

The 45th Anniversary Conference:

Let us pray with one heart together with Mary in the Upper Room

by Msgr. Joseph Malagreca

On June 1–3 of this year, there will be the national Charismatic Conference held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in downtown Philadelphia. The title of this Conference is “Let us pray with one heart together with Mary in the Upper Room.” I invite you to Philadelphia this year! If you are going to any event, this should be the one, because...

1. The Upper Room with Mary

Like the great 1992 –25th Anniversary Conference in Pittsburgh, this Conference is a renewed invitation to an “Upper Room Experience.” Over the years of Charismatic Renewal, the Holy Spirit draws us back to the place of Pentecost. When you see a Conference with an Upper Room theme, it is because the Spirit wants to accomplish a fresh outpouring, a lived effusion, a “new Pentecost.” The featured speakers—Michelle Moran from ICCRS; Fr. James Kelly from Venezuela; Bishop Sam Jacobs from Louisiana; and myself—have been called to enkindle this Pentecostal experience. The discerners of this Conference have placed several great Renewal themes into the Upper Room: prayer, unity, Mary. **You need to be part of this!**

2. A Multi-cultural experience

Since the birth of the Charismatic Renewal in 1967, the Renewal has spread throughout the Church and is an integral part of Catholic life in every country. In this great country of the United States, where the Catholic Church is so alive in her immigrants, the Charismatic Renewal is very vibrant in every immigrant Catholic group. This Conference is presented by a number of those groups: the Haitian, Filipino and Hispanic National Service Committees, as well as the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, the National



Service Committee and the Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities. I entreat you to not just stay within your own community for Renewal. Come to an experience where you can be part of the great Catholic Church, the universal family of Jesus made up of brothers and sisters of all races and cultures. These combined efforts—Providence, RI in 1991; Pittsburgh, PA in 1992; Rutgers University, NJ in 1996; Pittsburgh, PA in 1997 and 2002; Meadowlands, NJ in 2007—have always borne the great fruits of **unity** and **Catholic vision**. **You need to be part of this!**

3. Unity

In the Acts of the Apostles, in Chapter 1, verses 13-14, we read: “and when they reached the city, they went to the Upper Room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. With one heart, all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus.” These verses are the inspiration for the Conference theme. Luke makes these verses the opening to the Pentecost narrative. The Pentecost story is closed by similar verses, Acts 2:42, “They remained faithful to the teaching of the Apostles, to the communion, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.” The great sources of unity in the Catholic Church

Seeking the Lord Together

In January members of the NSC met with about thirty other leaders in the Gathering of National Leadership Groups: Catholic Charismatic Renewal to seek the Lord together as we celebrate the Renewal's 45th Anniversary and make plans for a 5 year Journey to our Jubilee in 2017. Our time together was spent in prayer, sharing by each group about what we have done in the last year in response to what the Lord said in the Gathering in 2011, discussing baptism in the Holy Spirit in light of the forthcoming ICCRS document on it, and discussing the journey to the Jubilee. As an introduction to the discussion on baptism in the Holy Spirit we watched a video done by a French Community (in English). It is available by contacting netforgod@chemin-neuf.org.

In March thirty charismatic leaders, including ten Catholics, met at Regent University for the Charismatic Leaders' Fellowship, which brings together leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the Renewal among the historic Protestant churches (Lutheran, Methodist, etc.), Pentecostals, and non-denominational charismatics for prayer and conversation about topics of mutual interest. This year Dr. Mark Rutland, President of Oral Roberts University, addressed us on "The Road Ahead for the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements" and Fr. Peter Hocken, a theologian who has long been involved in the Renewal both here in the U.S. and abroad, spoke on the "Spiritual Unity in the Body of Christ."

The timing and location of the CLF meeting allowed the participants to attend a coming together of Pentecostal leaders (including what they call next generation leaders), and scholars from the Society of Pentecostal Studies, in Converge 21. It was sponsored by Empowered 21 whose Vision Statement is "That every person on Earth would have an authentic encounter with Jesus Christ through the Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit... by Pentecost 2033." For more information, visit www.empowered21.com.

