittsburgh in July 2017, I felt prompted to promote baptism in the Spirit as Pope Francis has requested. I shared this desire with the people coming to our meetings and those who were coming to our prayer meetings readily volunteered to help with the effort. This in itself is a powerful testimony to how many in our parish had been transformed by the Holy Spirit. I began our outreach by writing to twelve local priests relating our parish's experience of the Seminar with *The Gift* series. With my letter I sent them copies of the ICCRS document *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. I also spoke at deanery clergy meetings and offered our assistance in putting on *The Gift* series in their parishes.

As a consequence of these efforts, ten other parishes offered *The Gift: A Life in the Spirit Course* in the spring of 2018. Three more parishes have done the series in the past six months.

Volunteers from our parish have been involved to varying degrees in the effort in these other parishes. In parishes where the pastor was fully supportive of the Seminar, which was all but one of them, the response was very similar to what

we experienced here. In each parish 20 to 30% of the adults who attend weekly Mass participated in the Seminar. Collectively these efforts led approximately 1500 people through the seminar and virtually all of the participants received prayer for renewal in the Spirit.

Happily, most of the pastors involved chose to continue adult faith formation sessions using the same format once the *Life in the Spirit* Seminar concluded. As part of our assistance to the other parishes we mentored their volunteers to become small group leaders for their follow-up programs.

In her address at the Golden Jubilee Celebration in July 2017, Michelle Moran offered a prophetic word that the Lord has opened a door for the Renewal to reach more people with the good news of the Gospel. We have seen the truth of this prophecy in our own parish and in the parishes where we have been able to share the *Life in the Spirit* Seminar. I urge all friends of the Renewal, especially priests, to promote the *Life in the Spirit* Seminar. I will be happy to assist you in any way that I can. The Spirit is truly moving now and we need to move with him while the door is open. ♦



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

Photo by Kellie Schmieder

“We are gathered here, believers from 120 countries in the world, to celebrate the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit in the Church, that took the initiative fifty years ago and gave rise to...

An institution? No. An organization? No. To a current of grace,
the current of grace of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.”

- Pope Francis

A Current of Grace

by Mary Wilson

and Pope Francis

I was blessed to be one of the people from those “120 countries” that the Holy Father mentioned. Sitting there and in that place (Circus Maximus) among people from many nations, one was able to truly grasp the generosity of the Spirit and his desire to bring all people together as one, even in our day, at this 2017 Golden Jubilee Pentecost Vigil celebration in Rome.

“A current of grace, the grace of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.” Those words still jump off the page at me as I re-read the Pope’s address. What exactly does that mean for me—to be a part of that current of grace, to live out the message of Pentecost?

Jeremiah 29:11-14: “For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call to me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord, and I will change your lot” (NAB). From the beginning of time, God knew. He knew what we would need and when we would need it—he was not early or late but right on time with everything that has taken place. As my grandmother used to say when something happened a long time ago, “...when you were a twinkle in God’s eye...”, God knew me and was preparing a way for me. What about my place, your place in this current of grace?

The Spirit’s invitation to walk in this grace for some is a gradual tug at the heart, for others, it is an all-in, right now kind of moment but the Spirit always invites, first to enter, then to remain and grow—then he moves us to go out and share what we have been given through God’s amazing grace and merciful love.

I live on a river, so “current” is an everyday event for me. Some days, the waters move faster than others. Some days, I watch the current as it moves things floating in the river. Near the bank, where there are branches and rocks to slow the water down, things move slower. Out in the center, where there are no obstacles, things move faster. Am I one of those who stays close to the shoreline, still wanting to grab on to something when things move at a pace that scares me? Am I afraid to surrender to the full current of the river? Am I afraid to strike out for the open water, fearful of where the current will take me and how fast I will be traveling?

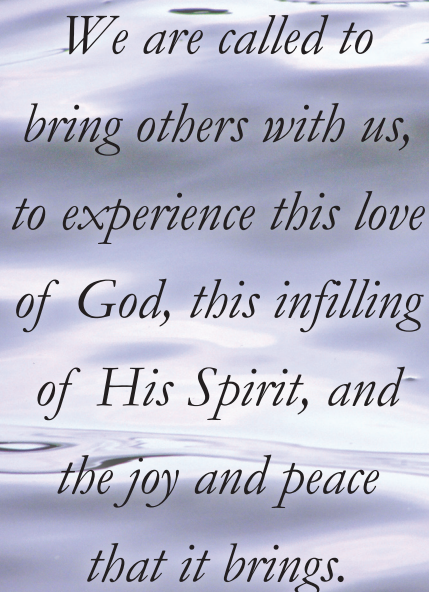
In this current of grace that is the Holy Spirit, we need not fear where we are, how fast we are moving, or where he is taking us. We simply need to trust—that “plans for your welfare” part of the statement comes into play. But we are not just expected to float along alone. We are called to bring others with us, to experience this love of God, this infilling of his Spirit, and the joy and peace that it brings.

Great! That sounds wonderful! But how exactly? It is a lot easier than it seems—we are simply to be Jesus to everyone we encounter. We bring his love, his healing touch, his forgiveness, his mercy to those we meet through our words and our actions. We invite, we encourage, we console, we teach (and not always with words). We, acting as Jesus' disciples, bring the love of God to everyone. You may never meet a hurricane or tornado survivor, but I'll bet you have prayed for them, perhaps even financially supported rescue work. Baptism in the Holy Spirit, praise, and service to humanity is what we are called to do. How can others know of the Holy Spirit if we do not tell them through our words and actions?

