

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

PENTECOST *Today*

Winter 2013-2014



Photos: Mary Anne Schaefer, Tammie Stevens

**Fresh Fire,
Extravagant Grace!
Colorado hosts National
NSC Conference** p. 10

Fit & Ready?
Renee Marazon p. 3

***Lumen Fidei* and the Renewal**
Bishop R. Hermann p. 4

How Can I Keep from Singing?
Tom Mangan p. 6

Young Renewal Leaders
Leslie Bertucci p. 8

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



Chairman's Corner

by Jane Guenther

"One of many"

After the wonderful National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in Denver, the National Service Committee had an extended time with Bishop Sam Jacobs who serves as one of our Episcopal Consultants. One term he used struck me as we discussed the tension that some people have with the use of the gift of tongues. He said it is "one of many."

Recently I attended the symphony and heard Strauss's Symphony Opus 40. As I listened to the many varying members of the orchestra, well over 125, I recognized how each of them was using his or her own talents. Some of the sounds were melodious, some were sharp and some were high pitched and uncomfortable. There were moments when the violin was featured, or the oboe or the trumpets, as the conductor brought life to the notes written on the page. They



were each "one of many" that made up what was an amazing rendition of Strauss's masterpiece.

The many varying charisms, as we look toward the Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church in 2014, are part of the Master's composition to build up the Kingdom and give glory to God. As we continue to walk toward the Renewal's Jubilee Year in 2017, we are going to focus on what charisms are and how they are called to be used. They are each needed: healing, teaching, encouragement, miracles, administration and tongues, just to name a few; but they are each "one of many."

Let us foster these charisms as grace for the Church respecting one another in our diversity and uniting in the awesome presence of God through them. ♦

Jane Guenther is Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaefer, SSND

Fresh fire is still burning! Extravagant grace is still flowing!

As you read the articles in this issue, some from more recent events (*Young Adults Discover First Love*, p. 8, and the overall conference article, *Fresh Fire, Extravagant Grace*, p. 10) and some recalling past experiences (*"How Can I Keep From Singing?"* p. 6 and *The Witness of a Charismatic Community*, p. 13) let that fresh fire and extravagant grace flow into your heart.

Bishop Hermann's article on *Lumen Fidei and the Renewal*, p.4, emphasizes the light of faith that lights up the world. May his writing inspire you to read the entire encyclical by Pope Francis (<http://www.vatican.va> - Select English, Select Encyclicals).

As you reflect on *The Love of My Father*, p. 12, contemplate the painting, take in the testimony, and remember your own beginnings of new life in the Spirit.

We are encouraged to look more deeply at the charisms during 2014. Study the article on p. 3 and take the inventory that you may assess your own "Fit and Ready" status.

We have so much for which to be grateful. Allow Gerry Mader's expression of gratitude (*What I Have Seen and Heard*, p.15) to stir up your own litany of thanksgiving as you recall how God has been working in your life and in the lives of those with whom you have interacted in the past year.

"But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:4-7). We are blessed! ♦

PENTECOST Today

Volume 38 Number 3

Executive Director

Walter Matthews

Editorial Board

Jim Archer

Jane Guenther

Tom Mangan

Tammie Stevens

Editor

Sr. Mary Anne Schaefer, SSND

Production Manager

Jean Beers

© 2013 National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. Not to be reproduced without permission.

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.

A limited amount of advertising space is available. For information call Jean Beers, (360) 730-1740. Advertisements for events not sponsored by the National Service Committee do not imply endorsement by the NSC/Chariscenter USA.

Just how **Fit and Ready** are we to cooperate with the Holy Spirit?

**Our day-to-day mission field reaches far
beyond our prayer groups and into the world.**

by Renee Marazon

Just how fit and ready are we to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in his mission to renew and build up the Church?

St. Paul reveals the proof of our readiness when he says, “To each is given a manifestation [charism] of the Spirit for some benefit” (1Cor 12:7). We know that our charisms have been a great benefit to the Renewal. For the most part, and for good reasons, we have operated in our charisms within renewal settings, most especially within our prayer groups. However, our charisms were never meant to be held in the protective custody of the Renewal. The true mission territory of the Renewal is the same as the Church’s mission territory—the entire body of Christ—the world. If we say we are mature in the Spirit, having lived in the Spirit for five, ten, twenty, or forty years, then we surely must, by now, be fit and ready to renew and build up the Church using our manifestations of the Spirit. We must embrace the notion that our day-to-day mission field reaches far beyond our prayer groups and into the world.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) illustrates this broad scope of our mission field noting, “...grace also includes the gifts that the Spirit grants us to associate us with his work...” (#2003) which is the salvation of souls. This is precisely what Paul intended when he wrote, “Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them” (Rom 12:6). He urges the early Church to know and use their charisms. Perhaps the time has come for us to seriously ponder if the way we have been using our charisms is the way that the Holy Spirit intends and if, as the *Catechism* teaches, “the Holy Spirit wants to associate us with his work to build up the whole Church” (#799)—not simply build up our prayer groups.

The mature use of our charisms means that beyond our prayer groups, we pray with others (healing); we pray for others (intercession); we speak out and speak up what we hear the Lord saying to us (prophecy); we share his insight (wisdom); we teach, administer, pastor/coach/mentor; we help, serve, give generously, encourage, create; and we do so as an expression of God’s love for others. We do this in

whatever ways we are called, to whatever places we are called, and whenever we are called, knowing that the One who calls us is the Lord and the place he is calling us into is his Church, to renew and build her up.

