

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

# PENTECOST *Today*

April/May/June 2009



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



## Chairman's Corner

.....  
by Fr. Richard Loch

## Our Call to Holiness

In this issue we continue to celebrate the Year of St. Paul as we look from various perspectives at St. Paul and our call to holiness. As you read the articles I hope that they will instruct, inspire and challenge you to learn from St. Paul how we might grow in sanctity.

St. Paul is often times described as the first missionary in that he took the Gospel message to the world as it was known in his time. No doubt Paul's response to the love of the Father and his acceptance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit moved him to go out to proclaim to all the world "that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Phil 2:11).

When we accept the call to holiness it should have a similar effect on us. Holiness enables us to become more mindful of the Holy Spirit in our lives and moves us to proclaim in various ways that Jesus is Lord. St. Paul is a model of someone who clearly heard the call to holiness and lived it.

Personally, I remember hearing the call to holiness in 1983 when Fr. Tom Forrest sent word out that there was going to be a worldwide retreat for priests at the Vatican. The theme of this retreat was "The Call to Holiness." Some 5000 priests from around the world took part. It was a powerful week and one in which I experienced the universality of the Church, the mis-

sionary character of the Church and began to understand the basic call to holiness that comes with baptism. It made me mindful of our call and also attentive to how often Pope John Paul II spoke of the call to holiness.

**The holier his life is, the more effective is his mission.**

John Paul II

On September 20, 2001 Pope John Paul II said: "However, we must never forget that the evangelizer's fidelity to his Lord is the basis of his missionary activity. The holier his life is, the more effective is his mission. The call to mission is a constant call to holiness. How could we fail to recall what I wrote in this regard in the encyclical: 'The Universal Call to Holiness,' I noted then and repeat today, 'is closely linked to the universal call to mission. Every member of the faithful is called to holiness and to mission.' Only in this way will Christ's light reflected on the Church's face, be able to illumine the people of our era."

In Acts 2:42 we are taught the four pillars of the communal life: the teaching of the Apostles, communal life, Eucharist and prayers. These four elements flow from holiness and lead us to become holier. This is our mission and we are blessed in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to have the sacraments to strengthen us and the gifts of the Holy Spirit to animate our lives. "The Call to Mission is a constant Call to Holiness" (Pope John Paul II). May we remain faithful to our mission so as to respond with faith, joy and zeal to our call to holiness. ♦



## Editor's Desk

.....  
by Sr. Martha Jean McGarry

In this issue our writers reflect on our call to holiness. Fr. Francis Martin's article on the challenges to holiness found in Galatians 5 is a must read. Jane Guenther makes some practical applications from this same chapter of St. Paul for strengthening our prayer groups.

How are our young adults responding to the call to be holy? In an inspirational article Paul George shares what he sees in our youth today.

Lois Mader shares some of her insights into the benefits of Spiritual Direction for our spiritual journey.

In future issues we will turn the focus to journeying ahead with the Holy Spirit. We begin by laying before us in this issue the revised vision and mission statement of the National Service Committee.

Imagine what would happen and what God could do if we joined together in prayer! Fr. Bob Hogan's article on *Intercession around the world for a new Pentecost* will help get our imaginations flowing.

In each issue of *Pentecost Today* you will find a prayer card that lists some specific needs of the Renewal and the Church at this time. You are encouraged to place it in your Bible or in a place where you will remember to pray for the intentions.

We are happy to welcome as new partners in our publication some of the charismatic Religious Communities. Please note their column on page 12. ♦

Cover photo: Bob Roller, CNS, World Youth Day

# NSC announces revised Vision and Mission Statements

*The Prophet Habakkuk heard the Lord say: "Write down the vision clearly" (2:2).  
The writer of Proverbs cautioned, "Where there is no vision the people perish" (29:18).*

**T**he prayerful listening and discussion that any group, organization, parish or committee must go through in order to reach the writing down stage is both challenging and exhilarating.

The revised Vision and Mission Statements recently adopted by the National Service Committee are in no way meant to be definitive end-of-discussion statements. They are statements that the Service Committee prayerfully heard and discussed. However, this is not necessarily a Vision Statement for the Renewal, for every Renewal organization, ministry and prayer group. Rather it is something that engages and challenges the NSC of today.

These statements replace ones adopted in 1996, which themselves were revisions of ones adopted in 1986. Each generation of the Service Committee needs to own and/or rearticulate these fundamental documents.

In a sense the Statements speak for themselves but in future issues of *Pentecost Today* different aspects, particularly of the Mission Statement, will be addressed in a number of articles.

The process began several years ago as the Renewal approached our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2007. The process took on a certain impetus as the Committee sought to hear the challenge of Bishop Sam Jacobs, in his Keynote talk at the 2007 National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference celebrating the

See **Vision** page 11

## Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States

### The Vision Statement of the National Service Committee

Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all people to experience the Holy Spirit who opens us to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and the love of the Father. The Holy Spirit empowers us for personal holiness, renewed Catholic life, and evangelization.

### Mission Statement

The mission of the National Service Committee is to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5) which empowered the members of the early Church at Pentecost.

The NSC accomplishes this by:

**Proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the love of the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit which leads to the renewal of the **grace and culture of Pentecost.****

**Encouraging the awareness and the experience of the **full role of the Holy Spirit** among Catholic Charismatic Renewal groups and ministries, with the goal of reminding the Church to be fully conscious of this role.**

This action of the Holy Spirit leads to:

- ❖ Experiencing union with God
- ❖ Inner transformation, leading to personal holiness
- ❖ Ministry empowered by the charisms for evangelization and service
- ❖ Building communities that witness to a renewed Catholic life.