Do we continually invite the Spirit to take us deeper, where we are not necessarily comfortable? Do we go filled with joy, and anticipation, and gratitude?

Do we praise God always and in all circumstances?

As we meet with our prayer groups, are they prayer clubs or are we a place of welcome filled with God's presence and love, welcoming new people and strangers? As we meet with our prayer groups, do we reach out to others through other events—days of renewal, Life in the Spirit seminars, bible studies, etc.? We are not an island that this current of grace flows around, just touching the shoreline but are active, willing participants, immersed in this grace.



*We are called to
bring others with us,
to experience this love
of God, this infilling
of His Spirit, and
the joy and peace
that it brings.*

How sad for us if, when we finally see God face to face, we'd have to explain why we turned our back, why we did not speak out, why we did not love as he loves us.

This current of grace connects all of us. We flow with the current, not swimming against it. We go where the current takes us, not deciding on our own path.

As we look at our response to the Spirit, what does that look like? How do we respond individually, as prayer groups, as the Renewal? We are called to be one in the Spirit, to love one another, to forgive, and to bring our fellow man (or woman)

to hear and respond to that call of the Spirit through the example of our lives.

“The Church counts on you, on your fidelity to the Spirit, on your willingness to serve and your witness of lives transformed by the Holy Spirit!” Jesus counts on us. Humanity counts on us. How will we answer? Yes, Lord, I will serve! I will be your witness! Let me be an effective witness! Come, Holy Spirit, come! Renew the face of the earth! And let that renewal begin with me! ♦



Mary Wilson, is the secretary for the Central Service Team of Magnificat, a Ministry to Catholic Women and a member of Apple of His Eye Prayer Group. She and her husband reside on Black River Lake near Jonesville, LA.

The Father wants a family! If I've heard it once, I've heard it a dozen times. Over the years, it's been a theme that has come up in various talks, retreats and conferences. It refers to the idea, or more pointedly, the truth, that God the Father wants sons and daughters. Romans 8:15-16 says it like this:

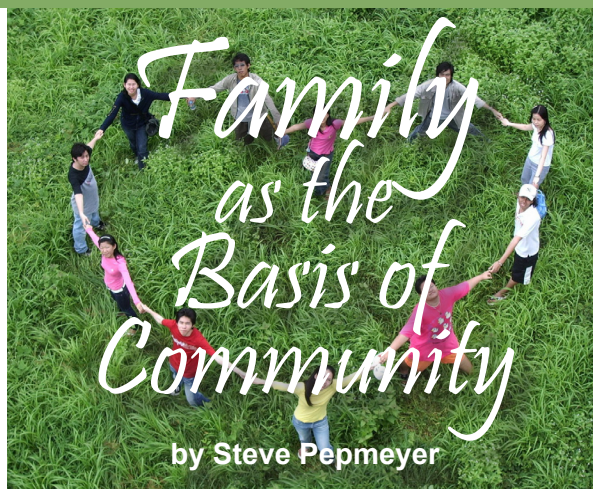
The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Hebrews 8:10 says it like this:

But this is the covenant I will establish with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds and I will write them upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

We are God's children! We are his people! It is a wonderful truth to be celebrated but it is also a truth that challenges me. My wife and I have seven children. We love them, cherish them and all the other wonderful verbs we might use to describe our affection. But do I have the same posture towards God's children? My very brothers and sisters in Christ. Should I have the same posture?

The short answer, I believe, is "Yes!" That presents a formidable task. I know I'm supposed to live out my life in a good and holy way but the reality is sometimes starkly different. OK, I'm part of God's



family, but sometimes I'm mad at members of my family. Sometimes a family member is a jerk. More often, I'm mad and they're mad because I'm the one being a jerk.

Let's change the scenario: Perhaps, it's a sunny day and I'm feeling a little chipper. No need to be mad. But since I'm enjoying myself I sure don't want to be caught up in somebody else's mess. Can't I just be indifferent? Better yet, how about if I show some empathy. As long as I'm empathetic, I don't have to get involved, right? Wow!! This family business is hard!

If we are going to make progress in building the church, in building community, we are going to have to start treating each other as family, in the very best meaning of the word that family can possibly mean. It is not something we can accomplish on our own. We will need supernatural help.

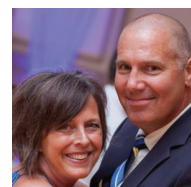
Dysfunctional is a word that has made it into the common lexicon. It is terribly unfortunate that one often hears it as an adjective preceding the word family. This cannot be the case with us. The Father wants a family but he will not have a dysfunctional family! Not ultimately. The family in heaven is triumphant! It's

joy-filled, love-overflowing and generous beyond measure. The family in heaven is whole and full and complete. There is no lack.

Can we be that family now? It is our call and mission. God pours forth his Spirit so we can in some capacity attain to this ideal even today. It is exactly what we were made for and how we are hard-wired. Psychologists and sociologists call it the universal "longing for belonging". It is a desire to love and be loved. We've all heard Jesus' commandment from Mark 12:31;

Love your neighbor as yourself.