Throughout these meetings/events the Lord is saying that he is continuing to pour out his Spirit, if we but seek him. Whatever our differences with Pentecostals (and there are many) their vision is a challenge to us in the Renewal, and in light of our religious liberty challenges in the U.S., our need to work together has never been greater. ♦

and, of course, in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, are: **Pope and Apostles; Mary; prayer; Communion; the Holy Spirit.** In this Conference, all of these sources of unity will be experienced. The **Apostles** will be present, not only in the presence of **Bishop Sam Jacobs**, but also in **Archbishop Charles Chaput**, who has graciously agreed to celebrate the opening Mass. **Mary** will be present—we have already made plans to underline Our Lady's essential role in the Conference and in our Renewal. **Prayer**—for are we not charismatics who will give a very important role to the place of prayer in this Conference? **Communion**—the Conference will begin with Mass, end with Mass, and include the celebration of Mass in all the Saturday sessions, and have opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration. And the **Holy Spirit**—for we go to the Upper Room for this new Pentecost. **You need to be part of this!**

4. The 45th Anniversary

The occasion of this Conference is to celebrate 45 years of Charismatic Renewal. Like every anniversary, we look back and look forward. In looking back, we join together to thank Jesus for this great outpouring of his Spirit in our lifetime. **You need to be part of this!**

5. Preparing the next five years

And looking forward, we wish to begin a **five-year period of preparation for the 50th Anniversary.** At the close of the 2007 National Conference in the Meadowlands, Bishop Jacobs challenged the Renewal to begin to prepare the Jubilee. The national bodies which are preparing this Conference, in consultation with ICCRS, are discerning a spiritual plan to bring us to our Great Jubilee. This plan will be launched at the 45th Anniversary Conference. **You need to be part of this!**

Spirit of God, come
renew the Renewal! Come and stir
up within us the desire to evangelize
in power! Draw us to the Upper
Room where together with Mary
we can be bathed in your
Pentecostal Fire! ♦

Ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Diocese of Brooklyn in 1976, Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia is presently the pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Brooklyn, NY. He is the Coordinator of the Charismatic Renewal for Hispanic and Haitian Prayer Groups in the Brooklyn Diocese.



Msgr. Malagrecia is also the chairperson of the Planning Committee for the upcoming 45th Anniversary Conference for the Renewal, to be held in Philadelphia.

Facilitators from page 9

8. Step Aside and Trust

After only three years of mentoring, Jesus stepped aside—going to the Cross, trusting that the Holy Spirit would complete the work in his apostles. We too must step aside, trusting in the work of the Spirit, so that others can step up.

The best way to encourage commitment in those we lead is to grow them to lead! Grow prophets to prophesy, pastors to pastor, teachers to teach, discerners to discern, and helpers to help. Grow those with wisdom to speak their wisdom, those with knowledge to share their knowledge, intercessors to intercede, those with word of knowledge to proclaim their word, those with faith to help those who have weak faith, and assist those with the charisma of healing to grow in the exercise of this gift through which Jesus heals. Leaders as

facilitators will raise up diverse ministers of all ages, walks in life, character traits, and dispositions. Jesus showed us how to lead others into ministry. Are we ready to pray, invite, model, mentor, teach, correct, praise, and step aside to grow our people who will grow our ministries? If so, then we will be like Jesus, leaders who are facilitators! ♦

Renee Marazon is a Catholic author, consultant, workshop and retreat presenter. She serves as Coordinator of the Diocese of Toledo Ministry to Catholic Charismatic Renewal Healing Ministry and Outreach to Parishes Ministry. She presently serves on the NSC Council.



NSC OUTREACH EVENTS

To foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit the NSC serves the Renewal by offering:

Events for leaders:

- Teaching & Ministry Days
- Retreats

Events for Renewal participants:

- Praise & Teaching Rallies "Jesus Lives! Pour Out Your Spirit Anew!"
- Teaching & Ministry Days
- Men's Retreats "Men of His Kingdom."

"The National Service Team speakers were wonderful and yet so down to earth, the praise was so uplifting and it is always such a blessing to be with brothers and sisters who have been freed by the power of the Holy Spirit."

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A time for collaboration not competition

by Deacon Darrell Wentworth
Diocese of Richmond, VA

I have the privilege of being a member of many Catholic charismatic organizations; thus giving me an opportunity to see how the Holy Spirit weaves the various charisms in the church together. I serve my bishop in two ways: first, as his Liaison for Charismatic Renewal. Bishop Francis DiLorenzo agreed to change my title to his Liaison “for” so that it expresses more accurately the goal of renewing the charisms within every baptized Catholic. My goal is to establish a Charismatic group in every diocesan entity collaborating, not competing, with its pastoral structure to enliven the charisms in its members. As a deacon I try to model *Apostolicam Actuositatem* 24 (Apostolate of the Laity), where Pope Paul VI encouraged the hierarchy to empower the laity.

Second, I serve him as liaison to Pentecostal and Charismatic traditions, working to promote unity among all those who have experienced baptism in the Spirit. The Renewal develops relationships among Christian traditions and works on joint service projects. Together we have built two medical clinics out of cargo containers and donated one to the Archdiocese of San Salvador and the other to an Assembly of God missionary compound in Haiti.

