

Calling one another to repentance and to growth: A Charism of Pastoring

by Sr. Nancy Kellar, S.C.

"Bear one another's burden and thus fulfill the law of Christ" Gal 6:2.

The charismatic gift of pastoring is a gift to both encourage and prune the life in the Spirit and the spiritual gifts in the life of an individual and a group. It is for all of those who have a responsibility for the physical and spiritual life of another or for a group of others. Its practice involves "caring for the weak, encouraging the faint hearted, admonishing the unruly and being patient with all" (1Thess 5:14). It may mean calling another to repent of wrongdoing where there is a moral wrong, or it may be calling another to growth and leading them to maturity where there is a habit of acting that disrupts the individual's peace and/or the unity of others in a group. Pastoring is the call and gift of parents for their children, of community members to one another, prayer group leaders to one another and to their members, pastors of parishes to priests and staff and to parish members.

Here are some examples when the exercise of this gift may be called for:

- In a family it might mean calling another to repentance and out of an adulterous relationship; or it might mean admonishing another addicted to computer games to a better use of their time.

- In a community it might mean calling an individual to repentance whose gossiping destroys a person's or a group's good reputation; or it might mean admonishing someone whose habit of talking so much means that others don't get a chance to share their stories.

- In the parish it might mean challenging an individual whose sharing of spiritual experiences with a confessor or spiritual director becomes so intimate that it takes their focus off God and puts it on the minister. Or it might be as simple as urging an individual, who insists on kneeling before receiving communion, to see that their "devotion" is hazardous to the person behind them.

- In prayer groups it might mean correcting leaders who are abusing their authority by becoming so dominant that the freedom of the Spirit and the development of others' gifts are stifled. On the other hand, it might mean dealing with behavior that is "out of order," such as falling down or screaming out at the beginning of the prayer meeting or Eucharistic celebration.

Sin and wrongdoing rob us of our good relationship with God and repentance restores our happiness and joy. In the *Benedictus* of Zechariah we hear, "May we know the joy of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins" (Luke 1:77). If we look at two Gospel scenes we see the effect of experiencing God's unconditional love through the gift of repentance and forgiveness.

The woman at the well: Her words to her town, "He told me everything I ever did" (Jn 4:40) were effective for their conversion because they were accompanied by the joy of her face, by the freedom of her whole body released from the bondage of sin.

The prodigal son's repentance restores the most important part of his inheritance, the love of his

father. In contrast to the younger son, the elder son's unforgiveness kept him out of the Father's house (Lk 15:11-32).

Wrongdoing also disrupts our good relationship with one another. It disrupts the unity of the family and the community. Love does not mean ignoring the truth. A key element in "preserving the unity which the Spirit gives" (Eph 4:3) is being able to recognize problems and to deal with them directly. The mission of being a witness by our holiness and our unity is hindered by sin. Broken relationships with God or others stifle the Spirit and the free exercise of the gifts of the Spirit. That is why the gift of pastoring and calling forth repentance is so important.

The gift of pastoring needs to be exercised in love. God works through trials to bring growth (Rom 8:28). Not only can God use difficulties for the good, they are a common instrument for bringing forth maturity and virtue (See Jas 1:2,4). Often it is only through trials that an individual or a group is shaken to move on to the next stage of growth. This belief helps parents and leaders to approach problems with a positive attitude. "Put an end to lying; let everyone speak the truth to his neighbor" (Eph 4:25). We need humility both to accept correction and to give it where we have pastoral responsibility.

Yet, it can be a mistake to want, in the name of clarity and truth, to push things too quickly to a resolution. Situations need to be handled with sensitivity, a great deal of patience, prayer and love. In the case of a community, prayer group or even a parish we need to pray for the wisdom to know if we are the right person to call another to repentance or challenge them to growth. If we want to change someone's

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NEWSBRIEFS

NSC Election Results

At the National Service Committee's meeting in January in Tampa, Florida, three members whose terms were expiring were re-elected to second three year terms. They were Jane Barz of Tripp, South Dakota, Johnny Bertucci of Mandeville, Louisiana, and Jane Guenther of St. Louis, Missouri. Newly elected to a three year term was Mother Lucy Lukasiewicz, DLJC.



Mother Lucy had a conversion experience in 1981 which prepared her for baptism in the Holy Spirit. God began to work radically in her life as a teenager and then in college. She felt drawn to religious life and entered the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, a Franciscan Charismatic Religious Congregation. She received the

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behavior because it "bugs me," we are probably not the right person or at least we need to come to peace in ourselves before talking to the person.

The gift of pastoring, of calling one another to repentance and growth, needs to be done with a profound reverence for one another (See Rom 12:9-10). Reverence is ordinarily a word ascribed to God alone. To speak of reverence for one another is to recognize that each person is only a little less than the angels, a reflection of God wondrously made by him in their mother's womb. ♦

Sister Nancy Kellar, SC has served in various leadership positions in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. A former member of the NSC, she is always a popular teacher and conference speaker.



name Sister Lucy and since her entrance has been deeply involved in youth ministry, adult ministry, evangelistic outreach, and in leading praise and worship. In 2002, Sister Lucy was elected the third Superior General in the congregation and became Mother Lucy. In 2008, she was re-elected. Since 2002, the Congregation has been to every continent for foreign missions except Antarctica. When asked what were her hopes in joining the Service Committee she stated: "from the beginnings of

our Charismatic Franciscan Religious Community, we have had our roots in spreading the 'spirituality of Pentecost' and in bringing people of all ages into a relationship with Jesus. I hope to join this charism of our congregation in collaboration with the mission and vision of the NSC to further the work of God." Jane Guenther commented, "What an exciting time as we enter into these years preparing for the Jubilee with gifts such as Mother Lucy's on the Committee." ♦

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The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

by Sr. Regina Marie Barsoum, DLJC

The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ is a Franciscan, Charismatic Religious Institute founded in 1972 by Mother John Marie Stewart and canonically erected in the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas in 1991. The sisters take the Rule of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis, and as TOR Franciscans their charism is metanoia. This life of metanoia, or ongoing conversion, is lived out in their particular charism of prayer, praise and evangelization. It is their personal daily conversion, in taking up their cross and following after Christ, that their life of prayer and praise is enlivened. This is symbolically represented by the wooden cross that they carry in their cincture. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, sung Liturgy of the Hours, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, two

hours of private prayer, and weekly prayer meetings are the foundation of all they do. From this deep life of contemplation and praise flows their ministry of evangelization.

The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ seek to witness the Gospel and draw all people into a personal relationship with Jesus through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. They labor in this way by giving Life and Growth in the Spirit seminars, adult and youth retreats, parish missions, foreign missions, and one-on-one evangelization. The sisters travel throughout the United States and abroad to bring the Good News to a culture that is thirsting for the truth and the touch of the Holy Spirit.

The sisters live in total dependence on God's providence. Living by donations and minimal stipends for the minis-

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tries they do, they are able to see the hand of God providing for all their needs. If you are thinking about a call to religious life or would like to know more about the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, contact the vocation directress at dljcvocations@gmail.com or visit the website www.dljc.org. ♦

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ing task of this kairos moment, to go forth from the Upper Room to the ends of the earth proclaiming the Good News. "Cross the River Jordan and take the promised land," this metaphor for "take the land" must be understood by each of us as something that we discern for ourselves as we embrace becoming trail blazers of the New Evangelization. It is the response to the prophetic word spoken in St. Peter's Square in 1975: "I will prepare you for an evangelization that the world has not known." We are living in a "Perpetual Pentecost." We need to embrace the spirituality of Pentecost and leave the Upper Room and live the mission, as Michelle challenged us to "grow up and go out." **Walter Matthews**, Executive Director for the NSC, then shared the five-year preparation plan for the Charismatic Renewal and the Jubilee year in 2017, a

time of fulfillment, a time of summoning. See Walter's article on page 3.

Msgr. Joseph Malagrec, a national leader in the Haitian and Hispanic Renewal, was the main celebrant and homilist at the closing Mass and drew us into the very gift of our Faith as we celebrated the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. He animated for us the presence of the Father, through the Son, with the power of the Holy Spirit that flows forth from the Father. He expressed the very Trinitarian nature of the Our Lady of Guadalupe image that was processed in at the opening of the conference. It exemplifies Mary as daughter of the Father, Mary as spouse of the Holy Spirit and Mary as Mother of the Son.

In your hearts take time to ponder these words from "Draw me Close," {You're all I want, You're all I've ever

needed, help me know You are near} and may it bring you back to the simplicity of your baptism in the Holy Spirit in such a way that you are empowered to go forward.

Jesus is near, calling each of us to live more fully in expectant faith that proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ will transform and renew the face of the earth. So recall the power of baptism in the Holy Spirit and recognize the importance of these next five years of preparing for the Jubilee Year so that when we gather in 2017 we will have crossed into the Promised Land and dwell fully in the New Covenant. ♦



Jane Guenther is a member of the National Service Committee. She is currently serving the Archdiocese of St. Louis as the Coordinator of the Catholic Renewal Center.

2012 Association of Diocesan Liaisons Conference

by Stephen Toth

*Liaison to the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio
Executive Director Ministry to Catholic
Charismatic Renewal, Toledo, Ohio*

The Association of Diocesan Liaisons held their annual conference in Memphis, Tennessee over the week of April 26-20. The event was hosted by the Memphis Diocese and held at the St. Columba Episcopal Conference and Retreat Center.

The very timely theme for this conference was “New Evangelization for Our Time” and the presenters were Fr. David Knight, Fr. Bruce Nieli and Fr. Larry Carew.

The Liaisons have found this annual gathering to be a wonderful way to renew old friendships, make new friends and share the Lord’s love. It is a time to be a disciple (learn) and expand their horizons. All of this happened in Memphis in wonderful ways.

A good overall description of this conference would be “immersion” and sometimes the water can be a little cold at first. So as Fr. David Knight led off the teaching with informing us that “we are all obliged by the mystery of Baptism to try to live the Christian life in its fullness and that this is a lifelong endeavor,” he also asked us to take an honest look at the reality of average parish life. That is that normal parish life is not geared to this because the parishes have not bothered to identify and set in place the means required to achieve this. BRRRR, cold water. It may not be pleasant but you just have

to plunge in. He went on to point out that the American bishops have addressed this need in their 1999 letter “Our hearts are burning within us: A pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in The United States.” Its three major goals propose the focus needed to launch the New Evangelization:

- 1 Invite and encourage ongoing conversion to Jesus in holiness of life.
- 2 Promote and support active membership in the Christian community.
- 3 Call and prepare adults to act as disciples in mission to the world.

So there is a plan and now the waters are warming up. He went on to flesh out a more detailed and practical plan of how to accomplish these goals with the end results being perfection in Christ. This plan can be found in an easy to read publication of his called “Immersed in Christ” and can be found at www.immersedinchrist.com.

The next presenter was Fr. Bruce Nieli who spoke on “Creating Catholic Enthusiasm.” The waters were initially a little chilly here too as Fr. Bruce pointed out the reality of the secularization of culture that is going on in America. It is happening and that is a fact. But he did not leave us there. He showed us how the church has brought about victory in these types of situations in the past and has given us a plan to achieve victory now.

He pointed out that the word “enthusiasm” when applied to religion means “in God” and is defined in the dictionary as “belief in special revelations of the Holy Spirit.” This belief was behind the Great awakening movements of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This enthusiasm was primary in creating the culture of this country and is very much needed now.

Fr. Nieli believes that the Charismatic Renewal and other movements of the church can be the “spark that gets things going” but the challenge now is to translate the enthusiasm for particular movements and programs into our broader identity as Catholic Christians. He does point out though that the Charismatic Renewal has a unique opportunity to renew our church because of its explicit rootedness in the Holy Spirit. He then went on to show us how to identify the “hunger and thirst” of the people of our world and how to begin to satisfy this hunger and thirst. He also relayed to us the stories of many prominent U.S. Catholics who have been leaders in transforming American culture and actually immersed us in their work by showing us around Memphis and taking us to places where some of them worked.

The week finished up with a retreat given by Fr. Larry Carew titled “Healing the Shepherds.” Fr. Larry gently ministered to those who minister. This is greatly needed and much appreciated. ♦

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

**From the
Executive
Director**

.....



by Walter Matthews

Repentance & Honoring

At the 45th Anniversary Conference in Philadelphia the NSC and a number of other National Leadership Groups announced a 5-year Journey to the Renewal's 50th Anniversary Jubilee in 2017. As a first and crucial step we are calling for a Time of Life-Giving Repentance now through the end of the year.

As its own first step the NSC spent time in our post-Conference Planning Meeting repenting and interceding. I cannot tell you what transpired as I am writing before the Conference and Meeting. I can tell you of another time the NSC spent a significant time in such repentance and intercession. It was in the late 80s or early 90s as the Renewal approached our 25th Anniversary in 1992.

It was a profound time of prayer as we sought forgiveness for the ways the NSC in its then history had wounded leaders and participants in the Renewal, had failed to be fully available to the Lord, and, at times, put forth its own agenda rather than that of the Lord. One of the decisions made at that time was to offer one of the Masses the NSC celebrates at its meetings for the past members of the Committee, a practice to which we still adhere. At the upcoming National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in San Antonio, November 2–4 we will invite the participants to enter into a time of life-giving repentance. It is our hope that if prayer

groups, covenant communities, ministries and diocesan service teams will plan similar events we can experience together a "purification of memory" and move forward more effectively in serving the Church in the new evangelization.

I invite all of you to join us in San Antonio and to do whatever you can to make this Time of Life-Giving Repentance fruitful. Part of this time of repentance involves reflection, forgiveness and dialogue. It is necessary to do all we can to "walk together again" not only with the Lord but also with one another. It is necessary to let go of hurts from the past, to see in the other the gift of God. It is not always easy but always necessary.

At the 45th Anniversary Conference the NSC honored Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan, long time leaders in the Renewal, for their gifts of leadership, theological work, and uncompromising commitment to build a model of communal life and overcome the brokenness of the Body of Christ. To read the honorings please visit our website.

All Renewal groups are encouraged to reflect on your own past and identify those in it who may need to be honored in some special way during this time. As Blessed Pope John Paul II wrote in 2001, "A spirituality of communion implies also the ability to see what is positive in others, to welcome it and prize it as a gift from God: not only as a gift for the brother or sister who has received it directly, but also as a 'gift for me'... Let us have no illusion: unless we follow this spiritual path, external structures of communion will serve very little purpose. They would become mechanisms without a soul, 'masks' of communion rather than its means of expression and growth" (*Novo Millennio Infonte*, 43). ♦

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Generosity comes in many forms. The Brothers of the Beloved Disciple received a bequest from Ann Robles, a portion of which they have generously shared with us. We are grateful to the Brothers and to Ann Robles—may she truly rest in peace.

If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of someone, you can download a form on our website or simply send a note with a gift.

Another way of sharing your generosity is to remember the NSC in your will, as Ms. Robles did for the Brothers. What better way, after caring for the needs of your family and local church, to reach out to pass along this grace of Renewal to the next generations. As one of our Top donors encourages all of us in the Renewal: "We must leave a legacy!" For more information, contact Walter Matthews, Executive Director, or Gerry Mader, Development Manager at 1-800-338-2445.

Finally, if you are a Prayer Group leader we invite you and your group to consider a gift of \$45 for this 45th Anniversary of the Renewal—a true sign of our solidarity in this work of Renewal. "You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause" (2 Cor 9:7-8).

Thank you for your support. ♦



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**What we have
seen and heard**

.....
by Jane Guenther



Faith and Repentance are gifts of God

Repentance and faith are inseparable graces. Each one, when appearing alone in the Scriptures, embraces the other; for, if this were not true, the passages which mention only the one or the other would teach that one may be saved without both repentance and faith.

This is accentuated by passages which teach that our coming to Christ and believing in him are the result of the working of God's power. See John 6:37, 65; Eph 1:19, 20. This is further enhanced by the fact that faith is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22).

Repentance is brought about in God's people by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit. At the conclusion of the 45th Anniversary Conference the NSC took some time to enter into a time of life-giving repentance at an evening service. Mentioned were repenting for the divisions in the early Renewal amongst covenant communities that broke apart, of the division amongst charismatic groups, of any hurts incurred by the actions of the National Service Committee, to mention a few. We expressed in writing any personal repentance and then lit a candle and passed the light from one to the other symbolizing a hope to carry that light into the darkness and help bring healing as we move toward the work and action of the 5-year preparation for the 50th Anniversary Jubilee.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR for his service to the NSC from 2008–2011, when he stepped down due to in-

creased responsibilities for his order. We were graced by his presence and leadership on committees, working groups and as a part of the Executive Committee. He received the word about this time of repentance for the Renewal and graced us in so many ways guiding the years ahead toward the Jubilee.

We also thank Chuck Hornsby of the Alleluia Community in Augusta, Georgia for the nine years of service from 2003–2012 as a vibrant member of the NSC. His giftedness in prophecy and word gifts, in publications, and the healing and deliverance working group, have been invaluable contributions. Chuck will remain connected to the NSC by continuing to offer his skills and talents on the Publication Subcommittee. His exhortation to praise the Lord has taught us much to never lose focus on what is most important.

In transitioning off the NSC, both Fr. Dave and Chuck have agreed to serve a two year term on the NSC Council. ♦

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