

## Identifying from p. 8

Here are some simple tests well-grounded leaders can use as they observe potential teachers in their prayer meetings:

- ✓ is the person's sharing in line with what both the church and the scriptures teach;
- ✓ when speaking, is the person clear, articulate and coherent;
- ✓ when attempting to explain a scripture passage, is the person understandable in the delivery;
- ✓ does the person use the excuse of sharing or teaching to monopolize the prayer meeting time;
- ✓ does the person seem to know the difference between teaching and preaching;
- ✓ and does the person seem to rely only on personal interpretation of scripture?

These and other tests can be used to identify those who may be called into a teaching ministry as well as those who should not teach. In themselves, however, they are not necessarily indicators that a person is not called to that ministry. Rather they can be a signal that with a little help he or she can become a good teacher. Not to use them, on the other hand, can be dangerous for the prayer group. Leaders who take their role seriously enough to use these kinds of tests can make them part of their own discernment process as the Spirit moves. They can then prepare to offer encouragement, help and even some training if necessary.

Finally, we all need to be reminded now and then that we can trust the Spirit which has been given to us. As St. Paul wrote to the early church at Corinth, we were given every spiritual gift un-

der the heavens when we received Christ Jesus (see 1 Cor. 1:1-9). Therefore the One who called us to servant-leadership can be counted on to give us what we need to lead well, responsibly and always in the Spirit. ♦

*Deacon Bill Brennan is a former member of the National Service Committee and serves as a diocesan liaison in the Diocese of Stockton, CA. He is the current chairman of the Northern California Coalition of Catholic Charismatic Diocesan Liaisons.*



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describes the details of the  
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To order audiotapes and cd's  
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Healing* consult the above  
website, the conference was  
powerfully graced.

## Resources for teachers

**Practical resources for preparing teachings—how to use the web, *Pentecost Today*, other magazines & books, tapes, etc.**

by Virginia King

“I can’t wait to tell you about the book I just finished...” If someone started a conversation like this, you would probably be attentive to hear what they had to say. Their enthusiasm would indicate that the book was compelling and that they think you would also be interested in it.

When considering teachings for a prayer meeting or other setting, it’s not always necessary to do a lot of original research. Simply reporting on a book that was helpful to you can be an excellent short teaching. And not only does it convey the information to others, but it also reinforces it for you.

Likewise, there are many other resources available that can be summarized or reported on for informing or exhorting our brothers and sisters at a prayer meeting. Very often the articles in *Pentecost Today* lend themselves to this purpose. If an article is helpful to your spiritual growth, chances are it will be a blessing to others as well.

As you acquire tapes or CD’s of conference talks, don’t just listen for your own enjoyment and edification. Instead prepare a report on what you heard and share the wealth with others. If there’s a particular topic that your prayer group needs teaching about, you can do a search on the internet for applicable articles

from reliable sources. I have quite a number of Charismatic Renewal web pages saved in my “favorites” folder so I can search them when I’m looking for information on a particular theme.

Many of us have bookshelves full of “classic” books on Charismatic Renewal and spiritual growth. Try re-reading some that you haven’t read for many years. You will be amazed at how relevant they are and also how you will gain new insights that you may not have had the first time you read them. Share those insights with others.

If we keep our eyes and ears open, we’ll find many opportunities to extend the ministry of those who have a charism of teaching by simply reporting to others what they have taught us. And in the process, you just might discover your own hidden charism. ♦

*Virginia King is the Executive Director of the Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office and has served in that position since 1984. Virginia has served on the National Service Committee since 2001.*



## Spiritual formation of a teacher

After reading Sr. Nancy’s article about the charism of teaching, we might ask, “What kind of spiritual formation would a person who is called to teach cultivate?”

### **Frequent reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist**

This will help foster the attitude of humility, of reverence for the word of God and for the message that he gives us to present, and of utter dependence on the Lord for this ministry of teaching.

### **Regular, faithful personal prayer**

Daily personal prayer firmly establishes our ministry under the Lordship of Jesus. Sit in the presence of the Lord and allow him to love you, and to teach you how to love. A good teacher is one who is easily taught. Pray for wisdom, pray for an increase in the charism of teaching, pray for the people whom you will teach.