As we endeavor to build community, I propose a slight variation. *Love your family as yourself.* Can we forgive the hurts? Can we put aside the family bickering? Can we stop making comparisons and stop competing? It is an incredibly high standard! It is an impossibly high standard...without the transformational power of the Holy Spirit. Love your family as yourself! Help us, Lord, to live out this commandment with a new determination, with a new zeal, with a new initiative. The Father wants a family! Fill us with your Spirit, in a fresh way, so that we can cooperate with the Father here on earth. Knowing that, in all his great mercy and favor towards us, he will carry it forth to a flourishing finish on the day that Jesus Christ returns! ♦



Steve and his wife, Michele, are members of the People of God Community in Pittsburgh and have been part of the Renewal since the mid 80's.

FreeImages.com/Kang King

How the CNSH is Living out its Mission of Evangelization and Service

by Kathia Arango

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been, through the last decades, a vital grace for many Hispanics in the United States. For them, the Renewal provides an atmosphere of Christian community, in which they could exercise their charisms without losing their Hispanic identity, and where they may feel useful in the evangelizing and missionary mission of the Church. But even more, in the Renewal Hispanics have found a new family in prayer groups, especially all those immigrants who are far away from their relatives and loved ones. In this article, knowing the great impact that the Renewal has on the Hispanic community, I would like to present how the National Hispanic Service Committee (CNSH) lives out its mission of evangelization and service in the United States.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

CNSH, promotes the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit which has been a key instrument that God has used to transform the lives of numerous Hispanics in this country. Many brothers and sisters, who have accepted Jesus as their Lord, have begun to live a new life in the Spirit, committing themselves in their service to the Church and the community and trying to live every day as authentic Christians.

Prayer Groups

The 2014 Boston College study of Catholic parishes and Hispanic Ministry noted that approximately half of the 4,300 parishes in the United States with Hispanic Ministry have a Renewal prayer group. That means, that there are more than 2,000 Hispanic charismatic groups in the country. These groups have been key to accompanying those who have been inserted into this current of grace through some experience in a congress, a retreat,

a gathering, etc. At the same time, the prayer groups have been the first place where many people who are searching for some spiritual, economic, physical or effective help have encountered the Renewal. We, through our connection with the diocesan coordinators for the Hispanic Renewal, support and promote prayer groups to provide the necessary environment for many Hispanics to gather weekly to praise God, and to deepen in his Word. But above all, to have a moment of fraternity with brothers and sisters who speak their same language and have similar cultural and religious traditions.

Youth Ministry

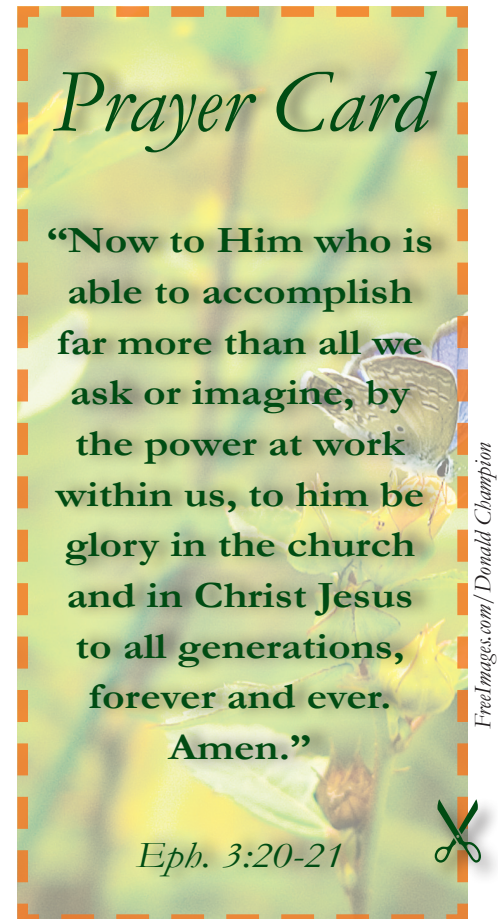
The CNSH, through its National Youth Secretariat, organizes workshops and retreats for Hispanic youth and young adults. This ministry is done with the special feature that the majority of these youth and young people are second or third generations of Hispanic immigrants, which means that although many of them feel more comfortable speaking English, they would want to recover or maintain the cultural and religious traditions of their families. Therefore, the CNSH is very committed to the future of this current of grace, not only with the Spanish-speaking Renewal within the United States but also with the English-speaking Renewal, helping current young Hispanics to experience a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, to be formed in the best possible way, and to be engaged in the evangelization of the modern world.

Leadership Training

The Renewal has been characterized by forming lay leaders, creating and enabling environments for them to develop their charisms, and strongly promoting their leadership. Thus, we have organized a

National Training Program, which is offered in various dioceses around the country, in order to faithfully train Hispanic leaders in key areas of the Renewal. We have seen, in many Hispanic leaders of this current of grace, the fulfillment of the words of Jesus "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for having hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to the little ones" (Mt 11:25). There is no doubt that many leaders, despite not having the economic resources to obtain an academic education in their own countries, nor having previously had the opportunity to develop the great qualities that God has given them, have been used by the Holy Spirit in extraordinary ways in this country. Therefore, through our National Training Program, we have promoted training environments in religious, spiritual and service areas to better serve the Church in this country.

