

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

PENTECOST *Today*

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**Charisms in the
marketplace**
Chuck Hornsby p. 3

Jim Murphy on the
labors and fruit of
leadership p. 4

Using the word
"charismatic"
Fr. Bob Hogan p. 6

The challenge of
leadership formation
Vin Cerasuolo p. 8

Bob Canton reports on
the ICCRS Colloquium
p. 10

Religious Communities
p. 12

Diocesan Liaisons p. 13

New life in Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Chairman's Corner

by Fr. Bob Hogan

We are Standing on Holy Ground

The National Leaders' & Ministries' Conference will be in Baltimore on November 4-6, 2011.

The theme is "We Are **STANDING ON HOLY GROUND.**"

Our witness in the Church to the importance of baptism in the Spirit, charisms, and the full role of the Holy Spirit is as strong as, or as weak as, our witness to a life of holiness. May the Holy Spirit make us holy!

Let us seek the full depths of holiness. One way of understanding holiness is through these three aspects:

- 1) The Mystical Spirituality of Holiness;
- 2) The Ascetical Spirituality of Holiness;
- 3) The Ministerial Spirituality of Holiness.

Holiness in *mystical spirituality* is first of all a pure gift we receive through our union with God. God says, "Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy" (Lev 19:2). We are baptized into Jesus and his holiness. "The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom 5:5). "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God... heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ" (Rom 8:16-17). As we enter into our true identity as children of God, joint heirs with Jesus, and temples of the Spirit, we experience ourselves as God's beloved, and our union with God's love makes us

holy. We are to **stand with confidence** in our new identity in Christ.

Holiness in *ascetical spirituality* is a Spirit-empowered task of dying to ourselves; overcoming temptation and the flesh; losing our lives; putting off the old self and putting on Christ and his virtues. After Jesus' baptism the Spirit led him to face his temptations in the desert. "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal 5:24). "Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil" (Eph 6:11). The teachings of the Desert Fathers and the saints who wrote about the spiritual life, demonstrate the need for purification and transformation in our lives. We are to **stand against** the powers of evil in our world.

Holiness in *ministerial spirituality* involves our laying down our lives for others with the generous heart of Jesus. We say with Jesus to the Father, "Not my will, but your will be done." We overcome our fear to give and serve. We surrender in trust to letting the Spirit, like the wind, blow us wherever God wants. We let God work through us in our partnership with the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, by the use of the charisms. Our lives are filled with "manifestations of the Spirit" to build up the body of Christ. We are to **stand up for others** in the power, love and wisdom of the Spirit. ♦

Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD is Chairman of the National Service Committee.



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Martha Jean McGarry

I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk (Ps. 32:8).

The Holy Spirit continues to work in a myriad of ways among us, guiding us and teaching us. May the Spirit use this issue, which is filled with insightful articles for our growth and development, to aid us in spreading the grace of Pentecost in our groups and world.

Rediscovering the word "charismatic" is the thrust of **Fr. Bob Hogan's** article. What does this word mean? Has it been misused? How do we use this word with wisdom and confidence?

Are charisms/gifts of the Spirit only for prayer meetings? Might they be used while sharing a cup of coffee with a friend? (See our cover.) **Chuck Hornsby** answers that question for us in his article on page 3. Don't miss it!

Jim Murphy in his article *The Labors and Fruits of Leadership* shares with us many of his thoughts on recognizing, calling forth and developing leaders. Prayer groups will find this article particularly helpful.

On page 8 **Vin Cerasuolo** shares the Boston experience of providing formation for leaders. We offer other available resources to assist you in leadership formation.

Bob Canton reports on some of the highlights of the ICCRS Colloquium on baptism in the Holy Spirit that was held this past March. See his article on page 10.