### **Praying and studying Scripture**

Scripture must be part of our prayer and also part of our study. Allow the word of God to take deep root in your heart and in your mind and in your spirit.

### **Familiarity with Church teaching**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and other church documents are foundational to our teaching, even if we don’t quote them directly.

### **Seek regular evaluation from a spiritual director and/or a loving community**

Be eager to grow in your charism and eager for suggestions that will help you improve. Let it be known that you are serious about this, that you are seeking constructive criticism and not just affirmation.

“Preach the word, stay with this task whether convenient or inconvenient, constantly teaching without losing patience” (2 Tim 4:2). ♦

## Newsbriefs

### Leadership Groups Meet

Forty one leaders met in Schriever, Louisiana in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux for the Gathering of National Leadership Groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. This was the eighth such meeting bringing together members of the National Service Committee, the Filipino, Haitian, Hispanic, and Korean National Committees, the Steering Committee of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, Representatives of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships, and a representative of the US Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. A number of young adults engaged in ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit to youth and college age young adults were also present. The Gathering is convened by the Chairpersons of the NSC (Aggie Neck), the DLSC (Fr. Bill Delaney, S.J.), and the Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee (Bishop Robert Carlson), a representative from the Catholic Fraternity (Dennis McBride of the Alleluia Community), and a representative of the ethnic committees (Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia).

Bishop Carlson was not able to attend the Gathering. However, Bishop Sam Jacobs, Past Chairman of the Bishops'

Ad Hoc Committee and in whose diocese we met, was able to attend.

The Gathering of National Leadership Groups has its roots in a gathering convened by the National Service Committee and the Association of Diocesan Liaison in St. Louis in 1995 to build bridges of understanding and communication between various strands of the Renewal.

At this year's Gathering the various groups agreed to:

- ★ foster life in the Spirit Seminars during the Easter season;
- ★ promote a Holy Spirit Novena from Ascension through Pentecost (see article page 13);
- ★ encourage participation in the Pentecost Vigil with Pope Benedict XVI and the Renewal Movements in St. Peter's Square in Rome;
- ★ continue to work together on the 2007 National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference June 22-24 in Secaucus, New Jersey to cel-

brate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Renewal and to hear the Lord for the future; and

★ to continue to work toward a National Youth Ministers Committee by 2008.

The next meeting will be held January 2007 in Miami. ♦

### National Service Committee Meets

The National Service Committee gathered in mid-winter at the Lumen Christi Retreat Center in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux just prior to the Gathering of National Leadership Groups.

In addition to the election (see Ministry Updates, p 15) the principal order of business was the adoption of the Service Committee's 2006 Budget and continued discussion on some action goals to supplement the Service Committee's Mission Statement (see p 15). The Committee adopted three such goals:

- strengthen the local Renewal;

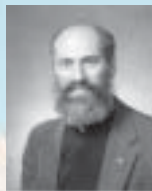
● reach youth and young adults with Life in the Spirit and link them to new or existing charismatic situations;

● communicate and encourage others to communicate with bishops and priests.

The actions associated with the above goals are modest (see the reference to "Teaching Days" in the Executive Director's Column p 14) given the scarcity of funds.

The Service Committee then met with the Diocesan Liaison Steering Committee chaired by Fr. Bill Delaney, S.J. of Los Angeles. The two Committees have been meeting for prayer, fellowship and discussion of a variety of Renewal issues for years. The topic of most interest this year was the development of a Youth Ministry Committee to bring together those working in the power of the Holy Spirit with youth and young adults.

The Service Committee has several conference calls scheduled and will meet again in person for its Retreat Meeting in mid-September. ♦



Fr. Patsy Iaquina & the National Service Committee invite you on

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## Awaken dormant spiritual lives – one-day Life in the Spirit Seminars

“Live as children of the light... Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you”  
(Ephesians 5:8,14).

by *Therese Boucher*

The Scriptures invite us to follow Jesus in the light of the Holy Spirit. The voice of God beckons us. “Be alive and awake in my Spirit! Share my light with those around you!” And so we become evangelists, teachers, and witnesses. We awaken those who seem to be asleep in the Spirit, and we stir up the embers of faith expressed in the Creed. One way to do this is to offer Life in Spirit seminars that rely on the message of the gospel and promote a renewed relationship with Jesus through the workings of the Holy Spirit. The first choice in offering seminars is the weekly format, although many groups offer one-day seminars. The advantage of one-day seminars is that they help people step back from daily routines and sample new ways to relate to God. The disadvantage is that new experiences with spontaneous prayer, scriptural meditations, baptism in the Spirit, the laying on of hands and the use of charisms need nurturing over time.

