

Fueling the Fire of Renewal

Issue 2 2022

PENTECOST *Today*

Magazine of Pentecost Today USA



**Jim Murphy | Alan Schreck | Fr. Emmanuel Mansford
Bishop Andrew Cozzens | Mark Giszczak
Sr. Nancy Kellar | Jorge Samaniego**



Chairman's Corner

by Ron Riggins

Legacy and Birthright – So That Nothing May Be Lost

In praying about Pentecost Today USA's recently announced **Joshua Project** and the **Legacy of Fire Fellowship** planned giving program, I have been focusing on those who are the heirs of this legacy.

A legal meaning of legacy connotes a bequest – that is, the passing of property or money to heirs as directed in a will. In this regard, heirs may view receiving such a legacy from their parents as a birthright, their entitlement to an inheritance.

However, the legacy to which we are referring is of divine origin. As the body of Christ, our baptismal call is to preach the Gospel to the *ends of the earth*, and those in the Renewal are commissioned to bring baptism in the Spirit to the *whole Church*. Jesus went after the lost sheep for the salvation of *all souls*. After the feeding of the five thousand,

Jesus showed his concern for the lost in his command to the Apostles to “gather up the fragments left over that *nothing may be lost*” (Jn 6:12).

Jesus challenges us so that our evangelization, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is to go to the lost sheep so that *no one may be lost*. Our commission as “spiritual parents” is to bestow the legacy we received to our heirs, who, as those brought to life by God, have a birthright to receive the love of God poured into their hearts and to extend such inheritance. Since this legacy is God's will, we are obligated to foster the desire for heirs to seek and claim their birthright.

We invite those who are able to engage in “spiritual estate planning” to pass the legacy we have inherited to the heirs who also have the birthright. This legacy is more precious than our will, as it is *God's will* that nothing (no one) may be lost. In today's world such “spiritual estate planning” is imperative.

Come, Holy Spirit! ♦



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

In Issue 2, 2022, Alan Schreck begins a Catholic Charismatic Renewal Historical Series with an overview of the renewal of active charismatic gifts beginning in the 20th Century (p 4).

Highlighting the Gift of Tongues, Sr. Nancy Kellar, SC, writes the first in a series of Charisms articles, (pp 12-13). She explains this gift and illustrates it with her experiences, as well as fosters maturing in the Gifts.

As a testimony to the Charism of Tongues, Jim Murphy gives two examples, one of prophetic tongues and one of praying in the Spirit, that build up the person praying (p 3).

To read references to a few saints who experienced this gift, see Deacon Eddie Ensley's article, “Understanding the Gift of Tongues” in Issue 1, 2020 of *Pentecost Today* (p 11) [nsc-chariscenter.org/pentecost-today/Pentecost-today-archives].

Bishop Andrew Cozzens introduces the Eucharistic Revival in a way that is both informational and invitational (p 6).

Have you ever thought of Moses as a Youth Minister? Be sure to read Mark Giszczak's column, “Learning from the First Youth Minister” (p 11).

Considering Catholic Charismatic Renewal from a Trinitarian point of view? (Fr. Emmanuel Mansford, p 5).

In Sensing the Movement of the Spirit, Jorge Samaniego shares that no matter what we are experiencing in the Church or in the world today, the Lord will never abandon us (p 15).

See the report on the CHARIS Conference this past July and information regarding the upcoming Jesus 2023 National Leaders Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri in October (p 10). ♦



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Two Experiences of the Charism of Tongues

by Jim Murphy

Charism of Prophetic Tongues

Recently, I heard an amazing account of “speaking in tongues.” This took place at a prayer meeting in a Catholic Church, situated along the St Lawrence Seaway in French-speaking Canada.

The group was actively worshipping and praising God in a typical charismatic fashion. A woman, raised her voice above the others and loudly spoke what seemed to everyone, unintelligible syllables.

From the back of the church, loud weeping began. A few members of the group went back to see what was the matter. The man weeping was a Chinese national, a sailor. His cargo vessel had docked at a nearby facility for a few days. The man’s wife, back home in China, was ill and at the point of death. The sailor, desperate for her situation, came to a Catholic Church to pray for her. As he prayed from the dark corner in the back of the Church, he saw all the French-speakers gathered at the front, but really paid no attention to what they were doing...until...that woman spoke, aloud in his native dialect, that the Lord had heard his prayer and his wife was healed.

The parish priest came in on all of this and took the man over to the rectory to call home. When the sailor reached his family, he could hear people crying and screaming. He asked if his wife had just died. No, they said, she had not died. In fact, about 15 minutes earlier, her eyes suddenly opened. She came out

of the coma, and was perfectly fine!

Wow! A clear example of speaking in tongues that

had a prophetic and miraculous effect. Needless to say, the sailor, his wife and family in China, and everyone in that little French-speaking Catholic Church became convinced of the mighty power of God!

Charism of Praying in the Spirit

One of the kindest gifts I have received from the Lord is the charism of tongues, specifically “praying in the Spirit”. This is not so much a gift for building up the group, but for building up the individual.

The Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God’s will (Rom 8:26-27).

I can remember being at masses with Pope St. John Paul II in his private chapel. After he had consumed the Eucharist he would go to his kneeler, and slump over it, going to a place of deep prayer. After a few moments, he would begin to emit deep groanings, sometimes whispering short phrases of “unintelligible words”. I leaned over to a co-worker and asked if they could hear what the Holy Father was praying. “Well, I’ll tell you,” the whispered response came “it’s not Latin, it’s not Italian, and it certainly isn’t Polish!”

