

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes."

by Jane Guenther and Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer

e experienced the power of the Holy Spirit at the Fall National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference. Power from on high came as Walter Matthews, Executive Director for the National Service Committee, welcomed all and informed us of the many cloistered religious orders praying for us and for the Holy Spirit to surround us. The beginning of the conference exposed us to the charm of southern hospitality with Johnny and Leslie Bertucci of New Orleans, Louisiana as the Emcees for the weekend. Their invitation to enter in and receive power from on high was enhanced by the music ministry, a combination of NET (National Evangelization Team), SPO (Saint Paul's Outreach) and TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) ministers.

Hometown Minnesotan, Peter Herbeck, gave his testimony and challenged us with our mission as Catholic Christians. The Lord opened doors and healed Peter's family. We are to trust and walk with the Lord as he calls us forth to proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ, even if that means traveling to Lithuania. The evening concluded with Wall Ministry provided by the National Service Committee and NSC Council members.

Saturday morning began with Eucharist at which Archbishop John Nienstedt presided. He opened his homily by singing *Breathe on me Holy Spirit*, and the thrust of his homily was to encourage us to receive the Breath of the Spirit in all we do.

The keynote speaker on Saturday morning was Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa who spoke about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit: Power from on High. He expressed the importance of the Renewal keeping alive the great treasure of baptism in the Spirit. He said that there are two ways of speaking: the first is theological, which defines; the second is concrete and shows the effects. In the afternoon he shared his testimony. He came to America in 1977 and received baptism in the Spirit at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. He personally experienced resistance from within to receive. Although he surrendered to the Spirit and likened this to giving God the reins of his life, he admitted that at times he wanted to "take the reins back." He had seen his spiri-

tual father as Francis, having taken vows in the Franciscan order: however, through baptism in the Spirit he came to know his Father through the Lordship of Jesus. Many in Milan spoke of his transformation, "We sent to America Saul and he came back Paul." The key to surrender is acceptance and obedience to the will of God. He spoke of personal consent to the power of Jesus. Thirty one years as the Preacher to the Papal Household, a position held longer than any other, allows us a glimpse into the providential placement by God in this time, of a man imbued with the Holy Spirit at the very heart of the Church.

The midday on Saturday was filled with Workshops and a Young Adult Track for those

Newsbriefs

NSC meets with NSC Council

Prior to the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference the National Service Committee met with members of the NSC Council for their annual joint meeting. The NSC Council are chosen from throughout the U.S.; men and women involved in the Renewal who share a commitment to the vision of the NSC and who either have gifts and/or expertise to help the Service Committee in its mission, or who come from local, state,

regional or national leadership. About 32 of the current 48 Council members were able to attend.

The Meeting consisted of time for praise and worship, including the celebration of Mass; small group sharing of life as well as discussion; and Working Groups. There are seven Working Groups. Each has a particular focus and purpose approved by the Service Committee and their work consists of discerning actions that, once approved by the NSC, the Working

Group can implement. The Working Groups are: Healing and Deliverance; Intercessory Prayer; Leadership Initiatives; Praise and Worship; Priestly Involvement; Strengthening Prayer Groups; and Young Adults. The actions of the Working Groups are part of the outreach and ongoing ministry of the NSC.

In the discussion part of the Meeting those present were asked to prayerfully discuss: what is the Lord asking of us (NSC/NSC Council, Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the U.S.) to do as we go forward to the 45th and 50th anniversaries of the Renewal? The discussions were full and the input challenging. We did not attempt to boil it down to one word or phrase, but certainly a key theme is expressed on the cover of this issue of *Pentecost Today*: keep the flame alive!

The NSC and NSC Council will next meet together in Baltimore prior to the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference, November 4-6.

Conference continued

18-36. Representatives of NET and SPO coordinated this vibrant track. The Young Adults had talks geared to them from Caroline Gambale-Dirkes on evangelization, Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa on purity and Peter Herbeck on mission territory. Ten workshops were offered attendees with a number covering charisms and fruits brought forth by a life in the Holy Spirit: Bob Canton on Healing, Tammie Stevens on Praise and Worship, Chuck Hornsby on Prophecy, Virginia King on Intercession, Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer on the fruit of the Spirit, Peter Herbeck on Mission, Caroline Gambale-Dirkes on Evangelization and Fr. Bob Hogan on the Full Role of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout Saturday healing teams from the Twin Cities Renewal and the NSC and NSC Council Members and prayer partners offered prayer in the healing room.