*The New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000* is designed to imitate the weekly format and support of RCIA sessions. When a decision to use a one-day format is made, great care must be taken in adapting the material. Condensing or eliminating talks, faith sharing times, and brief wit-

nesses, may compromise the goal of awakening lasting faith. Examine the pastoral goals behind your decision. Severely condensed seminars that wake people up, or “get them baptized in the Spirit,” are like hasty spiritual remodeling experiences that revamp the landscape of people’s faith without addressing the long-term needs of a budding, daily relationship with Jesus.

Consider two additional pastoral goals: ongoing faith formation, and inviting people into the Church as the mystical Body of Jesus. Taking the first goal seriously suggests a daylong seminar with several witnesses, but only one or two talks from the *Life in the Spirit Seminars*, so that the majority of the talks can be offered in at least two additional sessions. Here is the reason why. People need the support of a spiritual family and sponsors, as they learn, make mistakes, and start over in their faith. It takes two months to start a new habit like daily prayer, reading scripture, or using God-given charisms. It is the sustained witness of team members that illustrates following Jesus through these practices.

The second goal is inviting people into faith communities where sacraments are experienced as “powers that come from

the body of Christ, which is ever-living and life-giving” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #116). Community can only be formed and tested through sustained sacramental, charismatic relationships with God and with each other. The Holy Spirit is the Soul of the Church and beckons us to greater participation in liturgical life. We want to counteract what Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, calls a “degraded form of believing: believing without belonging” (*Cardinal Poupard’s Take on Secularization in the West*, Dec. 18, 2004 Zenit.org). We want to discourage jumping from parish to parish, movement to movement, and religious experience to religious experience. Instead, the Holy Spirit encourages belonging and commitment to a faith community. God can use us to invite people to come home to the Church. Their greatest need is not just waking up to life in the Spirit, but living in the Light that rises every morning and gathers us together to “live as children of the light” (Ephesians 5:8).

### Seminar Options:

#### **Evangelistic “Jesus Lives! Day”**

Include several back-to-back three minute witnesses to Jesus (each based on a different title for Jesus), the explanation talk, God’s Love [and Salvation]. Then offer five [or six] regular weekly sessions. (For an outline of “Jesus lives! Day” visit [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org).)

#### **Jesus Lives! Day**

Followed by three double sessions with two talks during each session. Sessions are offered weekly or biweekly.

#### **Life in the Spirit Mini-retreat**

The first daylong session includes three talks. The second session offers three talks, and the third session offers two talks. When sessions are two weeks apart,

add weekly one-to-one telephone or email contact between sessions.

All of these options can include the use of the *Prayer Journal for Baptism in the Spirit* and an invitation to meet together between sessions at a specific parish liturgy.

## Proposed Schedule for double sessions.

A daylong mini-retreat or seminar would include at least one double session, possibly another one after lunch.

Opening prayer (10 minutes)

Presentation or talk (15 minutes)

Witness about the session topic (5 minutes)

Small sharing groups (20 minutes)

Break (20 minutes)

Presentation or talk (15 minutes)

Witness about the session topic (5 minutes)

Small sharing groups (20 minutes)

Closing Prayer (20 minutes) ♦

*Therese Boucher is a writer and speaker. She has trained diocesan laity ministry teams, Life in the Spirit Seminar teams and faith-sharing group leaders. Therese has written several books among them revised Life in the Spirit Seminar Team Manual.*



*The New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000 is available through the National Service Committee.*

## Bishops Speak to the Renewal

“Charismatics should be told from the very beginning: This is not just about you—it is about evangelizing the whole world. If you don’t evangelize, you will stagnate spiritually. If you do not evangelize then you are not using the gifts the Holy Spirit gave you. He gave you these gifts to share, not to hoard for yourself. God wants to transform you as you give yourself to the Holy Spirit as an evangelizer. (Bishop Robert Hermann, Archdiocese of St. Louis)

“In my mind the Catholic Charismatic Renewal can become more effective by becoming more integrally involved in the local parish. Evangelization for one thing: CCR can stimulate and assume leadership in this at the local level. We need to reach out to those who no longer reach out to us in the Church. We need to bring in those who have no where to go or have gone elsewhere. Become evangelizers—allow your marvelous gift of prayer to be a springboard for reaching out to others. Take on the leadership; become evangelizers—that is to be a gospel people.” (Bishop Donald W. Trautman, Diocese of Erie, PA.)