**Assisting leadership development as well as serving and offering **leadership** to the Renewal.**

**Cooperating with other **Catholic organizations and movements** as well as other Christian groups in **authentic ecumenism.****

**Empowering **youth and young adults** by entering into dialogue with them regarding the Holy Spirit in their lives and inviting them to participate in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.**

January 2009



# The CHALLENGE of 5 Galatians

by Fr. Francis Martin

Paul introduces the main theme of the letter to the Galatians at the letter's beginning. He calls this letter, written in the early 50's of our era: "the Truth of the Gospel," that is, the fact that the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ have set us free. He "...gave himself for our sins that he might rescue us from the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father; to whom be glory for ages of ages, Amen" (Gal 1:4-5).

I wish in this brief article to consider the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit as the experience of "the truth of the Gospel." I will consider it in the light of chapter 5 of the Letter to the Galatians, comparing the two famous lists in Galatians 5:13-26 which Paul calls the "works of the flesh" and "the fruit of the Spirit." Here is the first of the two lists:

The works of the flesh are manifest, such are: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, rage, rivalry, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I forewarn you [now] as I forewarned you [then]: those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal 5:19-21).

It is significant, I think, that of the fourteen "works" listed here,

- ▶ eight have to do with interpersonal relationships
- ▶ four have to do with sensuality
- ▶ two deal with false worship

Each involves a certain emotional component and many are often affected by emotional memories and wounds. Paul tells us that there is a way of

being free from these works of the flesh: *through the power of the act of love in which Jesus died and into which we are baptized.* "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal 3:27); "Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?... If then we died with Christ, we believe that we will live with him; knowing that Christ, raised from the dead, will die no more. Death has power over him no longer. The death he died he died to sin, once for all; the life he lives he lives to God" (Rom 6:3.8-10).

## Overcoming the flesh and baptism in the Holy Spirit

I would like to begin with a definition. By "baptism in the Holy Spirit," I mean a grace of revelation by which the Holy Spirit reveals to the spirit of the believer the divine Lordship of Jesus Christ, conferring personal and intimate faith knowledge of him as Son of God who is present in the heart of the believer and Head over his Body, the Church.

This revelation is the source of power and conviction enabling someone to overcome sinful drives and bear effective witness to what has been received, carrying out this witness with the signs appropriate to it. In this brief essay, I will restrict myself principally to that death to sin and life to God that is the heart of holiness.

Experience in the Charismatic Renewal points to the fact that the capacity to die to sin and live to God takes on a very special and intense dimension with baptism in the Holy Spirit. Because one is conscious of grace, there is a growing awareness of the difference between flesh and S(s)pirit and, with this awareness, an endowment with power to "put the deeds of the body to death" (Rom 8:13). Such advice only

makes explicit the teaching about ongoing change in the Christian life which we have already considered.

The motive for desiring change is love based upon a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ and a deep gratitude for what he has done for all of the human race by his death and resurrection.

**The sign that this growing awareness is a work of the Lord and not a psychological phenomenon is this: revelation in this area is marked by extraordinary honesty and peace.**

Such love is not possible without that work of the Holy Spirit which makes the possession of grace a conscious reality. Because of this love, the convicting role of the Holy Spirit is accepted and there is sorrow for sin, now seen not as a dangerous infraction of the law of a remote God, but as a personal refusal of his grace. This marks a radical shift in one's personal center of gravity.

Repentance is the work of revelation. It is the means by which the Holy Spirit applies to the life of the believer the healing grace that comes from the cross of Christ. Let us consider some aspects of this grace of repentance.

The first revelation usually understood after baptism in the Holy Spirit is the distinction between the two sources of energy available to the believer: the flesh and the Spirit. Little by little, we come to grasp how much of our past life, even in religious matters, was dominated by our own energy. We may have studied St. Paul and acknowledged the existence of a human spirit enlivened and submitted to the Holy Spirit as well as another aspect of that same human personality still opposed to God, but when the Holy Spirit quickens our spirit, this distinction becomes a matter of experience. We see the difference between a willed conformity to the demands of the Gospel and an intimate

yielding to the action of Christ. We have a greater capacity to perceive and acknowledge the true source of much of our activity: our ego with its ignorance and fear of God. We realize, little by little, the pervasive nature of our self concern. The sign that this growing awareness is a work of the Lord and not a psychological phenomenon is this:

revelation in this area is marked by extraordinary honesty and peace. The admission of sin openly and repentantly is done with sorrow, but without a great deal of emotional concomitance.

If we allow the grace of the Holy Spirit to lead us to a serious examination of the source of our motives and drives, two things result. First, there is a willingness to wait for revelation and, secondly, there is an increased capacity to discern the genuine will of God. Daily repentance is the source of all solid discernment. By comparison, when a worker for the Lord, baptized in the Holy Spirit but not seeking to reach the depths of that grace, undertakes and sustains his activity in the power of his own desires, imagination, and will-power (his flesh), then the consequent depletion of these resources leads him to a search for compensation on the same level as that of the output. Flesh begets flesh. Exaggerated or even sinful modes of conduct ensue, both to sustain the project and to compensate the minister.

On the other hand, the most beautiful fruit of experiencing an ongoing death to sin is the fact that we grow in our assurance of God's saving work in our lives and in knowledge of God himself. Faith grows deeper as we know more deeply the liberating work of the cross

in our lives: "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me, or else believe because of the works themselves" (Jn 14,11). This ever-deepening rhythm of knowing God found eloquent expression in the medieval axiom: "God is known in his effects."

### **The fruit of the Spirit and baptism in the Holy Spirit**

But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, humility, self-control. Against things such as these there is no law.

