



RENEWAL

Charismatic Renewal Today

## (We Are) Standing on Holy Ground: National Leaders' & Ministries' Conference 2011

by Tammie Stevens

*"...for the Lord is present and where he is, is Holy."*

**O**n November 4-6, 2011 the BWI Airport Marriott in Baltimore became Holy Ground as over 700 participants gathered, from all over the U.S. for the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference. The presence of the Lord was evident in the praise and worship, the teachings, the healing prayer ministry and in the interactions of all those who attended.

Our emcee for the weekend, Bob Valiante, led us as we praised the Lord with fervor, while the music ministry of Erik Christensen & Friends prepared our hearts to worship. The weekend was full of encouragement and challenges for us to grow. Each speaker unpacked the theme of this

conference, each in a unique way but also with some consistent threads woven throughout their talks. Here are a few of the highlights from the General Sessions.

### The Gift of Holiness

*"The gift of holiness is offered to all the baptized."*  
(*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 30)

On Friday night Ralph Martin helped us dive into the meaning of this quote by attempting to make tangible what this gift of holiness is. He said "the essence of holiness...is about love, it's all about loving God, with our whole heart, mind, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves. It's about the transformation of our hearts into hearts of love." Even though we might make excuses about our unworthiness, he continued by saying there are no "buts" about it: "The deepest truth about every single person is that we were created for union with

God, for the Lord says: Be holy because I am holy." We can only know this truth by grace.

As Ralph shared the first of Pope John Paul II's spiritual principles (see Chairman's Column, page 2) we were challenged to "say YES to grace!" In order to say YES to grace we must "renew a complete surrender to the Lord, a complete letting go, saying to him: 'I want to continue the journey, help me. Give me wisdom about what the next steps are.'"

On Saturday, Neal Lozano continued about this gift of holiness, adding that "as we respond to that gift, we receive his presence and manifest his presence in our lives wherever we go." Neal focused on this gift of holiness in the context of freedom by stating: "when we're truly free, we're truly in God, we're truly holy. As Christ has set us free, he has set us



Neil Lozano



Fr. Dave Pivonka



Tammie Evevard



Fr Francis Martin & Fr Bob Hogan



Conference participants

Photos: Sr. Mary Anne Schaezler, Tammie Stevens

Speakers Angelus Virata, Charles Whitehead, past ICCRS president, with Walter Matthews, NSC Executive Director



free to be holy.” And that in this journey of holiness “sometimes we need a breakthrough to enter into the holiness we have already received in baptism.” He continued by giving us some tools to seek this breakthrough as we grow in freedom and holiness.

### The Call to Stand

*“But the gift [of holiness] in turn becomes a task, which must shape the whole of the Christian life.”*  
(*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 30)

There was a strong message throughout the weekend that we need to not only stand on holy ground but take a stand; to stand up. In the first part of his talk Friday night Ralph reminded us of the challenges we face in our current society, especially those that are challenging our faith. But we have hope because we know the secret. At the Saturday morning Mass, Fr. Dave Pivonka exhorted us to share the secret: “The secret that the world has longed to know has now been revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ and that’s good news.” Do we share this secret?? We need to live our faith out

loud. Our world needs for us to “live this secret, not just talk about it.”

Saturday evening we were challenged to “get out of our comfort zones and come into a new relationship.” Through his testimony Brian Kissinger reminded us that getting out of our comfort zones is about offering God our weaknesses as well as our strengths: “God does not want what we can offer to the world or the great things that we can do. He wants us to step up and provide for the things that we know are way out of our league, that are way beyond our abilities so that at the end of the day there will be no doubt Whose power, Whose Spirit, Whose mission was accomplished.”

Charles Whitehead summed up this call to stand as he acknowledged that “holiness means spiritual battles, we have to fight them. Holiness pleases God, but it offends people. We have to stand our ground. It demands that we stand out, it demands that we speak out.” Growing in holiness requires us to take a stand for the things of God! We must take a

## Listen to these exciting speakers from the National Conference!

Ralph Martin  
Neal Lozano  
Charles Whitehead  
Tammy Evevard  
Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD  
John and Therese Boucher  
And others

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stand for that which God wills, with our hearts and minds focused on being “for God.”