CNSH continues to page 15



Prayer Card

"Now to Him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Eph. 3:20-21

FreeImages.com / Donald Champion

Come HOLY SPIRIT

by Jimmy Archer

Fr. Cantalamessa recently said, in his first meditation in preparation for the establishment of CHARIS, "We need to receive the Holy Spirit to be able to pray, and we need to pray in order to receive the Holy Spirit." Grace enables Freedom and Freedom enables Grace.

In his meditation he reminded us of how the apostles prepared for the coming of the Holy Spirit, by praying:

Acts 1:14 "With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.*

*O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant
that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly
wise and ever enjoy his consolations,
through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." And while the Church was praying, "there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind ...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:2,4).

We have received the Holy Spirit, and we will gather together this November 8-10 in St. Louis to once again cry out: "Veni Sancte Spiritus, Come, Holy Spirit!" The simplicity of it, the power of it, to pray unanimously and perseveringly as Fr. Cantalamessa would say. Unanimous, with one heart and perseverance, holding on with tenacity to prayer. Come, Holy Spirit!

Come to renew your vision and receive the fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit! Throughout the weekend our Keynote Speakers will break open the Holy Spirit Prayer. Empowering us on Friday Night

as we implore the Holy Spirit to, "Fill the Hearts of Your Faithful!" Saturday morning we will pray "Enkindle the Fire of Your Love" with a Healing Service in the afternoon. Persevering in prayer on Saturday evening we will again cry out, "Send Forth Your Spirit!" and conclude on Sunday, unanimous in prayer, "Renew the Face of the Earth!"

Three breakout sessions of workshops on Saturday, featuring fifteen different workshops, will provide us with inspirational and practical applications to evangelize, to grow in our leadership skills, to examine all the ways the Holy Spirit is calling us to unity, to igniting once again the fire of his love in our hearts, and even on a very practical level, to learn how to use social media to advance the kingdom.

Keynote Speakers include: Matt Maher on Friday evening, Paul George, Mary Healy, Sr. Lucy Lukasiewicz, DLJC and Archbishop Robert Carlson. Also speaking: Jimmy Archer, Jim Beckman, David Bisono, Matt Bourgeois, Gloria Coyne, Dan and Caroline Dirkes, John Gresham, Bill Marcotte, Jessica Navin and Fr. Anthony Ouellette. Others will be named. Leading us in worship through Music: Carrie Bajzath and Friends from St. Louis! There will be a special rate and lunch for Young Adults, ages 18-35.

To register go to our website at nsc-chariscenter.org or call us at 800-338-2445! *Come, Holy Spirit!* ♦

Please pray with the NSC for the following intentions:

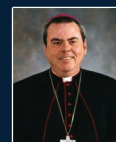
Let us pray together...

- That we may be open to the Holy Spirit renewing and transforming us, so that we, in turn, may bring that spirit of Renewal to everyone we encounter.
- That we find creative ways of forming, mentoring and preparing those in the Renewal as missionary disciples.
- That the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
- That united as God's people we may manifest Jesus Christ to the church and to the world by fostering the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- That The Ark and The Dove would continue to unite the Renewal in all its dimensions in our mission to spread baptism in the Holy Spirit.

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A Theology of Charismatic Renewal

by Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

Theology:

St. Paul taught that we become a new person in Jesus Christ. This involves a transformation of our hearts and of our minds: "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect" (Rom 12:2). The word "Theology" literally means the "study of God." It has commonly been said that Theology is "faith seeking understanding." In Jesus' parable of the Sower and the Seed he says that "the seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no roots and lasts only for a time." Those who bear much fruit are those who "hear the word and understand it" (Mt 13:20-23). The gift, and experience, of faith that touches our hearts has to also take root in our minds to bear full and lasting fruit.

Charismatic:

In the New Testament the Greek word "charism" is usually translated as "gift of the Spirit" or "spiritual gift." The Second Vatican Council described the Church as being both hierarchical and charismatic. The word hierarchical emphasizes the role of the ordained ministry of the pope, bishops, priests, and deacons. The word charismatic emphasizes that all the followers of Jesus are given spiritual gifts (aka charisms) for the building up of the body of Christ, the Church. The charismatic dimension of the Church includes religious

communities, religious movements, approved apparitions, the rosary, the Divine Mercy chaplet, and all the individual spiritual gifts that God pours out on each follower of Jesus that have been discerned by the Church to be true workings of the Holy Spirit. The last three popes have taught that the hierarchical and charismatic dimensions of the Church are co-essential.

Charismatic Renewal:

The recently promulgated Statutes for CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Services), which came from the initiative of Pope Francis, quote Cardinal Leon Joseph Suenens in stating that charismatic renewal "is a flow of grace (a current of grace), a renewing breath of the Holy Spirit, intended for all members of the Church." It is different from other movements in the Church in that it is "a sovereign work of the Holy Spirit," has "no founder or founding group," and is meant not just for some particular people with a calling to a particular group, but is meant for all members of the Church. The Statutes state: "Common to all expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal is the experience of the fruits of Pentecost through an outpouring of spiritual gifts called baptism in the Holy Spirit, involving a personal encounter with Jesus Christ as Savior, an openness to the Word of God, to exercising the charisms and to evangelization in faithful service to the Church." The Statutes also state that Catholic Charismatic Renewal is also "part of an ecumenical current of grace."