The flesh produces "works" that manifest the scattered and disordered state of our fallen structure. The Spirit brings forth one lightsome and many sided fruit, that is, a Christian personality that manifests the beauty of Christ: "I live, now not I, Christ lives in me." As baptism in the Holy Spirit, a contemplative grace from its inception, reaches its full maturity, the tumult of the flesh gives way to the unhindered fruitfulness of the Spirit:

Once the soul is placed at the peak of perfection and freedom of spirit in God, all the repugnancies and contradictions of sensuality have ceased, she no longer has any other activity to engage her than surrender to the delights and joys of intimate love of her Bridegroom  
(St. John of the Cross, *The Spiritual Canticle*, 36.1-2). ♦

*Fr. Francis Martin is a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. where he is chaplain of the Mother of God Community. He is Professor of New Testament at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. He is known for his conference and retreat work in various parts of the world.*





# A new generation

by Paul George with Maureen Gallagher  
ADORE Ministries

**The time of Christ is now!  
The time of Jesus is today!**

**A**s we all know we are in the midst of one of the most difficult times in our economy and in our world. We often think that young people are disengaged from the adult world however young adults are very aware of the current state of the culture. They feel the same struggle to find family balance, and the difficulties of finances and jobs that previous generations have had to face. Yet, in the midst of all of this, there is a generation of young people who deeply desire to follow Jesus and be his disciple.

The Liturgy of the Catholic Church has a beautiful preface for feasts of Holy Men and Women that states: “O God, you renew the Church in every age by raising up men and women outstanding in holiness, living witnesses of your unchanging love. They inspire us by their heroic lives, and help us by their constant prayers and intercession to be the living sign of your saving power.”

This prayer of the liturgy is also the prayer of a generation of young adults who desire to live in an authentic relationship with Christ. With this prayer echoing in their hearts, they hear and desire the same call to outstanding holiness and to bear witness to the radical love of Christ. A generation is rising that is more aware than ever of what the world promises, but that is more aware of the Gospel promises of free-

dom, faith, hope and love. This generation is rising up to put their hope in Christ and to seek his face, to be connected to the sacraments and to plug in ever more freely to the life of the Church.

There is a generation rising that is well aware of generations past. They know that they might not be living the faith with such conviction had they never known the stories of the early Church martyrs and the saints of later generations—saints like St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Stephen, or St. Joan of Arc.

Indeed we are seeing that prayer of the Catholic liturgy come alive as we see modern day martyrs among us! Young people ready to respond, giving their whole lives to the Lord—those willing to truly die to themselves for what they believe in. These modern day martyrs give us a sign of God’s unchanging hope amidst a world that is ever-changing.

**T**o be a martyr means to be a witness. This generation is rising with witnesses, fully aware of *their* call as disciples, where the Great Commission gets personal. “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20a).

Sometimes, the call of the Great Commission can grow distant in our hearts, leaving us somewhat detached from a call that seemed so long ago during the time when Christ sent the disciples out. Yet again, a generation is rising who is willing to claim the Great Commission as their own, stating with their lives that the time Jesus walked the earth never really ended! Through the power of the Eucharist, the Sacraments and the power of the Holy Spirit this generation has been renewed, and set on fire, believing in truth, that the time of Christ is now! The time of Jesus is today! Thus, the time when we are to live out the Great Commission to “go therefore, and make disciples of all nations” is now—in this, the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

For some, this call means joining missions abroad and literally spreading the Gospel to other nations and generations. However, for most, the conviction of their call is to make disciples of their peers: to make disciples in the nation where they currently live, to reach out to those from their generation that have fallen away, to those that are distant and disconnected. We must admit there still remain a large number of young people that have yet to hear or respond to the call of discipleship. They have been pulled away by the culture and struggle with what the world has to offer. Despite this gap, there is great hope. We must not leave this generation behind and must bridge the gap between those who know Christ and those who are disconnected, disenchanting and fallen away. This of course is the call of the New

## Content breeds contentment

by Jane Guenther

**T**he scriptures tell us that Mary, the mother of God, and the apostles gathered in prayer in the upper room waiting for the Advocate to come upon them in the experience of Pentecost. For over forty years now vibrant prayer groups have been one of the means of sustaining the element of a new awareness of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as manifested on that first Pentecost. Yet today we have knowledge of the decrease in prayer groups and in those attending. Perhaps a look at the basic elements of leadership and content may help us to strengthen our groups anew.

Our parish conducted a Life in the Spirit Seminar this past fall with 60 participants. The experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit is one that fills us with excitement and hope and so we work to continue this thrust in

**The model of leadership that I prefer for a prayer group is Trinitarian in form.**

our life and want to share it with others. Mary, who attended our Life in the Spirit, experienced this and wanted to begin a prayer group at her own parish.

I shared with Mary some of the basic elements of a prayer meeting and encouraged her to talk with the pastor first to gain his support. I shared how we gather on a weekly basis in a prayer meeting to praise God, share some of our charismatic gifts, encourage the manifestations of them, receive a teaching, apply the teaching, intercede for others, and in the process, grow in holiness so that we are renewed in the Spirit on a weekly basis. I will never forget the priest who shared at one of the Charismatic Conferences in the 1990s, that “I have to