How fit and ready are you to build up the Kingdom of God? Why not take the “Fitness Inventory”?

Fitness Inventory

1. I seek the Lord in prayer to teach me about my charisms.
2. I seek the Lord’s guidance in situations to show me how he wishes to “associate” me with his work.
3. I operate in my charisms on a daily basis, as an outgrowth of my “life in the Spirit.”
4. I am willing to submit my charisms to my shepherds.
5. I let my parish leaders know how “all the diverse and complementary charisms work together ‘for the common good’” (#801) of the parish.
6. I am not concerned with my charisms giving glory, prestige, or a reputation of holiness to others (Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa in *Sober Intoxification of the Spirit*, p. 65, 2005).
7. I recognize that charisms are not meant to be used by a select few, manifested in only certain ways (Cantalamessa, p. 65, 2005).
8. I do not use my charisms to hold a position or power over others (Cantalamessa, p. 65, 2005).

How many of the above statements describe you? Be comforted to know that it is the Holy Spirit who makes the faithful “fit and ready” for ministry (#798). ♦



Renee Marazon is a Catholic author, consultant, and retreat/parish mission presenter. She has written the book, Charisms of the Holy Spirit: Tools for the New Evangelization, MAPS for life, 2012. Renee is a member of the NSC Council.



Lumen Fidei and the Renewal

by Bishop R. Hermann

Is it not true that we are living in some very exciting times?

Faith is a light “guiding our journey through time.”

We might say that *Lumen Fidei*, Pope Francis’ first encyclical, is the living fruit of three pontificates. It was Pope John Paul II who first articulated and promoted the New Evangelization. Pope Benedict XVI followed up by giving us very clear teachings about how to live the faith.

Pope Benedict then announced the Year of Faith, with the encyclical *Porta Fidei*, which literally means “door of faith.” The title comes from Acts 14:17, in which Paul makes a reference to how God had opened “a door of faith” to the Gentiles. The Year of Faith, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, began on October 11, 2012. To deepen our understanding of faith as light, Pope Francis published *Lumen Fidei* on June 29, 2013, the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.

Is it not true that we are living in some very exciting times? It seems to me that Pope Francis is taking the New Evangelization one step further by living it. He translates the scriptures into living, and life-giving, words and actions. To watch him and listen to him is to see Christ before our very eyes, coming alive in the people he addresses!

The purpose of this encyclical is to spell out how faith is light that lights up the hearts of people. In the Gospel of John, Jesus said, “I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness” (Jn 12:46).

The encyclical tells us that faith is a light that lights up this world, “guiding our journey through time.” It is also a “light coming from the future and opening before us vast horizons which guide us beyond our isolated selves towards the breath of communion.”

He continues: “It is this light of faith that I would now like to consider, so that it can grow and enlighten the present, becoming a star to brighten the horizon of our journey at a time when mankind is particularly in need of light” (4).

Further on he says, “...when we welcome the word, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, the Holy Spirit transforms us, lights up our way to the future and enables us joyfully to advance along the way on wings of hope” (7).

Who in Charismatic Renewal cannot get excited about how this prayerful description of the light of faith, resonates with his or her own experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit?

I believe that people in the Renewal are called to be at the cutting edge of the New Evangelization. I believe that people in the Renewal are called to bring the light of Christ into the darkness that is coming our way from Satan and his kingdom.

I believe we are called to continue to press forward, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to discover a deeper power in the charisms we have

Photos.com, buradaki

already received. I believe that the charisms are lights that light up this world, “guiding our journey through time.” I believe that the charisms are exposing the works of darkness in our midst.

I believe that one of the first and one of the greatest gifts people experience with baptism in the Holy Spirit is the gift of contemplation. Contemplation enables us to experience Christ’s presence in a deep and lively way.

Contemplation helps us to see ourselves more clearly in the light of faith. The deeper we go in contemplation, the more we recognize our own sinfulness, and the more we are called to live a life of repentance. One of the greatest joys in our lives is to trade in our sins for God’s incredible mercy!

Did you ever wonder why Pope Francis radiates such incredible joy? It is very simple. In his morning prayer he allows the Lord to deal with his unredeemed compulsions so that he does not have to face them as he goes about the rest of his day. It is in contemplation that he meets the joy of Christ forgiving him. This is the Christ he shares with us. He simply radiates the Christ he met in prayer!

The more you and I deepen the gift of contemplation that we received with baptism in the Holy Spirit, the more the rest of the charisms will come alive within us.

The word “charism” comes from a Greek word meaning “favor.” The charisms help us to experience Christ’s favors. When we pray with troubled people, Christ releases his gifts in them.

Three additional charisms that God is using in a special way to bring the light of faith into today’s dark world are discernment of spirits, inner healing and deliverance.

The first charism that I believe God is bringing alive more and more is the gift of discernment of spirits. So many of our prayerful laity and religious are discovering this gift in their own lives through their contemplative prayer and the use of this gift in ministering to others. What a gift these prayer-

ful discerners are to the Church! The gift of discernment helps us to diagnose, for example, the entry point of evil spirits. Sometimes it is trauma; sometimes it is sin, and sometimes it is exposing one’s self to the occult.

The second charism is that of inner healing. People, who have been in unknown bondage for many, many years, are often set free within hours or even within minutes. When they experience Christ entering a past hurt, deep within them, they experience him setting them free! This is very real and very tangible. Often evil spirits are expelled through inner healing. The light of faith in the faces of those prayed with tells the rest of the story.

