

Equipping for the Mission: 2009 Leaders' & Ministries' Conference

by Jane Guenther and
Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest”
(Matt 11:28).

With this passage from Scripture as a call to prayer Mark Nimo, originally a leader in Ghana now working and studying in Chicago, exhorted us to enter into the conference, giving all, with voices lifted in praise to the Lord in worship. He encouraged us to give over our suffering and pain and to realize that God is our all in all.



Msgr. David Brockman

We were welcomed to the Diocese of Raleigh by Msgr. David Brockman, Vicar General. He read a letter of blessing from the Apostolic Nuncio to our country. He shared Pope Benedict's words indicating that Pentecost is not only an event of the past but that it is ever alive. The same Spirit acts in every age.

Photos: Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, Tammie Stevens



Jane Guenther

Jane Guenther, from St. Louis and one of the newest members of the National Service Committee, shared a witness from her life experiences, relating how God is romancing us home and how we need to seek to be equipped for this ultimate mission.

Friday night was a *Festival of Praise*, a weaving together of a wonderful music ministry, praise leader and word gifts lifting all participants who had been gathered from varied places.

Saturday began with the celebration of the Eucharist presided over by Fr. Richard Loch, Chairman of the NSC, followed by workshops in the morning and early afternoon. These workshops related to Charisms, Leadership Formation, Outreach, and



Fr. Richard Loch

the Strengthening of Prayer Groups. Each of these workshops helped to flesh out the new Vision and Mission Statement of the NSC.

During the weekend several opportunities were given for leaders to experience healing pray-er. After the Friday evening session “*Wall Ministry*” occurred whereby healing ministers were available in pairs to pray with individuals for a few minutes. People lined up and went to the next avail-

able prayer team. This simple format allowed weary travelers to let go and for those heavily burdened to lighten their load before a night's rest. On Saturday another form of healing prayer, during the hours of the workshops and over the lunch hour, was available. Teams were available to pray with individuals who had signed up for a “*15 minute ministry*” period with those whose charism is known to be healing. Later in the afternoon a

general “*Healing Service*” was led by Dr. William Mitchell of Baton Rouge. He shared that we are the pray-ers and God is the healer. It is all grace. There are no special techniques. He took us through the examples of many Scripture passages on healing. He spoke of the mission of bringing Jesus to the hurting world. He assured us that nobody was here by accident. Dr. Mitchell then encouraged us to pray for one



another in groups of three or four. There was a genuine engagement in prayer by all there. We are thankful for the exposure to leaders of these varying healing methods.

Saturday evening was a time of exhortation. Mark Nimo continued to lead us to open ourselves to receive the empowerment of God for doing the work of the mission of Jesus. We were encouraged to be open to what God wants to do in a fresh, new manner. We need to remain connected to the vine who is Jesus. Power will flow as long as we are connected. We need to abide in God. The prophetic word expressed a genuine call to remember to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.



Leslie & Johnny Bertucci



Mark Nimo & friends from Ghana



Aggie Neck, former chairman of the NSC, spoke on Saturday evening, quoting from Scripture and other sources. She shared the words from the book of Esther whose uncle, Mordecai, said to her “Who knows but that it was for a time like this that you obtained the royal dignity” (Esther 4:14). She likened us to Esther, that we are here “for such a time as this,” to move into the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Lord is stirring us into a fiery voice. God does not ration the speech. We are like a sponge, which, if pinched, will squirt out the Spirit. The Spirit comes to you. Do you remain unchanged?



Bishop Michael Burbidge

On Sunday morning **Bishop Michael Burbidge** of the Raleigh Diocese was the main celebrant of the Eucharist. He encouraged us to be

people of gratitude, to see all of the blessings in our world instead of being people who complain. He suggested that our prayer be to seek where it is that we find the grace to be equipped. There are people in our midst who are crying out for help and we are their help. We need to look at our community and ask, “who needs me?” When Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted him to do for him, Bartimaeus was very specific. He wanted to see. Bishop Burbidge encouraged us to answer with faith the question of Jesus, “What do you want me to do for you?” Increased faith will be an attribute to mission.

Leslie and Johnny Bertucci (Johnny is also a new NSC member) from Louisiana shared a witness from their lives as a married couple. Deeply involved in youth ministry they found the best guiding statement for them has been: “It’s not about you. Just show up. Just say, ‘Yes!’”

Mark Nimo introduced us to two men from his country of Ghana who shared about the Charismatic Renewal there. They spoke of Ghana as one of the most peaceful countries. There are vibrant prayer groups in Ghana. Life in the Spirit has

become the Confirmation class. Seminaries are full of vibrant prayer groups. The Renewal has become the powerhouse of the church in Ghana. They have a national formation center to promote Catholic Charismatic Renewal and to form leaders. There are many schools, e.g. a School of Intercession, a School of Teaching, a School of Outreach. People from 22 countries in Africa traveled to Ghana for the Pan-African Conference. The hope of Africa is Jesus!

The conference culminated in a talk by **David Thorp** of Boston, a former member of the NSC. He spoke of God as one who is creating communities that extend the reconciliation of Jesus Christ for the glory of God. God has a mission and God has us for the sake of the mission. We are saved to serve. God has enflamed us to go into the darkness. We have been warmed by God’s love to go where things are frigidly cold. We are encouraged that we might take courage to those who need it. We are comforted that we might bring comfort to those who are weak. We are lighthouses in the midst of danger, on the edge of danger. He spoke of the lighthouse being the beacon, the guiding light at

the edge to keep ships from the danger of the shore. David quoted a 19th century Protestant missionary who said, “Some want to live within the sound of church and chapel bell. I want to set up a rescue shop within one yard of hell.” We need to find ourselves at the edge, rescuing the drug addict, bringing the young unwed mother hope, or introducing the unchurched to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He shared of his experience at Eucharist that very morning and hearing God speak to his heart that someone was going to die and they were going to go to hell. We must do something about that. There is new grace. The next harvest will be harder to bring in. That is okay because “You are giants!” he said. “You are not grasshoppers.” The Savior of the world rescued you. Jesus will ask us, “Where is the harvest?” What was received was to be used. In the midst of the heat, go to where it is cold. Go: shine your light—obediently, ecstatically, with risk. As the Father sent Jesus, he sends us with the empowerment of the Spirit. We are on the edge of a precipice, on the edge of newness. Don’t look down. Look across. Look forward. Be lighthouses, beacons of hope. ♦

Judith Hughes – Mercy and Related Charisms

Fr. Richard Loch – Holiness in Mission

Aggie Neck – God does speak to his people

David Thorp – No time for assimilation, no time for separation: serving parishes

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Chuck Hornsby – What Makes a Leader/New Leader

Chuck Hornsby – Men of the Spirit

YEAR FOR PRIESTS

June 19, 2009—June 19, 2010
Please Pray for Priests

Dear Lord,

We pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words, "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).

May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls. Amen.

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.

ASSISI 2010



ICCRS announces Conference on Intercession
May 19–23, 2010

The Road to Pentecost Conference is an opportunity to:

Experience a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit,
Celebrate the Pentecost Triduum and the Pentecost of the Nations,
Deepen our understanding about the call to intercession,
Intercede for the nations in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Speakers:

Michelle Moran: England,
Cyril John: India,
Reinaldo Beserra dos Reis: Brazil,
Kim Kollins: Germany,
Bob Canton: USA

Talks to include:

The Call to Intercession
Jesus the Intercessor
Return to the Upper Room
The Repentant Intercessor
Spiritual Warfare
Mary our Model for Intercession

Special closing Mass for Pentecost

There will be an optional special one-day pilgrimage in Assisi from the early afternoon of May 23rd to lunch of May 24th.

For more information and registration form visit:
www.nsc-chariscenter.org

A Brief History

by Fr. Richard DiGiulio

Charismatic Renewal has been around since 1966 in the Roman Catholic Church. It was started by a group of students at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and from there it has spread worldwide. Cardinal Suenens was instrumental in spreading its growth in Europe. It was formally known as the Pentecostal Movement and developed conferences during the 1970's at Notre Dame University to the tune of over forty thousand people yearly.

The name Charismatic Renewal came into existence so as not to confuse the movement with the Pentecostal Church. That is when the name was changed from the Pentecostal movement to Charismatic Renewal. The name charismatic derives from charisma;

meaning "gift of God." Those who belong to Charismatic Renewal have the "breath of God" that stems from the Holy Spirit who is the sole author of Charismatic Renewal.

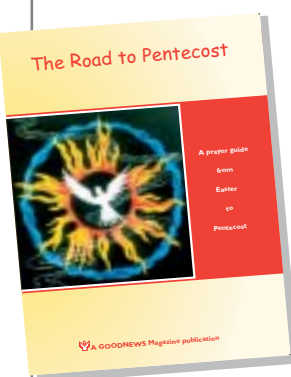
Charismatic Renewal developed two major organizations with the purpose of promoting growth in the United States. These organizations are the NSC or National Service Committee and the ADL or Association of Diocesan Liaisons. The formation of these important groups helps to more fully proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus through the use of charisms and gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Charismatic Renewal.

The Association of Diocesan Liaisons was established to promote support for each diocesan leader in Charismatic Renewal. A liaison is a representative

of the Ordinary Bishop in each diocese. It is important to come together as we do, once a year, in different cities. We usually meet on the third or fourth week of Easter. The week starts Monday evening and ends Friday at noon. We invite speakers to address important issues on topics that help us to grow in God's love and share with our diocese.

We would like to encourage our liaisons in each diocese to seriously consider attending our annual conference. Our next conference will meet in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on April 19-23, 2010. If you are interested in further information about the ADL or this conference please email me at frdigiulio@stbernadetteopny.org. ♦

Fr. Richard DiGiulio is Chairman of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons




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The National Service Committee and the other national leadership groups of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have designated the Friday preceding Ash Wednesday as a Day of Prayer and Fasting. **The date this year will be Friday, February 12.**

day of prayer and fasting feb 12 2010

Renewal participants are encouraged to pray for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States and that the Church in our country might be renewed in the grace of Pentecost.

This will be the ninth year designated for such a day to strengthen the unity of the Renewal and communion in the Church.



**From the
Executive
Director**

.....
by Walter Matthews

Serving the Lord and the Renewal

As is noted in Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner's column on page 15, at the 2009 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference the National Service Committee honored me for twenty five years of service on the national level. I was and am very grateful for the honoring but even more so for the call of the Lord so many years ago (1972) and the opportunities to serve him and this great Renewal over these many years.

It is not the purpose of this column to tell my full story here, but suffice it to say that the Lord took a fairly broken young man at the age of twenty one, who out of desperation said yes to him, and strengthened, corrected, healed, encouraged, challenged and, hopefully, matured him over the years.

The Lord knows that it has been the desire of my heart to serve Him with all my strength, and in all my weaknesses, to the greater glory of God. As it is said, whatever has been done well to Him be the glory, whatever has not belongs to me.

One of the truly incredible opportunities to serve the Lord and this Renewal, Fr. George Montague writes about in this issue: at the encouragement of my boss at the time, Bill Beatty, I attended and participated in the Heart of the Church Consultation that led to the writing and publication of *Fanning the Flame*. It was a personally life-changing experience. It was also transformative as I saw that what the Renewal was experiencing and pro-

claiming was a specific instance of what Pope John Paul II had written earlier about: "what was accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit 'in the fullness of time' can only through the Spirit's power now emerge from the memory of the Church."

Over these twenty five years I have served with, worked alongside, and come to know as brothers and sisters nearly all of those who have served as members of the NSC. To date there have been sixty four such men and women. Some of the others I knew before I came to the NSC, and many of the rest I have been privileged to get to know in other ways. I can honestly say that each of these men and women that the Lord has called to serve the Renewal on the NSC love the Lord, the Church and this Renewal. Each one has played or is playing his or her part, trusting that the Lord is doing his part to bring about a great renewal of the Church.

Who would have thought that we would see the day when Pope John Paul II would cry out in St. Peter's Square to the nearly half a million participants in movements, gathered in the Year of the Holy Spirit in preparation for the Great Jubilee: "Open yourselves to the gifts of the Holy Spirit! Accept gracefully and obediently the charisms which the Spirit never ceases to bestow on us!"

Or hear our current Holy Father Benedict XVI, when he was among us in 2008 "implore from God the grace of a new Pentecost for the Church in America. May tongues of fire, combining burning love of God and neighbor with zeal for the spread of Christ's Kingdom, descend on all present."

Twenty five years of national service, yes; thirty eight years of renewed life; forty three years of this great Renewal: we have only just begun! ♦

Friends of the NSC

With our recent Christmas Appeal we have launched a new opportunity for our donors to donate in memory of a deceased family member or friend, or honor someone on their birthday or anniversary or other special occasion.

You can download a form from our website at www.nsc-chariscenter.org/donations.htm. At that page check on Memorial Form. Or simply write with your donation who you want to give in honor of or in memory of, and the address of family or of the person/couple and we will send you an acknowledgement and a card to them.

We thank the donors who sent gifts in honor of Sr. Kathleen Hickenbotham and in memory of Bill Fritsch.

In this Year for Priests we especially want individuals, couples and prayer groups to think of priests, living or deceased, that you would want to remember or honor. As a special incentive we will send any priest who is so honored a copy of the recently published Leaflet, *Catholic Charismatic Renewal: Papal Affirmation and Priestly Witness*.

As we approach tax season we want to again encourage our Friends to consider the concept of a legacy – of including the National Service Committee in your will so that we can continue to work together for many years to come to "foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5) which empowered the members of the early Church at Pentecost" (NSC Mission Statement) and to pass it on to the next generations.

If you let us know that you have included us we would appreciate it.

Finally, as Bishop Sam Jacobs reminded us last year, "All of us are experiencing some financial concerns. But gratitude to God for his many blessings should not hinge upon the economic ups and downs of the market."

2010 is a time to go forward. We can do so much more together.

Executive Director

Walter Matthews

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For Your Information

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

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

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What we have seen and heard

.....
by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner



Four honored at national conference

In recent years a variety of individuals have been honored at our National Charismatic Leaders' Conferences for their dedication and generosity of time in service to this Renewal.

This past November four individuals were honored for their faithfulness and service.



Ralph Martin was honored as a founding member of the National Service Committee and as the founding editor of *New Covenant* magazine. Ralph was honored and thanked for his faithfulness to his call, for his service to the Church and to the Renewal both nationally and internationally.



Fr. Michael Scanlan, TOR upon celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of his religious profession was honored for his faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ, to his religious vocation and to this Renewal. He served on the National Service Committee in its early days and as Chairman (1975-1978). He also served as President of the College of Steubenville which became a university under his leadership.



Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM was honored for her leadership in the Renewal, not only as the Director of the Catholic Charismatic Center in

Albuquerque, but on the national level for over twenty five years as a member of the National Service Committee, as a founding member of the Editorial Board of *Pentecost Today* in 1991, and for the last five years as Editor.



Walter Matthews was honored for twenty-five years of service on the National level of the Renewal, serving currently as Executive Director for the National Service

Committee. During the turnover of various persons on the National Service Committee he has provided a thread of history. He has served the Renewal in numerous ways, many of which most of us will never know.

We are grateful for these individuals in our midst. We are also grateful to each of you, our faithful supporters and readers. We pray that God's mercy and blessing will continue to touch all of us.

For the complete text of the above, please see: www.nsc-chariscenter.org. ♦

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Published by the National Service Committee of the
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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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National Leaders' & Ministries' Conference



October 29—31, 2010

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