I find that praying in the Spirit is a real gift for a person like me whose mind is always running. Praying in the Spirit

“bypasses” the intellect, if you will, and allows the soul of an individual to be deeply united with the Holy Spirit. When fear, or frustration, temptation, or doubt assail my thoughts, praying in the Spirit allows me to bond with the Holy Spirit, who carries me through the tempest.

I’m not so impressed with the phenomena, as much as I am overwhelmed by the Spirit of God who loves me so much that he accompanies me in prayer towards the Father.

I find that after prolonged periods of this form of prayer, I am taken to a deep place of peace and contemplation. What my mind cannot grasp, my spirit experiences. What I cannot see with my intellect, my heart beholds. What I cannot come to by reasoning, my soul embraces.

When I “don’t know how to pray as I ought,” I can trust the Holy Spirit with “groans and utterances,” to help me intercede before the Father on behalf of an intention. If we have learned anything over the last few years, it is that our vision, our understanding, even our knowledge of events is very, very limited. The Spirit knows. The Spirit knows how to lead our hearts to the Father.

When I pray in the Spirit, I am more aware of the Person of God. It’s not so much what he does...it’s more about who he is – God, who uses manifold ways to show his glory, and his deep love for us. ♦



Jim Murphy had a personal encounter with the Holy Spirit while panning for gold in Alaska in 1971. He served as Chairman of the N.S.C., Chairman of the youth executive committee of N.A.R.S.C., and served, and became President of ICCRS. Jim continues to serve CCR leadership teams worldwide.

Origins of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

The Ark and the Dove, 1970's

by Alan Schreck

When and where did it all begin – this outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Pentecost is the obvious answer...but there has never been a time since then when the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of holiness, was not active, bringing forth saints and renewal in the Church.

The action of the Spirit that brought forth the 20th century charismatic renewal/Pentecostal movement in the Catholic Church has distinctive roots in both Catholicism and in evangelical Protestantism in the 19th century. In the Catholic Church, an Italian nun, Blessed Elena Guerra founded a women's religious community, the Oblates of the Holy Spirit, and wrote twelve confidential letters to Pope Leo XIII urging him to promote a renewal of devotion to the Holy Spirit. Pope Leo XIII responded by calling for all Catholics to pray earnestly during the nine days between the feast of the Ascension and Pentecost (the original novena) for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the world and the reunion of Christians. On the first day of the new century, January 1st, 1901, Pope Leo XIII intoned the traditional *Veni Creator Spiritus* (Come Creator Spirit) on behalf of the whole Church for the Holy Spirit to fall afresh on the world (See "*At the Turn of the 20th Century*" by Kim Catherine-Marie Kollins at phillyspirit.com).

On the same day, at the Bethel Bible School in Topeka, Kansas, after studying the Acts of the Apostles, evangelical

Pastor Charles Parham and his students prayed for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which came to be known as the Pentecostal movement. From that time onward "Pentecostal" congregations began to spring up in the United States and around the world and soon became the fastest-growing

form of Christianity in the 20th century. In a 1950 article in *Life* magazine, historian Henry van Dusen called Pentecostalism a "third force" in Christianity comparable to Catholicism and Protestantism in its influence. In the 1960's, some mainline Protestant churches began to have pastors and people who experienced a "Pentecostal" empowerment and sought to introduce this into their church bodies. These "neo-Pentecostals" often met with opposition from their leaders on theological and pastoral grounds, but some persevered.

In the Catholic Church, in 1962, Pope John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council. His prayer for this council, which began; "Renew your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost..." was answered in one unanticipated way. Two years after the Council's close, in February 1967, a group of Catholic college students at Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA) went on a weekend retreat. The focus was on the Holy Spirit with the Acts of the Apostles as required reading. On the retreat, as related later by the student retreatants, the Holy Spirit "fell" in power. News of this spread quickly and soon many Catholics were "baptized in the Holy Spirit" and formed prayer groups where they could pray and praise God using the charisms of tongues, prophecy and even experiencing healing. Many early participants had already experienced God's power in the Cursillo movement. This "Catholic Pentecostal" movement initially flourished on some college campuses (Notre Dame, Michigan State and the University of Michigan), and by the

early 1970s communities devoted to cultivating the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit emerged—some with only Catholic members and some with Catholic and Protestant members. In some of these, members committed themselves to a common way of life expressed through "covenants". From these communities and prayer groups leaders emerged who helped guide this growing Catholic Charismatic renewal movement. Conferences, such as at Notre Dame, were organized to provide teaching, as well as books, tapes and *New Covenant Magazine*. Before long, this outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Catholic Church spread to all parts of the world (See "*As By a New Pentecost*", by Patti Gallagher Mansfield).

The teaching of the Second Vatican Council on the charisms and its call for a more active role of the laity paved the way for widespread acceptance of the movement by the Catholic Magisterium. Bishops' conferences in many countries issued pastoral statements affirming and guiding the movement. Belgian Cardinal Leon Joseph Suenens, a leader at the Second Vatican Council, became a key spokesperson and guide for the movement, and was appointed by Pope Paul VI as liaison. In 1975, only eight years after the "Duquesne Week," a charismatic conference of 10,000 Catholics from around the world was held in Rome, with two final Masses held in St. Peter's Basilica, with Pope (St.) Paul VI himself celebrating the closing Mass on Pentecost.

To this day, it is estimated about 160 million Catholics (10-12% of all Catholics) have been touched and changed by this "current of grace," as Pope Francis calls it. May the Lord be praised for this great blessing! ♦



Alan Schreck is a professor of Theology at Franciscan University, and has been involved in the Renewal since 1970. He is the author of "A Mighty Current of Grace: The Story of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal" (Word Among Us Press, 2017).