### Holy Ground

A recurring truth throughout the weekend was that “wherever God is present is holy ground!” Tammy Evevard reminded us that “we stand on the most holy ground when we receive Jesus in the body and the blood. But it is no less holy ground when we reach out to our children and we pray with them; no less holy than when we say to our spouse I love you and I forgive you; that is holy and sacred ground.”

There was a strong sense of the urgency for us to be God’s presence in the world and proclaim the Gospel of love, even if this offends the world. We must stand firm and be who God wills each of us to be: truly holy as he is holy.

In the closing homily Fr. Francis Martin talked about “knowledge by contact, that this is the heart of baptism in the Spirit.” This kind of knowledge requires love; to move us out of ourselves;

that this is what we mean by experiential faith. It is through this experiential faith, growing in this knowledge by contact, that we continue to grow in holiness that allows us to stand up and bring the presence of the Lord into our world.

Charles Whitehead sent us forth Sunday morning with a litany that ended with this line: “...if all the holy people would only stand up and honor the One who was lifted up, we’d have the most effective renewal the Church and the world has ever seen! Amen!” May this not simply be another conference for us but a call to a deeper experience of the holiness and presence of God that we take with us wherever we are called! ♦

*Tammie Stevens has been active in Charismatic Renewal for over 20 years. She currently works at Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal office and is on her first term on the National Service Committee.*



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Leaders Meet

Members of the NSC and NSC Council met for a day and a half prior to the 2011 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference for prayer and discussion on several topics of mutual concern. A sharing was given on the ICCRS-sponsored Colloquium in March on "Baptism in the Spirit—Outpouring of the Spirit" and an introduction was given to the ICCRS soon-to-be published document entitled *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. We will have an article on the document and its significance for the Renewal in the United States in the next issue of *Pentecost Today*.

Fr. Bob Hogan shared the Committee's current plans and ideas for a five year journey to the Renewal's Jubilee in 2017. Much of the rest of the time together was spent in Working Groups comprised of members of the NSC and

NSC Council discussing initiatives currently being done or to be done in the areas of Healing and Deliverance, Intercessory Prayer, Leadership Initiatives, Praise and Worship, Priestly Involvement, Strengthening Prayer Groups, and Young Adults.

One of the words that emerged from the prayer and discussion was the Lord calling us to a renewed expectant faith. There was a clear sense that along with perseverance we need a deeper expectancy. As Blessed Mother Teresa is quoted as saying: be willing to do the ridiculous to see the miraculous.

The NSC and NSC Council will next meet in San Antonio prior to the 2012 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference there. ♦

### Invitation from page 3

God's Kingdom, "you will be fishers of men" (Mk 1:17). Their hearts became attuned with the Lord's heart, "If you wish to be perfect... come follow me" (Mk 10:17-31). He requested their being present to him, and their participation in building up the Kingdom of God, "He called twelve, to be with him and to preach the Gospel" (Mk 3:14).

This last scripture gives us the clue on how to exercise the charism of Invitation and enrich our ministry. Rather than merely pushing and coercing people, as if all depended on the amount of exterior activity we do for the Lord, we need to do what the Lord asks from us. "Be with him." Take the time to commune with the Lord, and then to "preach the Gospel," reaching out to others.

Being effective evangelists is not a matter of technique, but rather of genuine union with Christ. Union effected through actually doing his will in every aspect of life: charity, prayer and sacrifice. It is only after "abiding with him" that Christ's disciples go out and invite others to "come and see," then the Lord may touch and change them too. It is, in the end, Christ himself who invites, now through his disciples. ♦

*Sister Magdalena Casas-Nava, DLJC is a member of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, a Catholic, charismatic religious community located in Prayer*



*Town, Texas. She presently serves as Director of the Catholic Charismatic Center of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

### DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING ~ FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 2012

unlock  
the  
power

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 for 2012 will be Friday, February 17th.

[www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org)

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 eleventh year designated for such a day to strengthen the unity of the Renewal and communion in the Church.

## The Spirit at work

by Deacon Werner Rose

Recently, during the ordination of three of our transitional deacons to the priesthood, I heard the following words from our bishop, James Terry Steib, DD, SVD. He said, "Understand what you do, imitate what you celebrate and conform your life to the mystery of Christ."