A Theology of Charismatic Renewal

seeks to understand the full role of the Holy Spirit, as it is explained in the Scriptures and teaching of the Church. In the Old Testament there is an unfolding revelation that as God gave his Spirit to certain leaders of the Israelites, there would be a final messiah (Christ, Anointed One) who would make it possible for all his followers to receive the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist declared that this Messiah/Christ would baptize in the Holy Spirit, and pointed to Jesus as being this Messiah/Christ. Jesus at the Last Supper, and before Ascending into heaven, promised to send the Holy Spirit as another Advocate, and as "Power from on High." St. Paul continues to unfold the understanding of the Holy Spirit: that it is by the Spirit that we cry "Abba, Father," and can declare that "Jesus is Lord," that the gifts of the Spirit are "manifestations" of the Spirit; and the fruits of the Spirit are given to overcome the flesh and lead us to holiness.

Charismatic Renewal is meant to be a reminder in the Church of the full role of the Holy Spirit, so that all followers of Jesus, the Christ, will enter into their inheritance as people living fully in the Holy Spirit. ♦



Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD is a former member and chairman for the National Service Committee for Charismatic Renewal, and a member of the NSC Council.

National Response to Pope Francis' CHARIS Initiative

by Chuck Hornsby

Recently in Tempe, Arizona leaders from a number of streams in the charismatic renewal met to begin the process of seeking agreement on how to form a National Service of Communion (NSoC) in response to Pope Francis' CHARIS initiative. Under CHARIS there are three levels of communion being developed to foster renewal throughout the world. The mechanisms for how the International Service of Communion and the Continental Service of Communion are to be developed are clearly spelled out in the CHARIS statutes. The national level of organization takes into consideration the differences between nations. Therefore, the process of development is more organic and grows out of the lived experience of charismatic renewal in each nation.

The history of charismatic renewal in the United States is full of high points and positive fruit but at times there have been tensions between various streams of the Renewal and between individual leaders. Over 30 years ago leaders began to meet to heal broken relationships and build a pathway for unity. These meetings eventually came to be called the Gathering of National Leadership Groups. These gatherings have focused on relationships and have worked hard over the years to build communion. They were never intended to build structural unity though at times they have been the springboard for common initiatives. It became clear that some group would need to take the initiative to form the NSoC for CHARIS in the United States. Because the Gathering had years of experience working toward relational unity, we took the initiative to begin to seek a unity base to form a National Service of Communion in the United States.

It was also clear that the Pope's desire for communion in the Renewal was broader than the groups that comprised the Gathering. The planning group for the Gathering was expanded to include other entities in the Renewal and an invitation list for the meeting in Tempe was developed. A number of individuals and groups that had not previously participated in the Gathering attended and it was this expanded group that began the process of discerning how to form the NSoC for CHARIS.

The two United States representatives to the International Service of Communion, Bishop Peter Smith and Andres Arango, were present to help us understand the hopes and goals of CHARIS. In a nut-shell CHARIS has been created to give the Catholic Charismatic Renewal a firmer place in the Church. CHARIS is an organism erected by the Holy See with public juridical personality. CHARIS acts in the name of the Church in serving all the expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

It was communicated that Pope Francis sees CHARIS as a more effective means to encourage every Catholic to be baptized in the Holy Spirit,

as a vehicle to promote ecumenism, and as an organizational structure that will draw together a larger diversity of charismatic leadership including the young.

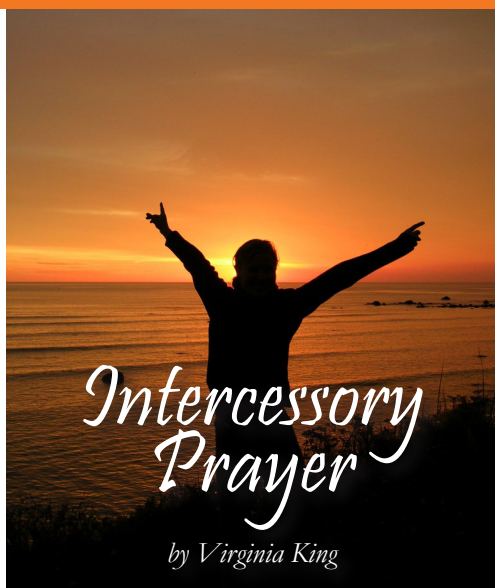
The group spent some time in dialogue about the makeup of the International Service of Communion, the ongoing election process for CHARIS leadership, and the effects of CHARIS on current leadership and leadership groups in the United States. It was clarified that CHARIS is designed to enhance service and communion among leaders, not to replace current structures. Prophetic words encouraged us to forgo fear and to embrace the changes the Holy Father is calling for.

After a caucus of the various groups represented a number of things were clarified and the group made some concrete decisions:

1. The 2020 Gathering will be designed to officially form the National Service of Communion for the United States.
2. A task force has been selected to bring about this desire. This task force consists of: from the National Service Committee, Ron Riggins and Walter Matthews; from the Hispanic and Haitian committees, Kathia Arango, Marie-Josée Joseph, and Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia; from the Filipino Alliance, Bob Canton; from the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, Fr. Anthony Ouellette; from the Covenant Communities, Chuck Hornsby; Ecumenical representative, Paul Dinolfo; Youth representative, Fausto Franco; CHARIS Council members, Bishop Peter Smith and Andres Arango.
3. The Task Force will plan the 2020 Gathering; evolve a plan to set up the National Service of Communion; seek to invite more representatives to the 2020 Gathering; choose a representative to attend the first Continental meeting of CHARIS; and further the work of unity in cooperation with CHARIS.