A third charism that sets people free is the gift of deliverance. When we received the Sacrament of Baptism, we were taken from the kingdom of Satan and brought into the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Satan is always trying to win us back, but through the exercise of our baptismal vows, we have the power to command him to leave us.

A growing number of priests are excited about discovering in their confessional practice, as did the Curé of Ars, this power of delivering people from evil spirits. Sometimes a priest will invite a penitent to bring the issue outside of the confessional, where with more time the individual can be set free from evil spirits that have plagued him or her in the bondage of mortal sin for many, many years. Needless to say, this brings profound joy to both penitent and confessor!

Yes, the light of faith is coming alive, more and more, in our midst, as we discover the power of the charisms that are driving back the darkness of Satan. Pope Francis is a model for all of us. He is better at this than most of us because he has been at it longer. All of us are called to radiate the light of faith that shines so brightly on the face of Pope

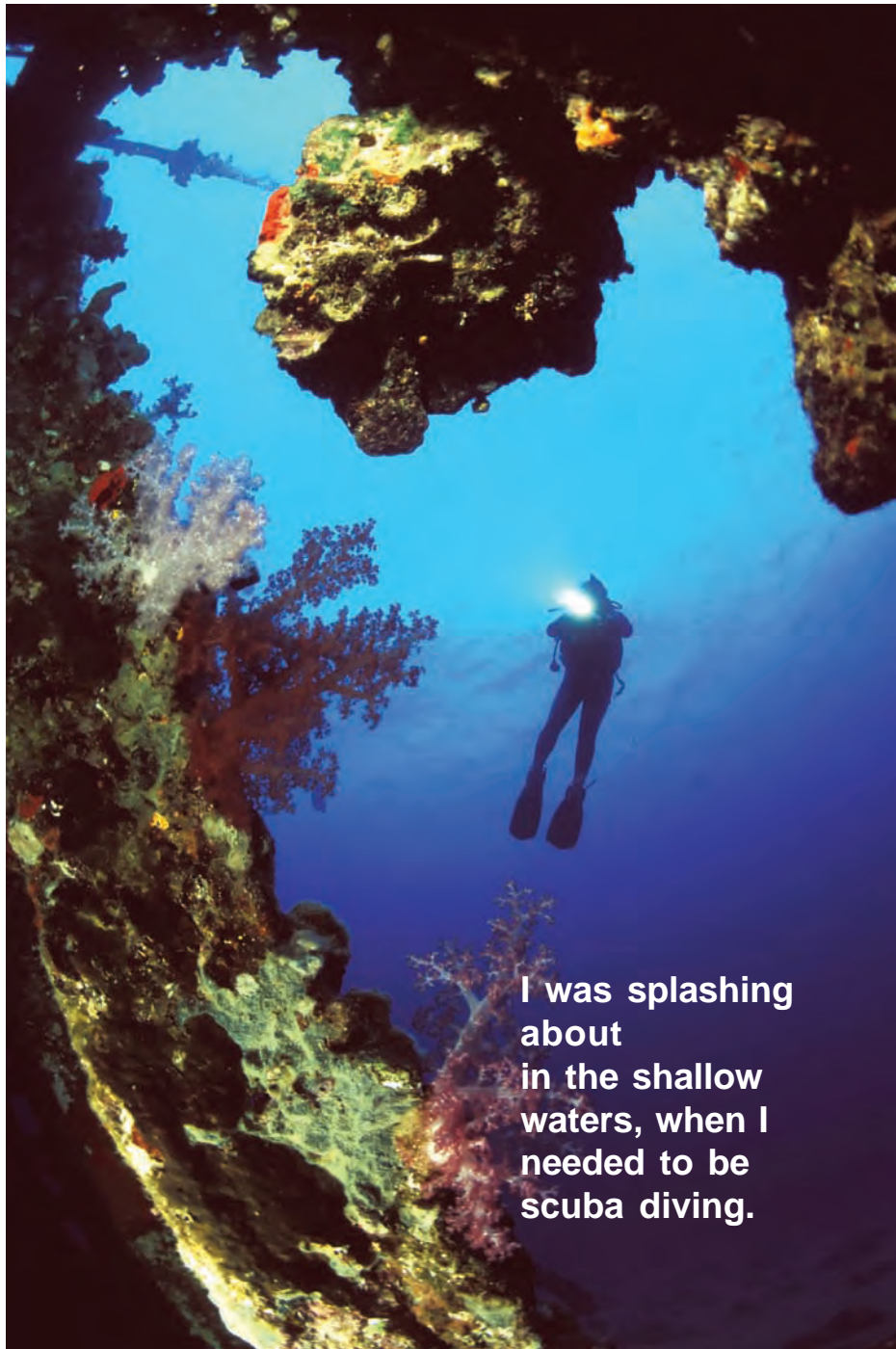
Francis. We have no excuse. We have the same Holy Spirit! ♦



Bishop Robert Hermann has served the Archdiocese of St. Louis as teacher, preacher and pastor. He has been active in the Renewal for more than 40 years.

One of the greatest joys in our lives is to trade in our sins for God’s incredible mercy!

Yes, the light of faith is coming alive, more and more, in our midst, as we discover the power of the charisms that are driving back the darkness of Satan.



I was splashing about in the shallow waters, when I needed to be scuba diving.

I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and called deeper into the life of Christ. I have not been the same since.

