

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

# PENTECOST *Today*

Summer 2019



# *Together*

in one place - Pentecost 2019

Photo from CCHRIS  
Credit: Walter Cascioli

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



## Chairman's Corner

by Ron Riggins

### *In Pursuit of Unity*

Jesus prayed for our unity: “that they may all be one” (Jn 17:20-21). And in the Nicene Creed we profess our belief that the Church is one.

The motto in Alexandre Dumas’ novel *The Three Musketeers* reflected a commitment to unity: *un pour tous, tous pour un* (“one for all, all for one”). But then Frank Sinatra sang what seems to be today’s motto: “I did it my way.” A casual glance reveals the cost of today’s self-focus—a critical spirit, unwillingness to agree, verbal abuse, and disunity.

The “culture of disunity” has even permeated the Catholic Church and the larger Body of Christ. St. Paul addressed divisions among the Corinthians, encouraging them to be of the same mind and purpose (1 Cor 1:10). He encouraged the Ephesians to use spiritual gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ so that the Church could grow in fullness

in the unity of those who believe in Christ (Eph 4:11-16).

CHARIS captures the unity preached by Jesus and later by St. Paul, as Pope Francis sees baptism in the Holy Spirit as an opportunity for the whole Church. He expects those of us who have experienced this current of grace to work together, using our diverse gifts, for unity in the Renewal and ecumenically in the Body of Christ for the benefit of the whole Church.

So here’s our challenge: Let’s commit to the spirit of unity, embracing the Prayer of St. Francis.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

Lord, let unity begin with me. ♦



## Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

When I read the word “sandals” in Ron Riggins’ article concerning the inauguration of CHARIS, and sandals spiritually symbolizing readiness to serve, I recalled a quote regarding sandals: “Put them on and wear them like they fit.” Or as Ron calls the NSC, Boots on the Ground.

CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service) inaugurated by Pope Francis, is “marked by communion between all the members of the charismatic family, in which the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit is manifested for the good of the entire Church” (p 10).

More articles directly referring to CHARIS: Chairman’s Corner (p 2); before CHARIS and now (pp 4-5, Gloria Coyne and Fr. Anthony Ouellette); How the Covenant of Understanding paved the way in the US for participating in the CHARIS vision (p 7, Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD).

Other articles taking up the theme of Unity are: The mission of The Ark and The Dove, “to foster unity...” (p 3) Johnny Bertucci, Unity: unexpected fruit of baptism in the Spirit (p 6) Paul Dinolfo, and Our unity with the Trinity (p 11) Jane Guenther.

Fr. John Marcucci lays out the work of Vatican Council II, in asking the Council Fathers to see the role of the Holy Spirit not simply as a “guarantor” of what Christ had completed in the Church, but as a “co-operator” with Christ in the life of the Church bringing salvation to all people (*Lumen Gentium*, p 9).

At the Bishops’ retreat with Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa (p 13) Bishop Peter Smith.

Transitions, a time of prayer and discernment (p 8).

Fifty years ago and fifty years from now (p 14) Walter Matthews.

Sensing the Move of the Spirit—across continents (p 15). ♦

## PENTECOSTToday

Volume 44 Number 3

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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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# Pentecost Today!

## The Ark and The Dove

by Johnny Bertucci

*“...[I]n the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights” (Gen 7:11b-12 RSVCE).*

This scripture describes the great flood that began as Noah waited obediently in the ark. When these verses were spoken as a prophetic word during the 50th anniversary celebration of the Duquesne Weekend on that very day, February 17th, something quickened in my spirit. They brought to mind a different ark: a retreat center called The Ark and The Dove where, on the weekend of February 17, 1967, the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened, and the Spirit of God fell upon a small group of college students. This event began a current of grace called Catholic Charismatic Renewal. That current now courses through the whole world.

As Mary, Ark of the Covenant, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, waiting in the Upper Room with the disciples, received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at that first Pentecost, one can only wonder at the role she played in this new Pentecost. Just as, through the gift of tongues, people of many different languages were united by the power of the Holy Spirit as the disciples proclaimed Jesus as Lord 2,000 years ago, so that same call to unity is now an integral part of the mission of this modern-day Ark, as is evidenced by our vision statement:

*Through reclaiming the historic site of the “Duquesne Weekend”—The Ark and The*

*Dove, home of baptism in the Holy Spirit—we seek to foster unity with those who have received this outpouring and to extend that grace for generations to come.*

Our mission is two-fold: to foster unity and to pass on the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The Ark and The Dove seeks to foster unity; this is our clarion call: unity within the Renewal, unity within the Church, ecumenical unity. For those who profess baptism in the Holy Spirit, this is your home. Pope Francis has reminded the Renewal of its ecumenical roots. The Ark and The Dove, at the time of the Duquesne Weekend, was staffed by the Ladies of Bethany, a group of nuns from Holland invited by the Bishop of Pittsburgh specifically to minister to the poor on the streets of Pittsburgh and foster ecumenical encounters. Today, The Ark and The Dove is administered by the first religious order of nuns to come out of the Renewal, the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ (DLJC).

The Ark and The Dove seeks to extend to all the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit. We are blessed to house a first-class relic of Blessed Elena Guerra, Apostle of the Holy Spirit, a gift from the Brazilian Renewal. The Ark and The Dove, the very birthplace of the Renewal, seeks to be a rallying point to the

Renewal worldwide to proclaim the love of God through his Son Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord spoke through a prophecy given during last year’s anniversary celebration saying: “This is not a museum of what I have done in the past. I am doing new things, to empower my church for this time, the ending times. I am empowering you, and I send you to empower my church.”