This Gathering was covered with Grace. At times this very diverse group seemed at a standstill about how to move forward when suddenly the path for agreement emerged.

Let's commit now to begin to pray for the 2020 Gathering and the formation of our National Service of Communion. Let's pray that the Task Force is anointed to do the work that is set before it. And let's pray especially that a strong youth presence will emerge to carry the hopes of CHARIS into the next generation. ♦



Baptism in the Holy Spirit is life-transforming. We each experience something unique, and yet we each can say that our relationship with God is changed, made more real, brought to a different level of vitality. Naturally, and supernaturally, our life of prayer is changed, because our prayer is defined by our relationship with God! We have new experiences of praise, worship, and adoration. And when we pray for Jesus to help us, we have new trust that the Lord hears the cry of our hearts and responds as a Good Shepherd, caring for our every need in the way he knows best.

There is something different, though, in the prayer of intercession. When praying on behalf of others, our prayer is united in a special way to Jesus. The starting point and the finishing point of all intercession is our unity with Jesus. Jesus is the one intercessor who sits at the right hand of the Father, forever interceding for us! We have the privilege and the responsibility, as members of the Body of Christ, to join Jesus at the throne of grace in his unique intercession. I urge you to read the beautiful words in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2634-2636, which describe intercession as “a heart attuned to God’s mercy.”

I have found that we are quick to pray for healing for others, which is as it

should be. But I am challenged, and I challenge you as well, to dedicate more of our intercessory prayer “energy” to the many diverse needs of the Renewal, of the Church and of the world. In these times of darkness, our diligent and persevering intercession is necessary to shine the transforming light of Jesus in the world.

Many years ago, I learned a simple method of intercession that can be used personally or in a group. I learned it from Kim Kollins, the initiator of the *Burning Bush Initiative*, when she visited Seattle to give teaching on intercession. First, we present our intention to the Lord in simple words, for example: “Lord, we present to you the needs of the Universal Church for healing and purification.” Next, we enter into intercession (through praying in tongues, if that is our gift, or otherwise in another way of our choosing), for a period of time, with expectant faith that the Holy Spirit “intercedes for the holy ones according to God’s will” (Rm 8:27). We continue to pray “in the Spirit” until we have a sense of completion or of transition. Finally, we again pray in our own simple words, prayers of thanksgiving for what God is doing, for example: “Thank you, eternal Father, for the love you have for your Church, and for the healing and purification that you are accomplishing in her.”

In the time when we are praying in the Spirit, we are intentionally listening for the direction of the Holy Spirit to guide us to refine the stated intention. Following the prayers of thanksgiving, if we are being prompted to continue to intercede in a more specific way, we would resume the three steps by presenting a new intention to the Lord. So, to expand on the previous example, if there is an upcoming gathering of bishops, we might be prompted to pray for that meeting. Or if there are specific situations in our diocese in which we become aware that there is a need for healing and/or purification, we

might be prompted by the Holy Spirit to intercede specifically for those. Again, once the petition is presented to the Lord, we diligently enter into intercession through praying in tongues (or in

Recently, the Moderator of the new international service entity, CHARIS, requested intercessory prayer for the preparations for Pentecost 2019 and for the fruitfulness of CHARIS. In response to this request, the National Service Committee established a sign-up sheet for anyone (including you!) to make a commitment to pray for this specific intention. (See the link on the NSC website.) This is one very immediate and practical way that we can join together to intercede for the strengthening of the Renewal. By God’s grace, may we all be transformed by our unity in prayer!

our own words) for a short or long amount of time, as the Holy Spirit prompts us, until we conclude again with heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving.

When praying in this manner in a group, one person is designated the leader of the prayer, and they are entrusted with guiding the flow of the three elements of the intercessions, and the rest of the group follows their lead. The three elements can be repeated as often as needed to respond to the promptings of the Spirit as we are led in extended times of corporate intercession. I have also used this manner of prayer in my personal times of intercession, and it helps to keep me focused and diligent in my commitment to pray for a specific intention “as the Spirit leads.” ♦



Virginia King, former NSC member, worked with the NSC Council’s Intercessory Prayer Working Group. She lives in Everett, WA.

The Need for Community

by Jamie Cleaton

Community life is undeniably a foundation for the movement of the Holy Spirit. In my personal life, community and the Holy Spirit are almost inseparable: two lungs supporting the same life. My experiences in covenant community life have been the breeding grounds for my walk with the Spirit. In contrast, we are currently seeing more and more young adults encounter the Holy Spirit, but have no relevant communal structure through which to grow in their unique gifts and truly live a life in the Spirit. There is a great hunger for the community that should innately come with an encounter with the Spirit.

I have heard many in the church refer to this generation of Catholics as the “nomadic” generation. They are not accepting “the best we got” mentality within their local church communities or movements and therefore are willing to travel great distances to find and participate in living

in a more vibrant community life. They are finding community niches that are much more organic in their identity and structure than generations of the past. Whether one agrees with this “nomadic” notion or not, it is nonetheless clear that there is a hunger amongst our young adults for community life.