In my ignorance I thought that God first and foremost wanted to deal with my sin. In reality, before all else, he wanted me. When the Father sent Jesus, he sent *everything* he had. Love compelled him. I, for all my faults, have been found to be worth dying for. And so I feel sometimes as though the earth is ablaze with the fire of God and I need to take off my shoes! That's my story. *How can I keep from singing?* (Robert Lowry, 1860).

I had an extraordinary experience forty-four years ago that I will never forget. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and called deeper into the life of Christ. I have not been the same since. To this day, I'm excited by this gift and his felt presence. Today the Holy Spirit is still unfolding Christ-likeness into my life.

"God has set eternity in our hearts!" (Eccl 3:11). Christ is uniquely excellent; he deserves continual celebration. Jesus embodies the promise of the Father who will go to any length to bring us into his eternal family. It's because we are important—we matter to him. My story captures the heart of God. My tale of finding him in the midst of my normal Catholic life somehow blesses him. My sharing it with others delights him. I am undone and overwhelmed! *How can I keep from singing?*

How can I keep from singing?

by Tom Mangan

If after reading this article you are not encouraged or you are not excited by our salvation, then I have not done my job. I want you to be astonished with what we possess. I mean to say, we are, among all people, so richly blessed!

I was playing on the surface of my faith most of the time and not plunging into the depths. I was splashing about in the shallow waters, when I needed to be scuba diving. What is the proper response to someone who gives you himself? I have been crowned with God's great glory and I can only respond by

Photos.com, Miguel Angelo Silva

Christ is uniquely excellent; he deserves continual celebration.

giving it back: "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" (Ps 8:1).

For me, the issue today is no longer a question of, "Do I have the Holy Spirit?" but rather, "How much of me does the Holy Spirit have?" I dare not allow my personal relationship with the Lord to become dispassionate. I don't want to be robbed of the great privilege of knowing Christ better.

I read the Gospels often to discover more of Jesus. His story still keeps me on the edge of my seat.

I read the Gospels often to discover more of Jesus. His story still keeps me on the edge of my seat. I read it as though I've never read it before. I read it in every version I can so it can remain fresh to me. In this way I often see things I never saw before. The Gospels excite and energize me. I find his grace to be unrelenting; his mercy, unfathomable. In his parables I see shades of me and I am moved alternatively from repentance to a deeper love of him. *How can I keep from singing?*

My own story finds me in the human condition. My salvation isn't a destination; it's a journey of hills and valleys and I'm making the best of it. It is my intention to stay the course and enjoy him along the way. I want to manifest godliness. I believe the Holy Spirit to be indispensable to that end. I was serving in the Peace Corps in 1967 in Turkey as a teacher when I invited the Holy Spirit into my life. Even though I knew that I had already received the Spirit at baptism, I thought a personal invitation was in

order. I knew he was in my life, but I needed to acknowledge his presence.

Let me explain it this way: a visitor comes to my door and from an upstairs window I tell the person to enter and I'll be down shortly to see him. He is in my house, but he hasn't been received. As you can see, the Spirit was within me but not really fully acknowledged, so I prayed, "Come, Holy Spirit!" But when I sensed his presence I became afraid, lifted my hands as if to say, "Stop!" and I called him off.

It wasn't until I returned home a year later when I was leading a high school retreat with my brother David that the Holy Spirit came upon me and I began to speak in tongues. We were standing in a circle singing when, one-by-one we started to put our arms on one another's shoulders. The moment my brother's hands touched me I knew I was filled with the Holy Spirit. I excused myself from the group and went to my room to worship the Lord in tongues and with praise.

When I started to question the authenticity of this new language, I realized it was a temptation from the devil. I recalled a passage from *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis that the enemy couldn't stand derision. So, I merely laughed at the suggestion and felt an overwhelming sense of holy joy as I continued worshipping.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the most exciting experience of my life because it expanded my faith. I was a good Catholic, but I was playing on the surface of my faith most of the time and not plunging to the depths. With the Spirit now active I set out for the ocean floor! It is not heaven I court; it is not the streets of gold I long to see, but

Prayer Card

In anticipation of
and active participation in the
"Year of Charisms and
Grace for the Church"
we pray:

Keep us alert, we pray,
O Lord our God,
as we await the advent of
Christ your Son, so that,
when he comes and knocks,
he may find us
watchful in prayer
and exultant
in his praise.

(Collect for Monday of the
first week of Advent)



rather the face of God! My fascination for him grows daily. I am thrilled to think that, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:6).

My story is still being written. Like a good recipe it can't be rushed. Brick-by-brick my redemption is being built into his spiritual house. It is a story with a "to be continued" at the end. *How can I keep from singing?* ♦

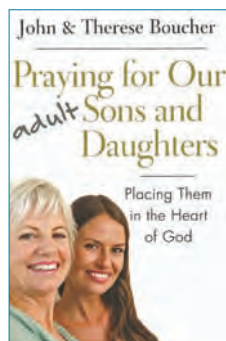


Tom Mangan is the former senior coordinator of the People of God Community in Pittsburgh, PA. He and his wife, Patty, have been married for 39 years. He is a member of the NSC.

Please pray with the National Service Committee:

- ◆ That all involved in Charismatic Renewal will foster baptism in the Holy Spirit as a grace for the whole Church.
- ◆ That the Renewal will increase in ecclesial and charismatic maturity, in full cooperation with the Holy Spirit, to bring the light of faith to today's world.
- ◆ For the Gathering of National Leadership Groups in January, that their time together will be richly anointed and fruitful.
- ◆ That creativity and sacrificial dedication will increase in every initiative aimed at introducing youth and young adults to a personal encounter with Jesus and fullness of life in the Holy Spirit.