Excerpts taken from *Bishops Speak to the Renewal*. For copies of this booklet contact Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office 2719 E. 42nd Street Minneapolis, MN 55406 Tel: 612-721-2543

## You are urged to pray a Pentecost Novena

In 1897, Pope Leo XIII established a solemn novena to the Holy Spirit to be prayed each year between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday, to invoke the Holy Spirit for the unity of all Christians. This novena was modeled after the very first novena, celebrated in the Upper Room by Mary and the disciples who gathered to wait and pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

In 2004, Pope John Paul II encouraged the Burning Bush Initiative, an invitation to Catholics “to return to the Upper Room, so that, united in contemplation of the Eucharistic Mystery, they may intercede for full Christian unity and for the conversion of sinners.” A primary focus of the Burning Bush Initiative is to promote world-wide celebrations of the Pentecost Novena, whether by individuals, parishes, dioceses, communities or other devotional groups. Catholic Charismatic Renewal can serve the whole Church

by encouraging the Pentecost Novena and by offering to lead prayer services in parishes and other settings.

This year especially, as we anticipate the gathering of Lay Ecclesial Movements with Pope Benedict XVI on the eve of Pentecost in Rome, it is an opportune time for us to stress the importance of this Novena and to do all in our power to enable many to participate in it. The Burning Bush Initiative website has suggested prayers for the 9 days, in several different languages, as well as many suggestions of ways to present the novena within a parish or diocese. We strongly urge you to check it out at: <http://www.burningbush.beatitudes.org/english/index.htm>.

For a flyer that lays out the Burning Bush Pentecost Novena on 8 ½ x 14 paper, ready to reproduce, you can contact Chariscenter USA at: [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org). ♦



From the  
Executive  
Director

.....  
by Walter Matthews

## Passing on the grace of Pentecost

I remember the night that the priest who was the leader of our prayer group said to me, “next week I want you to start giving Introductory Talks” and handed me an early edition of the *Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual*. So only a few months old in the Spirit, I became a witness that next week and each week thereafter for several months, telling others who came to the talks: this is who I was, this is what the Lord has done and is doing with me

Several months later the priest told me that he could not make the meeting the following week and that he wanted me to lead the prayer meeting and “toward the end give a brief summary of what the Lord says in Scripture, prophecy and sharing during the meeting.” I was terrified but willing. Thus with fear and trembling I became a “teacher”.

From the very beginning of this Renewal teaching of all sorts—Introductory Talks to the Life in the Spirit Seminars; LSS talks themselves; witnesses; talks on charisms, on being leaders, on walking in faith, on baptism in the Holy Spirit, about Catholic truths; practical talks on living the Catholic Christian life; talks on and about the Scriptures—has been part of the ministry of the National Service Committee.

The NSC works to help leaders and others till the soil so that others can receive the grace more effectively, and to provide the teaching that enables the grace to be lived in the participants’ lives and in prayer groups. As Fr. Raniero

Cantalamesa has exhorted, “We must begin again to use this gift better, to run good seminars with effective baptism in the Spirit. We must awaken Christian lives which are dormant or spent.”

In the early years the communities in South Bend and Ann Arbor, that formed the nucleus of the Renewal’s early national leadership, put their resources together to convene conferences at Notre Dame where teaching was a constituent element. They also began a publication that became *New Covenant* that served the Renewal well for so many years with solid practical teaching, articles on charisms and inspiring witnesses.

We believe that baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift that belongs to the Christian inheritance of all those sacramentally initiated into the church. It is this understanding that is embodied in *The New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000* which the NSC published in 2000 and has reprinted several times since. The NSC has published several other books and booklets with the same aim: to provide solid teaching to the Renewal.

This emphasis on providing solid teaching continues to be manifested today at our conferences where the talks are recorded not only on audiotapes but also on videotapes, cd’s and dvd’s. It has taken particular expression with the NSC’s decision in 2003 to convene the National Leaders’ Conference in Nashville and then again this past November in Chicago. The need is so great we will have another National Leaders’ Conference in Albuquerque this November. This publication, *Pentecost Today*, continues the legacy begun in the early days that was embodied in *New Covenant*: to put solid material in the hands of leaders and other Renewal participants.

## Friends of the NSC

Please see special insert, Friends column will return next issue.

In 1998 the NSC began convening Regional Leaders’ Gatherings to provide solid teaching on the mission and the key elements of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal such as baptism in the Holy Spirit, charisms, vision, praise and worship. As a result of recent discussions the NSC has adopted a goal “to strengthen the local Renewal” with one proposed action being to develop “Teaching Days” for leaders that we can bring into (arch)dioceses, working, of course, with local liaisons and Renewal Centers to identify needs.

In the late 1980’s the NSC developed a series of videotapes on Leadership Training. This 4-part series is still available. More recently the NSC produced an updated Leadership Formation Series entitled *The A.C.T.S. of Leadership*, with talks and panel discussions on Apostolic, Communal, Theological and Spiritual Formation.

The NSC website has many purposes, one of them is certainly teaching by providing archived issues of *Pentecost Today*, and adding supplemental materials which we are not able to publish in *Pentecost Today*.

In Second Timothy Paul wrote: “Take the teachings that you have heard me proclaim in the presence of many witnesses and entrust them to reliable people, who will be able to teach others also” (2:2). This is the work of any teacher: to pass on the content in a way that the student who becomes the teacher can in turn pass on to others. This has been and continues to be the work of the NSC. ♦

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[www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org).

## NSC pilgrimage and election

This past autumn NSC members, Fr. John Gordon, Aggie Neck and Virginia King accompanied about 50 people on a pilgrimage in Italy that ended by marking the end of the Year of Eucharist in Rome.

Fr. John Gordon reflects, "A pilgrimage is an opportunity to be renewed in faith, to receive particular and unique graces, as well as to grow in Christian fellowship. On our recent pilgrimage we were privileged to share life together for just over a week; in that time we experienced the Lord draw us together, and to himself. Going on pilgrimage continues to be a grace for me, and I am sure it is for all those who went."

Aggie Neck shares, "This was one of my most inspirational experiences. Perhaps it was because it focused on the Eucharist, and we visited so many places of miracles and saints. The experience of visiting the Vatican and all that it has kept through the centuries enables us to step back into time and know the depth and history of our Catholic faith. I believe that a pilgrimage broadens our awareness of spiritual truths. Perhaps this is why throughout history pilgrims have felt the call to visit holy places. It focuses our attention on the eternal goal."

Virginia King, who has made a number of pilgrimages, believes that, "The value of the pilgrimage is not fully evident until it's over. While on pilgrimage, my senses are filled with sights and sounds that are new and intriguing. The Masses are beautiful and full of power. My fellow pilgrims may start out as strangers, but by the end of the pilgrimage they are truly brothers and sisters to me. We have shared each other's joys and sorrows, and have helped 'carry' one another

Ministry  
Update

by Sr. Mary Anne  
Schaenzer



through difficult portions of the journey. It is only after I have been home for weeks or months that the fuller impact of the pilgrimage begins to emerge in my consciousness. Memories of the holy places we visited, and the lives of the holy people who had been there before us, strengthen my faith. Having visited Assisi strengthens my "friendship" with Francis and Clare. My appreciation of the intercession of St. Padre Pio is deepened after visiting San Giovanni Rotondo. My experience of the unity of the Body of Christ is more profound after attending Mass in St. Peter's Square."

**The NSC is sponsoring another pilgrimage, this time for the gathering of ecclesial movements in Rome at Pentecost of 2006. Fr. John Gordon is looking forward to the grace that this pilgrimage will be. More details are at the website: [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org).**

During the recent NSC election process, three members, Josephine Cachia, Fr. John Gordon, and Chuck Hornsby were re-elected to terms of three years. Our newest member is Scott Kaldahl of Miami.

We welcome Scott who was born in Washington, DC and grew up in New York. Since 1977, he's lived in Miami. Scott came into the Charismatic Renewal in 1974 during a weekend retreat. He's served the renewal in Miami as a prayer group leader since 1985. He also has served as MC for the local diocesan conference as well as conferences in Raleigh, NC. Scott has a passion for lively, authentic worship of the living God. Scott and his wife Carolyn have 4 children and will celebrate 25 years of marriage this May. Scott has served on the NSC Council for the past three years. ♦

# PENTECOST *Today*

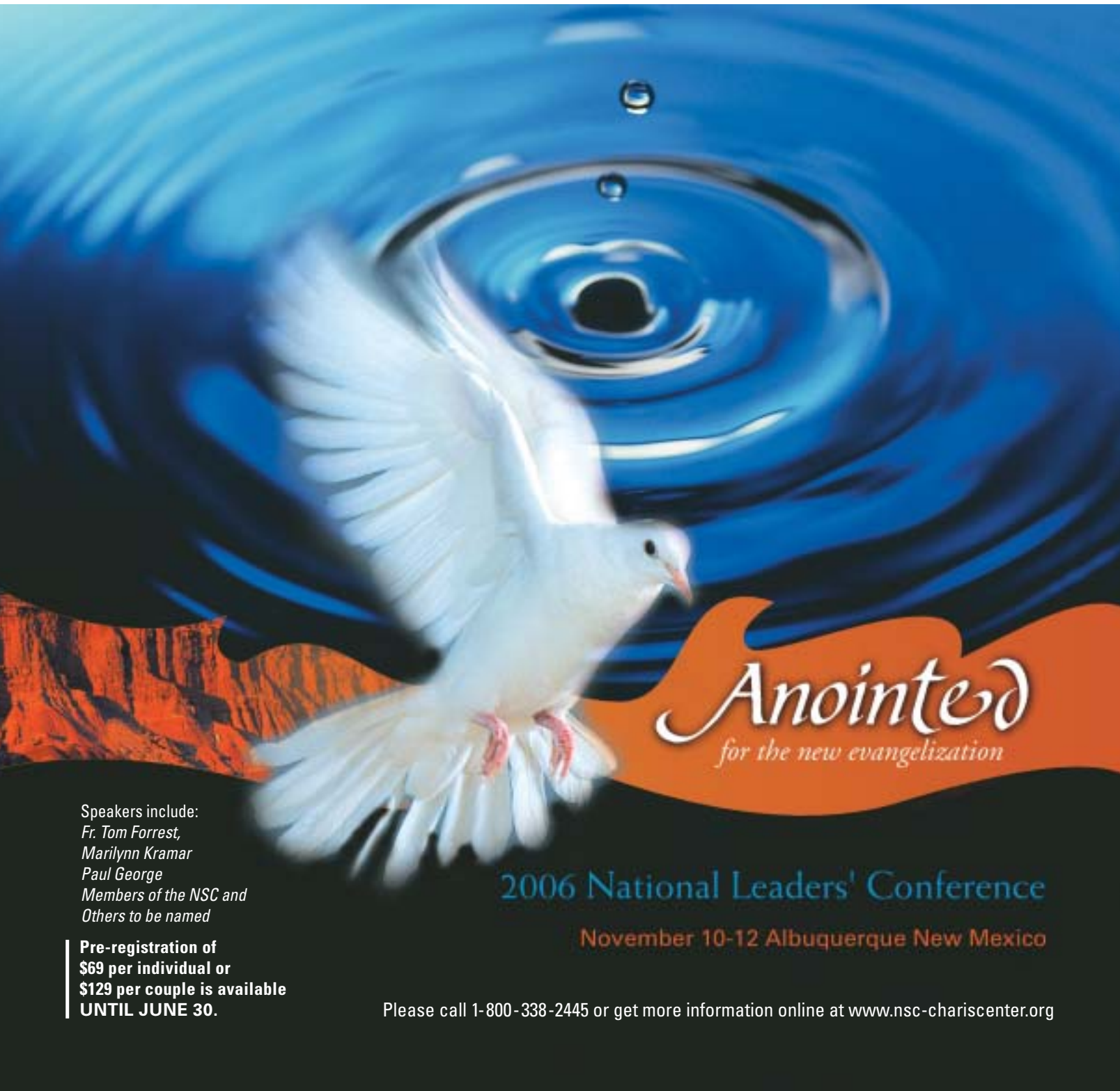
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