On Saturday evening it was powerful to have the Young Adults with us in the main ballroom to praise and worship. Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR shared, in his style of humor and soberness, the freedom the Lord desires for each of us. He does not want us to be held bound by anything. As we praised and worshipped the veil between heaven and earth seemed to thin and healings were proclaimed.

Sunday morning began with a beautiful reunion on Reformation Sunday of the Lutheran Renewal and our Catholic Renewal. Rev. Paul Anderson and his wife sang, A Mighty Fortress and he went on to passionately express his delight in being with us. He said "Success needs a successor" and so we needed to pass the baton on to the next generation. They are crying out for spiritual mothers and fathers. Don't be intimidated by their enthusiasm. Revival seldom reached the third

generation but Renewal does. Three things are important, the authority of the Word of God, the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the empowering presence of the Spirit.

Caroline Gambale-Dirkes then gave her testimony and challenged us to not do "Renewal Light" but to stay true to delivering the full message of the Gospel and to call upon the full role of the Holy Spirit. She encouraged multi-generational events in order that parents might be able to come.

Sunday morning concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Sam Jacobs presiding. We heard that we are called and that it is God's plan that his people be renewed by the Holy Spirit. "Everybody is part of the plan of God. Go do your part."

We were sent forth with words of comfort and exhortation: "Be glad and rejoice." "I am always with you." "Be prepared, for a new outpouring of my Spirit is beginning, even now."

Readers are invited to share their testimony (100 words or less) of God's blessings received through the Conference. With your permission we will be happy to publish it in Pentecost Today or on our website as opportunity permits. As it says in the Book of Tobit: "...the works of God are to be declared and made known."

Listen to these exciting speakers from the national conference!

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa
Archbishop Nienstedt
Peter Herbeck
Fr. Dave Pivonka
Caroline Gambale-Dirkes
Bishop Sam Jacobs
Rev. Paul Anderson
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Conference testimonies

rriving in St. Paul with fellow prayer group member, Bell Moore, I intended to discern what the Lord wanted to do in my life and work since the recent loss of my husband. Bell was motivated by a charism of service to accompany me. I was already blessed.

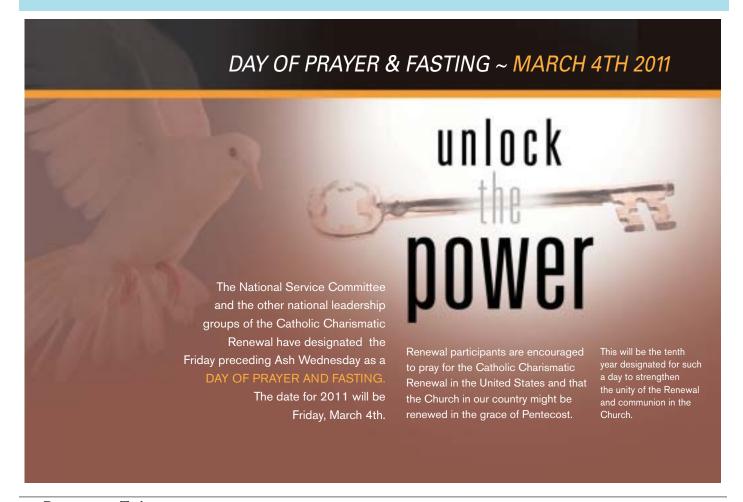
All of the prayer ministry, the sessions, workshops and personal encouragement from many individuals helped me to receive new fire from the Holy Spirit that reminded me of the fire received over forty years ago. I have renewed energy and enthusiasm for my work, parish ministries and, with Bell, vision for our prayer group. It really is a new day!

Jean Beers St Hubert Prayer Group, Langley, Washington

he conference was for me an anointed time of learning and inspiration. I returned home from St. Paul knowing that I too was blessed with "power from on high" to keep the grace of Pentecost alive in our Church and world. I was inspired to take RISKS for the kingdom and to seek how I might bear good fruit in my daily life.

To deepen my understanding of the talks I purchased the CDs so I will be able to listen and re-listen to all of the speakers. There is a world out there that wants to know God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit I am called to bring the Gospel of love to others, to others, and to others.

Sister Jean Sarchet, IHM Monroe, Michigan



DIOCESAN LIAISONS

Giving and trusting—God's true economic stimulus plan

Gloria Coyne Liaison, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

t always seems that one of the most difficult things to do in ministry is to get the proper funding and resources to carry out God's vision whether it be for the NSC, your Renewal Center or any other ministry. It is easier for people to give when there are tangible results of their giving such as feeding the poor, helping the homeless, etc. However, there are intangible results that are more difficult to see, but are just as important. In our ministries, we are called to bring souls to the Light of Christ, help people to grow in holiness and fulfill God's personal plan for their lives.

The apparent problem seems to be resources; at least that is what the world would have us believe. I was like most Christians, giving "after my bills were paid," and I thought I was a generous

person, but I had a self imposed limit on my giving. God began to show me that yes, he could bless me, but by my giving at a much higher level, God showed me he had that much more room to bless me.

In Luke 6:38, we are told "to give and it will be given unto you; pressed down and shaken together, and running over." God began teaching me through his word about his system and his nature. God is a God of abundance, provision, restoration, increase and power. On the other hand, the devil comes to "kill, steal and destroy." So in essence, giving to build up God's Kingdom is really spiritual warfare.

In the Renewal, we understand that when we lay hands on people that we aren't the ones doing the healing, we are simply conduits for God's healing power to work in their lives. So too, God wants to work through us to be the conduits of financial blessings to build up ministries, the church and his people.

In God's system, like produces like. If you plant an apple seed, you can't get a pumpkin. Likewise, when you begin to plant your financial seeds you will begin to see that working with God can move "mountains" in your finances and cause impossible things to happen in your life. Remember the loaves and fishes? God can do a lot with our little.

Get into the habit of increased giving and see the increase and blessings flow. With God as our unlimited source of our supply, we can become channels, not reservoirs, for God's resources.

In the end, all giving reflects God's love. We aren't giving to get, but to be a greater channel to glorify with our money and possessions, God the Father, through Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. •

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

Why include the NSC in your will?

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

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

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

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





Catholic Ecclesial Movements

n numerous occasions Pope Benedict XVI has spoken or written of his support and encouragement for the various ecclesial movements that have been birthed in the Church in the years just prior to and after the Second Vatican Council. In 2008 he said,

"As I have been able to affirm in other circumstances, the Ecclesial Movements and New Communities which blossomed after the Second Vatican Council, constitute a unique gift of the Lord and a precious resource for the life of the Church. They should be accepted with trust and valued for the various contributions they place at the service of the common benefit in an ordered and fruitful way."

It was, of course, Pope John Paul II who first affirmed the significance of the movements and new ecclesial communities and gathered participants in them in Rome in the Year of the Holy Spirit in 1998. Something Pope Benedict repeated in his own way in 2006.

The National Service Committee has been privileged to be working with Bishop Sam Jacobs, former Chairman of the NSC and longtime leader in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, to gather movement leaders in the U.S. over the last three years. As the Mission Statement affirms, we are called to cooperate "with other Catholic organizations and movements."

The work behind the scenes (to date, a number of phone calls and two in person meetings) reached a certain point last November just prior to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops annual meeting in Baltimore. There the members of the Catholic Ecclesial Movements and New Communities in the U.S. in Conversation (representatives of Cursillo, Focolare, Life Teen, The Neocatechumenal Way, Arise International, Worldwide Marriage Encounter and the Renewal) as well as a few other representatives hosted a luncheon for Bishop Friends of the Movements and New Communities. (Each of the participants in the Conversation, as we have been calling ourselves, was asked to invite to the luncheon bishops known to be involved in and/or friendly to their movement or new community.)

The purpose of the luncheon was to share our vision of possible future actions to bring a greater awareness of the movements and new communities to the bishops on the national level as well as to celebrate what the Lord has done in and through them. As Cardinal Ratzinger writes about the attitude we should have for the movements and new communities, "Gratitude that the Holy Spirit is obviously still at work in the Church today and endowing her with new gifts, through which she can relive the joy of her youth (Ps 42:4, Vulg.). Gratitude for the many people, young and old, who respond to the calling of the Holy Spirit and joyfully step out in the service of the gospel without turning back."

The dialogue at the luncheon was energetic and we look forward to further progress as we work with these other movements and new communities. Please keep this in your prayer.

Friends of the NSC

We are nearing the end of the year and we are hopeful that with our donors' generous response to our Advent/Christmas Appeal our income for 2010 will exceed our expenses. This would be a great blessing given the current economic challenges for our country and for so many who are unemployed or underemployed, or perhaps still seeking their first job after high school or college graduation. Let us pray that 2011 will see an economic turnaround for the better!

The 2010 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in St. Paul, as you will read elsewhere in this issue, was very powerful and very well attended. Those who came were quite generous and the success of the Conference financially was a significant part of the NSC's financial well being in 2010.

To all our donors, those who gave at the Conference and those who gave throughout the year, THANK YOU and a special thanks to our Fanning the Flame Partner and Friends 300/600/1000 pledgers.

Over the last few months of the year we received only one memorial/honors gift. We thank the donor who honored:

Fr. Will Combs, BBD Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

Fr. Joseph Mary Marshall, SM

Fr. George Montague, SM

To make a memorial or honoring gift you can download a form from our website at www.nsc-chariscenter.org/donations.htm then click on Memorial Form, or simply write with your donation who you want to give in memory of or in honor of (and the address of the family or of the person/couple) and we will send you an acknowledgement (and a card to them).

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

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For Your Information

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

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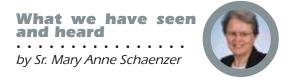
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Serving the Lord in Renewal from around the United States

ational Service Committee members serve the Renewal and the larger community in a wide number of ways in addition to the service they give as NSC members. They serve the local diocese as liaisons (Judith Hughes, Jane Barz, Jane Guenther); as director of the diocesan centers (Fr. Bob Hogan, Jane Guenther); service to a covenanted community as elder and school superintendent (Chuck Hornsby); service to their religious communities in the area of formation (Fr Dave Pivonka and Fr. Bob Hogan); service in the area of evangelization and LifeTeen (Caroline Gambale-Dirkes); service to the local renewal (Gerry Mader, Johnny Bertucci); own and lead a secular business (Johnny Bertucci); service to a local parish community (Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer).

Each of the above also serves on several sub-committees of the NSC. Many of them have gone out to other areas of the country to speak as requested. NSC meetings happen not only in person (a few times a year) but on conference calls with Walter Matthews, Executive Director for the NSC. Most of the committees have conference call meetings —frequency depending on need. Some committees also have an annual in-person meeting over a weekend, e.g. the editorial board for Pentecost Today, in order to do the initial visioning and planning for the next four issues of the magazine. We are grateful for e-mail which allows us to take care of many business pieces in an efficient manner.

It is wonderful how the Holy Spirit brings together such a varied group of people to serve. Jesus said of himself that he came not to be served but to serve. This is the attitude that is reflected in this community of individuals, rightly called a Service Committee.

But this is only one such committee. There are Hispanic, Haitian, Korean and Filipino Service Committees in the United States. There are also people of service among the Portuguese and Vietnamese. Are there others? Let us know. And then there are the many diocesan and local boards, officers, trustees and committees.

So, isn't it interesting that we did not start out with all of this structure? The Spirit began by bringing a deeper experience of the gifting of God and the structures came about to serve the mission of the Spirit, not the Spirit to serve the structures. Let us always stay awake and discerning of the way the Holy Spirit is leading, lest we begin to lead and expect the Holy Spirit to do our bidding. Guide us, Holy Spirit, into your future for us.



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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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Baltimore, Maryland in 2011! National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference November 4–6