I was recently speaking with a friend of mine about some communal struggles she was experiencing. I told her “community needs to be fought for.” She was surprised and replied, “I have never heard that before.” I believe the idea of fighting for community is foreign to my generation. I am a part of a generation that is hungry for community, but struggles with how to form it within the current structure.

In my observations, the communities currently experiencing growth have three common elements. First, they are on mission. Young adults hunger for mission.

Second, community life should involve commitment. Too often we water down a committed life in the Spirit because we are afraid of asking too much. Commitment gives them something more than the event-based ministry that they keep finding everywhere they look. Third, they want a community that knows how to have fun. As a wise friend once told me, “if you want to build community, have a BBQ”.

Ultimately, if we want to help this generation form community, we need to be a Church that says “yes” to new ideas addressing new hungers. As Archbishop Chaput recently stated, “It is really important for us to encourage initiatives. Let people who love Jesus and have a new idea have a chance to be successful with those ideas.” ♦



Jamie Cleaton serves as the ministry coordinator at the SDSU Newman Center. You can also find his ministry to the young church at www.jamiecleaton.com

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Sustaining Partner Pledge

1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction."

We who have had that life-transforming experience of the love of the Father poured out by the Holy Spirit, as we have surrendered our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ

have been baptized in the Holy Spirit. We have never been the same since. We have said yes to our vision and mission to foster this dynamic grace, in the Renewal, in the Church, and to the whole world until it is set ablaze in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Together we have been praying and working diligently and now is a time of a New Season. A time for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which will overcome the growing indifference and adversarial relationship of the world to our faith. A time of great purification in the Church, a time of empowerment, to come together as one body in Christ, to work together with deep conviction.

This outpouring was not the work of any man or any woman: this has been a work of the Holy Spirit where God has moved sovereignly and it will be a sovereign move of the Holy Spirit that sets the world on fire! Cooperating with the Holy Spirit we have a strategic plan of *Evangelization, Strengthening the Renewal, Enhancing Unity* and *Empowering Young Adults* to set the world ablaze.

It has always been our friends that have provided the financial means of accomplishing our vision and mission and it will always be friends that empower us to do so. The National Service Committee has discerned that in this New Season,

Friends continues to page 14

Grace perfects Nature

by Fr. Sean Stilson, BBD

How many times have you been to Mass, and despite your best efforts and your prayers, you received nothing from the homily? This was my experience so often while I was in college. It seemed like certain priests were offering up their words—uninspired and uninspiring—when what I really needed was God's words through them.

Part of my attraction to the Charismatic Renewal came from my severe disappointment with human effort unaided by grace. I joined an explicitly Catholic charismatic religious community, the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple, precisely because I did not want to rely solely on my own natural abilities. The world does not need me; the world needs what God can do through me.

Catholics outside the Renewal have the tendency to focus too much on the natural and not enough on the supernatural. This does not mean, however, that the opposite extreme is healthy. Those of us within the

Renewal must avoid the danger of relying only on God's grace while ignoring the necessary contribution of human nature.

If someone is having a lot of problems in his life, maybe he needs a deliverance from evil spirits and a healing of his family tree, or maybe he just needs greater psychological maturity. If someone is suffering from

disease and discomfort, maybe she needs people to pray over her for healing, and maybe she needs to exercise a few times a week and stop consuming sugar. If someone is not skilled at giving talks at the prayer meeting, maybe he needs to pray more for the charism of teaching, but maybe he also needs to read a few books about the faith and get some practice with public speaking.

None of these situations are either/or. We can do both. We can ask for God's help while also applying the best solutions that human effort can provide. Expecting God to do everything for us is not a recipe for success. God wants us to do our part. He did not create us to be his slaves, pets, or perpetual infants, but his partners in ministry. To respond well to his grace, our human nature must develop. God wants us

to reach maturity not only in the supernatural realm, but also in the natural. ♦

Fr. Sean Stilson is BBD Vocation Director and a parish parochial vicar.

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From the Executive Director

by Walter Matthews

BRIDGES

When I first came to work for the National Service Committee, Bill Beatty, then Executive Director, said that our work consisted in “building bridges.” The Renewal on the national level had experienced fragmented relationships amidst differing visions. We were to be “ambassadors for Christ” (2 Cor 5:20) urging, encouraging, interceding for that restoration of unity in the Renewal that would allow the power and grace of the Holy Spirit to be more effective in the Church and in the world.

And where unity existed and had not been fragmented we were to “take every care to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together” (Eph 4:3).

As we went forward there were, sadly, bumps in our own journey: in our life in community, and in our service in the Renewal.

We worked hard to repair relationships. However, at times it seemed our bridge building was a bridge too far! But as those who know, I spent many years, conversations and prayers allowing the Lord to work in me what he wanted to work in all.

Recently I came across the image of a “bridge” as the Lord revealed it to St. Catherine of Siena. As one author has summarized it, “In her *Dialogue*, Catherine also spoke of a *bridge* that may be arrived at after ascending three stairs. The first stair, the feet, symbolize the soul’s affections. On the second stair, we are invited to peer into the very side of Christ and provided a vision of his inmost heart. Upon reaching the third stair, the soul is able to see the very mouth of Christ—which

is Truth. As Catherine puts it: ‘On the first stair, the soul strips herself of sin. On the second, she dresses herself in virtue. On the third stair, she tastes peace’ (p. 65). Hence, the Lord is found by a bridge ‘built of stone that has opened the heavens for us with the key of his blood. At the end of the bridge is a gate, which is the only way we can enter’” (pp. 66-67).