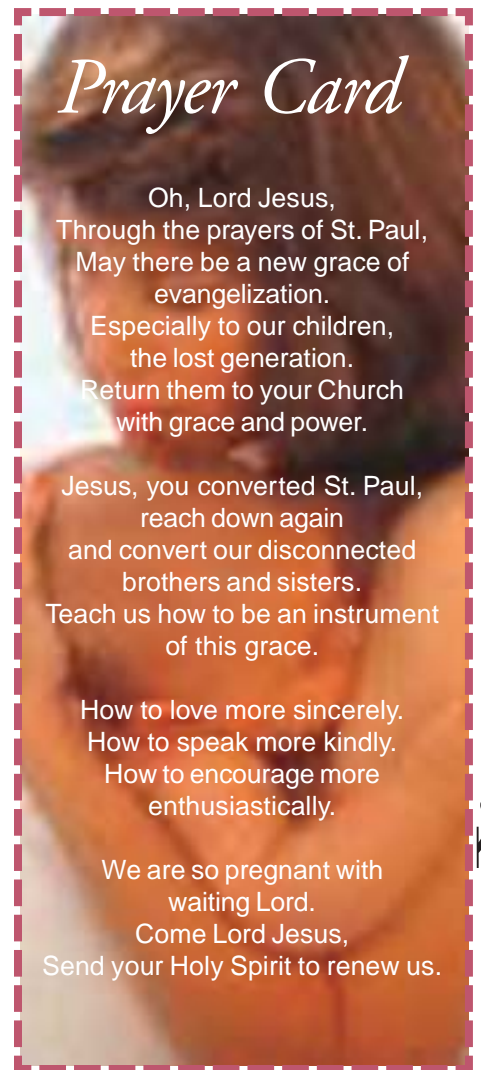
### A new generation continued

Evangelization the Church has called us all to embrace. The Lord is using this generation in a powerful way as evangelists of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**T**his past summer, over 500,000 young people gathered together for the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Youth Day, held in Sydney, Australia. During this time, pilgrims from across the world gathered to hear the words of Pope Benedict XVI—for many, the words came right to their cell phones! On Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, those that signed up to receive papal text messages received this text, “Dear

friend, u must be holy & u must be missionary: never separate holiness from mission – BXVI”

Indeed, these young people are challenged radically by the words of our beloved Holy Father never to separate holiness from mission. Never to separate the holiness, referred to in the preface for feasts of Holy Men and Women, from the call of the Great Commission, and never to separate the time the Lord first gifted us with the Great Commission from the ways he is calling us to step out in faith today. The time is now. ♦



keep asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit, because I leak.”

**Content** continued on page 8



*Paul George is a husband, father of four, and follower of Jesus. He and his wife live as full time missionaries serving the Church in whatever ways God asks. Paul directs*

*ADORE ministries, an outreach of evangelization, which spreads the message of the Gospel around the world. Paul also directs the Office of Evangelization and Young adult ministry for the Diocese of Houma/Thibodaux.*



**Petitions:**

Please pray for the following intentions, concerns of the National Service Committee.

1. For a generous participation in the Pentecost Novena that these prayers would open and speak to hearts.
2. For an empowered Pentecost Sunday that all the faithful would experience God's presence, love and grace.
3. For the new members of the National Service Committee and chairperson Fr. Richard Loch, that their time on this committee be a joy, resulting in fruitful service.
4. For a blessing Lord, on the new vision and mission statements of the National Service Committee. Help these guidelines strengthen and encourage the work of the committee.
5. For an outpouring of the Spirit on all prayer groups, all vocations and all laity, especially those that have allowed themselves to drift away from the Church.



**Content** continued from page 7

Recently, I was asked to come visit a few of the prayer groups in our area to help in the discernment of new leadership. The model of leadership that I prefer for a prayer group is Trinitarian in form. If three persons can in essence be one God, we can model that unity in the leaders called forth by the Spirit for a prayer group. The three leaders would discern their role each meeting, for example that of a music leader, a worship leader, and teacher for the evening.

The **music leader** prays for the inspiration of the song choices that will lead the members to let go of their burdens and allow the Holy Spirit to come in. The **worship leader** allows the movement of the Spirit to be articulated. The worship

leader encourages others to share their charismatic gifts of prophecy, words of knowledge, images. The **teacher** is the one who comes prepared to lead the group in deepening their relationship with God by delving into a Scripture, forms of praise, or exploring the capital sins, to name a few.

**The content of our mind and heart truly can breed contempt or contentment.**

Variety leads to vibrancy. Their leadership will have a unifying effect on the larger group. It allows the manifestations of the charismatic gifts to be encouraged by the members present.

In St. Paul's letter he warns the Galatians not to abuse their "liberty" by following "the works of the flesh." He then lists a long catalogue of vices. Look seriously at the vices mentioned in Galatians 5:19b-21a, "immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like." When there is disunity in a prayer group gathering elements of these sins can be a source.

It is important that when "two or three gather" that the gathering emulates the presence of God. Our prayer groups today need to look at the content of their gatherings so they might flourish in contentment. The familiar saying "you are what you eat" can easily translate to "you are what you let in." The content of our mind and heart truly can breed contempt or contentment. If we gather for a prayer meeting and the content is gossip, complaining, or acts of selfishness, then the word of Paul, "they who do such things

shall not obtain the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21b), will bear truth.

The content of our prayer meetings will breed contentment as we recognize the fruits of the Spirit as extolled by St. Paul: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." As we experience the fruits at our prayer meetings, we will open ourselves to them being present in our encounters outside of the prayer group. When we are filled with these fruits it makes it easier for the great treasure of the Holy Spirit to be shared.

When we prepare in leadership roles of the prayer group do we gather and earnestly pray for the Spirit to lead us in our planning? This is the essence of Paul's words to the community of Galatia. It is more important to open oneself up to being "led by the Spirit" rather than by the "works of the flesh." Do we put the emphasis within our prayer groups on what we in the flesh can accomplish or where the Spirit is leading us?

The inability to give up control holds us back from experiencing the true freedom of our faith and manifesting the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit leading to the fruits of the Spirit. Who wouldn't like that weekly experience to help us keep our eyes fixed on the prize, Christ Jesus. Mary's group is forming and discerning their leadership with the full support of their pastor. Praise God!! ♦

*Jane Guenther is currently serving the Archdiocese of St. Louis as the Coordinator of the Catholic Renewal Center. She was recently elected to the National Service Committee, see page 15 of this issue.*





# The Spiritual Director

by Lois Mader

When you hear the term spiritual director what comes to your mind? When some people hear this term, they assume that this spiritual director will have all the answers such as “how to” achieve spiritual growth. Others believe a spiritual director is like a dictator having very rigid rules for others to follow to attain holiness. Instead, a spiritual director or spiritual companion is truly concerned with helping each person develop their own personal relationship with God by primarily focusing on their experience of God in prayer and their life experiences. The person who receives direction must always retain personal responsibility and accountability for their own choices of prayer forms, discernment of their life decisions and their own unique way to live out their relationship with God.

The image of a “spiritual midwife” helps me recognize that my role as a director is to assist and nurture individuals on their spiritual journey towards a fuller relationship with God. This “spiritual midwife” image helps me to appreciate what an awesome trust God has given to me as a director. It is a God-given opportunity to walk with and to companion with one of his beloved children.

During the ministry of spiritual direction, a director helps each directee understand their own unique call to holiness. Hopefully as one considers this call to holiness or wholeness in Christ Jesus, walking with a director will help clarify God’s Word and allow the Word to become more effective in one’s life. In addition the sacraments become an encounter with Christ Jesus, and help the directee

to participate in a Christian community, which brings support and encouragement for the journey.

Having an opportunity to establish a relationship with a spiritual director helps one to be more accountable to self and another person. As a directee shares during the session they receive clarity of issues, revelations open up, or perhaps God’s challenges surface and discernment will take place. Yes, there are many spiritual directors or life coaches today in our society but only with a Christian spiritual director does one have the opportunity to experience the truth about our relationship with God through the cleansing work of Jesus Christ.

I feel very humbled to be called into the ministry of spiritual direction. As directees share their hopes, their fears, their longings and desires, I pray through my active listening that the Spirit is operational within me. When this is happening, directees know they are being heard and understood. The directees feel an unconditional acceptance and a sense of belonging to the family of God. Another way we honor each directee’s spiritual journey is holding in confidence all that is shared in the session and then interceding for them. With the love of Christ Jesus a deep compassionate love develops within the spiritual director for each directee.

During the direction session, which usually should last no longer than 60 minutes, the fundamental task of the spiritual director is to help the directee pay attention to God as God reveals himself and also to help the directee recognize his or her reactions to the movement of God in the moment.

Sometimes the direction session will focus on the directee’s prayer life, sharing different prayer experiences or learning new prayer techniques, or sharing an appropriate scripture verse with the directee. Other direction sessions might share about some personal life experiences and the “spiritual midwife” will aid the directee to search for an understanding as to where is God in this particular situation or what is God asking of them through these circumstances. The spiritual director needs foremost to recognize it is the Holy Spirit who is the teacher and guide for themselves and for the directee. The spiritual director needs only to listen with empathy, paying close attention to the conversation and possibly ask questions for clarification not only to aid the director but also to facilitate clarity for the directee. This “active listening” tool tends to aid the directee into a deeper relationship with God—a relationship which seeks to know and love God more fully and to please him in all things.

In order to fully benefit from the graces of spiritual direction, a person must have cultivated a prayer life and be able to articulate about their personal relationship with God to another person, the spiritual director. As a director, we do not need elaborate techniques to companion another. More importantly, we need an openness to the Holy Spirit and his charisms. As each individual directee comes, I pray for the Holy Spirit to equip me with his heart and his mind for I am totally convinced that, “God who began a good work in you will continue to complete it in Christ Jesus” (Phil 1:6). ♦



*Lois Mader is a certified spiritual director. She and her husband Gerry are the parents of five adult children.*

# Imagine

## Intercession around the world

### Pentecost for the Nations Project 2009



by Fr. Bob Hogan

*“Oh, if only... unanimous and fervent prayers could be raised to heaven in every part of Christendom, as they were in the Cenacle (Upper Room) of Jerusalem for a rekindling of the Divine Spirit” (Blessed Elena Guerra).*

International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) in Rome is inviting us to participate in a 10 day “Pentecost for the Nations” Project (May 22-31, 2009).

**Imagine** what would happen if “unanimous and fervent prayers” were raised in every time zone in the world for nine days!

**Imagine** what would happen if we witnessed to the power of the Holy Spirit in every part of the world throughout Pentecost!

**Imagine** what God could do if we united in prayer and celebration for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our world!

Pentecost of the Nations is an answer that the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal offers in response to the desire expressed by both Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI that “the spirituality of Pentecost” will spread in the Church for a new “Culture of Pentecost” (JPII, May 2004-Benedict XVI, Sept 2005).

A packet of information about this project is available. See information below. This packet includes a description of the project, sign-up sheets for specific times of prayer, a 9 day Burning Bush Pentecost Novena, special prayer intentions for Pentecost Sunday and other resources for celebrating the novena and Pentecost in your prayer groups and city.

#### Imagine intercession opening new doors

The National Service Committee believes that consistent, fervent intercessory prayer is a key for the greater integration of Renewal in the Holy Spirit in the whole life of the Church. As our Charismatic Center in San Antonio has placed more emphasis on intercessory prayer before our Life in the Spirit Seminars, Renewal Days, Regional Conference and other outreach events, we have experienced the Lord breaking down walls of fear and mistrust, creating new pathways of openness to the full grace of the Holy Spirit, and manifesting his love, presence, power and wisdom in greater ways.

At times individuals in Catholic Charismatic Renewal have hidden the fact that a program is a Charismatic Renewal inspired event because some people react negatively to the word “charismatic.” We have to take responsibility in the Renewal for some of the negativity when we haven’t acted always with the Spirit’s wisdom and timing. However, a better way to break down walls, open hearts and act with wisdom is through fervent intercessory prayer, rather than hiding the truth that a program was developed as an outgrowth of the Charismatic Renewal. Jesus tells us that some barriers can only be overcome through persevering prayer and fasting. How seriously and consistently have we used intercessory prayer to open doors for the Spirit’s work?

#### New resource available

We have developed a tool to help us grow in this consistent, fervent intercession. The National Service Committee has developed a new resource that describes three yearly times of intercession to pray for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States, and for the Church in our country, to be renewed in the grace of Pentecost:

- 1) Feast of Christ the King (Sunday before Season of Advent).
- 2) Friday before Ash Wednesday (Season of Lent).
- 3) Nine Day Preparation for Pentecost Sunday (Season of Easter).