Baptism in the Holy Spirit awakens us to a new experience of the Holy Trinity

by Fr. Emmanuel Mansford, CFR

“Through his grace, the Holy Spirit is the first to awaken faith in us and to communicate the new life, which is to “know the Father and the one whom he has sent, Jesus Christ” (CCC 684).

Every year in the liturgical calendar we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. This celebration takes place on the Sunday immediately following Pentecost. Theologically this is because with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, “the Holy Trinity is fully revealed” (CCC 732) and the doors to relationship with each divine Person are wide open. Frank Sheed describes this revelation of God’s “innermost secret” (CCC 221): “The closed circle is suddenly opened, the barrier is down and the whole vast inner life of God invites us.” The Holy Spirit’s coming leads us into all truth (Jn 16:12-13)—the truth of who God is as Father, Son and Holy Spirit—making it possible for us who are baptized to come to know and experience a living relationship with each Person of the Trinity.

And yet in practice, it seems for many Catholics that Trinity Sunday is one of those distant dogmas, a truth that often does not really affect my life in reality. Cardinal Ratzinger (who became Pope Benedict XVI), states that far from being something merely intellectual, “the teaching of the Trinity was not invented but results from experience.” This experience of growing in relationship with the Trinity is where the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit has been so life changing for millions of people in the last fifty years or so.

Fr Cantalamessa summarizes this experience: “Whenever the Holy Spirit’s

presence is felt in a new and powerful way, for example in what is called baptism in the Spirit, those involved never fail to come to a new discovery of the Trinity. And that discovery is experiential, vital, and not any matter of abstract theology. Prayer becomes Trinitarian.” St. Irenaeus, the newest Doctor of the Church, speaks of this Trinitarian movement in our prayer, “For those who bear God’s Spirit are led to the Word, that is to the Son, and the Son presents them to the Father, and the Father confers on them incorruptibility” (CCC 683). Cantalamessa continues in familial terms: “We have the feeling that we have been accepted into a family, that the members of the family love us, and that they really are eager to introduce us to all the others.”

This experience of baptism in the Spirit often means that the grace of adoption received at Baptism comes alive and I am now able to relate to each member of the Trinity uniquely and concretely. The Father is experienced as he who cares for my needs and provides for me as his child. Jesus as the Son is my older brother who has saved me and walks with me through life showing me how to live in dependence on the Father. The Holy Spirit is the Advocate guiding and inspiring me, convicting me of sin and leading me to repentance so that I can experience mercy and the grace of ongoing transformation.

As we reflect theologically on the role that baptism in the Holy Spirit has in our world today, we see its vital importance as a grace that helps us to know God personally as he is, three distinct Persons sharing one divine nature. This experience of God as One and three calls us to reflect his life of Communion in our fractured and broken world, endeavoring by his grace, despite our various differences as unique individuals, to live in greater unity with one another. At the

beginning of the Millennium, St. John Paul II called all believers to be renewed in living out this Trinitarian mystery: “A spirituality of communion indicates above all the heart’s contemplation of the mystery of the Trinity dwelling in us, and whose light we must also be able to see shining on the face of the brothers and sisters around us” (*Novo Millennio Inuente* #43). In essence the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost leads us to living a life of Communion. ♦



Fr. Emmanuel Mansford, CFR is a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal, living at St. Michael’s Friary, Paterson, NJ. He currently serves as the Director of formation for the friars. His Masters thesis written during seminary was entitled “Baptism in the Holy

Spirit: Examining the Catholic Perspective.”

Prayer Card

Behold, I am
doing a new thing,
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?

- Isaiah 43:19 -



Photo: Pixabay.com

Perhaps you have heard that the United States Bishops are doing a revival, a Eucharistic Revival! The bishops of the United States want to see a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and sent out in mission “for the life of the world.” The Revival will be a three-year process which we hope will affect the Church at every level. We hope to rekindle or ignite for the first time the love for Jesus Christ in the Eucharist for every person in the pew.

You might remember that a Pew study conducted in 2018 revealed that as many as 2/3 of Catholics do not believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. Our own research has confirmed there is a crisis of faith around the Eucharist. The bishops have decided to respond to this effort with a nationwide initiative. We are not really trying to start a program, as much as we are trying to start a fire. We hope that the many individuals

Will You Join the Revival?

by Bishop Andrew Cozzens

and groups within our Church who love the Eucharist will let this fire burn within them and share it.

The Revival will begin on Corpus Christi 2022 with Eucharistic Processions across the country. The first year, which is the “Diocesan Year” will allow dioceses to have events in order to ignite leaders to join the revival. There will be national initiatives such as commissioning National Eucharistic Preachers who will be available to (arch)dioceses for events like priest convocations, diocesan and parish leadership days of reflection, and Eucharistic processions. There will be training courses for people in the diocese who want to become Eucharistic Missionaries equipping them for sharing the faith in the “Parish Year” starting in 2023.

The second year, focused on the Eucharistic life of the parish, will be an opportunity to bring the great joy of the Eucharist to the parish level. We will offer small group courses to study the Eucharist. We will encourage more opportunities for adoration and most of all we will teach the faithful how to enter anew into the Eucharistic celebrations with a particular emphasis on the Sunday celebrations. The goal is that as many people as possible become witnesses to our Eucharistic Lord and experience the transformation that happens when we live with the Eucharist as the Source and Summit of our lives.