You have not chosen me; I have chosen you. Go and bear fruit that will last (Jn 15:16). ♦

Charisms in the marketplace

A paradigm shift for the charismatic renewal

by Chuck Hornsby

As I have reflected on the charisms (gifts) given to us by the Spirit (see 1 Cor 12:8-10, 28-30; Eph 4:11, Rom 12:6-9), I have come to see a need for change in how we think about them, how we talk about them and how we exercise them. The gifts were poured forth at Pentecost for two basic reasons, for the evangelization of the world and for the building up of the church. These reasons have not changed and the charisms are needed more than ever. Below I am going to suggest a way of thinking about the charisms that I hope will help us use them much more often and in a much broader context than we are currently doing.

First it is important to understand that the gifts are given not for those who exercise them but for those who need their benefit. It has helped me to want to be wide open to receive charisms in given situations to think of them as tools to help me fulfill the commandment to love. The charisms help us love more effectively. The call on our lives is actually very difficult. We are called to love the stranger, our enemy, our neighbor, our family, the poor; in fact we are called to love everybody. Each person is made in the image and likeness of God and God himself is vested in their well-being. This universal call to love is almost impossible in our own strength. The charisms of the Spirit are part of the power of God to fulfill the calling of God.

Secondly it is important to see that since the charisms are driven by the presence of a need, God can and will use whoever is available to meet that need. It does not take an expert prophet to prophesy or an expert healer to heal. It does take someone open to being used to meet a specific need at a specific time. Charisms are usually not permanent possessions but momentary empowerments. Some people are used more often than others in the exercise of a particular gift, but God can use any one of us as gifted vehicles of love.

Third it is important to begin to look for opportunities to exercise the charisms outside of the prayer meeting setting. I mentioned earlier that we are much more likely to do this with the gift of healing than we are with the other charisms. Many of us are willing to ask someone who is ill or who expresses another kind of need if we can pray for them, but we seldom look for divine encounters that would have us use the other charisms. Part of our inaction results from the fact that we simply don't look for or expect these situations, however, it also results from our not knowing how to suit the gift to the situation. Part of being open to using the gifts in a broader setting is learning a different way of exercising them.

I believe that each of us is actually presented with many opportunities to love others by exercising the charisms in practical everyday settings in a manner suited to the circumstance. For example, recently I was in a store where one of the customers was acting out in a very angry and aggressive manner. Using the gift of discerning of spirits I began to quietly do spiritual warfare resisting the demonic elements in the situation. Things began to settle down very quickly. In another situation my wife prayed for a word of knowledge to fill a teaching slot at our school. She came

up with the perfect person even though the person's name was not on the candidate list. In counseling and prayer ministry situations I regularly ask for a word of wisdom so that I can speak into specific situations in a manner that actually connects with the particular person being counseled. The charism of the word of wisdom is very valuable for parents, teachers, counselors, and anyone else who needs to be able to say just the right thing in just the right way. I try to be open to the gift of prophecy when I am in public places, not so I can deliver a 'thus saith the Lord' prophecy but so that God can show me who needs to be encouraged, invited, or evangelized.

Our churches, our workplaces, our families, our neighborhoods, the places we shop, and the places we recreate are all environments where we should be looking to exercise the charisms of the Spirit. In some ways we should see the prayer meeting as a practice ground for learning discernment and practicing our skills at exercising the gifts. The charisms/gifts are actually for all life's situations. Be ready to use them to bring God's love to those in need. ♦

A couple of NSC resources that would enrich your understanding of the charisms are the booklet *Charisms* and the leaflet *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit* which with other leaflets on specific charisms are available from us. Check our website www.nsc-chariscenter.org under Resources for cost and how to order.

Chuck Hornsby is a member of the National Service Committee. He is a member of the Alleluia Covenant Community in Augusta, Georgia and presently serves as the Community's Pastoral Coordinator and School Superintendent. Chuck and his wife Peggy have three adult children and four grandchildren.



The labors and fruit of leadership



by Jim Murphy

In every age, there is a need for leaders. In every age, God will provide them. God calls men and women into leadership roles in order that they may serve his people. God wants to act through these leaders in order to manifest his presence in the world today. God will use people of many backgrounds, many diverse personalities and gifts in order to “tend his flock.”

Let us look at three types of leaders; The Visionary, The Administrator, and The Shepherd.

VISIONARIES: These are people who can often see what others don't see, and hear what others don't hear. [Note: In this context, I am not using the word to denote people who have experienced apparitions.] They are people always looking to the horizon to see what is coming. They have the capacity to inspire people and give new direction in people's lives. They are often prophetic. Sometimes when visionaries come up with an idea, others get frustrated with their idealism. Many visionaries are accused of not being practical enough. Still, people are changed by vision and visionaries point us toward the road ahead.

ADMINISTRATORS: These are the people who can implement visions. They are pragmatic folks who look at the tasks ahead and figure out what needs to be done. Without these types of leaders, many things would never get done. The challenge for administrators is to not get so focused on the details that they lose the ability to be caught up in the vision.

I think a classic account of the frustrations between visionaries and administrators is that little matter at Martha and Mary's home regarding lunch during a visit with Jesus.

SHEPHERDS: These people are strongest in their relational abilities. They connect with people well and move people forward by relating to them. This leader invests a lot of time and energy in individuals and moves people slowly but surely forward in the Kingdom.

Many leaders find it necessary to have at least some combination of the above

roles, yet most people function at their best in one of these categories. Groups thrive best when they have all three leadership roles in operation, and when those in leadership respect the gifts of the other and work in harmony and unity of purpose.

Leadership is a grave responsibility because you will have to answer to God for your leadership and the care of the souls God has placed before you. There are good moments to be sure, but to be a leader is to give up your life for others. It is a sacrificial way of life. It costs the individual plenty. It is not a certificate of accomplishment, but rather a permit to work.

The challenges of leadership should not discourage us or others from offering ourselves to the Christian community. We can trust that God will supply all of our needs as we seek to serve him. St. Paul reminds us that “He who called you is faithful” (1 Thes 5:24). God can never be outdone in generosity, and the labors of leadership will bear an abundant harvest in the lives of others... as well as our own.

The “call” to leadership can come in a variety of ways. Sometimes we are invited by others to take a leadership role. Other times God places some calling in our heart that we feel compelled to respond to. Many people seem called to leadership by circumstances; something needs to get done and they are the right person at the right place at the right time.

Like any other role, leadership is a role people grow into. We grow into leadership by moving forward in service, seeking the advice of others, relying on the Lord, and learning from our mistakes. The best leaders are those who know

their own weaknesses and have lots of humility. They also recognize that God has given them certain charisms, natural abilities, intelligence and other gifts, and they are not afraid to use them. They are people who recognize their utter dependence upon God. They take the work of the Lord seriously...but not so much themselves.

We can help raise up new leaders by recognizing a call to leadership in a person's life and inviting them to participate in some level of leading. Recognize what their basic charism is (visionary, administrator, shepherd) and match the right person to the right task. A visionary may struggle if forced to serve as an administrator. An administrator may not be able to act as a shepherd. We need to encourage people to serve, since the best leaders will be a little reluctant. (Be careful of people who desperately *want* to lead!) We need to remember that people grow into leadership roles.

We need to be patient with people who are just beginning in this role. We want to encourage any progress. We also need to honestly offer feedback when things need some correction. Don't put a person in a role, and then criticize them for not doing it right. You need to clearly articulate what the role requires, then help them to live up to that.

Sometimes I shudder when I think of the leadership mistakes I have made over the years. I am truly grateful for those who were patient with me, who were honest with me, but who always encouraged me to keep trying. My service as a leader would have ended years ago had it not been for the people who loved me where I was... but loved me enough not to let me stay there.

One mark of a great leader is the ability to call, empower, and enable others to serve. Great leaders are always looking for others to join them in serving the Lord, rather than trying to do everything by themselves. As we talk about growing into leadership we have to look at the situation of a time when we need to step out of leadership. Many leaderships, groups, communities and ministries within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have instituted term limits, as a way of keeping leadership groups fresh. Other groups leave it to the individual to know when it is time to move on.

I do believe there are times and seasons in life. For a host of reasons (health, family needs, etc.) circumstances may necessitate an individual stepping out of a specific leadership role. Sometimes people know within their own hearts that God is calling them to something else. All of these things of course, should be carefully discerned. I have seen people

step down out of anger, frustration, or a sense of being at odds with others. This is always a sad loss for everyone. If God is calling you to a change, so be it... but be sure it is God's call and not your own frustrations.

While a specific role of service might change, my experience is that people with a leadership call on their life continue to serve God's family in one way or another. I do think roles can change, but the call to lead and encourage others to Christ is a lifelong call.

I think the best attitude for service of leadership is not to hold on to it too tightly. If God calls you to it, accept it with humility and an abiding trust in him. If God calls you out of it, gracefully surrender it back to him, thanking him for the opportunity to serve. If you define your life and worth by what role of leadership you have, find a mature Christian who can give you some perspective on that attitude.

A friend of mine had a checkup recently in which the doctors ran some tests on his heart. They were amazed to find that one of his arteries was nearly 100% blocked while another one was quite bad as well. "I don't know how you're still going!" wondered the doctor. During his bypass surgery the doctors discovered how my friend had survived with severe blockages. Several small blood vessels had taken over the work of the clogged artery. They were moving blood around the blockage. The work actually caused them to change. They were physically larger than other blood vessels which were not "stepping in" to supply blood to the heart. The blood vessels adapted to the situation and grew into their role.

I think God will do the same for us. We may feel as though we are "too small" to do much good. But if we step into the role, ready to work, ready to learn, ready to trust God, we too will grow and be a conduit of grace to the "heart" of the Christian community.

Leaders are not (and on earth, never will be) perfect. They are men and women who, trusting God, surrender their lives for the good of the community. Through vision, administration, or shepherding, they urge the people on to do all that God has called them to do, and be all that God has called them to be. ♦



Jim Murphy is the founder and president of Vera Cruz Communications. He is the former chairman of, and currently a consultant to, the National Service Committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

CHARISMATIC

Rediscovering the word “charismatic”

by Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

Jim and Dorothy were very excited about their faith after attending a Life in the Spirit Seminar. As they were leaving church after Sunday Mass, their pastor was greeting people. They joyfully came up to the pastor and asked, “Father, are you a charismatic?”

Jim and Dorothy probably meant well, but they may have confused their pastor and put him on the defensive. This type of approach rarely helps when we are seeking to share with someone about a topic that may be new to them. Many people do not know that the word “charism” comes from the Greek word in the New Testament that basically means “gift of the Spirit.”

Even though people who are not involved with Charismatic Renewal sometimes call those who are involved “charismatics,” I think that it’s better to avoid speaking of ourselves as “charismatics.” The word has a broader meaning than a description of the members of a particular movement, as I will explain below. My approach is to tell people that I am involved with Catholic Charismatic Renewal, an Ecclesial Movement in the Church, which emphasizes the importance of the role of the Holy Spirit. I can then explain this to them in more detail.

On the other hand, after some people who have been involved with Catholic Charismatic Renewal get a negative response at times when they use the word “charismatic,” they can tend to

never use the word because they do not want to “turn anyone off.” I think that this response is also unhelpful. We should not be embarrassed about using the word “charismatic.”

The International and National offices for the Renewal use the term “charismatic renewal.” The leadership of the church has affirmed this language. The Church in the documents of Vatican II and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* use the word “charismatic.” The Church wants us to help people to understand this word better. Therefore, let us not misuse the word “charismatic,” but use the word often and well. How can we use the word “charismatic” with both confidence and wisdom?

What we should know about the term “charismatic”

The Second Vatican Council taught that the Church itself is hierarchical and charismatic: “He (the Spirit) furnishes and directs her (the Church) with various gifts, both hierarchical and charismatic, and adorns her with the fruits of His grace” (*Lumen Gentium*, 4).

“These charismatic gifts, whether they be the most outstanding or the more simple and widely diffused, are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation, for they are exceedingly suitable and useful for the needs of the Church” (*L.G.*, 12).

“For their sacred pastors know how much the laity contribute to the welfare of the entire Church. Pastors also know that they themselves were not meant by Christ to shoulder alone the entire saving mission of the Church toward the world. On the contrary, they understand that it is their noble duty so to shepherd the faithful and recognize their services and charismatic gifts that all according to their proper roles may cooperate in this common undertaking with one heart” (*L.G.*, 30).

Rather than asking your pastor whether he is “a charismatic,” share with him this understanding of his role in affirming the charismatic gifts of the laity, and support him in this role.

2 The charismatic dimension of the Church goes beyond the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. It includes all the ways the Holy Spirit throughout the centuries has inspired individuals to promote new ways of prayer and living the faith. This would include Religious Orders, the rosary, the Divine Mercy chaplet, Marian movements, apparitions, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, etc. All of these were not part of the original hierarchical structure of the Church (role of pope, bishops, priests, deacons), but were inspirations of the Spirit that have helped to build up the Church. They are part of the charismatic dimension of the Church.

3 All people who have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation have the potential for charismatic living in them. We have to stir these gifts into a flame by faith in Jesus as our Savior and the Anointed of the Spirit (Christ); by receiving the love God poured into our hearts through the Spirit (Rom 5:5), and surrendering to the activity of the Spirit in our lives. We need to ask God to activate the potential for charismatic living that he has already placed within us. Rather than asking people whether they are “charismatic,” explain to them how they can experience the Holy Spirit and the charisms working in their lives, since this is their heritage from the Sacrament of Baptism.

4 There are people who have never heard of charismatic renewal who are living charismatically. In whatever way that a person surrenders the direction of their life to the Spirit, they will experience God working through them with a power, love and wisdom that is more than their human abilities. It is a divine gift from the Spirit. In the Charismatic Renewal we are to foster the continual growth in

the Spirit in people’s lives, including all aspects of the role of the Spirit, including the charisms needed for the Church. We need to affirm the Spirit’s work wherever we find it.

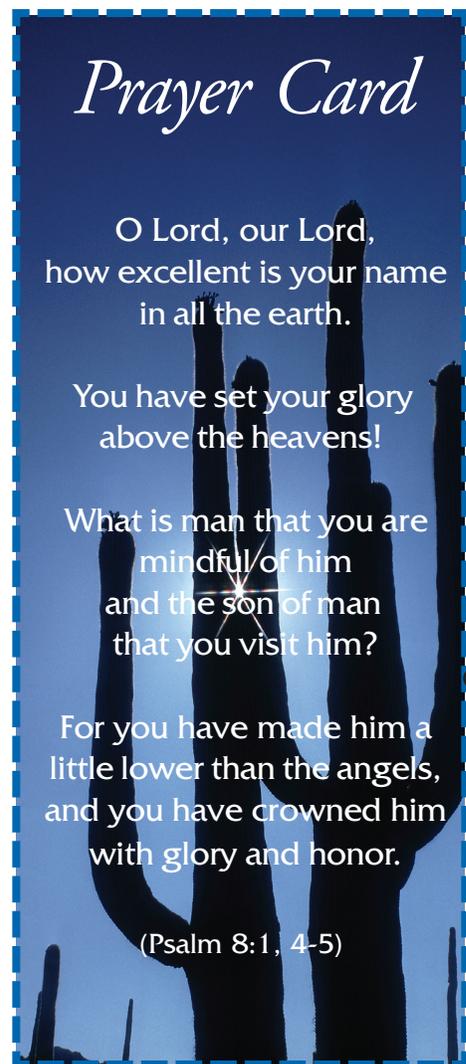
5 The Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been affirmed by the Church as an important reminder in the Church of the importance of living fully in the Spirit; to live charismatically. Embrace this call from the Lord and from the Church! Live it joyfully and humbly! Explain it well to others. Admit our mistakes; the times we have failed to explain and live this calling as well as we could. Be boldly charismatic and wisely charismatic.

Two balances in using the word “charismatic”

Based on the understanding of the charismatic dimension of the Church, I encourage you to use the word “charismatic” often, but be careful in calling yourself “a charismatic.” Instead, call yourself a person involved with Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church, which emphasizes the importance of the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church. In this way you help to explain what “charismatic” means, and you avoid confusion. I believe that we are called to talk about ourselves (Catholic Charismatic Renewal) in a way that balances two goals:

+ Being true to whom we are in God’s call and plan as a grace of Renewal in the Spirit and an Ecclesial Movement: We should be excited about the gift that we have to share, and not embarrassed to use and explain the word “charismatic;”

+ Being helpful in relating well with the whole Church: We are to use the Spirit’s wisdom



in helping people to understand and receive the gift we want to share; bringing greater clarity and overcoming confusion. We do not want to make people defensive and confused by talking about whether people are “charismatic” or not. We want to live out the call of the Lord and the Church to be a reminder in the Church of the Holy Spirit, and the charismatic dimension, in every aspect of Catholic life.

Let us rediscover the word “charismatic,” using it both boldly and wisely! ♦



Fr. Bob Hogan is chairman of the National Service Committee.

Please pray with the National Service Committee for the following intentions:

For the Lord's blessing on the Retreat for Young Adult Families or Couples, September 9-11 in Charleston, WV, and on the Praise and Teaching Rally in Harrisburg, PA September 17.

For the National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference to be held November 4-6, in Baltimore, MD, that attendees will be gifted by the Spirit to return home and serve as leaders in their churches, homes and workplaces.

May many people be drawn to a new relationship with Jesus and renewed Catholic life. That our young people will be drawn by the Holy Spirit into a life-changing relationship with Jesus and the Father and be filled with a desire to evangelize their friends and families.



That the document by ICCRS on "Baptism in the Spirit" be soon released and have a powerful positive impact on the Renewal and the Church.

For a resurgence of a spirit of ecumenism in the Church that one day "all Christians may re-establish full unity in Christ."

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.

Facing the challenge of leadership formation

Editor's note: Leadership formation has long been a focus of the National Service Committee. "Assisting leadership development as well as serving and offering leadership to the Renewal" is stated in our Mission Statement as one of the ways we seek to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit. Pentecost Today thought it might be helpful to share with our readers some effective programs for developing strong and committed leaders throughout the Renewal, especially within prayer groups and diocesan leaderships. Below Vin Cerasuolo shares the experience of formation in the Boston Archdiocese. See the sidebar for other proven programs.

by Vin Cerasuolo

When our leadership team convened and sought the Holy Spirit to discern God's will, we received four missions: evangelization, formation, ministry to parish and community, and ministry to support priests. The strongest emphasis we received was on **formation**. We talked to a number of educators and a psychologist in the Renewal to determine what program we should put together. After investigating many alternatives (I even visited leaders in Italy and Brazil) the Boston Renewal found that the Renewal in Brazil had a program of formation training that lasted for several years. It was systematic, teaching first the basics about the Charismatic Renewal, such as the purpose and conduct of a prayer meeting. Also taught were the gifts/charisms of the Spirit, what are they and how they are used. More advanced topics included the place of the Renewal in the Church and proper leadership in the Renewal. It was even approved for teaching at the national level by their bishops!

Getting started with formation training.

The next step was beginning the formation training. Here we were somewhat fortunate in two areas: 1.) We had an experienced teacher from the Bra-

zilian Charismatic community in Boston who agreed to be our first teacher. 2.) We already had centralized monthly prayer meetings for all prayer group members (we called them family gatherings). A substantial number of people were coming to these meetings so it was not a large step to turn them into leadership formation days.

We established this training program once a month and those who wanted to grow and become involved in a deeper walk have been coming to the training. As we move forward we will continue to invite all the prayer group leaders in the archdiocese to participate more fully so they can develop a mature and consistent understanding of this life-changing call to leadership.

Putting your own formation training into practice.

If you consider putting such a program in place I would recommend:

1. Identify and become familiar with the materials you want to use.
2. Offer it as a regional or diocesan project rather than in independent prayer groups.
3. Put a lot of advance advertising into it: Set a starting date, send out flyers, call prayer groups, write letters to the groups. Make a big deal out of the

Continued page 9

Formation and Growth Resources

Formation resources are available in various forms. The NSC website has many options you can obtain for your group or community. These are updated continually as new resources become available. (*Many resources specified for "leaders" can be adapted for the whole group and may help to identify new leaders*). A few specific resources are:

Book: *There's Always More: Expecting New Fire* by Sr. Nancy Kellar, S.C. *There's Always More: Expecting New Fire* is tested, practical wisdom that will help people experience more of the love and power of God in their lives. A nine-week Growth Seminar which can be given in three week modules, a Retreat Day, or during prayer meetings. Special features include "Preparation for Teachers" and "Discussion Starters for Sharing Groups."

DVD: A.C.T.S. of Leadership (set of 4 DVDs)

How can I be a more fruitful leader in the Charismatic Renewal today? This series explores four aspects of formation necessary for leaders to continue to grow in their relationship with God, their relationship with each other and to help them effectively answer the plan that God has for them.

- Apostolic Formation by Fr. John Gordon with a Panel Discussion: Forming an Apostolic Attitude
- Communal Formation by Walter Matthews with Panel Discussion: Conflict Resolution
- Theological Formation by Dr. Tom Curran with Panel Discussion: Why Engage in Theological Formation
- Spiritual Formation by Aggie Neck with Panel Discussion: Developing the Sense of Listening to God

Online: Check the "Resources" section of the NSC website. There are resources under the topics of Leadership, Praise and Worship, Intercessory Prayer, Healing and Deliverance and Strengthening Prayer Groups.

NSC Leaflets and E-Books: The NSC Leaflets can be used as the foundation of a customized formation program for your group. Use the leaflets as the basis for teachings that will meet your groups' specific formation needs and encourage continued growth.

Events are another excellent resource for formation:

NSC Leaders' and Ministries' Conference, November 4-6, 2011, Baltimore, MD. Bring seasoned leaders as well as potential leaders and grow in community as you participate together. Then bring the conference alive for those who did not attend by sharing testimonies and some of the teachings with your group.

Recordings from previous NSC Conferences are also available, some in both CD and DVD. Share with your group or community for ongoing formation and growth.

ICCRS will be convening the Leadership Institute IV on September 4-24, 2011 in Italy. Those who have attended the previous Leadership Institutes not only learn from wonderful teachers but also experience a new sense of community with the wider Renewal. This is an excellent opportunity to send someone from your group and bring back excellent teachings and experience to share.

Whether you use a formal formation program or develop something for your group the important thing is to grow together. "The gift you have received, give as a gift" Matthew 10:8. Be creative!

starting point (we call ours a school of formation).

4. Offer it in semesters as a course of study. Have people register for it and offer it at a modest cost. People will respect the knowledge obtained and be more likely to attend all sessions if they make a financial offering for it (it will also be helpful to carry on the work of the Renewal).

5. Plan to evaluate the program on a regular basis, at least yearly, but quarterly at first to get some idea of what unforeseen problems there may be in the project.

6. You can use our materials (staff@crsboston.org) or find others that you respect. What matters is that people receive training and support to live this life of the Spirit.

Formation informs and energizes people. Solid teachings enable us to be "pruned" and bear good fruit that will last (John 15:2). ♦

Vin Cerasuolo is Executive Director of the Boston Charismatic Renewal Office.

Experience a Fresh Anointing!

Deacon Alex Jones, Patti Mansfield, Al Mansfield, Fr. George Montague, SM

SCRC CATHOLIC RENEWAL CONVENTION

ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT Eph. 4:4

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