



ICCRS sponsors Colloquium on baptism in the Holy Spirit

by Bob Canton

"As 44 years have passed since God sovereignly began pouring out his Spirit in a new way, beginning with the Duquesne weekend in 1967, it is a good time for us to come together for in-depth theological reflection on the grace of baptism in the Spirit," Dr. Mary Healy remarked during her introduction to the Draft Document which was used as a reference point during the **Colloquium on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit** that was held on March 17-20, 2011. The Colloquium was attended by 150 bishops, priests, theologians and lay leaders from 44 countries and took place in the Fraterna Domus in Sacrofano, a suburb of Rome.

The attendance of this event was by invitation only and was sponsored by the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) in collaboration with the Pontifical Council of the Laity.

Dr. Healy, the chairperson of the ICCRS' Doctrinal Commission and a theology professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan, outlined the goals of the Colloquium namely: 1. A need to continually foster and deepen the reception of the baptism in the Spirit within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, especially through good formation; 2. Theological reflection is part of the ongoing process of growth in ecclesial maturity; 3. To spread the "culture of Pentecost" and the "spirituality of Pentecost" throughout the Church.

Msgr. Peter Hocken from Austria, who is a member of the Doctrinal Commission, had this to say during his introduction to the Draft Document, "Looking back to the 44 years of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, we can thank the Lord for the deepening understanding of this work of the Holy Spirit. It is my personal conviction that we are dealing with something big and decisive in God's purposes for the Church."

The ICCRS' Doctrinal Commission has been working for the past two years writing this draft on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit in response to many requests from all over the world. Each Colloquium participant was furnished a copy of this draft.

In his talk on *The Meaning and the Fruits of Baptism in the Spirit*, **Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa**, the Preacher to the Papal Household, asserted, "... Baptism in the Spirit, on the lips of Jesus, firstly and most directly indicates Pentecost. The simplest and indeed obligatory way to understand what it means and what are its effects is to consider what happened at Pentecost and what did it bring about in the lives of the apostles and of the nascent Church, and what takes place today in those who have received the baptism in the Spirit and experienced a new Pentecost of their own." He further stated, "One of the most striking fruits of the baptism in the Spirit is a new experience of God's love; for many this is by far the most astonishing and exhilarating thing about its reality."

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Those who took part in the retreat in which the Charismatic Renewal had its beginning in the Catholic Church told afterwards that there was a moment when they feared they would “not be able to bear the excessive love of God” they were experiencing. “It was” they said, “as though the God of Sinai had come into the room, utterly filling it and us as well.” Pentecost is a moment when the heart of stone is shattered to bits and its place is taken by the heart of flesh, but this “heart-transplant” didn’t take place under total anesthesia!” Towards the end of his presentation, Fr. Cantalamessa asked the attendees, “What kind of knowledge of Christ do we see in those who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit? The most significant fact is their rediscovery of that elementary teaching in the Bible, that Jesus Christ is Lord!”

Another Colloquium speaker was **Ralph Martin**, president of Renewal Ministries and director of graduate theology programs in evangelization at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan. Speaking on *Baptism in the Spirit and the Sacraments of Christian Initiation*, Martin noted that one of the most insistent calls of the recent Popes has been a call for a “new Pentecost.” He shared that these continuing papal calls for a new Pentecost seem to flow from two main perceptions: 1. The weakness of the Church and the “collapse of Christendom” or as Pope John Paul II put it, “the end of Christian society as we once knew it,” 2. That which is most needed is a renewal of a personal relationship with God himself, a relationship that “comes alive” in the reality of Pentecost, in both its contemplative and charismatic dimensions.

Speakers at the event noticed that different terminology is used among different groups in the Renewal. Those in the English-speaking Renewal who comprised almost 50% of the entire participants in the Colloquium, prefer the term “baptism in the Spirit,” while most of those in the French and Italian-speaking world usually use the term “effusion” or “outpouring” of the Spirit. Other terms such as “release of the Holy Spirit,” “the renewing with the Holy Spirit” are also used. All agreed, however, that these terms refer to the same reality: a release of the graces received in the Sacraments of Initiation and a new outpouring of grace and power.