It may be terribly simplistic but I believe the soon establishment of CHARIS at Pentecost, as a “single service for the one grace” can be for this Renewal that moment of entry through the gate the Lord had intended in this outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our day.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, in his second reflection written in preparation for the CHARIS establishment, has written: “In view of a new restart of the current of grace of Charismatic Renewal, it is necessary to ‘empty one’s pockets,’ to reset ourselves, to repeat with deep conviction the words suggested by Jesus himself *‘We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do’* (Lk 17:10). Make the Apostle’s purpose our own: ‘I forget about the past, I lean towards the future.’ We imitate the ‘twenty-four elders’ of the Apocalypse who ‘cast their crowns before the throne’ and proclaim, *‘Worthy are you, Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power’* (Rev 4:10-11). The word of God addressed to Isaiah is always relevant: *‘See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?’* (Is 43:19). Blessed are we if we allow God to do the new thing he has in mind right now for us and for the Church.”

Allow me to end with these words sung in many of our parishes,

*Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God’s grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.* (Marty Haugen) ♦

Friends from page 13

the soon establishment of CHARIS and being called to set the whole world ablaze, we need donors who will make a Sustaining Partner Pledge that would maximize our resources, reduce our overhead and enable us to be ready and equipped for all the Lord has for us. “Your pledge that keeps on giving until the whole world is set ablaze!” Today, I am writing to invite you, if you haven’t already done so, to become a Sustaining Partner!

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In Memoriam: Sister Martha Jean McGarry, IHM

Sister Martha Jean McGarry, a member of the National Service Committee from 1990 – 2001, and the editor of *Pentecost Today* from 2004 – 2012, died on Good Friday, April 19. During her sixty-four years as a Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sister Martha Jean was a school teacher, worked in parish pastoral ministry, served as the Director of the Renewal Center for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in Albuquerque, and was eventually appointed the Archbishop's Liaison for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

One of twelve children, I think she learned early on the skill of listening with an open mind and heart. During the years I was blessed to work with her on the NSC, I was always impressed with her quiet, prayerful, perceptive presence. Our meetings were frequently animated and contentious, and some of the members could be quite passionate in expressing their views. But Sister Martha Jean would often calmly and clearly summarize what was being said. And then, once the group had reached consensus, she would be the first to raise her arms and let out an exuberant "Alleluia!"

Sister Martha Jean also had a heart for those who were not at the table. In those days there were many more men than women on the NSC, and few minorities represented: it was often Sister Martha Jean who raised questions and concerns to help the committee broaden its perspective and vision for all of God's children.

Her humble, selfless service in her many roles greatly enriched the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and the wider church. May her example continue to inspire us. ♦

Ron Ryan, Former Editor of Pentecost Today



Jubilee Grace

by Katia Roldi Zavaris

It is with great joy that I share with you that during this year of 2019, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Brazil is celebrating its golden jubilee! Fifty years of the grace of Pentecost in our nation!

What a wonderful time we have been through! We are truly living a Jubilee atmosphere everywhere! A time of blessings and graces, a very special meaning to all of us: a Kairos!

Last year, in July, our beloved sister, Patti Gallagher Mansfield, was the main speaker in our National Retreat for Priests and Deacons. During that event the Lord gave her a very inspiring prophecy for Brazil, part of which I share below:

"As you look for me, as you praise me, as you look at me, I will greatly increase your numbers. I will open doors that until now have been shut."

The prophecy is being fulfilled! Thank God! More than 15,000 leaders got together for our National Formation Conference in January the biggest number of participants ever!

CNSH from page 7

Intercession and Social Projection

In recent years, the CNSH has organized a network of national intercession, through which different leaders of the country are in communication to pray for specific needs or intentions. This network has recently developed into a prophetic intercession network, which aims to be attentive to situations that God wants us to pray for and, through the charisms that he gives us, to commit ourselves in the service of others. This has connected with the call of Pope Francis to serve the neediest, a great social commitment of

During that same conference, I asked the Renewal leaders to give the Lord a present in this jubilee year: New Prayer Groups all around Brazil. And they are already arising! Life in the Spirit Seminars are outnumbering the usual figures.

The Lord has asked us to live fraternal communion as a fruit of his love for his children:

"...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom 5:5).

Pope Francis says, in his Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium" (number 99):

I especially ask Christians in communities throughout the world to offer a radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion. Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35).

And that is what we are asking all our Prayer Groups to work for: fraternal communion. Then, seeking unity with vigor, we may be genuine witnesses of baptism in the Holy Spirit and announce throughout the country that Jesus Christ is the Lord. ♦

Katia Roldi Zavaris is President of the CCR in Brazil and Vice-President of the CCR in Latin America.

the Hispanic Renewal, not only giving voice to those who are marginalized in society, but also concentrating its service efforts in visiting hospitals, prisons, the homeless, etc. Thus, the Renewal has discovered a new call to be an instrument for the development of Hispanics in the United States, not only spiritually but integrally. ♦



Kathia Arango is currently the National Coordinator of the Hispanic National Service Committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the U.S. and Canada.

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