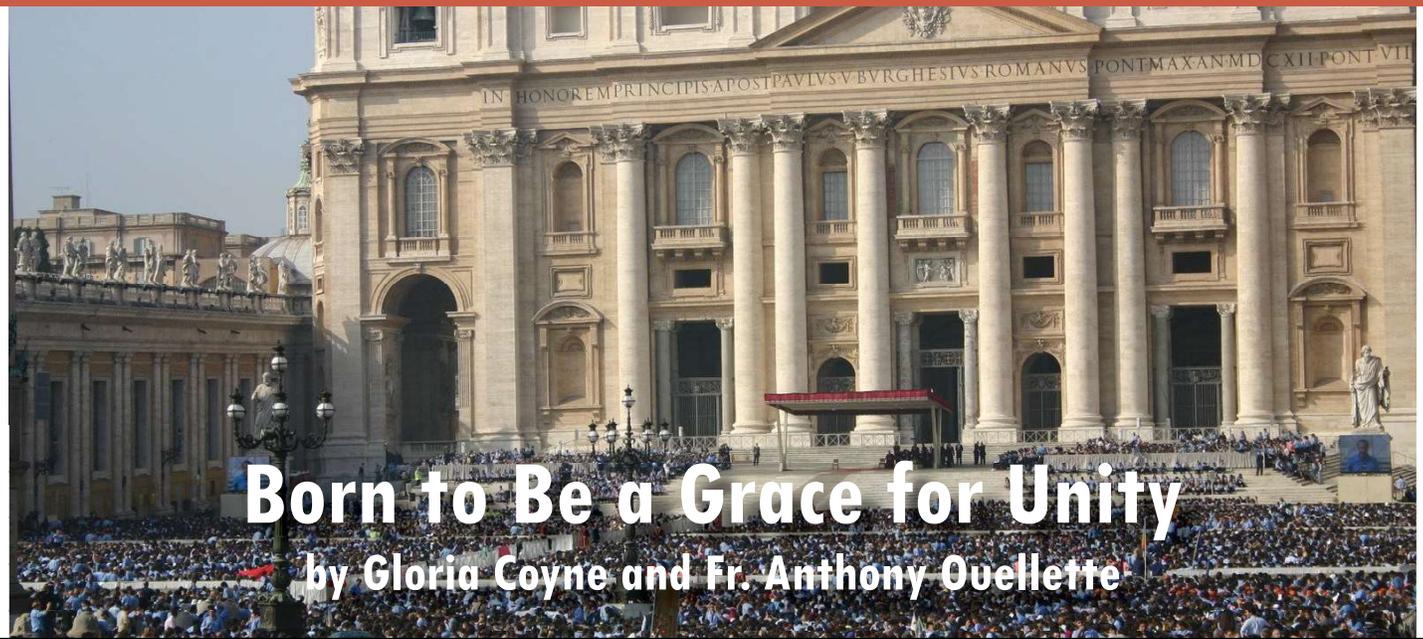
Individuals and groups from around the world are making pilgrimages to The Ark and The Dove to pray and be refreshed. Intercession is being offered daily in the historic chapel. Schools of praise, healing, and worship are being offered.

This is your home. Come by to pray and be refreshed. Come by to study and learn more about this grace we call baptism in the Holy Spirit. Come by to read about our history. Come by and visit, not as a guest, but as a member of the family coming home. ♦



*Johnny Bertucci is Chairman of The Ark and The Dove, Inc. and past Chairman of the NSC.*

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# Born to Be a Grace for Unity

by Gloria Coyne and Fr. Anthony Ouellette

**“How good and how pleasant it is, when brothers dwell together as one!” - Psalm 133**

**O**n January 1, 1901, Pope Leo XIII consecrated the 20th century to the Holy Spirit and prayed for a new outpouring of that same Spirit upon the whole “church” while ironically overshadowed by Bernini’s rendering of that same gift, in the form of a dove, in the Vatican’s Basilica of St. Peter. At the same time in Topeka, Kansas, there was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit among students at the Bethel College and Bible school. They were praying and fasting for a Pentecost-like encounter with the Holy Spirit as the Apostles had in the Upper Room. From these hungry hearts, divided by distance, culture, and language, but united in prayer and petition, came the birth of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movement. The Holy Spirit’s fire spread rapidly throughout the United States and the world.

Fast forwarding to Vatican II, following the promptings of the Holy Spirit, the stage was set for a new spirit of ecumenism in the Church with

*Unitatis Redintegratio* (the Decree on Ecumenism). Pope St. John XXIII had stated in the opening address of the Council, “The Catholic Church, therefore, considers it her duty to work actively so that there may be fulfilled the great mystery of that unity, which Jesus Christ invoked with fervent prayer from his heavenly Father on the eve of his sacrifice.” In other words, a world unified by a united Christianity.

Shortly after the close of the Council, we know of another group of young college students, having already received Baptism and Confirmation, who prayed and longed for a deeper experience of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Again, God answered their prayers by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a very powerful way. These early days of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal were ecumenical in nature based on the common experiences of the love of God, baptism in the Holy Spirit, and the use of the charisms. Cardinal Suenens spoke at great length in the Malines documents

on the powerful role charismatic renewal has to unite all Christians, regardless of denominational differences.

**A** great ecumenical enthusiasm grew as all Christians started sharing in this common current of grace. All of the denominational posturing and suspicions formed over centuries of disunity, brokenness, and war were now being shaken and tested by this new experience of grace. We glimpse the Father’s heart for ecumenical unity during this moment as we hear the prophetic words spoken in Kansas City in 1977, “Come before me with broken heart and a contrite spirit...with tears and mourning...turn from the sins of your fathers... (for) the body of my Son is broken.” How incredibly powerful was this invitation to turn from our sin and divisions and to have our hearts broken over the brokenness of the body, the Church, and they wept.

Covenant communities, unlike many other elements of the Renewal, were

somewhat successful in keeping this flame of ecumenism alive, but eventually, disunity began to appear, and this ecumenical hopefulness began to erode. Divine warnings of holding on too tightly to control went unheeded and as sin always does, divisions again began to form anew, incredibly even among those united in and by this one current of grace.

In recent years, we have begun to see a renewed invitation towards unity.

