

School of Healing Prayer for Leaders

by Chuck Hornsby

In October of 2008 International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) and the National Service Committee for Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States (NSC) co-sponsored the Francis and Judith MacNutt School of Healing Prayer for Leaders second edition in Jacksonville, Florida. I had the privilege of representing the NSC in welcoming leaders from 42 countries to the United States. The school was an exhilarating example of the unity that the charismatic renewal has nurtured between people from different language, cultural, and ethnic groups. It is amazing how hunger for healing, a desire to be used by the Lord, and a heart for praise and worship transcend all our differences.

Christian Healing Ministries, the ministry founded by Francis and Judith MacNutt uses a particular scriptural tag line with all of their materials. It is, "...if only I may touch his garment, I shall be made well." This scripture in many ways catches the spirit of the School of Healing Prayer for Leaders. Francis and Judith in many ways made it seem that they had invited everyone into their home to share what they had learned over the years. They provided clear and substantive teaching that had both depth and scope, but their manner created an atmosphere that made listening to them enjoyable as well as informative. Don Williams and Mike Evans, two Protestant ministers that work with Francis and Judith, also taught about and modeled healing prayer in a way that made what they had to say easy to assimilate. It seemed especially rewarding and important to sit at Francis' feet and learn from his

many years of experience. We can always read what he has written, but hearing from him personally added a nuance and personality that enriched and clarified the issues.

The teaching in the second of the School of Healing Prayer for Leaders (The first school was held in the Spring of 2007) covered a wide gamut of topics that dealt with spiritual, psychological, and physical health and healing. Francis began on Monday by teaching about healing in the family. It highlighted the importance of family as a vehicle of wholeness for the individual and how important it is for bad experiences of family life to be touched by healing prayer. Judith followed by teaching about the emotions, their God given purposes and the ways they can be wounded and/or distorted.

Don Williams began a 3-part teaching series on addiction that carried throughout the week. Francis ended day one with a teaching about the importance and nature of spiritual warfare. The second day of teaching focused on how we hear God and on the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. It ended with a prayer for the release of the Holy Spirit. A model for praying for physical healing was also presented by Mike Evans that emphasized the need to listen to God and to the person being prayed with so the prayer minister can know how to pray. On Wednesday Francis taught on the scope of sin and the healing power of God's forgiveness. Mike Evans followed with a teaching on using the charismatic gifts in healing and Judith taught on healing of relationships. On Thursday and Friday Francis approached two

topics that go deeper than a simple methodological approach to healing. He first talked on the nature of suffering and then asked, "How can Charismatic Renewal reach the heart of the church?" On Thursday Judith spoke on obstacles to inner healing and on healing our image of God. On Friday she shared an awe-inspiring talk about the ministry of God's holy angels. Francis completed the teaching on Saturday by speaking about the gift of love.

Love was not only a topic for teaching. It also permeated the many opportunities for healing prayer offered by the staff of Christian Healing Ministries. It filled the music and worship led by the Alleluia Community Music Ministry and was the heart of Jesus in the Spirit filled celebrations of the Eucharist. It was tangible in the relationships of participants and the familial hospitality of the MacNutt's. It was present in the wonderful vision of ICCRS in calling the event into being and managing its international flavor.

Several things stand out to me as I reflect on the event and its content:

- ✦ The scope and depth of the teaching available in the charismatic renewal has grown in maturity.
- ✦ The clear understanding on the part of Christian healing ministries that God not the person praying is the healer.
- ✦ The school was a good example of the seasoned warrior passing on knowledge to a new generation. It seems essential that our early leaders pass on the wisdom they have gained. ♦

Chuck Hornsby is a member of the National Service Committee. He is a member of the Alleluia Covenant Community in Augusta, Georgia.

Note: ICCRS recently developed a booklet entitled **Guidelines for Healing Prayer** that can be obtained by contacting the National Service Committee at 1-800-338-2445. \$4.75 plus s & h.

Renewal leaders and Pope discuss charisms

Following up on the International Colloquium on “Charisms and the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church” (Rome, 2008 see *Pentecost Today* July/August/September p.11) the *Gathering of National Leadership Groups: Catholic Charismatic Renewal* took up the topic of charisms at their January meeting in Tampa. A presentation was made overviewing the teachings, discussions and questions from the Colloquium. Much of that overview and discussion was not new but there were a number of challenges. The Gathering agreed that “we need to develop an interchange among ourselves covering our strengths and weaknesses in regards to charisms, as well as issues that arise.” In addition, each group has agreed to do an event on charisms this year. (The National Service Committee will include workshops on several charisms, teaching on praise and worship, and reflection on healing ministry at the upcoming National Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference in Raleigh.)