New Book by John & Therese Boucher



Learn how to pray for your adult sons and daughters with the kind of power that makes a real difference in matters of the heart.

- ✿ Offers hope & renewed commitment to pray for adult children
- ✿ Introduces "prayer skills" for various needs
- ✿ Includes questions for reflection.

\$11.95 Available in Catholic bookstores.

Young Adults Discover First Love

by Leslie W. Bertucci

"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance.... Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love" (Rev 2:2-4).

During the recent National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in Denver, my husband Johnny and I coordinated the Young Leaders' Track, with the theme "Rediscovering the Original Fire: Remember Your First Love."

We had the privilege of encouraging about 25 young adult leaders in the Renewal to regain the fire they first experienced when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. The day-long workshop included several teachings, praise and worship, large group activities and discussions, and empowerment prayer.

Johnny Bertucci, as part of the first part of the first talk shared his testimony of being baptized in the Holy Spirit at age 17 and how, for several years thereafter, "I believed there was nothing God couldn't or wouldn't do. No prayer was too big or too small for God to answer."

He suggested that we need to get back to that child-like faith where, although we may not have all the answers, we know that Jesus touched us. "We need to be like the man born blind, healed of blindness by Jesus, who said, 'All I know is: I was blind, but now I see'" (Jn 9:25).

In the second part of the talk, I suggested some ways we might go about rekindling the "original fire" of the Holy Spirit. For instance, spend quality time alone with God, perhaps on

a retreat "where you're in charge of nothing! Take time to center yourself. Be still. Listen. Breathe. Let God do the talking. Because he will, if we take the time to really listen."

My final suggestion to the group was: Be the Beloved. Our relationship with the Lord should be more intimate than that of spouses. He also utters these amazing words in Zephaniah 3:17, "The Lord your God is with you... he will take great delight in you... and rejoice over you with singing!" Let the fire of his love be rekindled as we grasp the awesome reality that our God rejoices over us!

Casey Sprehe, young mother of two, spoke to her peers about "Embracing the Renewal as a Young Leader." Sprehe said that she believes Catholics in their 20s and 30s struggle with two things in the Church today: a generational gap and a lack of identity. Because of changes in the culture, she said, "What worked years ago doesn't work today. Most prayer meetings are not relevant to young adults today.... We feel like there's no place for us in the church."

The solution, she believes, can be found in the New Evangelization. She reminded us of the three aspects by which Pope John Paul II encouraged us to be "new": in ardor, method and expression.

One way to help people in her age group feel more a part of the church, she said, is to invite young people to serve in specific roles. "Don't wait until they're perfect: even if they're not converted yet, give them a purpose and a story. They convert through serving."



Casey Sprehe addresses Young Adult leaders

Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, spoke in the afternoon about the experience of a Personal Pentecost. "We can't just make up our minds to be holy, to stop sinning," he said. "We can do nothing without the power of the Holy Spirit."

He mentioned the story in the gospel of John, chapter 20, where the disciples are gathered in a room and the door is locked for fear of the Jews. Suddenly, Jesus is standing in their midst. "The Christian life was never meant to be lived in a locked room, in fear," said Fr. Pivonka. "Many things can lock us in and keep us from doing ministry the way Jesus intended."

Unless we experience the power of God for ourselves, we're just telling people about something we've heard of. "It's like the difference between a travel agent and a tour guide: the travel agent sets up the trip; the tour guide takes you there."

In baptism in the Holy Spirit, we experience two things, he said: Inhabitation (something from outside comes upon us and possesses us), and Innovation (we receive the power to act and behave differently).

"What cells are we locked in that the Holy Spirit needs to break into so we can be free?" he asked. Fr. Pivonka then led us in a time of empowerment prayer, wherein the participants laid hands and prayed for each other.

The day closed with a talk by **Caroline Gambale-Dirkes**, who encouraged us to be Transformed for Mission. "Peter wimped out and denied Jesus," she said. "Then he was filled with the Holy Spirit and preached a sermon that converted 3,000 people! The proclamation led to the transformation."

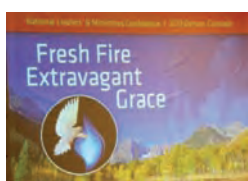
"When the Holy Spirit comes upon us, he's a mover and a shaker," she said.

"He gives us boldness, which is the willingness to take risks. When we're filled with the Holy Spirit, everything inside of us should burn with a desire to tell everyone the gospel!"

Gambale-Dirkes said that what stops most people from evangelizing are fear and pride. "The call to evangelize isn't about us, it's about them. God has called us to be faithful," she said. "God is the one who makes the transformation. That's his job." ♦

Leslie W. Bertucci has been in leadership in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal since 1985, serving as worship leader, conference and retreat leader, catechist and youth minister. She and her husband Johnny Bertucci have five children who often join them in ministry in the New Orleans area.





Fresh Fire, Extravagant Grace!

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND



The Lord has brought us here for fresh fire and extravagant grace. With these words **Tom Curran**, Friday evening keynote speaker, elucidated the vision of the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference held in the Archdiocese of Denver, September 13-15, 2013. He described this event as being like eye glasses, which we wear, helping us to see things that are unclear. He also com-

pared it to fresh bread, that is, a fresh word from God for today. This event is a breaking into time and a breaking open of time by God. "He brought you here for a fire that is fresh and grace that is extravagant! Move from the experience of God breaking in—to becoming an experience of God breaking in. The grace God has given us in baptism in the Holy Spirit is extravagant. Have you experienced the too-muchness of God? O God, shock us with your generosity!"

Archbishop Samuel Aquila, our Saturday morning principle celebrant of Eucharist on the Feast of the Exalta-



tion of the Cross, remarked that the readings call us to place our faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus pours out the Spirit. Each of us is called to intimacy with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are not in competition with each other. We need to receive the love they have for us. We need to recognize the incredible love poured out by the Father. We need to pray for deep faith and deeper intimacy.

Bishop Sam Jacobs, in his talk on Saturday morning, urged us to grow deeper in the life of the Spirit. He observed that baptism of regeneration is a fresh fire which causes reform in the Lord. He commented that baptism in the Spirit is a new infilling of the Spirit with fresh fire. He spoke of a baptism of power taking us to a deeper life of the Spirit and of a baptism of intimacy that will bring us into fullness of life, which begins now and comes to perfection in heaven. Jesus totally surrendered himself to his Father. When we surrender ourselves to God we remain the same person but we become the best version of ourselves. We were encouraged to desire to be in intimate relationship with God.



The Conference included a Track for Young Adult Leaders (pp. 8-9) and a Track for Young Adults. For the rest of us a variety of workshops offered ways of growing in holiness and developing charisms.



Prayer ministry



Conference participants

After the workshops on Saturday and before the empowerment session on Saturday evening, Dan Dirkes, conference emcee, led us in a powerful time of extended praise and worship while Devin Montagne (see p. 12) a young Christian artist, expressed his worship by painting on site the joyful Jesus! Jim Archer states, "I believe the combination of expressions opened our hearts in preparation for all that God wanted to do with us in the empowerment session that would follow that evening."

On Saturday evening, speaking of the Fresh Fire, this word came forth: "The fire is hot! Are you ready? Are you willing to be burnt?" We were exhorted to pray for expectant faith by saying, "This is for me! I want more of you, Lord!"

Maria Vadia stated that if the church would wake up this will be a most glorious time—there is a reason why we are alive—to partner with the Holy Spirit. She went on to say, "We need to listen because God is always speaking. We are alive for such a time as this! God is waking Sleeping Beauty."



During the Saturday evening session many people experienced the touch of God in powerful ways. One could see the outward signs but it will be wonderful in the future to hear the many stories of how people were touched inwardly by God.

"Dance in the fire of my love. Run in the fire of my love." These words led us into Sunday morning with inspiring

testimony followed by Mother Lucy Lukasiewicz, DLJC, who encouraged all present saying, "God equips those whom he calls," and "We just have to yield; yield everything to the Savior. Bishop Sam Jacobs celebrated Eucharist. He called us to give honor and glory to God for all God has done in our lives.

Testimonies were given showing how God had moved in the lives of individuals. In private conversations we heard the testimonies of individuals who experienced inner conversion at the conference or who were there because of a conversion or series of spiritual experiences before the conference. It was a privilege to hear the powerful stories of people moving from being lukewarm in their faith to an intense love of God leading to a desire to serve God.

Now is the time to give God permission to work in your life. Daily, ask for fresh fire and extravagant grace. Even now, they are still flowing! ♦

Listen to these exciting speakers from the National Conference!

Tom Curran
Bp. Samuel Aquila
Bp. Sam Jacobs
Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD
Jane Barz
Caroline Gambale-Dirkes
John Niswonger
Maria Vadia
Monica Hernandez
Mother Lucy Lukasiewicz
Casey Sprehe
and others

To order CDs contact:
Resurrection Communications
(888-809-0267)
www.ResurrectionC.com or
email resurrection@gmail.com.

An order form can also be found on the NSC website:
www.nsc-chariscenter.org.



Illustrator Devin Montagne during praise session.



The Love of My Father

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

The above picture, “The Love of My Father,” was painted on site by illustrator Devin Montagne, as his own expression of praise during the Praise and Worship Session before dinner on Saturday. “Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men will see visions” (Joel 3:1b).

Devin Montagne is a Colorado native who has been creating religious and sacred art since 2000. One day Devin was asked by a close friend to paint a picture of Jesus while they gave a talk about him. The idea was born! Using four colors and his hands, Devin continues to create art in this fashion.

This painting was purchased in a silent auction by Fr. Mark McCormick. He writes, “The conference in Denver, Fresh Fire Extravagant Grace, was an incredible encounter of the Holy Spirit

for me. I will always remember Saturday evening, September 14, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, as the day that I was prayed with to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. The painting reminds me of the joy I felt that evening. Throughout that night, as I slept, this painting seemed to be in front of me. Early Sunday morning I went to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament and I felt the spirit of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, inviting me to put a bid on the picture. I had made up my mind that I would go up to a certain

amount, but in the end I bid four or five times on the painting, going over my limit threefold.

“After the conference, as I prayed on Monday morning in preparation for Eucharist, the first reading from 1 Timothy 2:1-8 and Psalm 28:2 took my breath away. In the first reading, ‘It is my wish, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands...’ and in the psalm, ‘Hear the sound of my pleading, when I cry to you, lifting up my hands toward your holy shrine.’” On that same Monday, Fr. Mark received gifts from two friends. “It is amazing that these two gifts brought down my bid to the original amount that I had agreed to bid.”

In commenting on his own experience of joy, Fr. Mark quoted Pope Francis. “Joy is a gift from God. It fills us from within. It is like an anointing of the Spirit. And this joy is the certainty that Jesus is with us and with the Father.” ♦

The witness of a charismatic community

by Lori Harris

"The bridge to the Protestants is Charismatic, and we will walk it."

With that statement from Bishop Alvaro Corrada of the Diocese of Tyler, we began our work as liaisons with an emphasis on unity in the body of Christ. Our work of reconciliation has resulted in ecumenical Life in the Spirit weekends, charismatic prayer meetings and healing masses with Protestant speakers. Our ministering prayer teams combine Catholics and other Christian members. The Holy Spirit speaks one language and when we flow with him, he does great things through us.

A great day of unity took place this year when our new bishop, Joseph Strickland, participated in the National Day of Prayer. Bishop Strickland has

continued Bishop Corrada's vision for unity and the Church is stronger for it. The National Day of Prayer is the first Thursday of May and has been officially recognized since 1952. There are observances in most counties throughout the U.S. Because our bishop was willing to participate, we chose to chair the event for the county. I secured the county square from 9^{AM}—9^{PM} and began inviting Christian churches to take a one hour slot to pray. The slots filled quickly as each church realized the hour belonged to them to pray, worship and read scripture as they chose. The noon hour focused on the community as a whole as we gathered to read the national proclamation, pray for the nation, state, county and city and then specifically for the seven spheres of influence: religion, government and law, arts and entertainment, education, business, media and fam-

ily. We asked God's blessing and we asked God's forgiveness. Bishop Strickland joined hands with a Hispanic charismatic pastor and prayed for unity among believers. The Divine Mercy hour at 3:00 ^{PM} had our fellow Catholics praying and worshipping on the county square. This was a first for local Catholics.

Those who don't believe will know we are Christians by our love. This time together showed more love than we have shared publicly before. Will it be a light to the community? We sure hope so! ♦

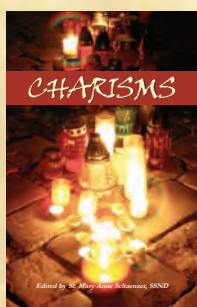
Lori and her husband, Alan, have led the Renewal in the Diocese of Tyler 5 years. They serve as the National Directors for Youth With A Mission's (YWAM) Kerygma in Texas. You can view their ministry at kerygmatexas.com or like their facebook page at YWAM Kerygma Texas.

For information on the Diocesan Liaison ministry go to www.associationofdiocesanliaisons.org.

Ready for "Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church!"

CHARISMS:

These questions are explored in a variety of articles, books, leaflets and booklets published by the National Service Committee (NSC).



Charisms is a booklet exploring the gifts of the Spirit in a collection of articles first published in *Pentecost Today* magazine. Titles include:

- Charism of teaching
- The charism of healing today
- Prophecy
- The charism of tongues
- Agents of mercy
- Three basic signs of a charism ● and more...

The booklet includes questions for reflection or for group discussion.

What are your charisms? What is their purpose?

NSC Leaflets offer an in-depth view of specific charisms (gifts of the Spirit), their purpose and how to use them.

Among the titles:

- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The Charism of Miracles
- The Gift (Charism) of Tongues
- Discernment and Discernment of Spirits
- The Word of Knowledge and the Word of Wisdom
- Understanding and Exercising the Gift of Prophecy
- Pastoring Word Gifts



For a complete list of resources go to www.nsc-chariscenter.org. To order call 800-338-2445.

From the
Executive
Director

.....



by Walter Matthews

Be Bold, Be Strong

As we left Denver after the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in mid-September it was as if with fresh fire that we heard the Lord saying, "Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you" (see Joshua 1:1-9). We felt challenged by the weather (rain, floods and hail), by speakers, and by an overall sense that the Lord is ready to move, and we must respond.

As we conclude the Year of Faith we enter into the Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church called for by the NSC and the other national leadership groups in our 5-Year Journey to the Renewal's Jubilee (for the 5-Year Plan and material on next year, visit our website.) One of the emphases of the Year is that not only is baptism in the Holy Spirit grace (extravagant grace) but so is the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as an ecclesial movement. We are an incarnation people: the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. As the recent ICCRS document states, "The Catholic Charismatic Renewal too arose as an unexpected grace, a surprise of the Spirit, unplanned and without formulated goals and programs" (p 14). We must attend to the Renewal if the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit will continue to be fostered in the life of the Church.

Another step in our Journey will be the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in Pittsburgh, November 7-9, 2014. Our theme is *Ignite: Charisms, Renewal, Unity*. If we are to be a stronger Renewal in 2017 than we are to-

day, we must ignite new fires and new audiences and reignite where the Renewal is struggling. And we must do it together.

Thus going forward from the Year of Charisms and Grace for the Church the national leadership group will convene a major Renewal conference in 2017 to celebrate the Renewal's 50th Anniversary Jubilee. The exact place and date has not yet been chosen but we pray that ALL Renewal groups, communities and ministries will plan to be present.

Please join in prayer for the Journey: Come Holy Spirit, Creator blest, come and renew the face of the earth! Open the floodgates of Heaven with new gifts; and prepare our hearts for the Golden Jubilee.

As we journey let us also give thanks for our Holy Father Pope Francis for as he returned from World Youth Day in Brazil, he was asked if "the Charismatic Renewal Movement [is] a possibility to avoid the faithful joining the Pentecostal churches?"