As the NSC was preparing for the 2017 Jubilee year, a 5-year plan was proposed in which the year 2015 was set aside to focus on Unity. At that same time, a “Covenant of Understanding” was developed by which an agreed-upon statement of purpose was hoped to once again stir to flame the former embers of unity: it reads in part, “...a spiritual expression of unity, strengthening our communion with God and enhancing communion among groups dedicated to the fostering of “baptism in the Holy Spirit, the exercise of charisms, and a renewal of the full role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.” Furthering our objectives found in the NSC Vision and Mission Statement, in 2018, the NSC restructured its Foundational and Strategic Priorities to create one priority whose sole purpose is “Enhance Unity.” And now in 2019, we see again this renewed emphasis present in the Statutes of the recently created CHARIS and Directives from Pope Francis himself. CHARIS uses the language of a “Service of Communion,” or in other words, Unity of Service. Pope Francis

asks us, as one of his objectives, to focus on “Unity in the Body of Christ.”

Each of these steps have built upon and enhanced the plans that God has for his Church to draw us back to him and to serve united with each other in love.

Pope Francis isn’t merely responding to our thoughts about unity, CHARIS is a papal initiative requiring us to be successful.

At Pentecost this year, as leaders stood overshadowed by that same Holy Spirit window where Pope Leo XIII prayed for a new outpouring of that same Spirit, we recognized that we were receiving a renewed mandate to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, for all to be joined together once again, in an ecumenical unity. How do we do this? How do we even begin this huge task?

Unity always begins with us. Not only does it apply to us as individuals, but also in how we relate to our roles in the Renewal in general. We must first search our hearts and repent for those times when we have missed opportunities to act in love. Did we become “addicted” to our own way of doing things? Were there times when we acted out of jealousy, or fear or pride? Any sincere prayer of repentance should quickly be followed by a resolution to make amends, to right the wrong.

With a clean heart and mind, we are ready to receive the guidance and promptings of the Holy Spirit. We are recognizing once again that we must pray for humility, not just ecumenism, but for the entire CHARIS initiative to be fruitful.

Divisions have been with us since the beginning of time and unity is fragile. We might fail in our attempts, but we must start again. Jesus Christ fell several times on his way to the cross, but he got up again and again. We, too, must never give up getting up. God desires unity for his Church, and it is necessary for us to recognize that we have ONE shared salvation in Christ’s death upon the cross.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a bridge, a common experience that allows dialogue and relationships to grow with our Christian brethren. These relationships can be nurtured by sharing something as simple as a meal. Uniting together for service to the poor and works of charity allows us to set aside denominational differences. We are saying here what has been said before, but the Holy Spirit makes all things new!

As Cardinal Mercier wrote on the occasion of the famous “Conversations of Malines” (unrelated to the Malines documents about the Renewal):

- We have to encounter one another in order to know one another,
- To know one another in order to love one another,
- To love one another in order to unite. ♦



*Gloria Coyne*



*Fr. Anthony Ouellette  
NSC and DLSC Members*

When St. Peter saw Cornelius speaking in tongues and praising God, he recognized that the Spirit had been poured out on a Gentile, just as the Spirit had been given to Jewish believers. At that moment Peter experienced a paradigm shift. For the first time he recognized a Gentile as his brother in Christ (Acts 10:44-48).

Many of us have had a similar experience in charismatic renewal. Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox have experienced genuine unity despite our differences. This experience of unity is one of the most remarkable (and unexpected) fruits of baptism in the Spirit.

Christian unity was an unexpected fruit of the first Pentecost. The Holy Spirit did more than transform individuals. He began a profound work of unity. Jews from throughout the Roman Empire were brought into unity. Those first Christians lived together as a family-like community (Acts 2:42-47).

Acts is the story of how this unity was extended geographically (i.e., from Jerusalem to Rome) and culturally (i.e., Jews, Samaritans, God fearers, pagans). This work of unity is at the heart of God's purpose in sending the Holy Spirit. This should be no surprise as Jesus' last prayer was for unity (John 17), and God's ultimate plan is "to unite everything in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ" (Eph 1:10).

The early days of the Renewal were marked by a powerful experience of Christian unity. Many of the first prayer groups and covenant communities were ecumenical. The Renewal worked closely with the Renewal in other churches. This led to large ecumenical charismatic conferences in the 1970's, and it contributed to the rapid spread of the Renewal throughout the world.

# Unity:

## The Unexpected Fruit of Baptism in the Spirit

by Paul Dinolfo

Unfortunately, the unity of the Renewal did not last. For many reasons the Renewal fragmented in the 1980's. There were divisions between the prayer groups and covenant communities, and between the covenant communities. There was a general retreat from ecumenism as many Catholics focused on Catholic Church and parish renewal, and many Protestants began forming new charismatic churches. While some of these developments produced good fruit (e.g., church and parish renewal, new charismatic churches and ministries), the overall affect was to weaken ecumenism and charismatic renewal in the USA.

### What the Lord Is Doing Today

Through repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation the Holy Spirit is working to restore the unity that was lost in the 1980's. In recent years the Lord has restored good relationships among many of the covenant communities. The Lord has also been working through the National Service Committee and the Gathering of National Leadership Groups to restore and build relational unity among leaders from throughout the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Many years ago, the Lord spoke to my community, the Sword of the Spirit, about coming together to be a bulwark. He told us that if we are to stand as Christians and reach out to a world that

is descending into moral darkness, we will need to stand and work together. He told us we need to do this with other Christians and Christian groups. I believe this word applies to the whole charismatic renewal.

Pope Francis has been speaking a similar message. Pope Francis established CHARIS to unify the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, to foster evangelism and baptism in the Spirit, and to promote Christian unity. The challenge for us is to find tangible ways to respond to this call.

### Some Ways We Might Respond

We can start by getting to know each other better. We can seek to build relationships with those who represent different expressions of the Renewal (e.g., prayer groups, covenant communities, ministries; Catholic, Protestant, and ecumenical). I know we are all busy; nevertheless, we must place a high priority on building unity.

We can look for ways to support each other. We can pray for each other. We can speak well of each other. We can promote the good things others are doing. We can look for ways to work together.

I believe our efforts to build unity will benefit us in ways we could never predict, because we will be in harmony with the will of God, who desires that we be one as he is one. Holy Spirit make us one! ♦



*Paul Dinolfo is the senior coordinator of the Work of Christ Community, an ecumenical covenant community (Catholics, Protestants, Eastern Orthodox) in East Lansing, Michigan. Paul served from 2008 to 2016 as president of the North*

*American region of the Sword of the Spirit, an international ecumenical association of covenant communities.*

# POPE FRANCIS AND A UNITED CURRENT OF GRACE: THE COVENANT OF UNDERSTANDING

by Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

Pope Francis has called Charismatic Renewal “a current of grace of the Holy Spirit” being poured out for the renewal of the Church in our time. I have been involved with charismatic renewal for 49 years in 6 cities with prayer groups, covenant communities, various ministries, charismatic centers, liaisons, and the National Service Committee. I have been saddened when individuals, groups, and ministries that had a new birth in the Spirit through charismatic renewal went in their own direction, and did not stay connected with the wider charismatic renewal. We have forgotten at times that this is a “current of grace,” and we all need to stay connected together with this current. Certainly there can be varieties of manifestations of this current, but I have seen that our lack of understanding it as one current, and the need for a clear sense of unity, has hindered this current of grace “for the renewal of the Church in our time.”

In 2011 when I was chosen to be the chairman for the National Service Committee (NSC), I presented to the NSC a draft of a document called “A Covenant of Understanding” that I believed the Holy Spirit had been leading me to write. The NSC then shared this with the National Leaders Group for Catholic Charismatic Renewal. This group formed a committee to develop the document further, and implement it.

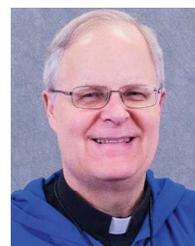
A section of the document states, “In this Covenant of Understanding we want to recognize more clearly the common heritage and spiritual bond that we share as disciples of Christ through the grace of “baptism in the Holy Spirit”. We believe that this grace of “baptism in the Holy Spirit” will be fostered and deepened, if there is a greater sense of spiritual connectedness and unity (communion) among us. We therefore seek a greater unity in this calling, which we have from God and from

the Church. We believe that the fruit of this grace for the good of the Church will be deepened through a greater sense of unity (communion) among us.” In 2015 we sent the document to many groups associated with charismatic renewal, and sought to make personal contacts with groups and leaders.

Pope Francis has also seen that charismatic renewal is a “current of grace of the Holy Spirit,” and there is a need for greater unity (communion) in promoting this grace. Under his initiative CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic International Service) has been erected by the Holy See as the international service organism for all expressions of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The Statutes of CHARIS approved by Pope Francis state: “CHARIS promotes and strengthens communion among all Charismatic realities, fostering a sense of the worldwide family of Catholic Charismatic Renewal.” Since CHARIS has been erected by the Holy See, through the “Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life,” it has the right and calling “To help deepen and promote the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Church... To promote the exercise of charisms not only in Catholic Charismatic Renewal but also in the whole Church.” CHARIS is a wonderful affirmation beyond our hopes (God is always bigger than our hopes) of what we were sensing in our efforts to promote the Covenant of Understanding.

It is not essential that you know the history of the efforts in developing the Covenant of Understanding, but if you truly want to see the Church strengthened through baptism in the Holy Spirit, the full use of charisms, and the full role of the Holy Spirit, we need to understand ourselves as one “current of grace” that needs unity (communion) to manifest its full power. Let us pray and work with CHARIS as it develops International, Continental, and National “Services of Communion.” Let prayer

groups, covenant communities, evangelization ministries, youth ministries, healing ministries, deliverance ministries, ministries to the poor, and all individuals and groups that have been touched by this “current of grace,” and baptism in the Holy Spirit, hear what the Spirit is saying. May we live the call of St. Paul, “If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing” (Phil. 2:1-2). ♦



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.

## Prayer Card

### Enhancing Unity

“Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body’s growth and builds itself up in love.”

Ephesians 4 15-16



## NSC ANNOUNCES TRANSITIONS AND SEARCH

The National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (NSC) announces that their longtime Executive Director, Walter Matthews, will retire as of December 31, 2020. Walter has faithfully served the NSC and the Renewal in the US for over 35 years since May, 1984, and as Executive Director since January, 1993. Through his devoted leadership, the NSC is well positioned to embrace the expanded role for the Renewal that the Catholic Church is now requesting.

The NSC is excited about our expanded role in this “new season” for the Renewal with the establishment of CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service) under the oversight of the Vatican’s Dicastery for

Laity, Family and Life. We are working with the other Leadership Groups in the US to form a National Service of Communion (NSoC), as called for by the CHARIS Statutes, whereby the NSC will support the Renewal in an expanded capacity.

As the NSC prepares for this period of transition, the Service Committee has entered a period of sustained prayer and discernment. We strongly believe that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead us in this time of transition and we are seeking to be docile to the Spirit’s guidance. As a first step, we are beginning a search for an Administrator whom we hope to hire by year end to work alongside the Executive Director for a year until his retirement. We will continue to evaluate a replacement for Walter.

As we have been communicating over the past year, we believe that the Service Committee’s Strategic Plan is highly aligned with the CHARIS Objectives. We are seeking to fill this new position of Administrator with a person who shares our vision as we move forward as “boots on the ground” in continuing to implement our Plan and work collaboratively in this new CHARIS season to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church.

In his message to CHARIS Conference just prior to Pentecost a few weeks ago, Pope Francis said, “As I told you at the Circus Maximus [in 2017 at the 50th Jubilee celebration], what is new can be destabilizing. In the beginning, there is a sense of uncertainty about the changes that newness brings. ... Our God is the God of newness. The new things of God are always a blessing because they flow from his loving heart. ... It is the Lord who says: ‘I make all things new.’”

The bottom line in this CHARIS moment and when Walter has announced his retirement is that the NSC is not going away. Exactly the opposite is true. We will continue to work in unity with others to foster the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit in the whole Church, as Pope Francis has commissioned us to do. We will continue to do what we do now, but at an intensified level being open to the newness that the Lord brings.