Continued above, page 11 ▲

Charismatic Renewal is more than giving Life in the Spirit Seminars so that people are baptized with the Spirit (as important as this is!). We want to recognize and promote the ways the Holy Spirit is important for every aspect of Catholic life (liturgical prayer, family life, pro-life ministry, teaching and preaching, prayer, healing and reconciliation, counseling, evangelization, work situations, relationships, developing groups, overcoming compulsions and addictions, experiencing peace and joy, and many other areas). *Imagine* regular, fervent intercession opening us to this larger vision of the Spirit's work and creating new pathways for the Spirit to touch more people and influence every aspect of Catholic life.

The new brochure describes how the Holy Spirit is related to each of the seasons of Advent, Lent and Easter-Pentecost. We are reminded of the ways the Holy Spirit is active in each of these liturgical seasons. Advent focuses on the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed of the Spirit. Lent reminds us of Jesus being led by the Spirit to the desert for 40 days to face and overcome temptations. Easter begins with Jesus breathing the Spirit on the apostles, and ends with the nine days of prayer before the coming of the Spirit on Pentecost. The brochure offers suggested ways of interceding on these days. For information on receiving this aid please see below.

*Imagine* what would happen and what God could do...! ♦

To receive a packet of information about "Pentecost for the Nations" or to download the brochure on three yearly times of intercession, which can be copied, go to [www.nsc-chariscenter.org/resources.htm](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/resources.htm) or call 1-800-338-2445.

*Fr. Bob Hogan is Co-founder of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple, a Charismatic and Marian Religious community of priests and brothers. He is a member of the NSC and involved with working at the Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal in San Antonio, Texas.*



## Vision continued from page 3

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Renewal, when he challenged all of us not to rest in our celebration of 40 years but even now to begin to work toward the Renewal's 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2017. This added to other challenges to articulate a sense of what the Renewal, and specifically the NSC, is about in these beginning years of the Third Millennium as we seek to pass the grace of Pentecost to new generations. Would our then current Vision and Mission Statements do that? The world of 2007, 2008 and now 2009 is different in some ways from that of 1986 and 1996.

The NSC formed an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Vision and Mission in September 2007 which began the work of writing down what the Committee was hearing.

In January 2008 the NSC spent a day with one of its former members, Deacon Dean Condon, sorting through what it was hearing and thinking about itself and the Lord's work.

## From this vision flows the NSC's sense of mission.

In September of last year a statement was adopted subject to dialogue with the NSC Council in November. After that discussion the Vision Statement was formally adopted.

The Mission Statement begun at the same time was recently adopted at the Committee's meeting in January.

The revision of the Vision and Mission Statements does not mean that the core of what the Renewal is about has changed. We are still about proclaiming the ever new Lordship of Jesus Christ and openness to the person, presence and power of the Holy Spirit through baptism in the Holy Spirit. As our Holy Father Pope John Paul II wrote in *Novo Millennio Ineunte (NMI)* at the end of the Jubilee Year sharing his vision for the Church in the Third Millennium: "From it [the Jubilee] we must gain *new impetus in Christian liv-*

*ing*, making it the force which inspires our journey of faith... It is not therefore a matter of inventing a 'new programme.' The programme already exists. It is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition, it is the same as ever" (29).

From this vision flows the NSC's sense of mission. As noted above, more will be written on this in future issues. It is the prayer of the NSC that with these two newly revised Statements and newly elected members (see article page 15) it has responded to the Lord and is ready to respond in new ways to his call (articulated by both Pope John Paul II and Benedict XVI) for a new evangelization and, if necessary, a true first evangelization, in the power of the Spirit.

Let us go forward together counting "on the power of the same Spirit who was poured out at Pentecost and who impels us still today to start anew, sustained by the hope 'which does not disappoint'" (Rom 5:5) (*NMI* 58). ♦



*Intercessors of the Lamb pray at National Leaders' Conference 2003.*

“New Covenant Power,” a weeklong retreat/conference will be held July 5<sup>th</sup> through the 10th at the Qwest Center in downtown Omaha and will focus on contemplative spirituality and intercessory prayer. The event, organized by the Intercessors of the Lamb, will offer daily teachings, guided Scripture meditations and individual prayer as well as full day youth tracks, an adoration chapel, opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a bookstore—all on site.

Participants travel to Omaha for this annual conference from all over the world. Some of those coming from foreign countries stay on for extended retreats; others remain for formation and study. The conference has become a yearly pilgrimage for many of these distant travelers.

## Intercessors of the Lamb Community teaches New Covenant power

In addition to organizing our annual conference, our community of hermits offers silent retreats, parish missions and workshops throughout the year in order to address the growing hunger and thirst for the voice of God that is so evident in our world today.

The Intercessor community now has plans to convert a large building into a conference and retreat center. We call it “The Ark of the Covenant.” The Ark will be equipped with seventy-two beds, seven small chapels, and classroom space.

Inspired by our Blessed Mother’s role as the true “Ark of the Covenant,” this center will be dedicated to birthing Jesus in each heart through his heavenly Mother. Those who come to be more fully formed into the person of Jesus will go forth throughout the world as witnesses to the power of the New Covenant love of God.

The Intercessors of the Lamb is a mixed community of priests, sisters, brothers

and laity founded by Mother Nadine Brown with a mission to bring contemplative spirituality and its intercessory fruits to the broader church. To learn more about us, or to register for the “New Covenant Power” Conference, visit our website at [www.bellwetheromaha.org](http://www.bellwetheromaha.org). ♦

## Religious Communities

### Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

1701 Alamos St.  
San Antonio, TX 78201  
(210) 734-6727  
[www.brothersofthebeloveddisciple.org](http://www.brothersofthebeloveddisciple.org)  
*The Brothers of the Beloved Disciple* is a Marian and charismatic religious community of priests and brothers.

### Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

P.O. Box 64,  
Prayer Town, TX 79010-0064  
(806) 534-2312  
[www.dljc.org](http://www.dljc.org)  
*The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ* is a Franciscan and charismatic religious order of sisters, contemplative with evangelistic apostolates.