The Gathering of National Leadership Groups brings together on an annual basis the members of the NSC, the Diocesan Liaison Steering Committee, the Filipino, Hispanic, Haitian and Korean leadership groups and representatives of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Communities and Fellowships of Pontifical Right. This was the eleventh year for the Gathering which will again meet in Tampa next year.

Also held this year were leaders’ meetings or encounters for Hispanics, Filipinos and Koreans.

Hispanic leaders met in Utah in late April for the 24th annual *Encuentro Católico Carismático Latino Estadouidense* (ECCLE). The theme was “Re-ignite the Gift Received” presented by Oreste Pesare, Director of the ICCRS office in Rome. Speaking on Paul in the Year of St. Paul was Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia, Spiritual Advisor. About 300 leaders attended.

Twenty seven Korean leaders met in April in Newark, New Jersey for their National Leaders’ Workshop. The leaders discussed convening a National Gen-

eral Meeting to consider changes in structure and leadership.

The Filipino Alliance held its 15th National Convention in late June in Baltimore. The theme was “The Spirit of the Lord God is Upon Me.” A National Leaders’ Meeting was held in conjunction with this Convention. Two thousand were expected for the Convention. Sixty leaders were expected for the Leaders’ Meeting.

In October the Catholic Fraternity met in Assisi for their 14th International Conference on the theme “We preach Christ crucified, power and wisdom of God.”

The leaders of the Fraternity had the opportunity to meet with Pope Benedict XVI who again affirmed the Renewal and said, “one of the positive elements and aspects of the Communion of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is precisely their emphasis on the charisms or gifts of the Holy Spirit and their merit lies in having recalled their topicality in the Church.” (For the full text go http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2008/october/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20081031_carismatici_en.html)

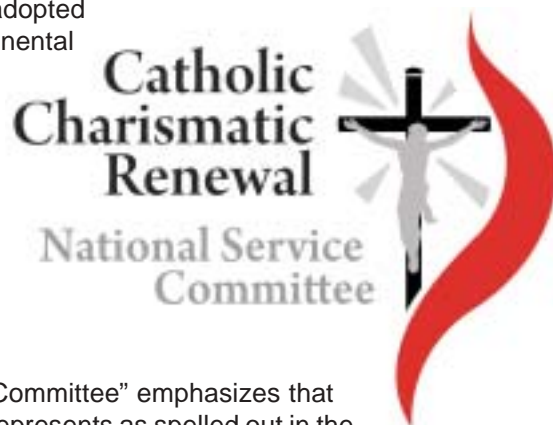
NSC introduces new logo

In conjunction with the development of the revised Vision and Mission Statements announced last issue, the Service Committee has adopted a new logo which over time will replace its prior logo of the continental United States afire with the Holy Spirit. The former logo was adopted in 1986 along with the name “Chariscenter USA” for the Service Committee’s headquarters.

The new logo emphasizes the Trinitarian dimension of the revised Vision Statement where the rays emanating from the cross (not to mention the cross/crucifix itself) represent the Father’s love and the red “swoosh” represents the Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus in his mission and empowers us in ours.

The phrase “Catholic Charismatic Renewal National Service Committee” emphasizes that what we are about is the serving the Renewal and all that that represents as spelled out in the Mission Statement.

The Committee is hopeful that the new logo along with the revised Vision and Mission Statements will guide its work for many years to come.



The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

by Sister Juliana Gapasin, DLJC

The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, a Franciscan Charismatic Religious Institute is a contemplative community with an evangelistic apostolate. Daily Mass, personal and communal prayer are the very substance of the sisters' daily lives. Joyful praise characterizes their communal prayer and ministry. As Disciples they seek to draw people into a personal relationship with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, ministering to the people worldwide through retreats, children's ministry, parish missions, foreign missions, prayer ministry and spiritual direction.

Manual labor is an integral part of their lives. They built their own houses on 664 acres of ranch land given to them. By their vow of poverty they depend and trust on God's provision for their daily needs.

While on retreat in January 22, 1972, the Foundress, Mother John Marie, then Dorothy Stewart received in prayer the Founding document of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, and thus the community was founded. The Foundress traveled to Mexico, Japan, India, Poland, and Russia and spread the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Sisters who have joined the community are from the United States and various other countries. They have all experienced the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit.

With Rome's approval, the community was erected as a Diocesan Religious Institute on April 7, 1991 by Most Reverend Leroy Mattheisen, then Bishop of Amarillo, TX. According to the Bishop, the community was the first Charismatic Religious community approved by Rome. Hallelujah! ♦

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Hundredfold from page 3

pressed by the startling changes resulting from a Pentecost in the lives of Mary, a young girl from Nazareth who became mother of the Messiah, or Simon the poor fisherman of Galilee who became Peter, Prince of the Apostles, or Saul of Tarsus, originally Christ's enemy transformed into an Apostle for the Gentiles and the greatest preacher and theologian of all human history.

Something transforming could happen to us, if we too set God totally free to accomplishing his purposes in us! Once God encounters someone of confident faith, he does all the rest! Remember how he called Moses to confident action: "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to

go forward!" (Ex 14:15; Heb 11:29). When Moses and his followers took their first steps into the waters of the Red Sea, they found themselves walking on dry land with Pharaoh's horsemen perishing around them.

Before Pentecost, the Apostles huddled behind locked doors, united only by fear. After Pentecost, they were out on the streets preaching with power. Never again did Peter deny Christ, while Paul explained his own great power with these words, "I work and struggle, impelled by that energy of his, which is so powerful a force within me" (Col 1:29).

Without the activity of the Holy Spirit in the Church, there would be no Bible, no sacraments, no evangelization

and no Church. Gifts for ministry and fruits for holiness are the two coordinated powers of the Holy Spirit that we traditionally call "Sanctifying Grace." They are keys to the greatest power of all, that power that is God's own Spirit, working in us and through us, to "renew the face of the earth!" ♦

Fr. Tom Forrest is a Redemptorist priest who has been involved in the Renewal and the ministry of evangelization for many years. At present he is the International Director of EVANGELIZATION 2000, a Catholic effort to promote Church renewal through prayer, proclamation of the Word, and the formation of a more evangelistically activated people of God.



Support the work of your liaison

When I was on retreat a month before starting full-time Renewal work, the Lord spoke very clearly to me. "Study, so that you have solid nourishment to offer my People." Over the years, amid the tug of other responsibilities, this word has been a marker and call for me. Fruit of my study often finds its way into my teaching and preaching. Many people mention that these particular points have spoken to them.

One resource for ongoing study has been the meetings of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons. Each year, two or three presenters write papers and speak on topics suggested by liaisons. The liaisons read the papers, engage the presenters in discussion, and often continue the discussion later among themselves. We look for both theological understanding and pastoral application.

Liaisons also have a chance to share what is working in their area. As I write this

article, I have been back a week from this year's meeting. I will be visiting and speaking at a prayer group this evening, and will be including material from one of the talks as part of what I will share.

Does your liaison know about the Liaison Association? It is a great support for liaisons knowing we're not out there alone. You might consider financially supporting a liaison's attendance at a liaison meeting. There is also a small fund for partial

scholarships for liaisons in need. Next year's meeting is scheduled for April 19-23, in Sioux Falls, SD. (Info at www.nadl.com). ♦

Fr. William K. Delaney, SJ, has been active in Catholic Charismatic Renewal since 1971. He entered the Jesuits in 1975 and was ordained in 1985. After teaching mathematics at Loyola-Marymount University, he began working full time for the Renewal at SCRC in 1991. He is the Liaison to the Renewal for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

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**From the
Executive
Director**

.....
by Walter Matthews

NSC Subcommittees working together

“Recognizing its role as a service committee, Committee members, as they are able, are involved in the ministries of the Committee and may make themselves available for consultation, teaching and service.”

One of the ways members do this is through service on the current 13 Subcommittees of the NSC. New members are invited to serve on one or more of the Subcommittees and are appointed by the Chairman after discussion of options, their gifts/charisms and interests.

Only the Executive Committee is named in the by laws of the NSC. It consists of the NSC Chairman, one other member elected to the position, and a third member appointed by the Chairman. Serving are Fr. Richard Loch, Judith Hughes and Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR. It is charged to oversee the work of the NSC between the meetings of the Service Committee, as well as to oversee the Executive Director, who serves *ex officio* on all standing Subcommittees.

Next in terms of longevity is the Finance Committee, which consists of two members of the NSC and two others who have financial expertise. Gerry Mader serves as Chairman, while the other NSC member is Johnny Bertucci. It is charged to oversee the financial health of the NSC and recommend each year's budget.

The Editorial Board of *Pentecost Today* is another long term Subcommittee. Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer, SSND, chairs the Board, which also consists of Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD, and Jane Guenther. The

work and fruit of the Editorial Board is in your hands! The Board oversees the Editor, Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM who in turn oversees the Production Manager, Jean Beers.

Since 2003 we have been partnering in planning for upcoming Conferences with the Association of Diocesan Liaisons (ADL). In addition, for the last few conferences we have chosen one of the members of the NSC Council to serve on the Planning Committee. For this year's Conference it consists of Judith Hughes (who serves as chair) and Johnny Bertucci of the NSC, Arlene Apone of the ADL and Carol Forsythe of the NSC Council. Their charge is to discern the content, theme, speakers and pastoral aspects of the Conference, and to oversee the Conference onsite.

The Development Committee is charged to plan and oversee the fund raising and development aspects of the NSC's work. It is chaired by Fr. Loch who is joined by NSC member Jane Barz. Like Finance this Subcommittee also has two others who are not on the NSC but who have expertise in fund raising.

The other eight Subcommittees are Membership, which oversees NSC elections and NSC Council selection, and is led by Chuck Hornsby; a Task Force set up by Fr. Loch to look at the future of NSC service in light of the revised Vision and Mission Statements and finances; Website; Outreach Events; Publications; Conference Development; Pilgrimages; and a Joint Subcommittee with the Liaisons on Follow-Up to the Franciscan Youth Conferences. Caroline Gambale-Dirkes serves on the last two.

The work and ministry of the Subcommittees enable the Service Committee as a whole to better “foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.” ♦

Friends of the NSC

Two surprises and two challenges! First, as of May the NSC's fund raising income is ahead of budget projections in spite of the difficulties we face in our economy. Thanks be to God and to you our faithful donors. We were helped greatly by a bequest we received for \$4,300. While modest, it represents almost 2% of our projected income from donations.

The bequest came from a Charitable Unitrust that had been set up by a couple back in 1980 with another non-profit in which they named the NSC to receive a percentage of the remainder upon their deaths. The second surprise was that we did not know this couple. They were not in our database. However, they had thought of us then, and now we think of them—and give thanks—often.

Hence the challenge to you our Friends: please consider putting the National Service Committee in your will (see the note on page 8). The challenge of providing for the future, a legacy, is crucial if the NSC is to be able to continue to serve to pass this grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit on to the next generations.

The second challenge is for the present. **We need more donors.** The painful reality is that at the end of 2000 we had over 3000 active donors. Last year we had just over 1500. A 50% drop in eight years!

One of the most effective ways to secure new donors is for **you** to ask people you know to become a donor to the NSC. If each of our donors would secure one donor in 2009 we would double our donor base. Give them a “free” subscription to *Pentecost Today* and ask them to make a contribution.

You and they won't regret it and the mission will continue.

Executive Director

Walter Matthews

Editorial Board

Jane Guenther

Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

Editor

Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM

Production Manager

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For Your Information

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What we have seen
and heard

.....
by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner



Planning Pentecost Today

Each year the editorial board of *Pentecost Today* along with the Editor and Executive Director has an in-person meeting to design an overall plan for issues for the coming year. This is followed up by quarterly telephone conference calls and an abundance of email as each issue is prepared.

Beginning with this issue you may notice some subtle differences.

For several years we have had a theme for each issue. The recent April, May, June issue had the theme of holiness, for example.

At our meeting this past December we decided to present themes in a different way. Instead of having one theme for each issue, we would have several categories which would regularly appear in each issue. We call these categories *banners* for our working purposes.

Here is a visual of what this means. Imagine several copies of *Pentecost Today* side by side. Then imagine several rolls of ribbon, each of a different color. The different colors represent different themes. Roll out each color of ribbon across the copies of *Pentecost Today* in a parallel fashion.

Themes, *banners* that will run through the various issues, include the following:

VISION

A Dimension of Vision, in which we will gradually unfold meaning connected with the newly revised Vision and Mission of the NSC (see the April, May, June 2009 issue, page 3);

JOURNEY

Join the Journey, which will look at the development of various aspects of Charismatic Renewal;

STRENGTH

Strengthening Prayer Groups will offer suggestions regarding various areas of deepening and growth;

RENEWAL

Charismatic Renewal Today will address current events within this renewal;

FRUIT

and for the next several issues we look at how we might develop the **Fruit of the Spirit** in our lives.

We hope that this approach will assist all of us in our spiritual growth in the Spirit. ♦

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Chuck Hornsby
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Judith Hughes
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And others

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