We ask for your prayer as both Walter and the NSC begin this transition—and will passionately serve the NSC in implementing our Plan and fulfilling our CHARIS commission. Come, Holy Spirit! ♦

Please pray with the NSC for the following intentions:

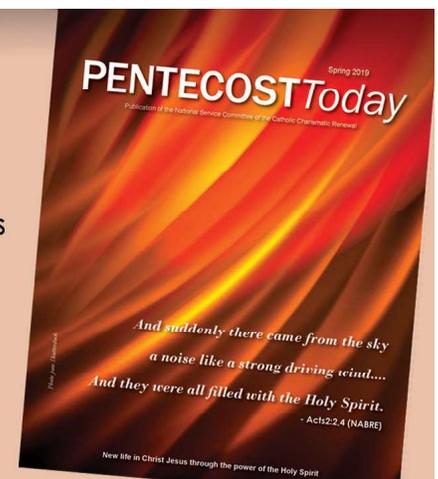
*Let us pray together...*

- **For the Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference**, that all participants would be ready to humbly welcome the Holy Spirit in power and truth.
- **For all wounded by the humanity of the Church**, that our faith and hope may rest fully on Jesus Christ and his eternal promises to his Bride.
- **For a courageous response to the CHARIS initiative** in our nation, that we may truly be healed of all wounds, brokenness, and divisions.
- **For anointed encounters with fellow Christians**, that would begin intentional relationships of friendship and collaboration.

### Did you know...

that we will send any Prayer Group, Community, Renewal Center, Ministry, Individual or Couple a bulk order of *Pentecost Today* for a year in increments of 5 for \$10 per copy, 5 for \$50, 10 for \$100 and so on.

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# The Role Of The Holy Spirit

## FROM GUARANTOR TO CO-OPERATOR

by Fr. John Marcucci

**P**neumatology, the study of the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, took on a new dynamism with the coming of the Second Vatican Council. Previous to the insights of the bishops at the Council, the Holy Spirit was seen in the subdued role of “guarantor” in safeguarding the truths of the Catholic Faith. The Council Fathers changed this perspective by presenting the Holy Spirit as a reciprocal “co-operator” with Christ in the action of the Church for the salvation of all believers.

Those who have studied the mind of the Council Fathers are aware of this shift in pneumatology with the opening discussion of the first document entitled *The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium)*. The original schema had placed the paragraph on the “People of God” in the third chapter under the title of the Laity. Early on in the debating that took place on the Council floor, Cardinal Leo Suenens, Primate of Belgium, delivered a very important address on the central role of charism in the life of the Church. The heart of his biblically-based speech presented the Holy Spirit as bequeathing charism to both the hierarchy and to the laity in a co-operating manner of mutuality.

Inspired by the perception of Cardinal Suenens whose episcopal motto was *in spiritu sancto* the Coordinating Commission of the Council removed the paragraph on the “People of God” from the third chapter of the schema and brought it forth as a new and separate SECOND chapter in itself. Thus this second chapter was a lead into the third chapter on the hierarchy and the fourth on the laity. This striking change affected the entire

understanding of the Church since now both the hierarchy and laity were considered with charisms given to each by the same Holy Spirit. The Council Fathers were now asked to see the role of the Holy Spirit not simply as a “guarantor” of what Christ had completed in the Church, but as a “co-operator” with Christ in the life of the Church bringing salvation to all people.

This *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, approved at the Vatican Council, begins with the first chapter entitled “The Mystery of the Church” manifested in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The second chapter with its emphasis on “The People of God” refers to the total community of the Church. Paragraph 17, the final paragraph of chapter two, reveals the cooperative effort of Christ and the Holy Spirit when it ends with these words: “...that the whole world may become the People of God, the Body of the Lord, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit...” All three presented as one and the same—uniting the role of Christ and the Holy Spirit under the title People of God!

Pope Saint John XXIII set the standard for the Second Vatican Council when he set as its guiding principal the Italian word *aggiornamento* (“bringing up to date”) for the future work of the Council

Fathers. Right from its outset in the debates and discussions on the document *Lumen Gentium* the Fathers continuously referred to the vision of the Pope as they challenged each other in the creation of chapter two of the document. Almost as an irony in itself, the Holy Spirit was inspiring the Fathers in their discussion about the role of the Holy Spirit, who was guiding them in their discussion. For them Pentecost was not simply an originating event in the Book of Acts, or just a Solemnity on the Liturgical Calendar; but it was an opening of their hearts to receive the message of the Holy Spirit whose cooperative effort with Christ would give all believers a share in the life of the Church. We have seen a dramatic shift in the role of the Holy Spirit in the daily life of the laity. “Lay Ecclesial Ministry” has become a byword in the everyday life of a Catholic Parish Family in a way that would have made the Fathers at the Vatican Council very proud. No doubt they laid a solid foundation for *aggiornamento* in the Church of the twenty-first century! ♦



Fr. John Marcucci is a retired priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, who remains in active ministry as a substitute to celebrate liturgy whenever needed.



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## WITH CHARIS'S INAUGURATION, THE NSC SERVES AS "BOOTS ON THE GROUND"

By Ron Riggins



### CHARIS INAUGURATION AT PENTECOST

Pope Francis has inaugurated CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service) to build on the Renewal's trailblazing the last 52 years, recognizing it as "a great opportunity for the Church." At the 1st International Conference of CHARIS in Rome, leading up to Pentecost, the Holy Father emphasized that this new stage is "marked by communion between all the members of the charismatic family, in which the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit is manifested for the good of the entire Church." CHARIS underscores that baptism in the Holy Spirit is not just for the Renewal but a current of grace for the whole Church.

Describing CHARIS as a "new and unique service of communion," Pope Francis exhorted the Renewal to serve in unity, work with others in communion, and be open to the newness that the Lord brings rather than clinging to old ways. Reiterating earlier calls to enlarge our tent and encouraging working in communion with other Renewal realities, Pope Francis referenced Saint Paul's teaching that each member of the body needs all other members (cf. 1 Cor 12:12-26).

Pope Francis set forth three primary expectations for the Renewal, summarizing the CHARIS objectives: (1) to share baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone

in the Church; (2) to serve the unity of the body of Christ using the diverse charisms that are harmonized in unity by the Holy Spirit; and (3) to serve the poor, both physical or spiritual, evangelizing through the witness of love.

Four NSC representatives were blessed to be among the 650 invited leaders from 69 countries at this historic conference. We came to better understand the CHARIS commission through talks by Pope Francis, Cardinal Kevin Farrell (Prefect of the Dicastery of the Laity, Family and Life), Jean-Luc Moens (CHARIS Moderator), and from the first CHARIS eNewsletter, and other International Service of Communion (ISoC) members.

### NSC AS "BOOTS ON THE GROUND"

Perhaps you have heard the NSC's recent branding in this CHARIS season as "boots on the ground." "Boots on the ground" is a military phrase referring to the deployment of ground troops in military operations by their commanders to ensure victory and prevent successful enemy operations. This phrase is embraced by others since its imagery captures the essential work of those engaged in a campaign to accomplish established objectives. In politics this phrase describes mobilized volunteers performing the daily work of phone calling, knocking on doors and distributing leaflets.

We too have been commissioned. Jesus commissioned his disciples to go preach the Gospel. We are dismissed from Mass to "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord." And now with CHARIS, Pope Francis has given us a three-fold commission. In Scripture sandals (boots) symbolize being ready to faithfully serve

our neighbor in love, to lay down our lives for others and bring the Gospel to life.

In obedience to the Holy Father and in the spirit of CHARIS, the NSC has already begun working in unity with other Leadership Groups to form a National Service of Communion (NSoC), to expand the Renewal's capacity to fulfill the three-fold expectations... while retaining our current organization and charisms and using our infrastructure. Our Strategic Plan is aligned with the CHARIS objectives, including working in communion with others to bring this current of grace to the whole Church, promote greater unity in the Body of Christ and encourage service to the poor.

In our deployment as "boots on the ground," we are implementing four strategic priorities: (1) evangelization, by extending baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church; (2) strengthening the Renewal, by increasing resources; (3) enhancing unity in the Renewal, within the Church and ecumenically; and (4) empowering young adults, to extend this current of grace to other generations. Examples of our "boots initiatives" include holding our first family retreat so that all ages may experience this current of grace, assembling materials for prayer groups to strengthen the use of charisms, engaging in further ecumenical dialogue in formal and informal ways, preparing for a national year of prayer in support of CHARIS, and using social media to invite others to experience this current of grace.



Join us as we put on our boots and hit the ground! ♦

*Ron Riggins is the  
Chairman of the NSC.*

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**Unity with the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and with Others in Prayer**

*by Jane Guenther*

With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ... And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory (Eph 1: 8b-10, 13-14).

The Community of the Trinity speaks to this beautiful communion of persons: God the Father, making known his good pleasure purposed in Christ and sealed in the Holy Spirit. How much do we believe that *God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us* (Rom 5:5)? In this giving the Father, through Christ, has imparted to us his Spirit of Love so that we might love our brothers and sisters. Prayer at its essence is an availability to be with one another, bringing about a change for the better. If petition being filled with hope, if thanksgiving being filled with joy, and when called deeply into the communion of the Trinity - “Prayer is at root, simply paying attention to God” (The Fulfillment of All Desire, by Dr. Ralph Martin, p 121).

The writer of Ephesians stresses “with wisdom and understanding” inviting us to seek the gifts of the Spirit especially those of wisdom and understanding so that we might better pay attention to all that God desires to reveal, share and impart to us for his glory. If indeed the sanctifying gifts of the Spirit are our pathway to holiness we should be ‘striving eagerly’ to receive them.

Ephesians 1 speaks powerfully to a call to unity in the Triune God to be with others in prayer. Over a year and a half ago the Ecumenical Office in our Archdiocese approached me to join with them on gathering other Christian charismatic Pastors with the leaders of our Catholic Charismatic Renewal. We began meeting and the element of unity we possess together as a group is sharing teachings on prayer and praise. What I

experience is the exuberant joy we all express in prayer. The inheritance is believing we are “marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.” Together we talk about how this touch of the Holy Spirit, which manifests in tongues of praise, has really unified us.

Our culture has succumbed to the devil’s tactic of division and so now more than ever we are in need of understanding our personal calls to unity. As we enter into prayer, paying attention to the God who loves us, we are called to the broader Christian unity



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as stated in John 17. At the recent CHARIS International Conference in Rome, the Holy Father invited the Founder of the John 17 Movement from Brooklyn, New York to speak to us. “The John 17 Movement exists to inspire, develop, and display love and unity among all of his followers,” said Joseph Tosini, Brooklyn Auxiliary, Bishop James Massa praised renewed dialogue. “We need something more relational, a way for leaders from the different Christian communities to come together to share their best practices and ministry.” John 17:21 describes profound unity between Father, Son and God’s chosen. ♦

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**Jean Luc Moens**

# Impressions from the CHARIS Conference



**His Holiness**  
**Pope Francis**



**Sr. Lucy**  
**Lukasiewicz,**  
**DLJC,**  
**NSC Member**

When I think of the days leading up to Pentecost in Rome with 650 leaders from 69 countries gathered together at Pope Paul VI Audience Hall, I think that indeed God is on the Move.

I accompanied our Superior, Mother Juana Teresa, to the CHARIS event. We met many leaders from France, Gibraltar, Malta, Qatar, Poland, to name a few and I found my heart filled with deep gratitude for those who served in ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity and all that transpired by their obedient "Yes" to now an excitement and hope with CHARIS.

I recorded on a smart phone Father Cantalamessa encouraging us to pray over Pope Francis singing *Spirit of the Living God*. It was sung in many languages at the same time followed by singing in the Spirit. Heaven came down to earth.

Pope Francis asked us to do three things: to share "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" with everyone, to return to our ecumenical roots working towards unity, and to serve the poor. God is moving! Alleluia!



**Gloria Coyne,**  
**NSC and DLSC**  
**Member**

I was struck by all of the emotions surrounding the Conference.

As we began, there was great anticipation and excitement. As the meetings continued, I observed 3 distinct groups of people: those that thought, "this will never work," some that said, "it could work, but had hesitations," and those that embraced these changes with joy.

Later in prayer, I heard the word, "abandon." There was a vision of a child, joyful and happy, running and jumping into a swimming pool. I felt Jesus wants us to not just surrender to him but to surrender to him in this new work with "abandon."

This looks like a huge undertaking, but we need to do what we can as humans and the rest is up to the Holy Spirit. May we continue to praise and thank God that he has found us worthy to do this work for him and his Church at this time in history!



**David Peterman,**  
**Christian**  
**Community of**  
**God's Delight**

My overall impression was that we had witnessed a

paradigm shift in the Holy See's approach to providing guidance and encouragement to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. It was a move from an institutional attempt to protect the catholicity of Catholics to a new way of understanding the Renewal as a "current or stream of grace" for the entire Church.

It also accomplished a reset of all Renewal leaders' relationships to the Church and to one another. This was a resourcement, a return to the sources—like the Malines documents and a Spirit-led openness to ecumenism and service.

It was also an aggiornamento, a bringing all elements of the Renewal back to the present realities and challenges to fulfill its calling to serve the renewal of the whole Body of Christ.

I left Rome with a solid confidence that the Renewal was once again unified and alive to the grace of the Holy Spirit working through the Holy Father's prophetic vision. ♦

# Bishops' Retreat with Fr. Cantalamessa

by Bishop Peter Smith

In early January, the US bishops were on retreat with Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household. Pope Francis called for the retreat and its focus on personal conversion as part of dealing with the current crisis in the Church. He directed Fr. Cantalamessa to lead the retreat. He is 84 and no longer travels much beyond Italy, but willingly came.

The venue was Mundalein Seminary near Chicago. The idea of being near Chicago in mid-winter was not appealing to many, but the weather turned unseasonably warm just for the week we were there. It was an added blessing for over 300 bishops who attended.

The retreat had eleven conferences, five Mass homilies, and one Penitential Service. Fr. Cantalamessa used the *Veni Creator Spiritus* as a basic framework beginning each talk reflecting on a line of the prayer. Some of it was drawn from his book *Veni Creator Spiritus*. Then he reflected on different aspects of the life and ministry of bishops. Throughout it all, his love of God, openness to the Holy Spirit, humility, and prayerfulness shone through.

The focus of the conferences was deeper conversion in Christ. The homilies focused on deeper experience of Christ in the Mass. Fr. Cantalamessa was personal and humorous in his reflections. He commented that while papal preachers normally have five year terms, he has been doing this for 39 years, and the reason was that God had shown Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis that this was how he could do the least damage to the Church.

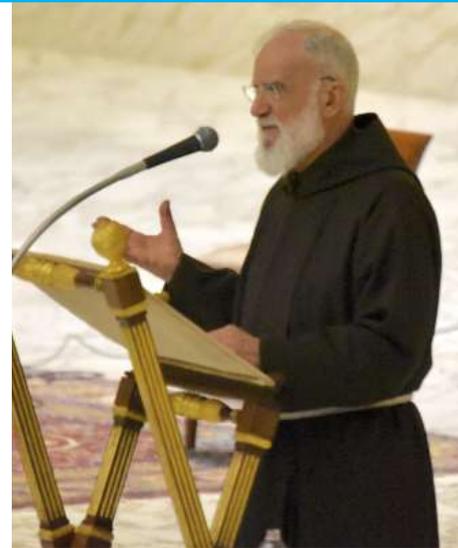
He also emphasized greater openness to the Holy Spirit, sharing his own story of being baptized in the Spirit many years ago while visiting the US. This began transforming his life, ministry, and service as a priest. He gave many examples of the Holy Spirit guiding him in different situations and working through his prayers.

The conferences were *Intimacy with Christ*, *Staying with Jesus in Conversion*, *With Jesus in Celibacy*, *With Jesus in Poverty*, *Sharing Jesus' Prayer for Unity*, *With Jesus in Gethsemane*, *the Law of the Spirit*, *We Preach Christ, Through the Holy Spirit*, *Tending the Flock*, and *Witnesses of the Resurrection*. The homilies were on the Word, Consecration, Communion, Epiphany, and Mary.

He shared how intimidating it was when he would give the retreats to Pope John Paul's household. Sitting in the front row taking notes was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Cardinal Ratzinger never took issue with anything he said and retained him as papal preacher when he became pope.

Since the election of Pope Francis, Fr. Cantalamessa has spoken more clearly and strongly about the importance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Catholics. Pope Francis appointed him as Ecclesiastical Assistant to the newly formed CHARIS for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

One of the most moving moments was when Fr. Cantalamessa reflected on being with Jesus in Gethsemane. Jesus' greatest challenge at that moment was to freely bend his humanity to the will of the Father. He was about to suffer and die for



something he never did, and the challenge was to love and embrace this.

Another very moving reflection was Jesus' call to live the new commandment. The Beatitudes are essential to this and are the new law of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is therefore essential to new life in Christ. The power, presence, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit is how we live this daily. He concluded by leading us all in a prayer of deeper commitment and openness to the Holy Spirit for our lives and ministry.

The retreat was a great blessing and we were grateful to Pope Francis and to Fr. Cantalamessa for this blessed time. Having the papal preacher speak of being baptized in the Spirit and how it transformed his priestly life and ministry was a great witness. The retreat has continued to bear good fruit in my own life and hopefully for all who attended too.

Let us keep Pope Francis and Fr. Cantalamessa in our prayers as they continue to serve the Lord and the Church. ♦



Bishop Peter Smith, born and raised in South Africa, is Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon and the North America and the Caribbean representative serving CHARIS.

Photo: L. Osservatore Romano



## From the Executive Director

by Walter Matthews

### A LUNAR WALK

Recently we have remembered with thanksgiving and with awe Neil Armstrong's lunar walk and iconic words, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." So too do I believe that those who will be alive in 2069 will look back on the formal establishment of CHARIS this past Pentecost and, in particular, the talk given by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, "The Catholic Charismatic Renewal: A Current of Grace for the whole Church," as worthy of being remembered with thanksgiving and awe.

Fr. Cantalamessa's talk was exceptional and needs to be read, studied and taught. It is available on our website [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org). In fact, I have been sharing it with our small Prayer Gathering over the last three meetings. I think it is that important.

Why? As he states at the very beginning, "If the [Renewal] is a current of grace for the whole Church, we have a duty to ourselves and to the Church to explain what this current of grace consists of and why it is intended for and necessary for the whole Church."

He continues, "We have to admit that until now we have given the Church ideas and portrayals of the Charismatic Renewal that have been different and at times contradictory. We only need to make brief inquiries of the people who live outside of it for us to become aware of the current confusion with regard to the identity of the Charismatic Renewal."

Who among us has not encountered such confusion? We have not communicated effectively because we have often placed the emphasis in the wrong place(s).

Cantalamessa: "For some people it is a movement of 'enthusiasts,' ... the Alleluia people with their hands raised who pray or sing in an incomprehensible language: in brief, an emotional and superficial phenomenon.... For some

people, the movement is identified with people who do healing prayer or exorcisms; for still others, it is a Protestant and Pentecostal "infiltration" into the Catholic Church. At best, the Charismatic Renewal is seen as a movement whose members can be relied on to do many things in the parish but with which it is best not to get too deeply involved."

"After fifty years of existence and experience, and on the occasion of the inauguration of the new service organization, CHARIS, perhaps the moment has come to attempt a **reinterpretation of this movement and to define it, even if any definition cannot be definitive since its path is far from over.**" (Emphasis added.)

He continues, "I believe that the essence of this current of grace is providentially enclosed in its name, 'Charismatic Renewal,' provided one understands the true significance of both these words."

The rest of his talk is a gift to the Renewal for years to come.

### FRIENDS OF THE NSC

We thank all of you who have given one or more donations this year. As of June 30, our Fund Raising donations exceeded our projected Budget by about \$5,500. But as you may know, more than 60% of our donations come in during the second half of the year, principally from our appeal for *Pentecost Today* (just after Labor Day) and our Christmas/End of the Year Appeal (early December).

Our goal this year is not just to reach our Budget Projections so as to support the current projects and mission of the NSC, but also to begin to raise the additional funds that will be needed to hire an Administrator by the end of the year to assist the Executive

Director during his year of transition in 2020—so that the work of moving forward with bringing baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, implementing the Service Committee's Strategic Plan in key areas, and being "boots on the ground" in the US for the CHARIS objectives will not only continue but expand. Please prayerfully consider how you can be extra generous in your second half of the year giving.

And don't forget our Legacy of Fire Planned Giving by naming the NSC in your will and in other ways.

Finally, thank you to the donors who sent in gifts in Memory of Aggie Neck, a deceased Member and Chairman of the NSC. ♦



## Pentecost and the Call to Unity

Strengthen the bond of unity between the faithful and the pastors of your people, together with Francis our Pope....

*(Eucharistic Prayer...The Church on the Path to Unity)*

*by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezger, SSND*

In short it is about “being” before “doing”, about holiness and sanctification before charisms of all types: “the surest sign of the presence of the Spirit of Christ is not charisms but the ‘fruit of the Spirit.’”

We prayed for “a new Pentecost.” What does it mean? “It cannot consist only in a new flowering of charisms, ministries, and signs and wonders as a breath of fresh air on the face of the Church. These things are just the reflection and the sign of something more profound. A new Pentecost...must renew the heart of the Bride, not just her dress.”

As we said 29 years ago in *Fanning the Flame*: “A life baptized in the Holy Spirit is marked by both an experience of dynamic union with God and by an experience of charisms given by the Spirit.” ♦

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

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“My brothers and sisters, we want the Holy Spirit to enter us, to transform us, to make us radiate his love. That has to be our prayer.” These were the words of Archbishop Bernard Hebda of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis in his homily at the Mass for the Vigil of Pentecost. This Mass was celebrated at St. Peter’s, the oldest parish in the Archdiocese, in Mendota, Minnesota in anticipation of an Archdiocesan Synod to be held over Pentecost weekend in 2021. “I’m confident that he [the Lord] will send his Holy Spirit upon us if we ask him...I’ve called you here this evening to help me do just that.”

All people of the Archdiocese were invited: over 1000 showed up. Two representatives each of five groups, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Board, People of Praise, St. Paul’s Outreach, Community of Christ the Redeemer (Sword of the Spirit), and Emmanuel shared in the planning for the Mass and prayer meeting that followed. Leadership was provided by the Archdiocesan Offices of Evangelization and Worship.

I have long hoped that the various groups in this area, birthed in the Renewal, could come together in prayer and worship. It was Archbishop Hebda and Bishop Cozzens who made the decision to call us together for the purpose of calling down the Holy Spirit upon the Synod preparation process. Part of what made this particular celebration of the Eucharist so beautiful was the

intensity of participation as if it was the most natural thing to be doing, at times even singing in the Spirit.

During the prayer that followed (the Church was still packed) we continued to experience an intense delight in praising and worshipping God. Individuals had words to share. These were sorted by discerners. Some were given publicly. Others were set aside for the Bishops to reflect upon and discern as they listen for the direction of the Spirit. I was among the discerners back by the wall so not in the midst of the prayer, but once in a while I had a moment to just look out and take it all in. It was such a joy to see so many generations united in the Spirit. And as I was aware of what was taking place with CHARIS in Rome for the purpose of unity in the Renewal, I could not help but rejoice.

I sense that the Holy Spirit is inspiring unity and healing of divisions on many fronts upon the earth and throughout the universe. Let us pray that we might find ourselves caught up in the embrace of the Holy Trinity, surrounding the universe with prayer that springs from the desire of our hearts to be led by the Spirit of God, to be promoters of unity, and conduits of God’s love within the Current of Grace that is the Renewal and throughout all of creation. Peace! ♦

*Sr. Mary Anne Schaezger is the editor for Pentecost Today.*

# PENTECOST Today

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

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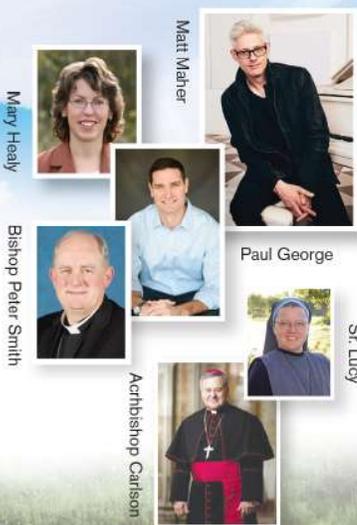
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