### Intercessors of the Lamb

4014 North Post Road  
Omaha, NE 68112  
(402) 455-5262  
[www.bellwetheromaha.org](http://www.bellwetheromaha.org)  
*The Intercessors of the Lamb* is a mixed community of priests, brothers, sisters and laity who have been called to discipleship by the Holy Spirit and formed in the heart of Mary to continue the redemptive mission of the Lamb of God through his powerful “burden bearing” ministry of intercession.

photo: Elizabeth Dodd

## Four New NSC Leaflets now available

### Introduction to Teachings at Prayer Meetings

by Fr. Bob Hogan BBD

For prayer group leaders and those who give teachings.

### The Word of Knowledge and the Word of Wisdom

by Gerry Mader

Help for understanding two important charisms of the Spirit.

NSC Leaflets

PO Box 628

Locust Grove, VA 22508

### Healing Prayer

by Chuck Hornsby

Examines the variety of forms of prayer for healing.



### Catholic Charismatic Renewal Terms and Phrases

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer SSND

An explanation of terminology and phenomena found in Catholic charismatic renewal, for newcomers.

**.50 each** + shipping & handling.

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**1-800-338-2445**

## The Role of a Diocesan Liaison

A Diocesan Liaison to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is appointed by his or her bishop to assist him in his task of serving the church in his diocese. As Bishop Sam Jacobs wrote in a 1999 letter to the liaisons: "You play an important role in the life of the local church. You are your Ordinary's personal representative to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement in the diocese."

The church has much to say about the role and necessity of charisms in the life of the church and is clear that they are given to build up the Body of

Christ. Exercise of the charisms in service to his/her bishop benefits not only the spiritual growth (holiness) of the Body, but is vitally important for the liaison.

Recognizing the benefits of mutual support, the Association of Diocesan Liaisons (ADL) was formed in 1977 with the support and help of the U.S. bishops. Its constitution states: "The purpose of this Association is to help the Diocesan Liaison be an effective instrument for Charismatic Renewal in his/her diocese." To that end, the ADL conducts an annual Spring conference,

which includes study of a selected aspect of church life with the assistance of noted experts. Pope Benedict XVI declared June 2008 to June 2009 as "The Year of St. Paul." In response, this year's ADL meeting will focus on that theme.

For more than 30 years, now, the ADL has been able to foster personal, spiritual and ministerial growth within the body of liaisons it supports. ♦

Ron Bergman  
Rockford, Ill. diocese

## Fr. Richard Loch elected NSC Chairman



Fr. Richard Loch, a member of the National Service Committee since 2002, was elected the eleventh Chairman of the National Service Committee at the Committee's meeting in Tampa in January. He follows Aggie Neck who was a member of the NSC for ten years and served as Chairman for the last seven. Her second term, which was extended for a year, ended in January.

**Fr. Loch** was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Scranton in 1979. He is currently Episcopal Vicar for Priests. He became involved in the Charismatic Renewal in 1972 and has participated in numerous prayer groups, days of renewal, retreat weekends and conferences. Since 1985 he has been Moderator of the Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Scranton and Liaison to the Bishop. Fr. Loch was on the Steering Committee of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons from 1995 through 2001, including being Chairman from 1998 through 2001.

During his time on the Service Committee Fr. Loch has served on a number of subcommittees including the Planning Committee for NSC/NSC Council Meetings and Conference Site Selection. He has also served on the Development Committee which he has chaired. For the last two years he has served on the NSC's Executive Committee. Working with

representatives of the Diocesan Liaison Steering Committee to seek ways to reach out to the many young people who attend Franciscan University of Steubenville Youth Conference, he has chaired the Joint Youth Conference Follow-up Subcommittee.

As part of the discernment process of the election Fr. Loch was asked to share his vision for the Committee and sense of leadership. He shared that he saw the Committee, in light of the recently adopted revised Vision and Mission Statement, building on them and ready to move forward in responding to the Lord's call to pass the grace of Pentecost, the grace of the Renewal, to the next generation. Of his leadership style he said that he sees himself as a consensus builder who will work to bring the Committee's discussions and prayer into action.

About his election he said, "I am grateful to the Lord and to the members of the Service Committee for their trust. I look forward to this opportunity to serve even with the many challenges the Renewal and the NSC face in this troubled economy. The Lord is in charge, but we must do our part."

Fr. Loch is the sixth priest or bishop to serve as Chairman. There have been four laymen and one laywoman who have served as Chairman. While Fr. Loch's primary responsibilities center on the mission and ministry of the NSC he will also serve on the Planning Committee for the Gathering of National Leadership Groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal that meets each January. Fr. Loch's term as Chairman will end in January 2011. ♦



**From the  
Executive  
Director**

.....  
by Walter Matthews

## Leaflets, Conferences, Fire

**T**he NSC has recently added four new titles to its NSC Leaflet Series first launched in 2006. The new leaflets on the words of knowledge and wisdom, healing prayer, teachings at prayer meetings, and Renewal terms and phrases join the five previously published leaflets on the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit, prayer meetings, prayer ministry, prophecy, and living baptized in the Holy Spirit.

These leaflets and the Series as a whole are focused on two groups of people: newcomers to the Renewal and life in the Spirit, and those veterans seeking to refresh their understanding, especially those serving as leaders or those being called into leadership service. “Leaders” is understood broadly as not just those who are on the leaders/pastoral/service team of a prayer group or diocese, but all those serving in various capacities including music, prayer room/healing ministry, prophetic and other word gifts, Life in the Spirit Seminar teams and so forth.

The newly adopted Mission Statement states that “the mission of the National Service Committee is to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5) which empowered the members of the early Church at Pentecost. The NSC accomplishes this by: ...encouraging the awareness and the experience of the full role of the Holy Spirit...Assisting leadership development...”

The leaflets address one or both of these aspects. Many of the topics were

once covered and learned by many of us through books and other materials now out of print. So where can newcomers learn the basics of the Renewal? Hopefully, *Pentecost Today* is a rich source for this teaching, but for many years we were regularly asked: what can we give new people in or after the Life in the Spirit Seminar?

In addition, many asked us what we could do to assist leadership development. Leadership formation is also one of the purposes of *Pentecost Today*, the National Leaders’ Conferences held in Nashville (2003 and 2008), Chicago (2005), and Albuquerque (2006), as well as the Leaflet Series.

The Leaflet “Introduction to Teachings at Prayer Meetings” is the first one specifically focused at leaders. In this Year of St. Paul we are very mindful of what he wrote to Timothy: to pass on (see 2 Tm 4:6) what he had been taught. It is our prayer and hope that the NSC Leaflets will be a successful effort in this area.

A second effort, as I noted above, is the emphasis on leaders’ conferences over the last five years. Again this year the National Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference will be held Oct 23-25 in Raleigh, North Carolina. This conference is not just for prayer meeting leaders or prayer group leadership teams. It is for all those serving in prayer groups and dioceses in ministries such as music, healing, prophecy and teaching. It is for all those exercising any charism and who have participated in a Life in the Spirit Seminar or equivalent and who are seeking growth.

We must—together—find ways to keep the fire burning so that our Church in these difficult times will be renewed by the “grace and culture of Pentecost.” ♦

## Friends of the NSC

We want to thank all of our Friends of the NSC donors who gave last year and helped us, in spite of the economic difficulties around us, to end the year in the black. This is the eighth year out of the last nine that we have ended the year with our income exceeding our expenses. As true as that is, it is always a faith walk, trusting that the Lord will provide the resources to continue this work.

2009 is proving to be even more of a challenge: with more unemployment, the continued downward fluctuation of the stock market, and the uncertainty as to the results of the financial stimulus bill and the new initiatives of the administration. We need the ongoing support of those of you who are donors AND we need the help of the nearly four thousand recipients of *Pentecost Today* (Renewal leaders, Prayer Group contacts and others) who are not active donors to the NSC.

Enclosed in this issue is a simple response envelope (it even allows for some feedback about *Pentecost Today*), please use it. If one thousand of the recipients of *Pentecost Today* who are not donors each contributed \$15 we would cover not only the cost of one issue, but we would have additional funds for the other initiatives of the NSC.

In this Year of St. Paul, let us be mindful of his words to the Corinthians:

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; rich as he was, he made himself poor for your sake, in order to make you rich by means of his poverty...

If you are eager to give, God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give, not on what you don’t have (8:9,12). ♦

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Walter Matthews

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## For Your Information

This is a publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. The mission of the National Service Committee is to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5) which empowered the members of the early Church at Pentecost.

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

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**What we have seen  
and heard**

.....  
by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner



## Annual NSC election

In January the National Service Committee held its annual election. **Chuck Hornsby**, of the Alleluia Community in Augusta Georgia, was reelected. Three new people were also elected. They are Jane Barz, Jane Guenther and Johnny Bertucci.



**Jane Barz** is a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Tripp, SD and has been in the Renewal since 1992. She has been a leader in her prayer group, serves as

the Liaison for Charismatic Renewal in her diocese and serves on the Steering Committee for the Association of Diocesan Liaisons. Jane serves in full time ministry with "The Matthew Ministry," a ministry of inner healing started in 2001. Through the years Jane has been active in parish life serving on the parish council, as Director of Religious Education and music ministry at the parish level. She has played an active role in days of renewal, leaders retreats, inner healing retreats, conferences and various workshops and events. Jane and her husband Dave have been married since 1974. They have four adult children and four grandchildren.



**Johnny Bertucci** lives in the New Orleans area and has been involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal since 1979 when, as a teenager, he was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Since that time, he has led prayer meetings for adults, young adults and teenagers. He currently serves on the Steering Com-

mittee for the Southern Regional Conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Johnny serves as a volunteer at Sanctifire, the youth group at his parish, which he and his wife started nine years ago. He also coordinates the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans' Annual Teen and Young Adult Retreat. Johnny has been married to Leslie for the past 23 years and they have five children here on earth and one who went to be with the Lord during hurricane Katrina. Johnny and Leslie have homeschooled all of their children, two of whom have already graduated from high school. God has blessed the entire family with the gift of music which they share at prayer meetings, conferences, Masses, retreats and other venues. During the day, Johnny works as president of a software development company.



**Jane Guenther** was introduced to the Charismatic Renewal in 1977 at Arrowhead Stadium while a freshman studying architecture at the Univer-

sity of Kansas. Upon completion of her degree, she was thrust into a life in ministry as a Catholic school teacher, youth minister and religion teacher. She married John Guenther in 1980 and they have four sons. Jane became active in the Renewal in 1992 through her involvement in the St. Louis Archdiocese healing ministry. She worked at St. Alban Roe Parish as a Liturgist and Pastoral Associate. Jane acquired her Masters in Divinity in 2005 and is currently serving the Archdiocese of St. Louis as the Coordinator of the Catholic Renewal Center. ♦

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Committee of the Catholic Charismatic  
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Save this date!

October  
23-25,  
2009

For more  
information  
contact us at  
**1-800-338-2445**

## NATIONAL Leaders' & Ministries' CONFERENCE

The National Service Committee in collaboration with the Association of Diocesan Liaisons announces that the 2009 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference will be held October 23-25, 2009 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

More information will soon be put on our website: [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org).



Our  
keynote  
speaker  
Ralph  
Martin.

The National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference is for:

- ✓ Those in diocesan or prayer group leadership in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal
- ✓ Those serving in ministries of music, healing, prophecy or teaching in prayer groups or dioceses.
- ✓ Those in itinerant ministries in the Renewal
- ✓ Those exercising any charisms and have participated in a Life in the Spirit Seminar or equivalent and are seeking growth.

Beautiful  
Historic Raleigh, North Carolina