The third-year will begin with the National Eucharistic Congress, July 17-21, 2024 in Indianapolis. This will be the first National Eucharistic Congress in the United States in almost 50 years. Those who have attended large events like World Youth Day, know how powerful these experiences are to bring about conversion, healing, vocations and to foster unity. This Eucharistic Congress

will end with a missionary sending as we send out Eucharistic missionaries to share the gospel and their love for Christ in the Eucharist with their neighbors. These missionaries will play a pivotal role in reaching out to those on the margins, both physical and spiritual to let them know that they are invited to the Eucharistic Banquet.

Readers of *Pentecost Today* know the power of a revival, because you know the power of a personal experience of the love of Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. This is one of the reasons Jesus gave us the Eucharist, so he could remain with us and we could experience here and now his loving presence as Our Lord and Savior. When people experience the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, their life as disciples is transformed and they can be opened to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. When people experience the transforming power of the Holy Spirit they long to be close to Jesus in the Eucharist and they experience its transforming power in their lives.

As you have been touched by this incredible love through the power of the Holy Spirit, you have a special mission. You can help people see that the Eucharist is so much more than a symbol, it is a Person, and that the action of receiving communion is not just a ritual, but an encounter with the Lord who loves us and died for us. We need your witness to the power of Christ’s love in the Eucharist. As St. Paul VI tells us: “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” The mission field is vast, and there will be a need for many missionaries to bring this message of hope to the whole world. Will you join the revival? ♦



For more information visit our website at: www.eucharisticrevival.org and sign up as a member to receive our weekly newsletter starting this June.

The Most Rev. Andrew H. Cozzens is the Bishop of Crookston, MN, and Chair of the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis.

Intercessions

That we may embrace the new in us through the power of the risen Christ Jesus.

That as leaders, we may be sensitive to the fresh promptings of the Spirit, and courageously call the Renewal to the fresh direction of Holy Spirit.

That filled with the love of Christ, and gifts and revelation of the Holy Spirit, we may in joy and with a new sense of mission and purpose, draw all to Christ.



- English Track includes
- Bishop Andrew Cozzens
 - Bishop Peter Smith
 - Jane Guenther
 - Bob Garrett
 - Romi Verdera
 - Abilio Alves
 - Ashley Zahorian
 - Maximilian Engel
 - Alicia Hartle
 - Cantalamessa Letter and Movie

Glory stories and pictures from the conference, Eucharistic procession, ecumenical prayer walk and discussion panel, and street evangelization can be found and shared at: www.charisUSA.org

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NATIONAL LEADERS MEETING

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"I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION AND I WILL BLESS YOU;
I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE A BLESSING." –GENESIS 12:1-2



LEGACY OF FIRE FELLOWSHIP

Legacy of Fire Fellowship. This Fellowship is designed for longtime supporters of the Renewal to extend the fire of baptism in the Holy Spirit to future generations and to raise up new generations of Renewal Leaders, through tools, resources, and programs such as THE JOSHUA PROJECT and the Renewal Fellows Program.

Tribute to the Legacy of Walter and Claire Matthews. The Fellowship honors the legacy of Walter and Claire, who fostered the fire of the Renewal through decades of service through the National Service Committee. Today they ask others to join them through Fellowship enrollment. Enrollment is available at PentecostTodayUSA.org/Legacy or by sending a letter to: Pentecost Today USA, 10745 Babcock Blvd., Gibsonia, PA 15044.

Those who enroll through a commitment to prayer, major giving, planned giving, or estate planning will be honored and invited into fellowship in these ways:

- Weekly Prayer for Fellowship Members in the The Ark and The Dove Chapel
- Perpetual Mass enrollment at The Ark and The Dove
- Annual Retreat at The Ark and The Dove
- Legacy of Fire tribute on our website and at The Ark and The Dove office
- Legacy of Fire Fellowship Prayer Meetings & Discussion Forums
- Legacy of Fire Fellowship Prayer & Pen Pal

–Ron Riggins, Chairman of the Board, Pentecost Today USA (NSC)



Our Mission
BRING baptism
in the Holy
Spirit to the
whole Church.
BUILD unity in
the Body of
Christ.
SERVE
the poor.

Fuel the fire
of Renewal for
generations to
come with the
gift of a
Legacy of Fire.



LEGACY FOR THE LORD

In 1972 (Walter) and 1974 (Claire) we were led into personal relationships with the Lord Jesus Christ and into lives lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal was the vehicle the Lord used to bring us to Himself and, a few years later, into a relationship with each other and marriage. This August will be 44 years for us.

Early on in her walk Claire had a sense that at some point she would be working in the Renewal in some way. Together we just kept saying "yes" as we had heard Sr. Nancy Kellar, SC say that Fr. Jim Ferry (an early leader in the Renewal who died way too early) use to always encourage, "think yes."

Thinking yes led us to leave New York City for a parish in Rochester, Minnesota; then to the Servants of the Lord Community in Minneapolis in 1980 (now Servant Branch of the People of Praise); then, in 1984, to a move to South Bend, Indiana and the National Service Committee's headquarters (as members of the People of Praise), and then in 1990/1991 to Locust Grove, Virginia.

The journey has been one of trusting the Lord—not perfectly, not always. To Him we give praise:

**This we know, that God is on our side.
In God whose word we praise,
in Yahweh whose word we praise,
In God we put our trust and have no fear;
what can mere mortal men do to us?**

**We are bound by the vows we have made, God,
we will pay you the debt of thanks,
for you have saved our lives from death
to walk in the presence of God,
in the light of the living (Ps 56:9b-13, adapted).**

Needless to say we are honored and blessed that the Board of Pentecost Today USA (formerly the NSC) has decided to focus the new Planned Giving campaign "in Honor of Walter and Claire Matthews." We invite you to reflect on your own "yes" to the Lord and the Holy Spirit, and your journey and, in thanksgiving, make a commitment to leave a "legacy of fire" for new generations. How awesome it would be that all who have been called by the Lord and embraced His Holy Spirit would want to leave a "legacy of fire" for Him.

-Walter & Claire Matthews
Retired Executive Director, Pentecost Today USA (NSC)

CHARIS USA Conference - Praise Report



We stand in awe of the graces poured out at the **first-ever CHARIS USA Conference/55th Anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Cele-**

bration on July 29-31, 2022 in Providence, RI! The conference theme was “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism.” Pictures from this historic event can be found on the cover of this issue and at www.charisUSA.org

Pentecost Today USA (NSC) served as boots on the ground for the CHARIS USA Conference, and we praise the Lord for each **generous volunteer** from many different realities of the Renewal who prayed, planned, served, and led alongside each other in a prophetic act of unity and service for the glory of God!

Throughout the conference, the mighty mercy, grace, power and presence of the Living God were experienced by many, including a security guard of the Rhode Island Convention Center, who wept and shared that she felt moved by the Lord's presence and felt a deep desire to return to the Lord and change her life! Here is a short testimony of the work of the Holy Spirit at the conference:

“Early Friday began with a prayer walk through the streets of Providence, Rhode Island. Our highlight was being stopped by a gentleman named Mark who grew up in Providence and saw us praying. He said, “Are you all praying for the city? I was just sitting on that bench over there praying that God would send people to pray for this city, because it isn't the ‘town’ I grew up in, so many sad people.” Late Saturday evening most of the 2,500 at the Conference processed to the Cathedral and prayed and sang through the streets of Providence! Our God is a mighty God, and Mark's desire was heard by our Lord. - *Quote from the Archdiocese of St. Louis' Catholic Renewal Center's Newsletter, “The Spirit and the Bride,” 2022.*

The grace of the Lord's presence and power at the conference extended into the work of Pentecost Today USA (NSC) in these ways:

- **Before the conference**, Pentecost Today USA launched the *Legacy of Fire Fellowship* honoring Walter and Claire Matthews! See pages 8 and 9.
- **During the conference**, Pentecost Today USA launched a first fruit of *The Joshua Project*: a new phone application primarily sponsored by the Hawaiian Renewal Center! – the phone app gives access to prayer ministry, theological and pastoral resources, the national database of local Prayer Groups, Renewal Centers, Covenant Communities, Diocesan Liaisons, Religious and Ministries, and MORE.
- **Immediately following the conference**, the *Council and Board Members of Pentecost Today USA* met together for a time of joy-filled Spirit led meetings together! *Stay tuned to meet the new Moses and Joshua leaders of the Board and Council Teams.*

Jesus 2023 - SAVE the Date

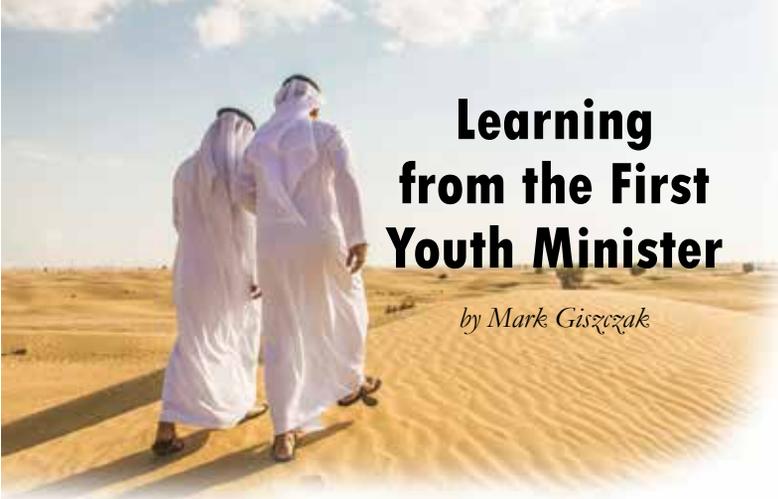
October 20-22, 2023 – Jesus 2023: National Leaders Meeting, Kansas City, MO - Be refreshed and renewed in the Spirit with a weekend of prayer, praise and worship, witness, prayer ministry, formation, discussion, and fellowship. All are welcome! Come, Holy Spirit. Learn more at: www.PentecostTodayUSA.org

The Joshua Project - Update

- **PHASE I: Survey** – Over 100 people from across the nation and around the world have completed the National Renewal Survey, and 695 Renewal Leaders from across the nation completed the National Renewal Leaders survey. Survey results will be featured in *upcoming magazine issues.*
- **PHASE 2: Discussion Forums** – Online national discussion forums took place in December 2021, and throughout 2022 Renewal Centers have hosted in person regional meetings inviting different realities of the Renewal to come together to pray, share, and discuss how the Holy Spirit is inviting us to work together to BRING.BUILD.SERVE. *Find and host discussion forums by emailing us at: events@PentecostTodayUSA.org*
- **PHASE 3: Fundraising** – This phase is ongoing, and the outpouring of prayer-filled, sacrificial Fire Starter gifts have kickstarted first of The Joshua Project pilots including the phone app resource and the Renewal Fellows Program pilot!
- **PHASE 4: Pilots** – Learn more about the new phone app, the Renewal Fellows Program, and other Joshua Project pilots, projects, and resources in upcoming issues. ♦

Learning from the First Youth Minister

by Mark Giszczak



Every generation confronts the same problem: how to hand on the light of faith to the next generation. As the culture changes around us, it can be discouraging to witness the aging of our parish communities and prayer groups, with few young people to fill the ranks.

The one biblical book that zeroes in on transferring the faith from one generation to the next is Deuteronomy. After the exodus and the many years of wilderness wandering, Moses gives his final pep talk to the young people of Israel before they cross the Jordan to conquer the Holy Land. At this point Moses is 120 years old. Since a whole generation had died off in the wilderness, all of the remaining people would be 40 years old or younger. Because of this huge age gap, I like to think of Moses as the very first “youth minister.” What can we learn from his approach? Here are five lessons:

1 Witness. From his first encounter at the burning bush, Moses continuously cultivated an intimate relationship with God. We see him praying, interceding, speaking with God “face to face” and abiding in his presence for weeks at a time. If we take time to cultivate our prayer life, we can give witness to younger people that a deep relationship with the Lord is a major priority for us. When they see us pray, they will be more likely to pray.

2 Tell a story. Moses begins his pep talk with a story (Deut 1–4). He tells the young Israelites where they have come from, how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt and how he has been faithful to his promises. Yet the story is not trapped in the past, but immediately relevant: “Not with our fathers did the Lord make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today” (Deut 5:3 ESV-CE). Moses reminds us that we need to be storytellers—to constantly give witness to others by telling our testimony, by recalling the great things the Lord has done for us, by “recount[ing] your wondrous deeds” (Ps 75:1). When we tell our story, young people listen.

3 Lead them on a journey. Like Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, we can lead young people on a journey out of the “land” of slavery to sin, to a “mountain-top” encounter with the Lord, and then through the wilderness of trials so that they too might find themselves on the bank of the River Jordan, ready to step into God’s plan. When we think of evangelizing young people, we need to invite them on a journey of faith with us. That might include literal journeys like retreats, pilgrimages, World Youth Day and mission trips, but these great experiences only indicate the deeper journey taking place under the surface.

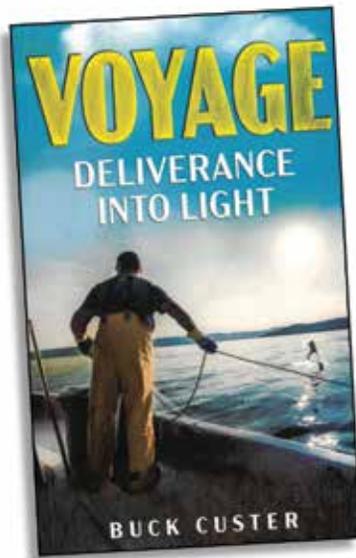
4 Catechize them. Moses delivers the law (torah) of God to the Israelites. The word, torah, could be translated “catechesis.” Moses does not just legislate, he teaches. The torah is the way that Moses will live on and continue to speak to the Israelites after his death. We will pass on to be with the Lord, but his word, his law, his teaching will remain. If we are faithful to teaching the faith, to truly catechizing the next generation, then those who follow us will be equipped to continue in faith without us.

5 Let go. Moses wanted to enter the Promised Land more than anyone else. He said, “Please let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan” (Deut 3:25 ESV-CE). Yet the Lord said, “No.” Yet he was able to die in peace and in hope, knowing that he could entrust the people totally to the Lord. In the end, each one of us must “let go and let God.” It is his plan, not ours. He gave Moses the grace to

trust him and let go, so must we be like the first youth minister and entrust the next generation to the Lord himself. Indeed, we could never find a better steward. ♦



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Real Deliverance,
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The Gift of Tongues – Is it a Gift for our Faith Life?

by Sr. Nancy Kellar, SC

“Do you know anyone with this Gift of Tongues?” I was sitting with Fr. Jim Ferry and Sr. Marjorie Walsh when Cardinal Suenens asked us that question. I did the ‘first nighters’ talk at the prayer meeting in our House of Prayer, Convent Station New Jersey, so Fr. Jim waved his hand to me to respond. I launched into my personal witness and my experience of the gift of tongues and it was only when I finished that I realized with awe what the Holy Spirit had done.

The first fruit of baptism in the Spirit for me was a new personal experience of knowing Jesus as my Lord and a desire to praise him as they did at the House of Prayer. I had not experienced the gift of tongues when I was prayed with for baptism in the Spirit. Praising God out loud in English was a big step for me. I would go up to an empty room in our Motherhouse where I couldn’t be heard. I enjoyed this for some time, but then a desire grew in me to go beyond my own words to express my love and gratitude for the grace I was experiencing. I yielded to the gift of praying and singing in tongues. At first, I listened to myself, questioning whether this was really the gift of tongues or was I making it up. Little by little, I took my attention off myself and let the Holy Spirit lift up my mind and heart to God.

Do we really need the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the Gift of Tongues?

People often ask me this question. I like to answer it by teaching about the value of the gifts, and here particularly, the gift of tongues. My first reading on baptism in the Spirit was a short pamphlet by Steve Clark in which he defines baptism in the Holy Spirit as a release of the Holy Spirit such that we experience all that God promises of the Holy Spirit. At first the word ‘release’ helped me understand that I had received

the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation; but the lack of expectancy of a personal Pentecost had limited the grace in me. Once touched through new expectancy, I was hungry for all of the promises of the Holy Spirit. I took a concordance of the Bible and looked them up.

I was delighted to see they fall into three groups: 1) Promises for Holiness/for Personal Renewal, “You will know me (Jer 31:34); 2) Promises for Unity for Communal Renewal, “I will be your God, and you will be my people” (Ez 37:23); and 3) Promises for Mission/Ministry Renewal, “You will be my witnesses to the end of the earth”(Acts 1:8).

I have come to see that the gifts of the Holy Spirit have these same purposes. They are “for the building up of the Body of Christ and for leading the whole church to holiness” (1 Cor 12).

The gift of tongues is a gift for personal holiness because it is a language of prayer. In 1 Cor 14:4 Paul says that, “one who speaks in tongues is speaking to God and edifies, builds up himself.”

Even though Paul is telling the Corinthians that they must also do what builds up the community, he is not saying it is a bad thing to build oneself up spiritually by one’s own speaking to God. In fact in v28 he urges the tongue speaker to use his tongue in speaking to God.

Years ago in our House of Prayer a simple holy brother said that he loved the gift of tongues because it was a language of prayer in which he had never offended God, or anyone else. It was a language purely for his praise.

I believe it is a gift for holiness also because it calls us to surrender to something we don’t and will never understand.

It challenges us to enter into the mystery of God and to let go of our need to control everything, to understand everything. It calls us to believe in order to understand, not as we want—to understand in order to believe.

The Charismatic gifts of the Spirit are gifts for Unity for building up the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:17).

The gift of tongues is a gift for unity because when we cannot speak together with one language, the Holy Spirit gives us a language in which we can pray together. It is like experiencing the reversal of Babel where the people's sin caused their languages to separate them, now the Holy Spirit is giving us a language to unite us.

The Charismatic gifts of the Spirit are gifts for Evangelization.

In Rome, in 1975, we were convicted by the words of a Dominican priest when he paraphrased the words of Matthew 28, having the Spirit say to us, "I have given you the Charisms of Apostles and you used them to form prayer clubs." We need to be convinced that the charisms are not given to us for our prayer meetings only, but also for our life and we need to bring them out of our prayer, into our life and into our ministry.

The gift of tongues is a gift for evangelization. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit used the gift of tongues to get the crowd's attention so he could speak to their hearts. I believe his purpose hasn't changed. The gift of tongues is still a gift the Spirit uses to get people's attention. We often hear stories of people being turned off by the gift of tongues. In our House of Prayer we experienced the story of someone who was turned on by our singing in tongues. It was Verner von Trapp, the son of Maria Von Trapp, who shared with us that his family had spent hours practicing the harmony of Gregorian chant. When he heard our singing in tongues, he said, "That has got to be the Holy Spirit because they are singing in perfect harmony, only the Holy Spirit could do that."

The Charismatic gifts are for ministry.

The gift of tongues is also a gift for ministry when we don't know what to pray for. Some years ago, when my sister went into respiratory failure after simple hernia surgery she was put on a respirator. She was a widow who had lost six children in childbirth and two adopted teenage sons in accidents. As she lay in a coma, we didn't know if she wanted to go to

her husband and children or did she want to come back to us. All I could do was pray in tongues confident that the Holy Spirit knew what was in her heart. Kathy died and I opened to a reading from Isaiah 60:4, that says, "Her babies being tenderly carried in the arms of their nurses and her sons coming from afar." It confirmed for me that the Spirit knew and accomplished the desires of her heart.

Maturing in the Charismatic Gifts of the Spirit

It is not uncommon to hear, "We don't need those gifts anymore, especially that gift of tongues. It was just for the beginning days of the Charismatic Renewal to get us started, now we have moved on to contemplation."

I believe the Gifts of the Spirit are not to diminish but in fact grow stronger as we mature. The gift of tongues becomes a gift of contemplation which the Lord uses to quiet us down so he can speak to our hearts in a still deeper way. I don't believe we need to borrow a word from a foreign religion to bring us into contemplation. The gift of praying in tongues has the same effect as we mature in it.

However, there is a change in the way we experience the gifts and use them. Because one of the effects of being baptized in the Spirit is a new and felt relationship with the Lord: often people feel elated and enthusiastic for the things of the Spirit. However, when the first enthusiasm passes, the good feelings fade, and the manifestations the Lord used in the beginning to get our attention, disappear, people often get discouraged. They fail to recognize that our charismatic spiritual maturing needs to go through the same "testing by fire" about which the spiritual masters have told us down through the ages.

As we mature, each use of a charismatic gift is an act of faith, a kind of walking on water. God lets it become an act of the will in response to the need for the service of the gifts. The gifts are services that we can be tempted simply to quit. The need to persevere is the basic challenge, choosing to praise God with the gift of tongues even when we don't feel like it, confident that the joy of the gift will follow. ♦



Sr. Nancy Kellar is a Sister of Charity of New York, involved with Catholic Charismatic Renewal since 1970. She is a Founding Member of St. Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer. She was a Coordinator of the NY Service Team, Archdiocese of New York, and a member of the National Service Committee for ten years. She was on the ICCRS Council and Director of the ICCRS Office in Rome. She also chaired an Ecumenical Charismatic Committee.



From the Executive Director

by Alicia Hartle

“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children.”

-Proverbs 13:22

Often *Pentecost Today USA (NSC)* receives phone calls, emails, and letters from people whose lives have been radically transformed through the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit and many years of living Life in the Spirit. Many ask for resources and prayer, and often share their stories and zeal to pass on the fire of Renewal to younger generations—especially to their own children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Rose Cutrara, my grandmother who grew up a few miles north of The Ark and The Dove, has this zeal to pass on the fire of Renewal. As a young girl in the 1930s, my grandmother went with her mother to pray for sick neighbors and witnessed miraculous healing. My great grandmother, an Italian immigrant and mother of eleven children, had received a healing ministry soon after a neighbor, wife of an African American Pentecostal Pastor, shared the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit with her. My great grandmother’s life and family were forever changed.

Still living independently at 95 years young in the Spirit, my grandmother shares the Gospel and baptism in the Holy Spirit everywhere she goes (recently with her hairdresser), continues to pray for and witness miraculous healing (her husband, my grandfather, received complete healing from multiple sclerosis!), and continues to teach and encourage her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to trust and obey the Lord.



Rose Cutrara with her great-grandchildren at her 95th birthday celebration

When my grandmother first heard the news of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal coming into the heart of the Church through CHARIS and Pentecost Today USA (the NSC) adopting the mission to **BRING** baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, **BUILD** unity in the body of Christ, and **SERVE** the poor, she was inspired to make a banner for the ministry of *Pentecost Today USA (NSC)*. Though she retired from banner making for many Catholic Churches, Full Gospel Businessmen, and Women’s Aglow in the 1990s, the Lord has reawakened this precious ministry for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Words cannot express how the story, witness, and ministry of my grandmother (and great grandmother!), inspire me. Though my parents prayed with me to personally receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior as a child, it was my grandmother and grandfather who were the first to explain what baptism in the Holy Spirit is and to pray with me for that profound grace. Each one of us has our own glorious stories of how we have received (and shared!) the work of the Holy Spirit in our own hearts, lives, families, workplaces, neighborhoods, churches, and beyond. Sharing these personal stories ignites in us (and others!) great zeal to live and share LIFE in the Spirit. See Revelation 12:11!

As *Pentecost Today USA (NSC)* launches the *Legacy of Fire Fellowship* in honor of Walter and Claire Matthews (see pages 8 and 9), we invite you to pray about honoring the person or people who first shared the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit with you by sending the story to us at: contact@PentecostTodayUSA.org. You can send a paragraph or a page as you are inspired, and pictures are welcome. Your story will be featured in *Legacy of Fire Fellowship* communications including *Testimony Tuesday* social media and website posts at www.PentecostTodayUSA.org.

Glory to God in the highest for each one of our own personal stories of receiving and sharing the Legacy of Fire! May our Lord Jesus Christ be magnified as we share this legacy in fellowship and in our mission to **BRING** baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, **BUILD** unity in the body of Christ, and **SERVE** the poor. Come, Holy Spirit. Inspire us. Move us. Use us. May the Kingdom of Heaven come!

“And on that day you will say: “Give praise to the LORD; proclaim His name! Make His works known among the peoples; declare that His name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for He has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.”

Isaiab 12:4-5 ♦



What I Sense the Holy Spirit Is Saying

by Jorge Samaniego

While praying with the leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Miami last January, 2022, I had a vision where I was in the middle of a vast and barren desert. I exclaimed to God that this desert is desolate and with seemingly no signs of life at all! The Lord revealed to me that the Church in many areas of the world, specifically in the West, is like this dry and arid place. It has grown cold and lifeless. It has no fuel and no fire of the Holy Spirit. The members of the Church he established himself are leaving in great numbers and joining the “church of unbelief.” This Church will no longer be able to rely on its institutions. There will be ambiguity in the teaching of its leaders. Her foundational and biblical

truths will be questioned and shaken to its core. She will be dry and lifeless in this desert.

Amidst this desolation, God is assuring us that he alone is the Lord and that he will sustain us. He will be our sufficiency in this time of pruning. The Lord is saying that in this desert, he will make his Church a wonderful oasis. This wounded Church, tried in the furnace of suffering and tribulation, will eventually move in the fire

and power of the Holy Spirit. The members of this remnant Church will be living again in the freedom of his Spirit.

The Lord who was, who is and who is to come (Rev 1:8) will never abandon us. We can be confident in his promise that he will always be with us. The ocean of his mercy is deeper and wider than our desert. The water and blood from his side will flow into his Church, refreshing and renewing it. ♦

Jorge Samaniego, MD is a physician and Renewal Leader in Hawaii. He is a member of the Pentecost Today USA Board.

Legacy of Fire



“What inspires you to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church?”

Jimmy Archer: “Because it's the Lord's desire to have everyone know the love of the Father poured out through the Holy Spirit. To realize the power given to us to live this life in the Spirit and be his Presence in the world!”

Taffy Archer: “To see the Church fully alive with the power of the Holy Spirit!”

As the *Legacy of Fire Fellowship* launches, we honor Jimmy Archer, Development Manager, and Taffy Archer, Donor Relations Manager, for their extraordinary zeal, prayer, and work in advancing the mission of Pentecost Today USA (the NSC) and caring for our supporters as they announced their retirement this year. Jimmy and Taffy have been involved in the Renewal since the 1970s, and Jimmy served on the Advisory Council, NSC Council and the Pentecost Today USA (NSC) Board from 2000 to 2021.

In profound and lasting ways, Jimmy and Taffy Archer are leaving a Legacy of Fire which will continue to fuel the mission of Pentecost Today USA (the NSC) through the precious gifts of their ministry to our longtime and faithful supporters, through their formation of the new Donor Relations Team (made up of Board and Council Members of Pentecost Today USA) over the past year, and through many mighty works of the Holy Spirit fueled by their prayer and work over the years. May the Lord return these blessings to Jimmy and Taffy and their family a thousand-fold, and may their zeal for our mission continue to inspire us! ♦

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