I also have the privilege of being a member of New Creation Community. New Creation ministers by providing the major systems for renewal. They own and manage the Renewal Center; coordinate Theophostic ministers; help The Spiritual Direction Academy train new directors; and provide formation for new charismatic groups. Other covenant communities in our diocese also collaborate together for renewal. The Missioners of Christ evangelize youth and young adults through programs, retreats and missionary activities inside our diocese and in Honduras.

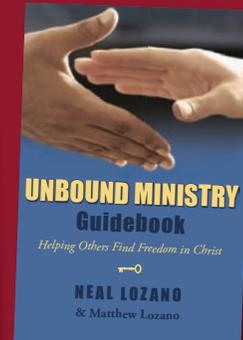
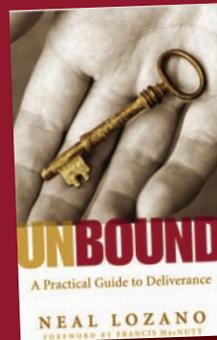
Since New Creation is a member of the Catholic Fraternity, I also experience how the global Renewal collaborates at the heart of the Church. In 2010 Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, brought ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity into the Council. Each organization’s bylaws require them to work together renewing the Church. This models for Liaisons the need to encourage Covenant Communities and prayer groups to also

collaborate in renewal efforts. Cardinal Paul Cordes expressed that goal well when he encouraged charismatics to focus on our primary charism: we are “at the heart of the Church”; called to renew the charisms already present in the Church by promoting “baptism in the Holy Spirit” and working for the reunification of the Church through grass roots ecumenical endeavors.

I am confident that as we intentionally collaborate, not compete, with each other we will enliven the Renewal, our parishes, our dioceses and the Church in the Americas. ♦

For more information on the Diocesan Liaison ministry go to www.NADL.net.

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From the
Executive
Director

.....



by Walter Matthews

Ongoing Formation

My first encounter with leaders of other movements was in 1987. What struck me then and continues to strike me in these days of working with Bishop Sam Jacobs in the initiative he writes about elsewhere in this issue, is the opportunity for solid formation provided in most of the other movements.

In the early years of the Renewal, there was a formation that was given that most of us took advantage of: Conferences (National and Regional) pastored by the National Service Committee and given by gifted teachers from the NSC and others; *New Covenant Magazine* was *the* Renewal publication which provided solid teaching as well as inspiration; a multiplication of audio-cassettes (remember them?) were available; and “every” new book was devoured by “everyone.”

In recent years, the consistent and solid formation of Renewal participants has been lacking for many. The result is that when I learned what kind of training someone in the Neocatechumenal Way must receive before he is sent out in mission, I must admit to envy and sadness. Those who will present a Cursillo Weekend must spend months in preparing and sharing talks with the team, and receiving criticism, before they can give them. Imagine if we prepared Life in the Spirit Seminars in the same way! We might achieve what Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa challenged us to do several years ago: have “more effective Life in the Spirit Seminars.”

The need for ongoing formation, especially of leaders, has been a consistent theme of many of the Papal encouragements we have received over the last thirty years! In *Christifideles Laici*, Pope John Paul II wrote of “*the call to growth and a continual process of maturation, of always bearing much fruit.*” (57) Formation as Christians, as Catholics, and in life in the Spirit is always important, but is even more so in these troubled times when our consciences and religious liberty are being assaulted.

The NSC continues to work to provide formation in a number of ways:

- Conferences like the 45th Anniversary Conference and the Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference;
- *Pentecost Today* and a newly launched e-Newsletter;
- 17 NSC Leaflets, 3 Booklets of reprints from *Pentecost Today*, *There’s Always More* (a growth Seminar for post-Life in the Spirit); and now
- online formation (see Jane Guenther’s Column on page 15).

The opportunities are there but each of us must take advantage of them for our own lives, and those in our families and in our communities.

In his Lenten message, Pope Benedict XVI reflected on Hebs 10:24: “Let us be concerned for each other, to stir as response in love and good works.” He challenged us: “There is always the temptation to become lukewarm, to quench the Spirit, to refuse to invest the talents we have received, for our own good and for the good of others (cf. Mt 25:25ff.)”

I may at times envy the systematic formation of other movements, but I rejoice that in the formation available within the Renewal we can be men and women of holiness, who are called into mission, empowered by the fire of the Holy Spirit. The times demand it, and the Church needs us. Let us not hold back. ♦

Friends of the NSC

In the continuing economic malaise the National Service Committee is very grateful to our donors for your generosity in 2011. Although our Expenses for the year exceeded our Income by \$15,300 this was significantly better than the budgeted deficit of \$69,189. We were able to adopt such a negative budget because of the past generosity of our donors allowing us to enter 2011 with a surplus.

It is important to remember our history is one of trusting the Lord. With the exception of 2001 our Actual has exceeded Budget 11 of the last 12 years. In addition, in those 12 years we have ended in the black 7 of the 10 years we have adopted a negative budget. We were helped significantly by our donors as our Fund Raising Income was \$16,302 above projection. Thank you.

In hope again our 2012 budget adopted is in the red. We believe that in order to continue to do the work the Lord has called it to do we need the current staffing of our office which serves also as a National Office for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, we need to continue to publish *Pentecost Today* and print/distribute 7500 copies, and we need to meet in person to hear the Lord together. We believe we have trimmed the budget the best we can. The issue is one of raising the funds necessary to meet or exceed the discerned expenses. To that end,

- ◆ If Donors would increase their donations 5% we would cover the 2011 deficit;
- ◆ If every recipient of *Pentecost Today* who is not an active donor would send a \$10 donation we would significantly reduce the projected deficit in 2012;
- ◆ If every prayer group would send a Memorial gift to remember and honor deceased members or leaders in this 45th Anniversary year we would reduce the projected deficit in 2012;
- ◆ If every donor would encourage one other Renewal member to become a donor we would not only cover the deficit but have the funds for the MORE the Lord wants us to do as we journey to our Jubilee in 2017.

Again *thank you* for your 2011 generosity; we count on you in 2012. Please continue to pray with us the Memorare to St. Joseph found in the January/February/March issue.

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For Your Information

The mission of *Pentecost Today* is to serve and be a voice for the National Service Committee's mission "to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit." We do this by publishing articles that instruct and give practical wisdom, with a particular emphasis on strengthening leaders and leader formation, in a visually appealing and inviting format.

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What we have seen and heard

.....
by Jane Guenther



New! Online Formation

"See I am doing something new" (Is 43:19a). This scriptural word from the Prophet Isaiah allows me to reflect on the promises of the season of Lent, where I seek my sins to be wiped away and new life and freedom to be experienced. In that same chapter it goes on to say, "The people I formed for myself..." (Is 43:21a). We are born in the image and likeness of God so that we could freely praise him; we are indeed formed by God. The effects of the world challenge the likeness of God that we are able to present to one another. So it is necessary for us to look for ways to more fully be formed to reflect his likeness to one another.

It is true that Jesus came to teach, to heal and deliver. In order for this formation, this teaching, to be accomplished in this day of modern technology, I would like to introduce you to a new endeavor of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, that of **Online Formation**. We are launching a first of what is planned to be an ongoing opportunity to spread what some have called the best-kept secret—"the treasure of the Holy Spirit."

The first offering of online formation will be in the format of teaching modules formulated by Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD Director of the Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal in San Antonio, Texas. As you navigate our website www.nsc-chariscenter.org you will see on the left hand column Online Formation. If you click on that you will be led to three modules that are available at present as online formation for yourself or your prayer group.

They are in the areas of Praise and Worship, Scripture and the Holy Spirit, and Prayer Group Formation.

Praise and Worship will consist of four sections: Praise and Worship, Praise and Worship in Prayer Meetings, Praise and Worship Leading, Praise and Worship Starters.

In the area of Scripture and the Holy Spirit there will be two sections: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Scripture, and Biblical Spirituality and the Holy Spirit.

The final module on Prayer Group Formation will offer four sections: Discipleship and Christian Leadership, Attitudes of Christian Leadership, Prayer Groups that manifest the Holy Spirit, and Developing Teamwork in Prayer Groups. The material is presented and then a series of questions follow that will help you more fully embrace the material. We will be adding the content to these modules over the next several months. Please continue to visit these modules as we build and add to this exciting resource.

In the Book of Revelation, we read: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door..." (Rev 3:20). We are asking that you utilize the giftedness of those teachers in our midst who help to form us more fully in our faith and open us to the Holy Spirit by opening the doorway of online formation to spread the Gospel truth and witness to the presence of the Holy Spirit. As we persevere in keeping the likeness of God we will be more apt to enter into praising God—good practice for our eternal life. ♦

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45TH ANNIVERSARY

*Let us pray with one
heart together with Mary
in the Upper Room*



**Pennsylvania Convention Center ~ Philadelphia
Friday - Sunday, June 1st - 3rd, 2012**

Registration \$60 per person, \$50 for Youth (13-25).

Register online or download a registration form/flyer at www.nsc-chariscenter.org

Also speaking: Jim Archer, Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD and Fr. Michael Scanlan, TOR



Msgr. Joseph
Malagrega



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Fr. James Kelly



Michelle Moran



Mark Nimo

2012 Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference