

# PENTECOST *Today*

October/  
November/  
December  
2010

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*Francis,*

*rebuild*

*my*

*church*

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



## NSC Executive Committee Corner

by Judith Hughes

### I am in awe of the way God works!

I received a call in late May from Fr. Richard Loch, Chairman of the National Service Committee. He wanted to share a life changing decision. After many years of being a priest in Scranton Diocese, he felt called to become a Benedictine monk. It was a joy to hear the excitement in his voice. He would be entering the monastery July 1st.

As the elected member of the Executive Committee (Fr. Dave Pivonka is the appointed member of the Executive Committee) I would now be responsible for chairing the NSC meetings until a new chairperson is elected in January. When I fully realized what was happening, I was really shaken!

I began to review the times I had said “yes” to God, not thinking where he would place me. Looking back over the past 35 years I know that when I experienced prayer meetings and then Holy Spirit Seminars, I fell in love with the Lord—could not get enough prayer, scripture or Eucharist to satisfy my hungry heart and spirit.

The Charismatic Renewal Center opened in my Diocese. Volunteers were needed. After prayer and discussion with my husband, I became a dedicated and committed volunteer. What an opportunity God had provided for me.

Twenty-six years ago, my husband died at age 52. I now needed a job to support my family. Where was I going to

get a paying job? One of my favorite Scriptures was Jeremiah 29:11. God has a wonderful plan for my life if I seek him with all my heart, he will provide. That became my prayer: seeking, asking, show me Lord, provide for me. One day the Bishop called and offered me a paying job to work full time continuing my work in the ministry of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. My prayers were answered.

My job grew in responsibilities, eventually becoming Co-Director. I became involved in many outreaches traveling throughout the country and within our Diocese. Each time I said “yes” to God, he stretched me and took me to places I never dreamed possible.

I was a member of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons which was a gathering of priests, deacons and lay people working in Charismatic Renewal in their Arch/Dioceses. I received so much from this wonderful group of people and was always ready and willing to serve them in any way.

Being elected to the NSC has been another blessing for me. I have been challenged and have learned to serve with a Committee of dedicated and committed members to serve the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

I continue to learn the true meaning of “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” I look forward to the months ahead with excitement and enthusiasm to what God is going to do. He keeps moving us forward as we are willing to trust in his plan for us. May your “yes” to God, as well as mine, bear much fruit. ♦

*Judith Hughes, from the Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut, serves on the Executive Committee of the NSC.*



## Editor's Desk

by Sr. Martha Jean McGarry

*Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices...*

Once again we turn to God with hearts of thanksgiving for the graces we have received through the years of our journey in the Renewal. Several articles in this issue turn our attention to prayer groups and the blessings they have been and continue to be, not only to the Renewal, but to our Church. Are prayer groups still vital today? You will want to read *Join the Journey* article on pages 6–7 and **Rita Guinaugh's** challenging article.

What does “renewal of the grace and culture of Pentecost” mean for us? See **Walter Matthews'** reflection on this dimension of our Mission Statement on pages 4–5.

**Tammie Stevens** gives us an excellent overview of the *School for Intercessors* held in Assisi this past year. Those involved in this ministry will particularly glean nuggets of wisdom to strengthen their ministry.

In their booklet, *Fanning the Flame*, Frs. George Montague and Kilian McDonnell state: “A life baptized in the Spirit is marked both by an experience of dynamic union with God and an experience of charisms given by the Spirit.” In this issue we begin a series on how our ministry can be empowered by the charisms we have received. **Renee Marazon's** outstanding introduction of the topic sets the stage for us. ♦

*Praise God for his wondrous deeds! Together let us praise his holy name for his countless gifts of love.*

*Cover photo: Tammie Stevens. A replica of the San Damiano Cross before which St. Francis had his vision to rebuild the church.*

## The pathway to ministry and service: Living your manifestation of the Spirit —your charisms!

by Renee A. Marazon

*To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit* (1 Cor 12:7). Do you know what your manifestation is? In other words, do you know how it is that the Holy Spirit works through you to bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ?

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church* refers to the manifestations of the Spirit as “charisms” and on two occasions, charisms are spoken of in combination with the word “ministries.” First, in the following passage, “The Church...is the place where we know the Holy Spirit...in the charisms and ministries by which the Church is built up” (CCC #688) and again in this passage, “The laity can also feel called, or be in fact called, to cooperate with their pastors in the service of the ecclesial community, for the sake of its growth and life. This can be done through the exercise of different kinds of ministries according to the grace and charisms which the Lord has been pleased to bestow on them” (CCC #910).

These two passages situate charisms at the heart of all ministries. In fact, our ministries are to be carried out according to our bestowed graces and charisms, never apart from them. Yet, few of us truly know about and intentionally operate in our Spirit-bestowed charisms. To be unaware of these two realities in our lives is to truly miss the special blessings and graces given to us for ministry and service in the Church.

Each of us has been anointed to carry out our ministries using the charisms

we have been given for, as St. Paul says, some benefit. This benefit is indeed for the fulfillment of the Church’s mission—to bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ. Our ministries are not our work but rather the work of the Spirit in us and through us. This is precisely why, the more aware we are of our own manifestations of the Spirit and those of others, the more prepared we are to give God all of the glory for our ministry work and the more prepared we are to bear witness to his work in us and through us as we minister.

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring his light to bear on your charisms as you read the following statements. Also consider the ways you have operated in your charisms in the past and the ways you may be called to operate in your charisms in the future within your various parish ministries and service to the Church. Where and when have you in the past, and will you in the future, express your charism of:

**Administration** by using your organizational skills to promote the success of God’s work in your parish and in various ministries.

**Discernment of Spirits** by talking with others about your sense of God’s goodness, the tendency of the world to steal away our peace, or the devil’s tactics to lead us into sin.

**Encouragement** and exhortation by sharing words of encouragement and hope with others and by communicating God’s ways, his love and his divine providence to them.

**Evangelization** by telling others about the Lord and the teachings of the Church, inviting others to worship with you.

**Healing** by offering to pray with others for healing whenever they express a physical, spiritual or emotional need to you.

**Leadership** by communicating a vision God has revealed to you for your parish, pastoral team, or a specific ministry and by helping others to discern and use their charisms in ministry.

**Mercy-giving** and compassion by ministering to the poor, the disabled, the homeless and those who are spiritually void.

**Music** by playing an instrument, singing or playing a music CD to draw others into deeper worship during prayer services and liturgies.

**Pastoring** by being an active listener and engaging facilitator of scripture, the *Catechism*, or spiritual topics for discussion in small group settings.

Indeed, to each is given a manifestation of the Spirit for some benefit (1 Cor 12:7). Here we have mentioned a few. What an incredible reality it is to know that each one of us has a way that the Holy Spirit is manifested to others through us, so that Christ might be manifested to the world! Charisms of the Holy Spirit are your pathway to ministry and service in the Church. ♦

*Renee A. Marazon is a Catholic author, consultant, workshop and retreat presenter.*



*Renee serves as the Coordinator of the Diocese of Toledo Ministry to Catholic Charismatic Renewal Healing Ministry and Outreach to Parishes Ministry.*



## Renewal of the grace & culture of Pentecost



The grace of Pentecost is an unveiling of the real behind the shadows and distortions of life lived on the surface.

When we proclaim the Gospel in all its fullness—the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the Person, presence and the power of the Holy Spirit—there is for those already baptized, who hear and respond, a renewal of the grace of Pentecost for the individual, for the Church and, through the Church, for society.

For those who have never heard the Gospel proclaimed and for the unbaptized such proclamation is a call to faith, to baptism, and to receipt of the gift of the Holy Spirit: “Those who believed in the apostolic preaching and were baptized received the gift of the Holy Spirit in their turn” (CCC, 1287).

The Church teaches that “Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Holy Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us” (CCC, 2003). The coupling of grace with Pentecost in the phrase “grace of Pentecost” underscores and highlights that the Pentecostal experience is a gratuitous gift, that we cannot earn it. It is an action of God to pour out his Holy Spirit to all who ask him, “how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him” (Lk 11:13).

The phrase is a corrective to a narrow understanding of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, as if the latter only means going through a Holy Spirit Seminar and praying in tongues.

The full effects of the grace of Pentecost are multiple and varied. Let me highlight three of the effects.

**First**, although we do not “see” it in the Pentecost account in Acts 2 we have the witness of Paul who wrote, “the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us” (Rom 5:5) (see 1 Jn 4:7). This experience of the love of God, of course, takes many forms: a healing, a word of consolation in a time of need, an answered prayer. It can be profound: “a genuine dialogue of love, to the point of reducing the person wholly possessed by the divine Beloved, vibrating at the Spirit’s touch, resting filially with the Father’s heart” (Pope John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 33).

by Walter Matthews

The grace of Pentecost is a life transforming experience of God’s love, presence and power. It is a call to discipleship and mission. As a new Pentecost in our day, Pope Paul VI called it, “a new outpouring of the gift of God.” The grace of Pentecost is an unveiling of the real behind the shadows and distortions of life lived on the surface. It is the culmination of God’s plan to restore humanity to himself. On the day of Pentecost, “the Holy Trinity is fully revealed. Since that day, the Kingdom announced by Christ has been open to those who believe in him: in the humility of the flesh and in faith, they already share in the communion of the Holy Trinity. By his coming, which never ceases, the Holy Spirit causes the world to enter into the ‘last days,’ the time of the Church, the Kingdom already inherited though not yet consummated” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 732).

Photo: Alex Uchoa World of Stock

Often accompanying this experience of love is the experience of joy. St. Hilary of Poitiers wrote in the 4th century, “We who have been reborn through the sacrament of baptism experience intense joy (maximum gaudium) when we feel within us the first stirring of the Holy Spirit” (*Fanning the Flame*, pp 16-17).

A **second effect** of the grace of Pentecost is an awareness of the Person and presence of the Holy Spirit. Before our “personal Pentecost” (Pope Paul VI) the Holy Spirit was a dove or a dogma to be believed in. Afterwards we came to know the Holy Spirit in the Spirit’s uniqueness as third person of the Blessed Trinity. “I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Paraclete to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth whom the world can never accept since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him because he is with you, he is in you” (Jn 14:16-17).

The **third effect** is an experience of the power of the Holy Spirit. “We know, brothers loved by God, that you have been chosen, because our gospel comes to you not only in words, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with great effect” (1 Thes 1:4-5). Charisms of all kinds (prophecy, healing, mercy, leadership, and administration, to name a few) are all manifestations of the Holy Spirit given to individuals for the building up of the Church and for our mission in the world.

Pentecost, and the grace of Pentecost, is more than a onetime religious experience or an emotion. It is a way of life: living Pentecost. It releases in us an awareness and experience of the full role of the Holy Spirit: union with God; inner transformation; ministry empowered by charisms for evangelization and service; and the building of communities that witness to renewed Catholic life.

The grace of Pentecost is a call. As Pope John Paul II said, “Pentecost was not only a moment of intense emotion; it was the start of a dynamism of supernatural origin, which developed through the Church’s history. As on the day of Pentecost, so in our times the Holy Spirit continues inwardly to inspire missionary enthusiasm and to give hierarchical and charismatic gifts...” (*L’Osservatore Romano*, April 1995). We are to be witnesses and we are to be in mission.

Thus the grace of Pentecost leads to the enlivening of the Church and the transformation of society. In 2002 Pope John Paul II said to the Italian Renewal and to us: “In our time that is so longing for hope make the Holy Spirit known and loved. Help bring to life that ‘culture of Pentecost’ that alone can make fruitful the civilization of love and friendly

co-existence among peoples. With fervent insistence never tire of praying, Come Holy Spirit! Come! Come!” Pope Benedict XVI has taken up this call, “I hope the Holy Spirit will be evermore welcome in the hearts of believers and that the ‘culture of Pentecost,’ which is so necessary in our day, might continue to spread” (General Audience, September 28, 2005). For Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI “culture” is certainly more than prayer meetings or even other religious activities. It embraces all that the Church is! Pentecost is to be a living, experienced reality within the Church and through the Church in our society, in our economics, politics, international relations, and, of course, our “culture” in the sense of the arts, music, film and so on.

**T**his is a mission of global proportions. It moves us from our daily lives of witness to lives that, to quote the bumper sticker, think globally and act locally. This mission needs to become part of our very souls. We are called and challenged to move beyond our comfort zones.

“We must revive in ourselves the burning conviction of Paul, who cried out: “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:16). This zeal for souls is stirred up by the grace and fire of Pentecost.

This zeal for souls, as it flows out in our witness and in our daily lives, must be accompanied with a passion for a “culture of life” to replace the current and growing “culture of death”; with an uncompromising commitment to the human dignity of all persons; and a passion that true justice, with mercy and love, be available to all.

Having experienced it ourselves, we are called to proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the Person, presence and power of the Holy Spirit—the full Gospel—so that others may experience a renewal of the grace and culture of Pentecost personally and collectively, that the Church will once again be on fire acting to transform our society.

As Pope Benedict XVI boldly proclaimed in St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York in 2008, “Let us implore from God the grace of a new Pentecost for the Church in America. May tongues of fire, combining love of God and neighbor with zeal for the spread of Christ’s Kingdom, descend on all present.” And on us! ♦



*Walter Matthews is Executive Director of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.*



## Charismatic prayer groups

Charismatic prayer groups have long been, and continue to be, among the blessings of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. They have offered their participants a place to form community, to grow in the life of the Spirit, to experience opportunities for service and the impetus to share their gifts in parish and Church life. Most prayer groups are parish groups although there are a number of groups that are not attached to any particular parish for one reason or another. In celebrating the gift of prayer groups and what they can mean in the life of the parish and the greater Church we have asked three individuals to share their reflections.

### A Diocesan perspective shared by Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM Renewal Centers and Offices

Besides their local parishes, prayer groups are frequently supported by local Renewal Centers or Offices. These usually act as the leadership and unifying body of the local Renewal and have sprung up from the needs and initiatives of local prayer groups and/or a diocese's desire to provide pastoral care. For example in the diocese in which I served it was the prayer groups who purchased the Center and discerned its initial leadership and vision. It is their Center and thus they share their gifts in helping to live out its mission. This is accomplished by assisting in providing ministry development: leadership, hospitality, prayer, healing, teaching, and Holy Spirit Seminars, just to name a few. They also participate in workshops, teachings and conferences that are offered to bring Renewal members together for visioning, growth, encouragement, service and evangelization. Prayer groups, whether large or small, wisely

take advantage of the programs, events, and guidance offered by their diocesan leadership in order to grow and become sources of new life in their parish and communities. In the parish, we see prayer group members sharing their gifts in ministry, prayer, sacramental programs, evangelization, and Holy Spirit Seminars. By their faithfulness they continue to make an impact on Church life as well as be a great support to the Renewal in their area.

The parish prayer group by its openness, invitational spirit, and appreciation of the blessings of other parish groups and ministries are a welcoming and fruitful presence in their parish and for the Church. It is important for them to stay connected and use whatever means the Lord has provided to make them strong and vibrant groups for the building of the kingdom of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Together they are a formidable group of disciples who continue to be a grace for the Church and for one another.

**A prayer group leader's perspective  
shared by Deacon Bill Brennan  
Challenges and Opportunities**

**M**ost, perhaps all, prayer groups that are located in parish settings have a desire to see their parishes become openly charismatic. They long to share the fire and power of Pentecost with everyone with whom they worship and pray. They yearn to see the Lordship of Jesus proclaimed loudly and clearly. And, I suspect, they would love to see the Renewal affirmed in their parishes as a grace for the new springtime. Here are a few practical tips on how prayer groups have gone about being a blessing in their parishes and remaining in the heart of the parish life:

First, keep the proper perspective when it comes to life in the Spirit. The parish, for example, is the normal gathering place of all God's people, and they represent a wide variety of experiences and gifts. In that light, it is not the job of the prayer group to make the parish be charismatic. That is God's job, if he should so choose. The prayer group's purpose is to pray and provide an environment in which that prayer can be fostered and developed. It should also be the place where people who are living life in the Spirit can celebrate the wonders of God's love in their lives. In the words of one bishop to me, "If you want people to respond to the Renewal, then live the Renewal." That is good advice for all of us.

Second, remember the basic call that has been given to every one of us, no matter how gifted we may be. That call is to faithfulness before anything else. That means following Jesus wherever he leads and letting him do the leading.

Third, be ready to serve the parish. This could mean active participation in various parish programs and encouraging prayer group members to use their gifts in service.

Fourth, be ready always to invite the parish to join the prayer group in special events such as Life and Growth in the Spirit Seminars, days of renewal, teaching days, speakers, even the prayer meeting itself, etc. Advertise such events frequently and use all means available to let others know about them. And do not forget the personal invitations.

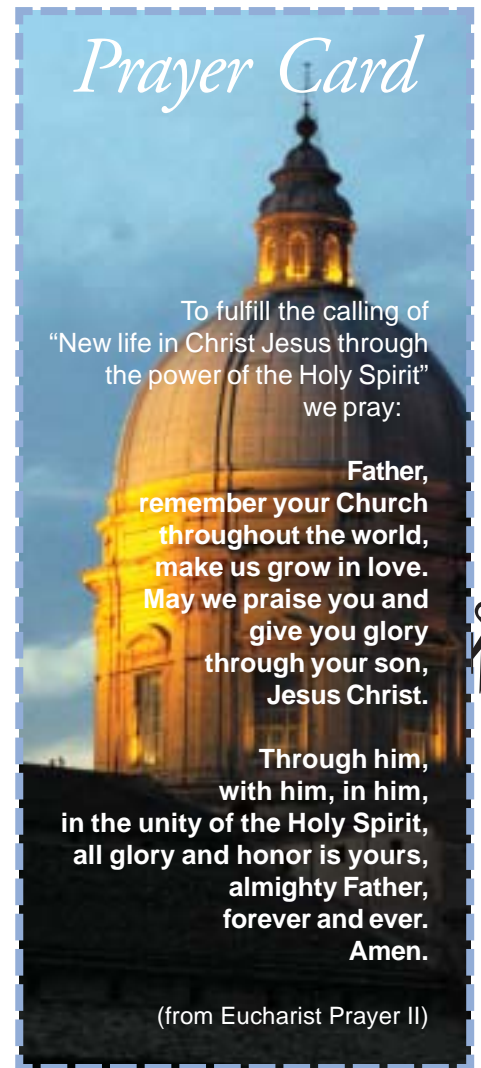
Fifth, keep the pastor involved, or at least aware of what the prayer group is doing. Pray for him and the parish regularly and lovingly support him as the shepherd of the whole parish.

Finally, never give up and never let the naysayers stop the prayer group from living out the amazing grace we have been given. If scripture proclaims it, the teaching of the church confirms it, and our experience underlines it, what further proof do we need that we have been extraordinarily blessed by our God?

Following these simple steps will help any prayer group continue to be a grace for their parish and also avoid the fatal temptation of becoming inwardly oriented and isolated. Every parish needs to experience the building up of the Body of Christ by the free and generous sharing of the charisms of the Holy Spirit. Freely our prayer groups have received and freely they share the treasure God has given them. Praise God for the gift of so many prayer groups and their authentic living out of God's call and mission!

**A parish priest's perspective  
shared by Fr. Will Combs, BBD  
Prayer Groups and Parishes**

**T**he Holy Spirit is the soul of the Body of Christ (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #797). Likewise in many ways prayer groups can be the soul of a parish. I have been blessed these past ten years to belong



*Prayer Card*

To fulfill the calling of  
"New life in Christ Jesus through  
the power of the Holy Spirit"  
we pray:

**Father,  
remember your Church  
throughout the world,  
make us grow in love.  
May we praise you and  
give you glory  
through your son,  
Jesus Christ.**

**Through him,  
with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours,  
almighty Father,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

(from Eucharist Prayer II)

to an inner city parish in San Antonio, Texas. We have two prayer groups, one in English and the other in Spanish that meet on the same night and come together once a month for a bilingual healing Mass. Serving in both groups, I have seen and heard of many people being touched by the Spirit at our parish. Victor and Lubivina Rodriguez for instance, were unable to conceive children for 17 years. They came seeking the Lord at one of our healing Masses and are now helping to lead the music with two beautiful children of their own. Praise and worship followed by opening ourselves to the prophetic touch of the Spirit with testimonies and teachings, fellowship and formation set us free to love one another and share that love of God with the whole par-

See **Prayer Groups** page 8



# Positioned to be a Blessing

by Rita Guinaugh, MPH

**F**ather God, Creator of the Universe, creates Spirit-filled prayer groups. He positions us where he needs us, to fulfill the plan of salvation. He positions us as perfectly as the point is positioned on a spear. We're purposefully positioned to bless others in our church, family, friends and acquaintances; to save souls for the glory of God. We must not get lost or veer off the appointed path.

How many of us have driven on the highway, and having gotten into the wrong lane, were forced to take an unfamiliar road, and wound up in a neighborhood or town miles from where we wanted to be? Do we turn back? Do we keep going forward even though it doesn't "feel right?" We missed our destination, all because we were positioned in the wrong lane.

The Israelites thought they were at a dead end, but God purposefully positioned his followers to lead his people. God said to Moses in Exodus 14:15: "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on." God faithfully led Moses, Joshua, Peter, Paul, Pope John Paul II, etc. and continually leads Pope Benedict XVI and all men and women. God leads US! When we heed God's counsel, he is able to

position us exactly where we need to be at the appointed time.

The Lord positions us within a parish, prayer group or community, and we need to believe that God has given each of us a divine appointment. To accomplish his purpose, God positions us to bless. We need to accept our position without questioning his motives. Sometimes we seem to be placed in a pit instead of being positioned to give glory to God, but we continue to trust in the Holy Spirit.

You remember Joseph (Genesis 30). His earthly father favored him, and God favored him as well. Joseph received prophecies from God that he, the 11th of 12 sons of Jacob, would be a leader of God's people.

But what did Joseph do? He lorded the prophecy God gave him over his brothers and misused the love he was given from his father, instilling hatred within his brothers' hearts toward Joseph. He was thrown into a pit, and his brothers sold him into slavery. To rise to the powerful position God planned for him, Joseph needed to humble himself, be rid of pride, and receive the authority God planned for him to bless his people.

Please pray with the National Service Committee for the following intentions.

1. That new life will be experienced as people are called into a personal relationship with Jesus as Lord.
2. For all the conferences and Holy Spirit seminars that will take place this Fall and Winter. For the preparations, presentations and follow up, that many lives would be transformed by a new awakening to the presence, power and charisms of the Holy Spirit.
3. For fruitfulness in all NSC sponsored endeavors: Leaders' & Ministries' Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota on Oct 29-31; Day of Teaching and Ministry in the Diocese of Helena, Montana, October 8-9; Youth Ministers Retreat, New Orleans, October 15-17; Gathering of National Leadership Groups: Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Tampa, January 17-19.
4. That the Lord will raise up a new generation of leaders to carry on the work of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and that the present generation will be generous in sharing with them encouragement, support and wisdom.

## Prayer Groups from p. 7

ish. Many others as well who have participated in our prayer groups are now serving our parish as catechists, musicians, faith sharing leaders, coordinators of adoration and in other ministries. Of course there are some tensions and difficulties. Some want more music, while others want more preaching or prayer or sharing. At times selfish interests and the need for leadership development have stunted our spiritual growth. Such weaknesses remind us how much we need the Holy Spirit and the whole body of Christ to be complete. The fire of prayer groups feeds on the fuel of parish life, while the parish is fuel waiting to be set aflame by the Spirit. Both body and soul, may our Church be fully alive. ♦



If we, too, knew what God had in store for our prayer groups and us, perhaps we would be more apt to prepare for our destiny or assignments and stay on course.

Most athletes know the importance of positioning. Does a diver dive into the water without positioning himself squarely on the diving board? We know a racer takes his position solidly on the starting block before a race.

**A** surfer friend explained how “catching a wave requires positioning, experience, knowledge as to how the waves are approaching, obeying safety rules, knowing your own ability, familiarity with the area, where you are positioned in relationship to other surfers and watching wave sets as they approach.” Our prayer groups need to be positioned to “catch the wave” of the Holy Spirit.

Are we following the Holy Spirit’s leading? Are we hearing his counsel? God places us where he needs us according to our gifts and abilities. The stance we need to take in order to hear the Lord is “on our knees.” Pray for an anointing to serve. Pray to hear God’s direction. Pray to hear where we are being positioned to bless and whom we are called to bless. Wherever we are in God’s kingdom, we didn’t get there by our own devices. As the saying goes, “If you see a turtle on a fence post, he didn’t get there by himself.” Draw near to God, and he will draw near to us” (James 4:8).

How is our prayer group being positioned by God to assist the parish and diocese? Is our prayer group fulfilling God’s purpose?

Seize an opportunity to fill a need. Be servants of the Lord. Our statewide

Renewal Services has provided books from our book ministry to a local prison chaplain. And our local prayer group has been able to assist Family Promise Hawaii, a “network of interfaith congregations that utilizes church facili-

## How is our prayer group being positioned by God to assist the parish and diocese?

ties to provide homeless families with a safe place to sleep, enjoy meals and hospitality. Guests stay at a host site for a week then move onto another host site.” Our prayer group has provided several meals for Family Promise weekends at our parish.

Look for areas to serve in your parish. Prayer groups in some parishes provide intercessory prayer after specified Masses for those in need. This is a perfect opportunity to be in a position to bless others, use our gifts, and be visible to the greater community. Where is the Lord calling us to serve the Body of Christ?

Thriving prayer groups should work together to assist dioceses. Working together within our Catholic Church strengthens our prayer group. Our Bishops realize the extreme importance of healthy marriages and families, and our prayer groups can help. The USCCB.org website (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops), provides a *For your Marriage* webpage. The webpage states: “In the National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage (NPIM), the U.S. Catholic bishops call attention to the meaning and value of married life for the Church and for society. Bringing Catholic belief into dialogue with contemporary needs, the bishops urge the Catholic Church to become a community of hope and help for marriages and to join others in building a culture of marriage.”

Prayer groups can help by using charismatic gifts to promote the healthy well being of marriages and families. We might offer workshops to enable couples and families within our prayer groups or church community to learn Godly communication skills.

We may provide Spirit-filled retreats at local hotels or retreat centers for married couples where on-going prayer and reflection is offered. Rather than choose one person to lead or serve in ministries (prayer, music, hospitality, administration), prayer groups may elect or select a husband and wife team. This would allow couples to work and serve together, rather than spending time apart.

If we want to strengthen our prayer groups, we need the favor of God. “Doing it God’s way” brings divine favor. Come together in unity, with all parts working together to serve the parish and our dioceses, stand together, locking elbows with one another to stand firm and protect one another from the onslaught of the enemy.

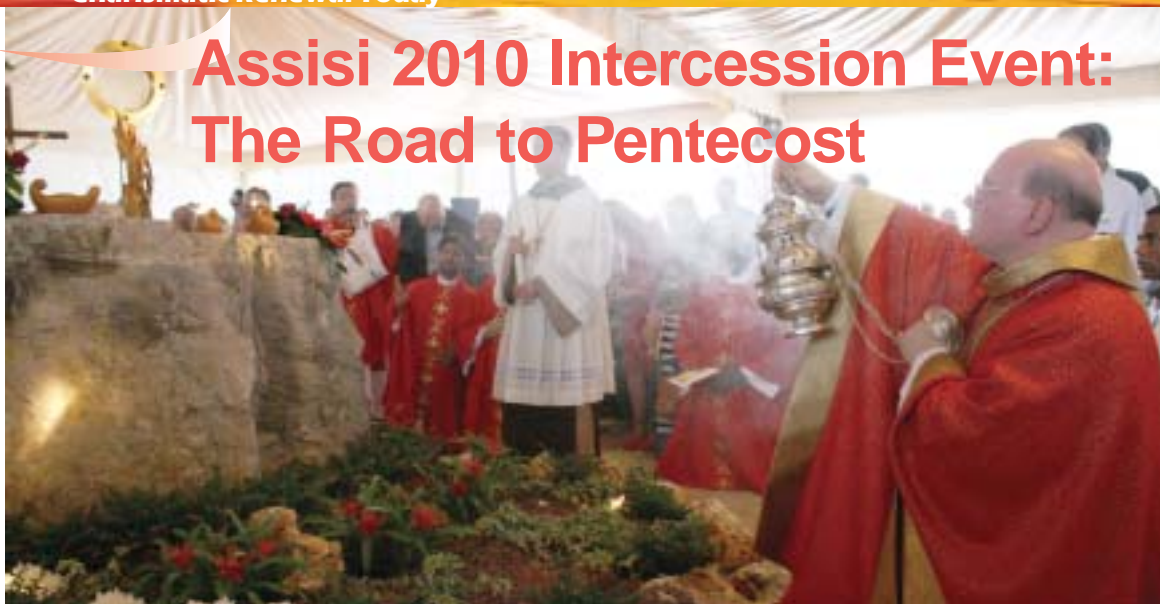
Catch the wave! Live a surrendered life in the Holy Spirit and strive to be in a position to bless others. “Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that of ourselves we are qualified to take credit for anything as coming from us; rather, our qualification comes from God” (2 Corinthians 3:4). ♦

*Rita Guinaugh is the Vice Chair of HCCRS (Hawaii Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services). She has a Masters Degree in Public Health. Rita is the wife of Deacon Dan Guinaugh, Diocesan Liaison. She has 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.*



## Assisi 2010 Intercession Event: The Road to Pentecost

**We experienced a unity that is hard to describe and could only happen through the power of the Holy Spirit.**



*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the closing Mass, presided by Assisi Bishop Domenico Sorrentino.*

by Tammie Stevens

What could be better than enjoying the delightful countryside of Assisi, Italy in May? How about attending a “prayer meeting that represents the whole world” in Assisi, in May! This was how Michelle Moran, President of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS), described all of us gathered at the beginning of the Assisi 2010 Intercession Event. The theme for this event was “The Road to Pentecost” and as 300 participants, coming from over 40 countries, gathered for this event, we soon realized that this was going to be more than a conference, it would be a prayer meeting, and an amazing five day journey in prayer.

On Wednesday evening, after we celebrated together the opening Mass, Michelle shared with us the vision for this event. She said that this

event is “for all ministries together... everything we do in the Church needs to be underpinned, needs to have as its foundation, deep prayer.” During these days we were there to learn about the ministry of Intercession, to which some are called, but also to realize the need to have intercession supporting all our ministries so that “our evangelization, our mission, can go deeper, be more effective, be stronger and more rooted in the Lord.” Michelle continued that “this is not only a teaching conference, it’s a time for doing. So we will listen so that we can reflect and then put into action what we’ve spoken about.”

During the worship time on Thursday morning, we received a Word from the Lord which was simple but to the point: ARISE, WAIT, LISTEN INTENTLY. We heard these words echoed throughout the week. At the Thurs-

day evening session, *Return to the Upper Room*, at the beginning of a time of prayer, Kim Kollins (initiator of the Burning Bush Initiative, a call of return to the Upper Room) exhorted us: “However the Lord is guiding us in this moment, the call is very clear: intercessors arise! I invite you to arise and begin to intercede in the Spirit for the Church in this hour that the Lord’s fire will burn through the Church. And that purifying fire will prepare us ever more for his coming. Arise, intercessors, arise.” As Michelle shared about the *Road to Pentecost* she said: “We are waiting for that new outpouring of the Holy Spirit that always comes at Pentecost. How are we waiting? In expectancy? With excitement? Open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit?” To each of these we answered a resounding YES! We, each in our own hearts, answered the call to listen intently, in the teachings, in

the worship times and in the silence of adoration.

Even though this was not only a “teaching conference” there were amazing teachings and sharings at each session. Each day had its own theme—Thursday: *Return to the Upper Room in Adoration*; Friday: *The Way of the Cross*; Saturday: *With Mary in the Upper Room*. The teachings were presented by various members of the ICCRS Council and other leaders in the Renewal. We learned about Jesus the Intercessor; the Repentant Intercessor (which applies to all ministries); Spiritual Warfare; Mary, Our Model of Intercession; and about Waiting for what the Father has Promised (these teachings are available on CD). We had an opportunity to attend workshops on various dimensions of intercession such as healing, evangelization, Old Testament models, and spiritual warfare, to name a few. 📖

## Newsbriefs

### Jesus Lives! Rally revives Renewal

In July the NSC team of Gerry Mader and Jane Guenther, along with NSC Council members Msgr Ed Griesedieck and Carol Sikorski led a *Jesus Lives! Pour Out Your Spirit Anew!* Praise and Teaching Rally in Kansas City. The day consisted of four talks and Mass built around the spirituality of Pentecost: prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation. The Rally drew 100 participants, twice as many as had been expected.

Carol Sikorski, who organized the Rally, noted, "We have received much positive feedback that the Rally did accomplish its purpose to 'revive' the Holy Spirit's life within the community."

Gerry Mader commented, "This was my second opportunity to speak at our Praise and Teaching Rallies. The Lord moves with such power when we praise and proclaim him." Prior *Jesus Lives! Pour Out Your Spirit Anew!* Rallies have been held in St. Louis and Philadelphia. For more information visit our website or call us. ♦

### NSC Announces Catholic Italy Pilgrimage

Partnering again with Unitours and Fr. Patsy Iaquina, a former member and Chairman of the NSC and a seasoned Pilgrimage leader, we invite you to join with us to visit some of the most beautiful churches and cities in the world: Venice, Florence, Siena, Assisi and Rome.

Fr. Iaquina is known for his spiritual leadership, wit and good humor. He most recently led a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land earlier this year.

A Pilgrimage to Italy is an opportunity to deepen one's Catholic faith and to draw closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. The Pilgrimage also offers many opportunities to be moved by the Holy Spirit by seeing great art in spiritually significant settings.

Base cost from Newark is \$3,199 and from Pittsburgh \$3,299. There is an early booking discount of \$50 for reservations made by 12/31. For a brochure or more information visit our website or call 1-800-338-2445. ♦

Each day we celebrated the Eucharist together and at each session there was a time to respond, drawing us deeper into God's heart. We were learning how to have "hearts attuned to God's mercy" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2635), by first experiencing this mercy ourselves. We experienced the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We interceded for each nation, a truly humbling experience as we were each called to stand in proxy for our continent as others poured out their hearts to the Lord on our behalf. We prayed for an anointing on those who desired to be used by our Lord in the ministry of Intercession. We spent the night in vigil before the Blessed Sacrament in preparation for Pentecost Sunday. We then celebrated Pentecost with the Archbishop of Assisi as he celebrated the Sacrament

of Confirmation with some young people from the Archdiocese. Wow!

What struck me about this event, which you don't experience by just listening to the teachings on CD, was the journey in prayer that we took together and the fellowship that made us community. The event didn't end with the sessions. The breaks and our common meals, I believe, were a crucial part of this journey that we were on. At each meal we would sit together, talk about our homes and what God is doing. We were getting to know each other. For me, this event put a face on many countries that I had only heard of or seen on a map. It made me wish that I had brushed up on the French I took in high school so I could converse more easily with my brothers and sis-

ters from some of the African countries. Now, when I think of and pray for Malta, Vietnam, Brazil, Kuwait, Cameroon (or other countries), I no longer only see a land but I remember the faces of those I met, their laughter, their prayer and how, when we prayed together in the Spirit, we experienced a unity that is hard to describe and could only happen through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the most recent ICCRS Newsletter they had a report on this event and said: "We have a sense that this special event on intercession was just the beginning of what the Lord is calling ICCRS to do regarding the call to intercession." They also outlined a plan for other events in coming years: "We are building on this year's experience

by offering another Assisi 'The Road to Pentecost' event in 2011 where the special focus will be growing in the Charisms. Please note the dates now and further details will follow; 8th-12th June 2011 plus optional pilgrimages on 12th-15th June 2011." Where will you be NEXT Pentecost?? Assisi? ♦

For information about ordering CDs (within the US) from this event, please contact WWCCR in Seattle: [www.wwccr.org](http://www.wwccr.org), 206-364-2272 or [info@wwccr.org](mailto:info@wwccr.org).

*Tammie Stevens has been active in Charismatic Renewal for over 20 years. She works at*



*Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal office and is on the NSC Council.*

## The Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

by Rev. Joseph Mary Marshall

**T**he Brothers of the Beloved Disciple are a charismatic religious community of priests and brothers based in San Antonio, Texas. We are celebrating ten years of leadership at St. Mary Magdalen Church. In those years, the Holy Spirit has breathed new life into this once dying inner-city parish. It is a dynamic and vibrant church where faith is thriving.

At our prayer group retreat I shared that the role of the prayer group in the parish is to be both leaven and hearth. It only takes a little bit of yeast to raise a large batch of dough. In the same way, members of the prayer group on fire with the Holy Spirit affect the whole parish by sharing their joy and enthusiasm.

A person does not have to be a great evangelist to draw others to the prayer group. They simply need to share with others the difference that the prayer group has made in their lives. A simple sharing from the heart touches the heart of another. Then a person can invite others to come to the prayer group so that they may experience the presence and gifts of the Holy Spirit. People need to come to a place where a vibrant faith in God can be seen; where “nothing is impossible for God” is proclaimed. Numerous transformed lives testify to the Holy Spirit’s presence.

As faith grows and matures, people desire to serve. Prayer group members also serve in many other groups and ministries in the parish. By sharing the warmth and love of the Holy Spirit with others the prayer group is the

### Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

1701 Alameos St.  
San Antonio, TX 78201  
(210) 734-6727  
www.brothersofthebeloveddisciple.org  
The Brothers are 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  
This is a Franciscan and charismatic religious order of sisters, contemplative with evangelistic apostolates.

hearth of the parish as well. They help us fulfill our mission statement: We the members of St. Mary Magdalen Church are maturing in ministry through prayer and the sacraments, the word of God and apostolic teachings, and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit to build community and evangelize. ♦

### National Service Committee Catholic Italy Pilgrimage



with Fr. Patsy Iaquina

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**1-800-338-2445**

For information and reservations:  
www.nsc-chariscenter.org

### Why include the NSC in your will?

As you know the National Service Committee relies almost entirely on gifts from individuals to continue its mission. We ask you to please consider a gift to the National Service Committee when you make your will or update it. Making a gift to the NSC can be as simple as adding a codicil to your existing will or estate plan.

You may use this or a similar statement:  
“I/we bequeath \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(or % of my residual estate) to the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. P.O. Box 628, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628.”

Please let us know if you have included us in your will so that we can properly thank you.

## Why do we do what we do?

by Madre Kuhle  
Diocese of Spokane, Washington

The role of the liaison differs from one diocese to another. Some are the heart of the existence of the Renewal. Other liaisons are directors of Renewal centers and offices; some have a place right in the Chancery along with the Bishop. Others work out of a spare bedroom or space in a private home's basement.

Some liaisons are fully funded by the Diocese; some have a small budget, others work with no compensation from official sources, only from faithful people's donations. Many use their own personal funds to travel and work.

Even though the circumstances differ, the role of the liaison provides a vital link to the heart of the Church. That role brings to the Bishop's attention the work of the Renewal, the intent to be faithful, yet listen to the promptings of the Spirit. The role produces validation and opportunity for communication with the broader Church.

The challenge comes in riding the 'Wind of the Spirit' yet listening and discerning God's will. Sometimes that can cause tension and pain. But tension and pain can be instruments of growth, causing us to reach for a thoughtful balance. Jesus loves the Church and her people. Mary exhorts us to "do what he tells you to do."

So, why do we do what we do? Fr. John Corapi encourages us to reach out, explaining that the work of the Spirit involves one person, one soul at a time. A healing mass here, a Life in the Spirit Seminar there, a workshop on prayer then, a changed life and new direction now.

Recently, I attended the funeral of a woman whose beautiful life took on a new direction last fall. She was raised a Catholic, but walked away from her Catholic faith. When she became ill with terminal cancer, a close friend invited her to attend a Charismatic Renewal sponsored healing mass. She came and was blessed with the music, heard angels singing in the tongues,

and was inspired to return to the Church. No, she wasn't cured of her cancer, but she received a much deeper healing.

Pray for the Renewal, pray for your liaison. Pray for all Church leaders because the Church is made up of one fragile, precious person after person. That's why we do what we do. ♦

### The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans Invites You to Two Spirit-filled Events

## Women's Retreat

January 21-23, 2011

EYV9 Zē`\_ 9` eV] † =RWj VeeL=2



Sr. Briege McKenna  
Fr. Kevin Scallon

"Draw Near with Confidence  
to the Throne of Grace"



## Revive Us Again, O Lord

April 1-3, 2011  
Pontchartrain Center  
Kenner, LA



Fr. John Gordon



Michelle Moran



Sr. Nancy Kellar

With: Johnny Bertucci, Aggie Neck, Marilyn Quirk, Fr. Bill Henry, Deacon Larry Oney, Dr. William Mitchell, Denise Beyer, AP Guizerix, Colin MacIver, Al and Patti Mansfield



Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans

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## From the Executive Director

.....  
by Walter Matthews

### Pentecost Today: Ten years and going forward

One of the principal means the National Service Committee uses “to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit” to bring about a renewal in “the grace and culture of Pentecost” (Mission Statement) is in the publication of *Pentecost Today*. From the earliest days of the Renewal getting the word out was vitally important. This was done in a number of ways: the convening of conferences, the duplication of audiocassettes from conference talks, and in written publications.

In the earliest days, *Pastoral Newsletter* was begun by the Word of God Community in Ann Arbor. *New Covenant* replaced it, as officially published by the NSC, in July 1971.

In 1975 it was decided to add the *National Communications Office Newsletter* as a simple means of communicating with the growing number of prayer groups, communities and renewal centers associated with the Renewal.

In May 1981 the *NCO Newsletter* became the *National Service Committee Newsletter* with the adoption of a logo for the NSC. In March 1983 the *Newsletter* became more of a teaching publication. In 1986 the *Newsletter* again changed names: this time to the *Chariscenter USA Newsletter* as the NSC headquarters became Chariscenter USA.

In 2000, the name and focus changed again: to *Pentecost Today*. The new name sought to express the Service Committee’s then Vision Statement:

“Renewing the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the Church.”

Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM, who at that time chaired the Editorial Board, said “*Pentecost Today* captures something of the urgency we feel about helping the whole church experience the great grace which the Holy Spirit is pouring out upon the world. We feel that the beginning of the Great Jubilee and the new millennium is an appropriate time to do this. It emphasizes our focus on a new springtime for Christianity.”

When *New Covenant* magazine ceased publication in January 2002, *Pentecost Today* became the only national publication in the Renewal in the U.S. This past January we celebrated its tenth anniversary.

We look back to remember and give thanks, but we are not stuck in the past. With the adoption of new Vision and Mission Statements by the NSC in the last two years the Editorial Board has been challenged to find ways to communicate their meaning. The new colored banners are part of that effort.

We have also been challenged to make it more relevant to young adults and we are prayerfully considering how to do this.

In this issue we have included a sign up card which we ask you to give to someone in your prayer group, parish or family, or a participant in your next Life in the Spirit Seminar. We will send *Pentecost Today* free for a year. We hope that all such recipients will value it and desire at the end of the year to continue to receive it by sending a donation.

It is our sincere hope that *Pentecost Today* is serving your needs and that of the Renewal in the U.S. at this time. ♦

## Friends of the NSC

Over the last three months we have received a number of memorial/honors gifts. We thank the donors (individuals, couples and prayer groups) for their support. To make a memorial or honoring gift you can download a form from our website at [www.nsc-chariscenter.org/donations.htm](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/donations.htm) then click on Memorial Form, or simply write with your donation who you want to give in memory of or in honor of (and the address of the family or of the person/couple) and we will send you an acknowledgement (and a card to them).

Even though the Year for Priests is over we will continue to send a copy of *Catholic Charismatic Renewal: Papal Affirmation and Priestly Witness* to any priest honored by a gift.

### In Honor of

- Fr. Michael Cannon
- Fr. John Fiore
- Fr. Bernard Gaudreau
- Fr. Lance Harlow
- Fr. Patrick Henry
- Fr. James Hreha
- Fr. Edward Kealey
- Sr. Nancy Keller, S.C.
- Fr. Dr. D.G. Kennedy-Warley
- Fr. Robert Lariviere (2x)
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- Fr. Anthony Ozele
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- Msgr. Dennis M. Regan
- Fr. Peter Routhier
- Fr. Soccorso Saldutti
- Msgr. Wendell Searles
- St. Mary’s Prayer Group
- Fr. Michael Steber
- Fr. Roy Tvrdik, SMM
- Fr. Charles Weber (2x)

### In Memory of:

- Fr. Donald Bean
- Ann Boffa
- Fr. Henry F. Kern
- Fr. Gerard G. Pelletier, S.M.
- Fr. James Scheuer
- Fr. Leo Sullivan
- Fr. William Zwiefka

The summer months have been lean and the economy is still impacting donations. We especially ask that those who receive *Pentecost Today* who are not already donors make a donation either by mail or at our secure website. To all our “Friends” we say thank you for your ongoing support

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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.

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## What we have seen and heard

.....  
by Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer



## Prayer group wisdom

Over the past months I have been reading a number of articles that have to do with prayer groups, what they are, what their purpose is and some of the many qualities that make them strong. Most of these articles have been written and published in *Pentecost Today* over the past ten years. Think back with me to over 40 years ago. We learned about being baptized in the Spirit, having prayer groups and prayer meetings and most of this happened by word of mouth. The greater population of a prayer group consisted of people in their 20's through 40's. Now we are challenged to allow the Spirit to lead and to open up the experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit to a younger generation.

There is much wisdom to be shared from the life experience and the prayer group experience of those who have been in the Renewal for many of these years. We do not want to lose this wisdom and learning, and so, several years ago, we formed an NSC Publications sub-committee which has been gathering and sharing that wisdom over the past few years in the forms of leaflets and booklets. Many of you will recall that that is how we gathered much of our learning and growing in the early years of the Renewal. As people began to be able to articulate their various experiences they wrote them down in leaflet, book, or booklet formats. Now it is the time to share *our lived experience*.

You are invited to look at the Resource section of our website, [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org) in order to find the

titles already written. More leaflets and a booklet on *Strengthening Prayer Groups* will be available at the upcoming National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in St. Paul at the end of October. If we expect growth we need to share with others and perhaps we need to be refreshed ourselves in our articulation of our experience.

Thank you to all who have shared their wisdom in *Pentecost Today*, and earlier similar newsletters of the Renewal, in leaflets, booklets and books over the years.

As we consider our experience of God let us never forget that it is due to the gracious love of God for us and not because of anything that we have done. Recently I watched a man place a tracking band on a hummingbird. He held the bird so carefully in his hand and spoke with so much care about a hummingbird he had fed one year after the first frost. Later on I reflected on how we are held in the hand of God with more love and care than we can appreciate. ♦

## 2010 INDEX

Find each article published in the 2010 edition of *Pentecost Today* on our website: [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org).

Some of the categories available for your resource material include:

- ◆ Fruit of the Spirit
- ◆ A Dimension of Vision
- ◆ Join the Journey
- ◆ Charismatic Renewal Today
- ◆ Strengthening Prayer Groups
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## 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.

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Chuck Hornsby, Judith Hughes,  
Virginia King, Sr. Mary Anne  
Schaenzer, SSND and  
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