In thinking about those words, I had the distinct impression, and you may also, that those words spoken are meant for all of us as well. I can recall in my own experience, on our final retreat as a deacon candidate, being asked to put to prayer our desires for ministry, and the gift from the Holy Spirit that would most help us to share that ministry. I remember saying to the Lord that I would like ALL the gifts.

Not really knowing how that would be heard, I found out a few short years later when our bishop asked if I would consider being the liaison for the Charismatic Renewal in Memphis. The rest is history, as I now serve as liaison for the Diocese of Memphis. As I started to get more accustomed to the grace of the Charismatic Renewal, it occurred to me that my meditation prayer at the deacon candidate retreat had been answered in a surprising, yet affirming way.

After some time in the Renewal, I began to sense that the Spirit was at work, helping me to understand another facet of his spiritual reality. Coming from the tradition of the Serra Club, I have become accustomed to a spiritual perspective that served the Church by praying for and supporting priestly and religious vocations. Unknowingly, in that undertaking, I became a product of my own prayer. As time went on, I

realized that doors were being opened whenever I surrendered to God's call. Likewise, I believe that also to be true for works of evangelization which brings me to the theme of next year's ADL Theological Symposium: *New Evangelization for Our Time*.

It is with great joy that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Memphis Diocese invites each liaison and associate liaison to join us in Memphis, Tennessee April 12-16, 2012 for the annual (ADL) Association of Diocesan Liaisons Theological Symposium. My associate liaison, Carlene Inzer, has been hard at work making preparations for your total Memphis experience. We sin-

cerely hope you can be present and join with us to make it the best meeting ever. Together we will explore what the "new evangelization" is all about and strive to be more influential in this communal call of the Church.

We look forward to seeing you this year. May God bless you and yours along the way. ♦

*Deacon Werner Rose is the Liaison for the Charismatic Renewal, Diocese of Memphis.*

For more information about the Association of Diocesan Liaisons go to [www.associationofdiocesanliaisons.org](http://www.associationofdiocesanliaisons.org).

# SAN ANTONIO

## National Leaders' & Ministries Conference November 2-4, 2012



Jesse Romero

Receive the Holy Spirit



Proclaim the Gospel



Live out the New  
Evangelization



Other speakers to be named



Sr. Nancy Kellar, SC



Jim Murphy



Walter Matthews

Early bird rate: \$69 individuals \$135 married couples until April 30. To register online or for a registration form go to [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org).



**From the  
Executive  
Director**

.....  
by *Walter Matthews*

## Celebrating Together

Since 1999 the National Service Committee has been meeting regularly with the leadership teams of the Haitian and Hispanic Renewal in the U.S. as well as with the Diocesan Liaison Steering Committee. Also participating have been representatives of the Filipino and Korean leadership and the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Communities and Fellowships. We call this the Gathering of National Leadership Groups: Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

These same groups have been collaborating on celebratory conferences on an every-five-year basis: 1997 and 2002 in Pittsburgh to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the Renewal; 2007 in northern New Jersey for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This year we will gather together in Philadelphia, June 1-3 to celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and to begin a five year journey to the Renewal's 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2017. Our theme will be: "Let us pray with one heart together with Mary in the Upper Room."

Why do we gather in this way? The substance of our coming together is to praise and worship the Lord, to give thanks for his many blessings in this great Renewal, to seek to hear his Word, and to be renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit for the new evangelization.

We also gather to celebrate with ethnic brothers and sisters and those in covenant communities, etc. with whom we often do not meet at the diocesan level. We do so fulfilling a commitment to the Unity Statement first adopted by

the participants at a meeting in St. Louis in February 1995. The Statement was ratified at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in June 1997 and amended by participants in the Gathering in January 2001. It reads in part:

To fulfill our call to bring this grace of Pentecost into the life of all to whom God sends us, we recommit ourselves to appropriate the prayer of Jesus for unity, "May they all be one," by:

- ◆ Responding to the call for deeper unity with Jesus through prayer.
- ◆ Working for unity in all relationships through repentance, reconciliation and friendship.
- ◆ Fostering unity with the Church through loyalty and obedience to our Bishops, the Magisterium and the Holy Father, especially in his pastoral for the new millennium, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*.