Other speakers included Michelle Moran, Archbishop George Bacouni, Bishop Michel Santier, Fr. Fidel Onoro, Fr. Diego Jaramillo, and Fr. Denis Biju-Duval. Stanislaw Cardinal Rylko, the president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, celebrated Mass on the second day of the Colloquium.


ICCRS president **Michelle Moran** stated: “It is hoped to eventually publish two documents, the revised Colloquium text which will be a valuable resource for Bishops and leaders and a slimmer publication which will be of help for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in general.” ♦



Bob Canton is an ICCRS Council member for English speaking North America, Central America and Caribbean countries.

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RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Charismatic BBD continues to grow

by Fr. George Montague, S.M.

The Lord has continued to bless the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple in many ways. Co-founder Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD, who was elected as chairman of the National Service Committee in January, was incardinated into the Archdiocese of San Antonio in February, thus completing his transfer from the Marianists to our community. He will profess his final vows as a Brother of the Beloved Disciple on August 10. Fr. Will Combs, BBD, continues as parochial vicar of St. Mary Magdalen church, having the primary ministry to the Spanish-speaking members of the parish.

Having finished his novitiate, Brother Kirk Vandeventer professed his first vows in March. Two aspirants are preparing to begin their novitiate in September and another to begin his Aspirancy (pre-novitiate) at the same time. Fr. Joseph Mary Marshall, S.M. continues his work as pastor, while also helping in the formation of candidates. Fr. George Montague, S.M. continues as Moderator of the community, dividing his time between community formation work, teaching Scripture at St. Mary's University, and writing

books. His latest, *Mary's Life in the Spirit* from Word Among Us Press, will be out this summer and a bit later his commentary on *First Corinthians* in the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture (Baker Academic Press).

Our parish continues to expand with new ministries that compete for space. A recent addition was our outreach to young families. Two evangelizing groups, *Men in Christ* (*Hombres en Cristo*) and *Women in Christ* (*Mujeres en Cristo*) meet each Saturday morning to pray, share the Sunday readings and invite others to join them in retreats, especially the very popular ACTS retreats that have brought many lapsed Catholics back to the Church. Our last Life in the Spirit Seminars (English and Spanish) drew some 200 participants. We tried something new this time: beginning the first session with a meal that brought together both the English and Spanish prayer groups. We're not sure if it was this that accounted for the numbers, but it certainly helped.

We are deeply grateful for the many persons who have supported us by their prayers and gifts. You may visit our website at www.BrothersOfTheBelovedDisciple.org. ♦



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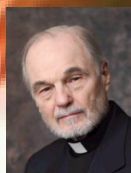
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Lord, it is good for us to be here...

by Sr. Pauline Cinquini, S.C.
Archdiocese of New York

As we opened our Annual Spring Conference of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, the passage about the Transfiguration was read and confirmed during our evening prayer time. The 35 liaisons gathered in Manresa Retreat Centre in a suburb of Toronto, echoed Peter's words: "Lord, it is good that we are here." And so we began our week of sharing experiences in ministry and ministering to one another.

Participants came from across North America from New York to California, Louisiana to Canada. Our host city of Toronto reflected more variety as we learned that Mass is celebrated there in 36 languages—an image of Pentecost!

The mosaic of cultures was further celebrated as each day we had a different music ministry: an Indonesian Youth Group, a slightly older Indian group, a local French Canadian as well as a music duo of two young women, songwriters and singers of great talent, who had ministered at World Youth Day in Toronto.

We were blessed to have Michelle Moran and Deacon Armand Danis as our speakers on the theme: "Unity through Pentecost: Building a Culture of Pentecost." Michelle is Chair of the National Service Committee for the Renewal in England and President of ICCRS. Deacon Danis is the bishop's liaison to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. He is active in giving retreats and workshops.

Michelle invited us to consider the unity that we see in Acts: they were

gathered in one place, united in continuous, expectant prayer. Are we lacking in expectancy of the Holy Spirit? In Acts, there was a sense of a further unfolding of the revelation of the Holy Spirit. Her presentation, based on her travels around the world, led her to comment on some pastoral issues.

◆ There seems to be a drift towards losing the heart of worship—often handing it over to the music ministry—she wondered if that was the case in the US.

◆ Communal and personal empowerment are both key to the Pentecost experience. Are they being separated? She sees a split between baptism in the Spirit (personal empowerment) and the gifts of the Spirit (empowerment for ministry.) The gifts are for the prayer meeting, but they are also for use beyond the prayer meeting, for ministry in the world.

◆ In the early days of the renewal there was a strong ecumenical thrust, is the CCR letting go of ecumenism? At the beginning of the 20th Century, Pope Leo XIII directed the Church to pray a Novena for Unity, the idea of unity was not a current theme at that time.

The Popes have encouraged life in the Spirit, beginning with Pope John XXIII who had the church pray for a "New Pentecost" to Pope Paul VI, who called CCR a "grace for the Church;" Blessed John Paul II who convened the 1998 gathering of New Movements and Ecclesial Communities; and Pope Benedict XVI, who called a similar gathering in 2006.

Deacon Danis called us to oppose the secular culture which objectifies human beings versus the gift of God, who has made us in his image and likeness, subjects of the Kingdom and invites us into

communion with the Trinity, then to communion with others. Communion with the Trinity is the goal of evangelization. We must begin with relationships, then move on to practice. To be agents of evangelization, we must know peoples' experience, being with them where they are, and drawing them to a place where they can authentically meet the Lord.

A highlight of the annual conference is the mid-week "break" when, after lunch, we visit local attractions and churches, closing with a festive dinner. As we visited St. Michael's Cathedral in downtown Toronto, our two musician-songwriters met us there and led us in a short, but powerful time of praise and worship. Other visitors to the Cathedral had a surprise concert and prayer which they seemed to enjoy.

In the last few years, the conference has taken a day for a mini-retreat. This year, Fr. Bob Hogan, newly elected chairperson of the NSC, was our retreat master. Exhorting us to be aware of the Holy Spirit in every situation, he suggested that we gather a store house of short Scripture sayings that we might use as we minister; in particular, choose those that speak of God's love, salvation in Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

After the usual business meeting, we elected three members to the Liaison Steering Committee: Jane Barz from South Dakota for another three-year term, Deacon Bill Brennan from Stockton, California and Deacon Carlos Nogueira from Toronto, Canada, who will fill out a two-year term. ◆

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



From the Executive Director

.....
by Walter Matthews

Gathering together and reaching out

Each year the National Service Committee gathers with leaders from throughout the country whom the NSC has called into partnership “to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.” The purpose of the NSC Council, as the group of some fifty leaders is called, is to actively support the Mission of the NSC through prayer and counsel, and consequently through service. Membership is as broad based as possible including Liaisons, Renewal Center leaders, those in ministries of various types, covenant community representatives as well as those on diocesan service teams or in other leadership service positions. Each winter a number of leaders transition off the Council and others are invited to serve. This year to date, nine leaders have accepted the invitation to serve. An updated list is available on our website.

When the NSC and the NSC Council gather one of the ways the Council members serve alongside NSC members is through Working Groups. (See “NSC meets with NSC Council” in the January/February/March issue, p 11.)

One of these Working Groups (WG) is the Young Adults WG. Initially formed in 2002, it was given greater impetus when the Service Committee decided to include in its revised Mission Statement that we accomplish our mission by “Empowering youth and young adults by entering into dialogue with them regarding the Holy Spirit in their lives and inviting them to participate in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.”

Although not a direct initiative by the Young Adult WG the outreach to young adults at last year’s National Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference in St. Paul, in cooperation with the National Evangelization Teams (NET) and Saint Paul’s Outreach (SPO), was prompted by their conversations as well as those of the Youth Ministry Committee (YMC), the NSC and the Association of Diocesan Liaisons formed in 2007. The YMC planned and held a Retreat for Youth Ministers last fall in New Orleans.

The Young Adult Track in St. Paul drew one hundred participants. There will be a Young Adult Track at this year’s Conference in Baltimore put together by a team led by Fr. Dave Pivonka. More information will be available soon on our website.

Meanwhile the Young Adult WG is planning a Retreat for Young Adult Families and Couples entitled “Teeming with Life” which will be held September 9-11 in Charleston, West Virginia. Two of the NSC members, Johnny Bertucci and Caroline Gambale-Dirkes, will be the principal speakers. More information is on our website.

The simple truth is that unless all of us work hard, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to invite young adults to open their lives to the power of the Holy Spirit and to participate in the Renewal (not necessarily in *our* prayer meetings and prayer groups but in new models and configurations), then soon it will be: would the last one turn out the light! I for one am not ready for that! See you in Baltimore. Invite a young adult, or young adult couple, to join you, or sponsor them to attend “Teeming with Life” in West Virginia. You will not regret it and you will be working to pass this grace of Renewal on to the next generation. ♦

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Over the last three months we have received gifts in honor of the following brothers and sisters:

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Fr. Ray Zeugner

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As we approach the 45th and 50th Anniversaries of the Renewal we encourage Prayer Groups especially, to consider honoring past leaders and others who have contributed to the group’s formation and growth, as well as remembering those who have gone before us “marked with the sign of faith.”

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Thank you, Friends of the NSC, for your support. Let us pray and work to pass this grace to the next generation.

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The mission of *Pentecost Today* is to serve and be a voice for the National Service Committee's mission "to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit." We do this by publishing articles that instruct and give practical wisdom, with a particular emphasis on strengthening leaders and leader formation, in a visually appealing and inviting format.

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**What we have seen
and heard**

.....
by Jane Guenther



The wind of the Spirit

The wonderful song *Sweet Wind* comes to mind as we look over the past months. "There's a wind a-blowin'... Don't know where it comes from, don't know where it goes." The NSC planning retreat was held in Washington DC this past April. Just prior to the retreat we heard that Judith Hughes of Connecticut and six-year member of the NSC had made the decision to step down from her position. I hope you each will give a prayer of thanksgiving for Judith's years of service to the NSC, the many subcommittees she has chaired and new ideas she helped surface. I hope you will join me and send her your thoughts and wishes.

At the Committee's time together we prayed and elected Deacon Dan Guinaugh. I recently heard from him and here is what he had to say: "I want to thank the Lord for the opportunity to serve our charismatic community by being part of the NSC. In Hawaii I've served the charismatic community as the Diocesan Liaison to the Bishop for the Catholic Renewal and as a deacon at Holy Trinity Church in Honolulu. One of my strengths as a leader is being a facilitator; empowering leaders and others to not only hear God's voice but to do the work that the Lord has for them. I have a full time job and I believe in taking Jesus to the work place to be present to all in my words and actions; 'The joy of the Lord is my strength.' I am proud and humbled to be a member of the NSC and I am looking forward to meeting and serving all."

We look forward to Dan and his gifts being part of the National Service Com-

mittee and offer him an "Aloha" welcome. Next time we see him we will present him with a pineapple, the universal symbol of welcome. The wind is blowin' and connecting the NSC from east to west.

"There's a rain a-pourin'...mercy drops from heaven..." It seems that the Spirit is uniting the varying movements in dialogue and unity: The Colloquium on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, uniting nations in discussing this gift in the Church; The Empowered 21 Global initiative which is forming a USA Cabinet to help shape the future of Spirit-empowered Christianity in the 21st Century. This ecumenical mission is committed to bringing Christians together uniting us through the Spirit.

"There's a fire burnin'...consuming you and I..." We got word that Fr. Killian Loch, former chairman of the NSC, will be making his final vows in the Abbey in July. We give thanks to God for the fire of the Holy Spirit that has led him to live this calling that has been burning in his heart. May each of us respond to the fire burning inside us to live the Holy Spirit's promptings. ♦

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