

Life in the Spirit in the Seminary

by Msgr. Edmund Griesedieck, S.T.L.

In the early months of 2002 I was made aware of a faculty opening in our Archdiocesan seminary for Spiritual Director. Since being ordained in 1965 I have enjoyed serving in Pastoral roles in four different parishes, and since 1972 have provided leadership roles (liaison, director, etc.) in the Charismatic Renewal. So joining the seminary faculty served to provide wonderful opportunities not only in the mission of seminary faith formation toward ordination to the priesthood, but also many ways to teach both faculty and seminarians about the influence and mission of the Charismatic Renewal in the Church.

Not many months after beginning my appointment at Kenrick Glennon Seminary (which serves not only the St. Louis Archdiocese but approximately twenty Dioceses throughout the Midwest) I became a member of the faculty Workshop and Lecture Committee which became a springboard to schedule and help organize Life in the Spirit Seminars (LISS) and workshops on healing and deliverance ministries.

To date we have conducted two well received workshops on the deliverance ministry in the Church and the important role that parish priests exercise in this ministry. This type of workshop is scheduled for a complete day for all seminarians and is part of a series of workshops designed to cover topics not generally covered in the regular seminary course curriculum. Also in the past four years we have offered optional Life in the Spirit Seminars scheduled early in the fall semester. In promoting attendance we have benefited from strong endorsements by the Rector and the Archbishop. For example for last fall's Life in the Spirit Seminar Archbishop Carlson wrote: "I enthusiastically endorse this year's seminar, Born of the Spirit. The Born of the Spirit Seminar is scheduled early in the seminary year and thus gives you opportunities to pray and be led and inspired by the Holy Spirit throughout the coming seminary year. We receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism, but need opportunities like this seminar to become more enlightened and empowered by the Holy Spirit in all our activities. If your time permits, come and receive a deeper infilling of the Holy Spirit to become more like Christ and enjoy the promised fruits of the Spirit."

One can be both an academic theologian and a charismatic Catholic excited about following Jesus.

Although participation is optional we have experienced an average of thirty to forty (out of approximately 100) students attending most evenings. However we believe the impact is greater since the presentations given (many by seminary professors and our Auxiliary Bishop Robert Hermann) are recorded on podcast so that those who could not attend could listen as time permits. The enthusiasm generated by the LISS is then followed throughout the rest of the seminary year by an ongoing weekly praise, worship and teaching prayer meeting. During the meetings time is allowed for healing prayer which spreads and acts as leaven for the Holy Spirit's light and power to uplift the whole seminary.

I have heard grateful comments from many over the years of the benefits and growth gained through the Life in the Spirit Seminar and the Deliverance Workshop. One deacon remarked, "Gee, it really works, when I pray for inspiration from the Holy Spirit in preparing homilies, it happens." Others comment on how a deeper awareness of spiritual warfare has helped them to realize the need to pray more often for the enlightenment and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. One of our faculty, Dr. John Gresham said, "My first invitation to give a talk for the Life in the Spirit Seminar came as both a challenge and an opportunity. I was not used to speaking much about my own charismatic experience in my role as a theology professor at the seminary, and I was challenged to share more of myself by giving this witness. After giving that first talk and subsequent talks at later seminars, I now see these as opportunities to give a witness to the seminarians that one can be both an academic theologian and a charismatic Catholic excited about following Jesus. My participation in these seminars has helped me to speak more openly about my experiences of the Spirit in my classes as well."

One seminarian, Scott, came to me for books on the Holy Spirit by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa and Fr. George Montague and shared, "coming to some of the LISS placed a fervor in me to learn more about the Holy Spirit and to be open to the Holy Spirit." Seminarian David Hogan said, "While serving with NET Ministries, I was awakened to the

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Word of God, new document from Benedict XVI

by Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM

On September 30, 2010 Pope Benedict XVI presented to the whole Church the document *Verbum Domini: Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*. This document does not fail to inspire, exhort, teach and challenge all of us to study, appreciate, and live the word of God given to us in the scriptures. In the introduction our Holy Father says: "For this reason I encourage all the faithful to renew their personal and communal encounter with Christ, the word of life made visible, and to become his heralds, so that the gift of divine life— communion—can spread ever more fully throughout the world."

The document has an extensive index for easy referencing. It is presented in three parts. Part I: **The Word of God** gives us an overview of the Word, interpretation of the scriptures, the role of the Holy Spirit and our response to

the Word. Part II: **The Word of God and the Church** which covers the Liturgy, Sacraments, and other prayers of the Church. Part III: **The Church's Mission: To proclaim the Word of God to the World** touches areas of proclamation and the new evangelization, reconciliation, peace, justice and protection of all creation.

Below are some excerpts from this document to give you a taste of the treasure that is contained in it and encourage you to pursue a further study of this document for your own growth, edification, and action.

Since the entire People of God is a people which has been "sent," the Synod reaffirmed that "the mission of proclaiming the word of God is the task of all of the disciples of Jesus Christ based on their Baptism." No believer in Christ can feel dispensed from this responsibility which comes from the fact of our sacra-

mentally belonging to the Body of Christ. A consciousness of this must be revived in every family, parish, community, association and ecclesial movement. The Church, as a mystery of communion, is thus entirely missionary, and everyone, according to his or her proper state in life, is called to give an incisive contribution to the proclamation of Christ. [94]

Pope John Paul II, taking up the prophetic words of Pope Paul VI in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, had in a variety of ways reminded the faithful of the need for a new missionary season for the entire people of God. At the dawn of the third millennium not only are there still many peoples who have not come to know the Good News, but also a great many Christians who need to have the word of God once more

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promptings of the Holy Spirit through charismatic prayer. One of the most powerful manifestations happened while leading team prayer in song. Upon invoking the Holy Spirit my bodily senses were put to rest. At that moment worship became more than playing songs on the guitar, rather an encounter with the living God. The empowerment I received while serving with NET for two years led me into the seminary where I trust that God will continue the good work he has begun in me and will bring to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It was a joy to have the opportunity for this empowerment to be furthered by the offering of the Life in the Spirit at

the seminary I am attending." One recently ordained priest whose eyes were opened to the Holy Spirit as he attended two LISS in his formation began to realize his need for healing prayer and deliverance to help prepare him for ordination and life as a priest.

We are aware that what is happening here is happening in other seminaries in the country and so it seems that the Spirit is moving to plant the seeds of renewing the culture of Pentecost in our Church. Let us continue to pray that seminaries and Houses of Formation throughout the world will regularly offer:

✠ Life in the Spirit Seminars or their equivalent,

- ✠ Workshops on Healing,
- ✠ Workshops on Deliverance, and
- ✠ Workshops on pastoral roles in helping parishioners discover and utilize their God-given charisms. ♦

Msgr. Edmund Griesedieck, graduate of Catholic University has been a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis for 46 years, active in the Renewal in various roles including Liaison or as Director of the Catholic Renewal Center, and now serves as Associate Spiritual Director at Kenrick Glennon Seminary in St. Louis and is a member of the NSC Council.



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persuasively proclaimed to them, so that they can concretely experience the power of the Gospel. Many of our brothers and sisters are "baptized, but insufficiently evangelized." In a number of cases, nations once rich in faith and in vocations are losing their identity under the influence of a secularized culture. The need for a new evangelization, so deeply felt by my venerable Predecessor, must be valiantly reaffirmed, in the Church, sure of her Lord's fidelity, never tires of proclaiming the good news of the Gospel and invites all Christians to discover anew the attraction of following Christ. [96]

The Synod paid particular attention to the proclamation of God's word to the younger generation. Young people are already active members of the Church and they represent

its future. Often we encounter in them a spontaneous openness to hearing the word of God and a *sincere desire to know Jesus*. Youth is a time when genuine and irrepressible questions arise about the meaning of life and the direction our own lives should take. Only God can give the true answer to these questions. Concern for young people calls for courage and clarity in the message we proclaim; we need to help young people to gain confidence and familiarity with sacred Scripture so it can become a compass pointing out the path to follow. Young people need witnesses and teachers who can walk with them, teaching them to love the Gospel and to share it, especially with their peers, and thus to become authentic and credible messengers. [104]

From the conclusion of the document:
I wish once more to encourage all the People of God, pastors, consecrated per-

sons and the laity, to become increasingly familiar with the sacred Scriptures. We must never forget that all authentic and living Christian spirituality is based on *the word of God proclaimed, accepted, celebrated and meditated upon in the Church*. This deepening relationship with the divine word will take place with even greater enthusiasm if we are conscious that, in Scripture and the Church's living Tradition, we stand before God's definitive word on the cosmos and on history. [121]

The greater our openness to God's word, the more will we be able to recognize that today too the mystery of Pentecost is taking place in God's Church. The Spirit of the Lord continues to pour out his gifts upon the Church to guide us into all truth, to show us the meaning of the Scriptures and to make us credible heralds of the word of salvation before the world. [123] ♦



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From the Executive Director

.....
by Walter Matthews

Ecumenism and Conferences

At the close of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year Pope Benedict XVI said, "The search for the re-establishment of unity among divided Christians...must be seen as a moral imperative, [a] response to a precise call of the Lord. Because of this, the temptation must be overcome to resignation and pessimism, which is a lack of trust in the power of the Holy Spirit." In an aside our Holy Father said that giving in to the temptation of thinking the Christian churches will never be fully united is a sign of weak faith.

The National Service Committee, in our revised Mission Statement adopted two years ago, states that we accomplish the mission the Lord has given to us by "cooperating with ... other Christian groups in authentic ecumenism." It is with this in mind that I recently attended the Charismatic Leaders Fellowship (CLF).

The CLF is the current name of an ecumenical group formerly called the Charismatic Concerns Committee (CCC) that was begun in the early 1970s as a forum for discussion of issues/trends in the Charismatic Movement.

This is the second year in a row that I have attended the CLF. I had been actively attending from 1985-2000. What drew me back last year was the topic of the 50th Anniversary of the Charismatic Movement (dating to Episcopalian Rev. Dennis Bennett's experience in 1960).

The Fellowship attendees have changed over the years, but there are a number of regularly attending Catholic Renewal leaders including Francis MacNutt, and Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan. Last year and this we were privileged to have Dr. Matteo Calisi, President of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships attend and speak to us (see his article on the Fraternity in the July/August/September 2010 issue of *Pentecost Today*). We were joined this year by a number of representatives of communities in the U.S. that are part of the Catholic Fraternity as well as several leaders of other Christian groups with which Dr. Calisi is working.

The ecumenical journey is not easy. It definitely involves struggle and, at times, misunderstanding. Forgiveness and reconciliation are part of the package. Respect is essential. It involves "conversion of the heart" (Pope Benedict XVI). So why do it?

In his important book, *Call to Holiness*, Cardinal Paul Cordes stated, "The entire history and experience of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church indicates that the renewal in the Spirit has a special ecumenical calling." At the very least the NSC encourages all Renewal participants to pray with Jesus "that all may be one" (Jn 17:21) or as Pope Benedict prayed, "United to Mary, ...we turn to God source of every gift...may all Christians re-establish full unity in Christ."

In November the 2011 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference will be held at the BWI Airport Marriott. We encourage you to attend if you are a leader or serve in any ministry in the Renewal or in the Church, exercise any charism, or simply want to grow in your life in the Spirit. Our list of speakers is growing and is outstanding. We hope to see you there. ♦

Friends of the NSC

We give thanks to the Lord and to our donors, all Friends of the NSC, that we ended 2010 with our income for the year exceeding our expenses by \$715—this in spite of the difficult economy we experienced throughout the year and that we continue to be in.

This is the tenth time in the last eleven years that the Service Committee has ended the year better than budget projection. We continue to trust that if we are doing the work that the Lord has for us, he will provide.

As we look to the future we ask you to consider two ways of giving that will help ensure the longer term viability of the National Service Committee and its ministries:

✘ First, a gift to the Third Millennium Fund. This fund was established several years ago and the monies in it are invested. The dividend income is used for current year's ministries but the corpus is not. This can be done with a check, credit card or stock or other asset gift.

✘ Second, by including the National Service Committee in your will. What better way, after caring for the needs of your family and local Church, to reach out to pass on this grace of Renewal to the next generations!

For information contact Walter Matthews, Executive Director, or Gerry Mader, our Development Manager, at 1-800-338-2445.

Finally we remind you of the opportunity to make a gift in honor of someone (priest, prayer group leader etc.) or in memory of someone.

Over the last few months we received two such gifts:

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For Your Information

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What we have seen and heard

.....
by Jane Guenther



Welcome Tammie and Jim

At the recent National Service Committee meeting we reviewed the candidates suggested to the committee to replace Fr. Richard (now Killian) Loch and Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner for whom we are most grateful to for their loyal and generous service over the years. The Committee welcomes Tammie Stevens and Jim Archer as the two new members whose three year term will begin at the end of March.



Tammie Stevens presently works at the Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center in Seattle, Washington.

She first experienced baptism in the Holy Spirit in 1985 at her Confirmation with a heartfelt prayer to receive the Holy Spirit. Two years later she attended a life changing Charismatic Retreat for young adults where her love for praise and the gift of a prayer language in tongues was ignited. Tammie is a gifted worship leader, conference coordinator and gift to the mission of fostering Pentecost. She has helped the NSC with their website development over the past few years and has served as one of our photographers at Conferences.



Jim Archer presently serves on the Pastoral Service Team for the Renewal in West Virginia. His conversion occurred in 1975 while living in Brooklyn, New York.

It was there that he received baptism in Holy Spirit. He speaks of the experience as "falling in love with Jesus and

becoming a practicing Catholic again. It has been a love story ever since." He is the father of five beautiful children, two of whom are deceased along with his beloved wife, Karen. All three of whom he handed over to the Father's love were victims of cancer. Jim has learned to rely on his relationship with God and loving what is in front of him with gratitude.

Both Tammie and Jim have been serving on the NSC Council and active on Working Groups bringing familiarity and experience to the Committee.

The Committee elected **Fr. Bob Hogan** as the new chairperson and he envisions Catholic Charismatic Renewal to help the Church be fully aware of the importance of the Holy Spirit. The following are four areas he particularly feels are important for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States.

- 1) The importance of a lifestyle in the Holy Spirit.
- 2) The importance of being a reminder in the Church of the full role of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of Catholic life.
- 3) The importance of staying connected in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as a united grace movement of the Holy Spirit in order to accomplish fully God's purposes for it.
- 4) The importance of helping young people touched by the Renewal to grow in commitment to their calling in the Renewal.

We pray that the good work that God has begun in them be brought to completion for the advancement of the mission and work of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. ♦

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