He responded, "...this Movement has done so much good to the Church in general... I've always favored them, after I was converted, when I saw the good they do. Because at this moment in the Church... I think the Movements are a grace of the Holy Spirit... Because of this, I think that the Charismatic Renewal Movement not only serves to avoid some going to join Pentecostal confessions. But no! It serves the Church! It renews us."

What powerful words of witness and affirmation. Our Holy Father is with us and does not hesitate to say so! Thanks be to God! ♦

Friends of the NSC

This edition of *Pentecost Today* is the result of the generosity of our donors as the NSC had only budgeted for two issues in 2013. We thank all those who have made this extra issue possible.

If you are one of the over 4,000 recipients of *Pentecost Today* who are not active donors we ask you to consider a modest donation of \$10 in support of *Pentecost Today* and all the ministry of the National Service Committee's work for "new life in Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit."

We want to also thank the donor who made a gift *in memoriam* of Leonard Liszewski and Bernie Fine. As we approach Thanksgiving we want to encourage our readers to make similar gifts *in memoriam* of loved ones, especially those in the Renewal who have died and gone to eternal rest. Prayer Groups especially are encouraged to make such gifts as well as gifts *in honor* of those providing leadership and service in the Renewal. You can download a Memorial Form from our website (see Donations).

At the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in Denver in September we announced the Campaign "Toward the Jubilee: 50 Years of Grace for the New Evangelization." This Campaign will seek to raise a million dollars over the next three years, over and above our regular fund raising efforts. The Campaign is focused on strengthening the NSC's ability to lead the Renewal as we respond to the Church's call for "new evangelization" and as we move to the Renewal's Jubilee in 2017. We have two goals: expand our events and electronic outreach to new audiences, particularly youth and young adults (included here is the hiring of a young adult minister for this area of outreach); and strengthen the long term financial stability of the NSC through the New Millennium Fund for the New Evangelization.

Please join us in prayer for the Campaign's success. You will learn more about the Campaign as we go forward.

What we have seen and heard

by Gerry Mader



What I have seen and heard

What a wonderful opportunity the Lord has given me to be able to serve on the National Service Committee (NSC) these past nine years. I have served with wonderful and gifted people, leaders who have helped me to grow in the charisms and have loved me as I am.

What a gift and grace to be part of creating and refining the Vision and Mission Statement of the NSC which is found on the NSC website under About Us.

I have seen the mission lived out in so many ways: the National Conference being held in various cities and the celebration of several significant anniversaries—the 40th (2007) in Secaucus, New Jersey and the 45th (2012) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—in community with ethnic and other streams of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and the exuberant praise and solid teaching and prophecy that empow-



National Service Committee information table at the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in Denver with staff member Anne Oyler and NSC member Tom Mangan.

ered those in attendance to be the evangelists that we are all called to be.

In addition there was the Gathering of National Leadership Groups for an annual meeting in Florida. This meeting has brought about a unity of purpose and strong relationships which has resulted in cooperation on national events and recently the development of a "covenant of understanding" to be entered into by many groups in the Renewal and beyond.

I have seen the impact of NSC Outreach Events such as "Praise and Teaching Rallies" and the leadership events in many dioceses around the country.

I have seen new people experience baptism in the Holy Spirit as other NSC members and I worked with local leadership to bring about renewal in their areas. Charismatic gifts were renewed and empowered in the lives of the participants as we built community between the NSC and local participants in the Charismatic Renewal.

In recent years, I have seen the NSC reaching out to younger people. Several have become members of the NSC Council. At conferences as well as through the use of more electronic media and our eNewsletter, we are seeking to bring the gospel, including baptism in the Holy Spirit, to all.

I would be remiss, if I did not thank all those members of the NSC with whom I have served and our Executive Director, Walter Matthews. You have helped me grow in living baptized in the Holy Spirit and in the charisms and have prayed for my healing during several illnesses.

Thank you all. ♦

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

Please mail to:

National Service Committee
Chariscenter USA
PO Box 628
Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628
Tel. (540) 972-0225
www.nsc-chariscenter.org

National Service Committee members:

Jane Guenther (Chairman)
Jim Archer
Jane Barz
Johnny Bertucci
Caroline Gambale-Dirkes
Dcn. Dan Guinaugh
Fr. Jeff Kegley
Mother Lucy Lukasiewicz, DLJC
Gerry Mader
Tom Mangan
Tammie Stevens

PENTECOST *Today*

PO Box 628 • Locust Grove, VA • 22508-0628

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
National Service
Committee



Published by the National Service Committee of the
Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc.

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.

Subscribe today!

Call 1-800-338-2445 or visit www.nsc-chariscenter.org
\$10 suggested annual donation requested.

*If you have received more than one copy of this publication,
please return all the mailing labels and we will make the
necessary corrections. Note: we send Prayer Group con-
tacts a copy. If the contact is also a donor you will receive an
individual copy. There is no need to send us your two labels.*

NATIONAL LEADERS' & MINISTRIES' CONFERENCE

NOV. 7-9, 2014
PITTSBURGH, PA

You Are Invited

If serving in your prayer group,
parish, diocese, charismatic
ministry or are seeking
growth in the Spirit.

For more information or to register call 800-338-2445 or visit
www.nsc-chariscenter.org



Principal
Speakers
include:



Fr. Killian
Loch, O.S.B.,
Michelle
Moran,
Mark Nimo,
and Fr. Dave
Pivonka,
TOR.



Others to
be named.

Rates good until April 30 \$69, \$125 (for couples)