In short, we gather to celebrate *together* because the Lord calls for us to be one Renewal with many gifts, much diversity of charisms and ministries, and many different structures. We celebrate in the many languages God has given us to praise him. Our coming together is not about structure but about relationship—with him and with one another.

When we gather together we "confidently ask the Father for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the third millennium and for a wide diffusion of the gift he has already given, especially to ignite the new evangelization." (From the Conclusion of the new ICCRS document *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*)

We hope to see you in Philadelphia praying with one heart together with Mary and all the saints: "come Holy Spirit, come!" ◆

## Friends of the NSC

As we celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this great Renewal we are already taking steps toward our 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2017. We will be announcing plans for the journey at the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, June 1–3 in Philadelphia. We hope to see you there.

While the results of our Fund Raising efforts in 2011 are not in we can tell you that the 2011 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in Baltimore November 4-6 did better than budgeted, and for that we are very grateful to those who attended and to those who made donations.

We would also like to thank those who made gifts *in memoriam* of Mary Young; and in honor of Fr. Robert DeGrandis, SSJ and Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD. 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.

We especially encourage Prayer Groups in this 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year to honor or remember those from the prayer group who have made a lasting contribution or have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

Because of financial need we recently asked our NSC Council members to join us in praying the *Memorare to St. Joseph*. One responded with a generous donation and pledge writing, "my wife and I are happy to make a contribution towards the financial needs of the NSC...along with agreeing to pray the *Memorare to St. Joseph*. Please pray for our family and for our business so that we can have resources to assist in the new evangelization."

Will you join us this year in praying?

### Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, most pure spouse of Mary ever Virgin, our loving protector St. Joseph, that never has it been heard that anyone asked your protection or sought your aid without being helped. With this confidence we come before you. We fervently recommend our intention to you: the financial needs of the NSC to have the resources to do your work. Despise not our prayer, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously hear it. Amen

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**What we have seen and heard**

.....  
by Jane Guenther



## Holy Spirit Seminars in clergy formation

Dr. Ralph Martin expressed in his talk at the 2011 National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference the awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence in the faculty and staff at Sacred Heart Seminary. The outpouring of the Spirit on the priests of the future is increasing.

We find there is a growing awareness of God's emerging presence through those baptized in the Holy Spirit at many seminaries across the world. God is preparing his priests and God is preparing his people.

In the North American College Seminary in Rome they have been having Life in the Spirit Seminars and the rector indicated that he wanted to continue to have these each year because the men were being so much more Christ-like to one another.

In India NET ministries, which is an evangelization ministry, has brought the Holy Spirit into the seminarian's formation.

In St. Louis for the past six years we have offered a Life in the Spirit Seminar for the seminarians and it is starting to bear much fruit. The new rector in St. Louis came to his vocational call through the Charismatic Renewal. The academic dean is a convert to Catholicism with Charismatic Renewal being his roots.

Since we are a regional seminary I have received many calls from those who have been ordained for other dioceses.

Recently one of the priests from the Rockford Diocese called to tell me about his encounter with a particular gentleman. While in ministry with him, he found himself praying in tongues, when as he put it, he "way prefers" Gregorian chant. He wanted to let me know that the outcome for both was pure gift and that the openness to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the Life in the Spirit Seminar was starting to be manifested.

The blazing word heard at our NSC/NSC Council meeting was expectant faith. So often we live with discouragement at numbers or visible manifestations of the Spirit. I believe we need to hear the call to live in expectant faith that "the good work begun in them will come to completion" (Phil 1:6). ♦

## 2011 INDEX

The *Pentecost Today* magazine Index for 2011 is ready. All of the articles that appeared in *Pentecost Today* are available on the National Service Committee website. Locate your favorite articles and authors in this helpful reference.

Go to:

[www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org).

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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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45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Let us pray with one heart together with Mary in the Upper Room*



**Pennsylvania Convention Center ~ Philadelphia  
Friday - Sunday, June 1st - 3rd, 2012**

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Mark Nimo

2012 Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference