

# PENTECOST *Today*

October/November/December 2001 Volume 26, Number 4



## RENEWAL AROUND THE WORLD

### LEADERS FOCUS

#### What in the world is going on? ..... 1

Over the past thirty-four years, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has spread across the globe. Today the movement thrives in some parts of the world; in other areas, it struggles. We asked four leaders to share their perspectives on what is happening in the Renewal in their countries.

#### The fruit of Jubilee 2000 ..... 5

**Gerry Mader** recounts the wonderful ways the Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee marked the Jubilee, and the abundant fruit which their celebrations continue to produce.

#### Miracles in Asia ..... 6

"Our God is truly alive and working wonderfully in our midst!" proclaims **Bob Canton** as he recounts the healing and evangelization which accompanied crusades in Thailand and Malaysia.

#### Spiritual Formation

#### The world and the Christian ..... 7

**Dorothy Ranaghan** invites us to realize that what we do in this world really does make a difference.

#### Opening our ears to God ..... 9

**Joseph DeBlassie** shares how the prophetic gifts of the Holy Spirit can help us recognize the quiet ways God speaks to us in our everyday lives.

#### Newsbriefs ..... 11

#### The Catechism and the New Life in the Spirit Seminars ..... 12

The new seminar format makes extensive use of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to deepen participants' awareness of Scripture, writings from the saints and church teaching.

|                              |    |                    |    |
|------------------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Chairman's Corner            | 2  | Friends of the NSC | 14 |
| From the Director            | 13 | Ministry Update    | 14 |
| 2000 NSC Financial Statement |    | 2001 Index         | 15 |

Put  
out  
into  
the  
deep

Photos: www.Comstock.com, Bob Canton

*Renewing the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the church.*

## Chairman's Corner

by Fr. Patsy Iaquinta



## Beyond borders

*For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit (1 Cor. 13:13).*

So often I question how we listen to and open the Scriptures. How universally do we apply the truths of the Gospel? Do we indeed understand that we are individual members of the world-wide church family? What does this mean on the local level? What are the roles of brothers and sisters as they relate to one another nationally and internationally?

## We can never turn in on ourselves because love demands that we reach out.

As a gifted and blessed people, we are to share this gift with those around us. How do we do this in the local prayer group and parish? What of the prayer group or the parish next door? Do we have a sense of responsibility as a part of the larger body? When we identify the gifts that we have in our assembly, how broadly do we apply them? When brothers and sisters who are beyond our "usual" range of ministry are in need, how do we respond? We can never turn in on ourselves because love demands that we reach out. If all that we have is placed at the disposal of the body of believers, then even this world is too small an arena. We are to reach out to the farthest limits. Jesus' death and resurrection impact not only our lives but all of creation.

Our challenge is to move beyond "our" parish, "our" prayer group, "our" diocese, and understand that we are a part of something much larger. As we live our life of Christ from where we are, that love is extended beyond what we can dream and imagine. As we read

witnesses from throughout the world, we come to the realization that we are a part of that body. Somehow, somehow, we are connected to what is happening in all parts of the globe. We affect and are affected by the actions of other brothers and sisters. Although our primary responsibility may be elsewhere, we must realize our connectedness to all Christians.

As St. Paul traveled, he shared gifts, personnel and finances with communities that he did not establish. He spent little time in the Jerusalem community, yet he begged financial assistance for the poor there. He wrote to the Roman community before he met them, giving instruction and encouragement. He understood the body of Christ to be beyond the people to whom he directly ministered. Although his primary ministry was to the Gentiles, he reached out to all, and through his writings continues to do so.

If we are comfortable with where we are right now, then the Lord is calling us to growth and conversion, to take the next step, to stretch. It may be within our local group or beyond it. But our life with the Lord Jesus is always growing and stretching. We share on regional, national and international levels through publications and gatherings. We become aware of other parts of the body of Christ. We can respond and strengthen the body as we challenge and are challenged to grow.

Let us become mindful of where the Lord has placed us and of our responsibilities in our present circumstances. From here we become aware of the Lord's activity in our lives. And from his presence within, we reach out into the deep. ☞

*Fr. Patsy Iaquinta is chairman of the National Service Committee. He is pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield, West Virginia.*

# PENTECOST Today

**Executive Director**  
Walter C. J. Matthews



**Editorial Board**  
Fr. Art Cooney, OFM Cap.  
Dr. Michele Greischar  
Virginia King

**Editor**  
Ron Ryan

**Production Manager**  
Jean Beers

### For Your Information

This is a publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. The mission of the NSC is to stir into flame the grace of Pentecost within and beyond the church, to broaden and deepen the understanding that baptism in the Holy Spirit is the Christian inheritance of all, and to strengthen the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

The National Service Committee-Chariscenter USA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Contributions to defray the cost of this publication are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please mail to:

NSC-Chariscenter USA  
PO Box 628  
Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628  
Tel. (540) 972-0225  
[www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org)

### National Service Committee members:

Fr. Patsy Iaquinta (Chairman)  
Dcn. William Brennan  
Josephine Cachia  
Fr. Art Cooney, OFM Cap.  
Dr. Michele Greischar  
Rosbel Hernandez  
Virginia King  
Aggie Neck  
Mark Nehrbus  
Rudy Pruden

© 2001, National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. Not to be reproduced without permission.

A limited amount of advertising space is available. For information call Jean Beers, (360) 331-4860.

Advertisements for events not sponsored by the National Service Committee do not imply endorsement by the NSC/Chariscenter USA.

## India

by Fr. Fio Mascarenhas, S.J.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal began in India in 1972 and has spread to practically all of the 140 dioceses of the three Rites (the Latin, the Syro-Malabar, and the Syro-Malankara). It is most widespread in Bombay, Goa, Kerala, Delhi, Andhra, Bangalore and Madras. The National Service Committee has been officially recognized by the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, with Bishop Valerian D'Souza as Ecclesiastical Assistant. Cardinal Ivan Dias of Bombay and several other bishops are personally involved. I serve as Chairman.

**There is reason for hope, because many youth are being drawn, including some non-Christians who are finding in Jesus the answers to many of their life-questions.**

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal runs a residential Catholic Bible college for lay people, has a bimonthly national magazine, *CHARISINDIA*, publishes many books and teaching materials in English and in ten other regional languages, and organizes at both national and regional levels regular conventions, leaders' seminars and retreats, through which it pastors the approximately 100,000 Catholics actively involved in the Renewal. (Perhaps another half-million Catholics have attended charismatic retreats and programs).

The use of the gifts of the Spirit, joyful praise and deep worship, many initiatives of social service (pro-life, literacy, etc.), a committed witness in daily life to the lordship of Jesus, and efforts at evangelization are some of the tested characteristics of the Renewal in general. Still we recognize that we have many miles to go in reaching the full stature of Christ! One area of concern is that large numbers of people are attracted to retreat centers which focus on healings, visions and other signs and wonders, which encourage a neo-Pentecostal praise and spirituality. As a result, authentic "Catholic" renewal almost gets hijacked.

See **India** p. 4

# What in the world is going on?



## Benin

by Jean Pliya

I am very grateful to the Holy Spirit who has blessed the Catholic Church of Benin, West Africa, with the Charismatic Renewal movement. In 1975 the Christian faith in my country was under some threat from the dictatorship of the Marxist-Leninist ruling power. Humiliated, Christians were frightened. I asked the Lord to show his power, so as to deliver us. He told me to proclaim the Good News according Mark 16:15-18, and led me in 1977 to the renewal in Spirit.

**Nowadays there are more than 150 prayer groups, each one of them between two hundred and a thousand members strong.**

My first experience of charismatic prayer took place in my own family. My children were praising, clapping their hands and laughing. My parish came to know the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, then other parishes and the fire spread through all the dioceses of Benin with the support of the bishops.

Nowadays there are more than 150 prayer groups, each one of them between two hundred and a thousand members strong. Their main activities are teaching Life in Spirit seminars, strong and living praise, healing prayers, and evangelization in Benin and in other West African countries (even in Muslim ones). Every two years more than twelve thousand people participate in the pilgrimage that we organize.

See **Benin** p. 4

## France

by Cathy Brenti

The Jubilee years have given the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in France many opportunities to interact with other Catholics and to be involved in various projects, at various levels. However it is clear that we are now at a turning point. Shall we go on trying to keep running those existing renewal groups and other old church structures? Or shall we let the Lord set our hearts on fire for the renewal of the whole church and all society?

Chains of prayer and fasting are developing in order to intercede for loving relations within families, for unity among Christians, for renewal of political life and a more humane economy. Indeed, as French Christians, our diminishing ranks and shrinking institutions and budgets do not leave us any options other than interceding for a new Pentecost.

We need not be afraid of our weaknesses, to proclaim our faith and to testify to our love. More and more people are convinced of the necessity of such a change, but it implies both personal and collective surrendering of our beloved projects and pride.

On Pentecost 1998 at the first meeting of ecclesial movements and communities, Pope John Paul II said: "Since the very beginning of my ministry as the successor of Peter, I have always considered these movements as a wonderful spiritual source for the church and the

See **France** p. 4

## Japan

by Francis Mathy, S.J.

The Charismatic Renewal in Japan resembles the *bonsai*. While small in size, it is teeming with vitality, growing steadily, tended and shaped by the expert hands of the master gardener.

The obstacles to the movement's growth have been formidable. The resistance of the average Japanese Catholic to charismatic renewal is probably greater than anywhere else in the world. Because of the natural reluctance of Japanese to display their emotions and the formalism of a Catholic Church life that is cold, duty-oriented and lacking in true community, charismatic renewal has had tough going. Most of the Japanese bishops and clergy seldom have a good word to say for it and keep it well at a distance. (The priests involved in the Renewal are mostly foreign missionaries.) But even so, people have kept coming to us, making the Life in the Spirit seminars, receiving a new in-filling of the Holy Spirit and then acting like Spirit-filled people all over the world!

**At a time when converts are becoming fewer and fewer, a great number of Japanese have had their first encounter with Christ in our prayer groups and have gone on to baptism and a full church life.**

Our numbers have continued to increase at a small but steady pace. Charismatic Renewal arrived in Japan in 1972, when two Spirit-filled Sisters from the United States came to Japan with the express prophetic mission of planting the Renewal here. Their efforts, aided by the Protestant Canadian evangelist Les Pritchard and his team, resulted in the first Japanese Catholic charismatic prayer meeting being held at the Redemptorist church in Tokyo in mid-November. The first Life in the Spirit seminar followed shortly after. Assembly of God Pastor Yoshiyama and other Japanese Pentecostal ministers and lay people were very helpful to us in this initial period. Members increased week by week, and soon this prayer meeting—later moved to the campus of Sophia University—became a kind of center for the expansion of the Charismatic Renewal all over Japan, as far north as Hokkaido and as far south as Okinawa. ☞

We are divided into six regions, each with its own leadership, each with its own yearly three-day regional conference, and each regularly conducting Life in the Spirit seminars. Every third year there is a national conference. Responsible for the over-all planning is a national committee of five members assisted by an auxiliary committee composed of representatives of each region. There are only a few regular prayer groups that meet once a week, but there is a vast number of small groups of four or five that meet in homes. For these, the national and regional conferences serve an important purpose, since they provide the opportunity to praise and worship the Lord to their hearts' content.

Another characteristic is that from the beginning the leaders have encouraged those receiving baptism in the Holy Spirit to use their

See [Japan](#) p. 15

[Benin](#) from p. 3

Thanks to the Charismatic Renewal's blessing, many people have converted themselves to Jesus Christ and most of those who left the Catholic Church to join sects are coming back. The occult practices of the voodoo religion are being rejected. There are also charismatic groups in some high schools and at the university where the Holy Spirit is also stirring up vocations to the priesthood. In 1994, as national leader of the Charismatic Renewal, I was invited by Pope John Paul II to attend the Synod of African bishops in order to speak about evangelization and human advancement in Africa.

However, in the last three or four years, we are noticing some problems such as a decrease in the size of prayer groups or an excessive emphasis on physical healing and deliverance. Now the Holy Spirit is leading us to live out a new blessing, to open evangelization schools and to promote activities for the youth in our groups.

Praise the Lord and glory to Jesus! ☞

*Jean Pliya serves as National Leader of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Benin and is also a member of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services Council.*

[India](#) from p. 3

On the other hand, there is reason for hope, because authentic Catholic Charismatic Renewal is also finding new dynamism and fruitfulness all over the country, and many youth are being drawn to it, including some non-Christians who are finding in Jesus the answers to many of their life-questions. I think it is right to conclude that through the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the Spirit is equipping and motivating the church in India to "launch out into the deep," in accord with Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter for the third millennium. ☞

*A former director of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services office in Rome, Fr. Fio Mascarenhas now serves as Chairman of the National Service Committee of India.*

[France](#) from p. 3

**Their strength is to search—even in their diversity—for unity between them and also with the diocesan church.**

whole humankind, gift of the Holy Spirit for our time, sign of hope for all...each community is different, but all are united in the very same communion and for the same mission."

Since 1975, many of these Catholic charismatic communities have existed in France. Their strength is to search—even in their diversity—for unity between them and also with the diocesan church through common events as varied as walking pilgrimages for youth, social or health pastoral initiatives, and common times of reflection. Some of the largest among these are *Béatitudes*, *Chemin Neuf*, *Emmanuel*, *Pain de Vie*, and *Verbe de Vie*.

The Christian world longs for our country to be faithful to its tradition. The Holy Spirit is taking us back to our roots so that we may fully follow its lead. ☞

*A leader of the Charismatic Renewal in France, Cathy Brenti is a member of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services Council.*

by Gerry Mader

**H**ow wonderful of the Catholic Church to remind us in the year 2000 of the Jubilee of the Old Testament. In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee it was truly a blessed and joy-filled year.

Our Jubilee theme, "Celebration! Jubilation! Exultation! Jesus Christ is with Us," set the tone and gave us direction in all that we did that year. The pastoral discerners—the Archdiocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal leadership team—believed God was calling us to stretch our vision and to be open to newness. We responded by discontinuing our normal activities for a year, by reaching out in new areas of involvement and collaboration within our diocese, and by celebrating the charisms of the Holy Spirit in all our evangelization efforts.

**We held archdiocesan-wide prayer meetings to celebrate and rekindle the fire of the early days.**

Using the theme "Opening the Doors to the Grace of Jubilee," we opened the year, as well as our hearts, with a New Year's Eve celebration which included liturgy, dinner, shared witnesses and a prayer meeting. Near midnight, our hearts bursting with joy and gratitude, we prayed-in the Jubilee with a canticle of praise, recalling how hearts have been opened through God's Holy Spirit throughout history.

Recalling our earlier experiences of being baptized in the Holy Spirit—the joy, awe and love we felt in our new relationship with Jesus, and the empowerment of gifts we received to serve one another—we held archdiocesan-wide prayer meetings to celebrate and rekindle the fire of the early days. These also became opportunities to share this gift with others and to be refreshed for the Jubilee journey.

In March, keeping with the Vatican Jubilee calendar, our Renewal office collaborated with the Archdiocesan Offices of Social Concerns and Women by cosponsoring a Jubilee for Women. This included a benefit performance of "A Woman Called Truth," a story of the

# The fruit of Jubilee 2000



great abolitionist, women's rights activist, and slave woman, Sojourner Truth. The purpose was to celebrate Christ's presence in efforts to support women in need and to showcase and raise funds for local outreaches and agencies that serve women and children. The evening was well attended and over \$14,000 was raised for seven shelters; new volunteers came forth as well. Truly a work of God in Jubilee Year 2000!

The local Renewal also collaborated with three parishes in a new evangelization effort, using the *Ashes to Fire* process published by CHARISM of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. This process uses the Lenten-Easter-Pentecost season as a natural means to evangelize. Three parishes in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, desired to bring renewal into their community and to develop greater levels of collaboration between them. They also wanted it to be lay driven, but fully supported by the clergy. We sat with the leadership team from the three parishes and worked on the entire process with them: workshops on evangelization, Ash Wednesday services, witness talks at all the Masses, a three-day mini-mission, scripture study, and a concluding Life in the Spirit seminar with over one hundred people baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Because the fruit was so abundant—a new grace of collaboration between the parishes and a greater zeal for God—they repeated the process this year, bringing new parishioners into the planning process. Seeing these results,

another parish, St. Joseph in Big Bend, Wisconsin, decided to implement this program. A wonderful fruit of the Jubilee year!

Pentecost Week was celebrated with a flurry of activities around the archdiocese. The celebration began with a Life in the Spirit seminar on Pentecost weekend, with prayer for baptism in the Holy Spirit celebrated during Pentecost Mass. Other events including prayer meetings and Masses for healing were offered the following week. Our special guest speaker was Msgr. William John-Lewis, who turned out to be one of the greatest blessings of the Jubilee. A gifted preacher and singer from the Commonwealth of Dominica, Msgr. Bill was used by the Holy Spirit to move hearts in profound and mighty ways. So moved, we invited our new found friend back to produce a CD! Later he returned to speak and minister at an annual Christmas gathering.

Jubilee 2000 was the seed for the "new springtime" and I believe the growth will continue well into this new millennium. Come, Holy Spirit, refresh us! Come, Holy Spirit, renew us! ☩



*Gerry Mader is a member of the National Service Committee Council, and serves on the leadership team for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.*

Photo: www.Comstock.com



by Bob Canton

“Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name, they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mark 16:15-18).

In my heart, I kept on hearing this passage while preparing to conduct healing crusades in



Bangkok, Thailand, and Kuching, Malaysia, which were held on February 24-March 3, 2001. Deep in my heart, I knew that the Lord Jesus would let me witness again signs and wonders, healings, miracles and conversions of heart for his greater glory and honor. Three people accompanied me on these crusades: James Blubaugh of Jesus and Mary Prayer Group, Columbus, Ohio, and Al Pineda and Victoria Montesa who belong to the San Lorenzo Ruiz Prayer Group, Jersey City, New Jersey.

Our first stop was in Bangkok where a healing workshop was held on February 24 at the Holy Redeemer Hall. A healing crusade was conducted the following day at the Holy Redeemer Church. Both events were sponsored by the Spirit of Love Charismatic Servant Community and Holy Redeemer Parish.

Of the total Thai population of 65 million, only 2% are Christian; 95% are Buddhist, and 3% are Muslim. Some who attended both activities were Buddhists

and Muslims. I had the opportunity to ask some of them why they came to these Christian events, and most of them replied that they came to “satisfy their curiosity”, to see for themselves what a healing workshop and a healing crusade were all about. The Lord Jesus did not disappoint them. He showed them that he is the God who heals, a God who cares and loves them, a God who saves.

Many were healed of every kind of ailment and disease including emotional and spiritual maladies. The blind were able to see, the deaf could hear again, tumors disappeared, cancers melted away, the lame threw away their canes and ran around praising the Lord for his mighty deeds. A nun, Sr. Mila Martires of the Daughters

of Charity, who hails from the Philippines and now resides in Chiangmai, Thailand, had been diagnosed by doctors to have a systemic lupus erythematosus. She received prayer for healing and on the following day went for a check up at Camillian Hospital. The results of her blood tests and other examinations show that her lupus has been totally healed.

A lady named H o n g s i r i Theeranvavilai had her sight restored after six years of blindness caused by glaucoma. Elizabeth Phadungjaroen, who had been suffering from asthma for twelve years, received her healing. A man born deaf and mute, Nopakeaw ‘Micah’ Nimausa, was able to hear for the first time in his life. Grace Yuktanan’s tumors in her breast instantly disappeared.

Louis Pepper, an American residing in Bangkok, was full of bitterness and anger towards people who had hurt him. He decided to forgive and, as a result, he experienced inner peace and joy. These were only some of the recorded healings that took place during both events. A Thai tailor who also is a Buddhist stated quite firmly that from what he had witnessed during the healing crusade, he now knows that it is Jesus who heals. He wanted to know when

the next healing crusade would be held so that he could bring his sick friends. He wanted them to experience and to know the healing touch of Jesus.

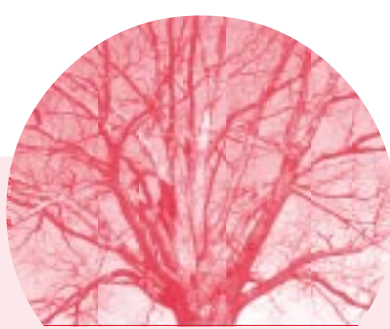
The Spirit of Love Charismatic Servant Community has since been conducting a monthly Mass and healing service at the Holy

**A Thai tailor who also is a Buddhist...wanted to know when the next healing crusade would be held so that he could bring his sick friends. He wanted them to experience and to know the healing touch of Jesus.**

Redeemer Church as an answer to the demands and requests of the parishioners who attended the workshop and the healing crusade. The Rev. James Thanu Krathong, C.Ss.R, parochial vicar of Holy Redeemer Church, has offered to be the regular celebrant of the healing Mass. “The Lord is quenching their thirst for him,” commented Joan Daengsvang, the head servant leader of the prayer community. “The Lord has opened a wide door for us to evangelize and to minister to Christians and non-Christians alike who come,” she recently wrote. She also reports that more people are now attending their weekly prayer meeting.

More signs and wonders, miracles, healings and deliverance took place during the healing workshop and crusade in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. The country has a population of ap-

See [Asia page 9](#)



## Spiritual Formation

# The world and the Christian

by Dorothy Ranaghan

“The world is too much with us.” This lament of Wordsworth is often a heartfelt cry of Christians. It’s a mistake. Does the world pose problems for us as we try to live our lives in, but not of it? Absolutely. At times we feel like we are drowning in the grief of the world, its promiscuity, pornography, drugs, violence, corruption, greed, pollution and downright hostility to the gospel. But this same “world” was “so loved” by God that he devised a great plan to save it. We are part of that plan. Call me Pollyanna if you choose, but life in the world does not always have to be experienced as a “valley of tears.” For all the difficulties and challenges involved in living out the gospel of Jesus in this world of ours, I see the obstacles as challenges to be met joyfully, not roadblocks leading to gloom and depression.

Recently I read about an interview conducted by Johnny Carson many years ago with Dolores Del Rio (a Mexican actress who was quite famous in the 20s and 30s). She was at the time over 70 years old, and Carson asked her the secret of her flawless skin. She said she had decided years ago “never to laugh or smile too broadly, nor to frown or cry without restraint.” How sad. Wrinkles and laugh lines, like stretch marks, are visible traces of life lived to the fullest. Some Christians have a “Del Rio” approach to the difficulties and challenges of living out the gospel in the world. Do nothing excessive, nothing radical, just “lay low” and hope that you make it through unscathed.

These coping mechanisms are not solutions. They are understandable, because when evils in the world surface we can feel overwhelmed and instinctively enter retreat or avoidance mode. We begin to look like settlers circling the wagons or racing for the fort, escaping together into a safe place. But, we will not have truly lived, nor will the gospel ever take root, if we turn away from the world. If there is any wisdom in the “run for the fort” approach, it is in banding together. If we are isolated we may well get picked off—and no Christian is meant to go it alone. There is not only more safety in numbers, but we will be more effective in all that we do if we stand together as the “body” of Christ.

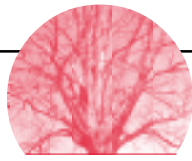
Rather than sealing ourselves off, we are meant to form “raiding parties.” We have to become offensively engaged in the world. I am reminded of a media executive, Bob Briner, whose 1993 book, *Roaring Lambs*, questioned the wisdom of Christian artists “hiding” in Christian companies that sell only Christian products to Christian consumers. His dream was to sign a roster of artists who were united both by Christian convictions and a commitment to build honest relationships with producers and promoters in the big leagues of “secular” music and video. I hope he has succeeded.

The “world” which hates Christ and his followers is human life and activity organized in economic, political and cultural unrighteousness, and involves suffering. When we are effectively opposed to such a world, we incur its hatred; but at the same time, we participate in the happiness of those who are persecuted for righteousness sake. That is part of our joy. But there is more. We are not just to oppose the unrighteousness in the big issues of abortion, euthanasia (and the whole culture of death), economic disparity, racial discrimination, resource shortages, the arms race, and many others, but also to work actively to bring righteousness, peace, order, beauty and all kingdom values to every environment in which we live—in education, business, politics, culture and entertainment, art, music, media technology, the internet. We intersect all of these “circles.” Christ, risen and alive, is in us, and through us he is still in the world and in each and all of these “circles.” In us and through us God still loves the world. Every day as we climb out of bed we can plant our feet on the ground and pray as Christ himself, “Father, show me what I can do today in the power of your Spirit to order the world in which I live according to your plan.”

We can then look for ways to make a difference. They surely won’t come about by letting fear rule us, or by inventing clever ways of fleeing the world. In the immortal words of the captain in Tim Allen’s comic movie, *Galaxy Quest*, “Never give up; never surrender.”

Perseverance is difficult. But individual pleasure is the idol of our secular age. Just because something “feels good,” does not make it right, and suffering for the sake of righteousness





Spiritual Formation

will not feel glorious. But my personal pleasure is not large enough for a moral universe. There is a wider horizon to the gospel, which is more concerned with the relationship of humans one to another, and with the social structures so necessary to making that common good or happiness possible. We would do well to de-emphasize the mournful aspect of life in the world, and begin to enjoy building the kingdom here and now.

The world is indeed very much with us, and that is not all bad. In fact, a form of this present life will go with us into the next. The work we do now will usher in the new heaven and the new earth. Every good song, every amazing book, every righteous business deal, every discovery, every right relationship, every decision of our daily lives, therefore, pulses with eternal significance. It is building the kingdom of God. If we really put on this mentality, depression will ease up because our daily activity will not look as transient as footprints in the sand, slated to be washed away, but rather will be activity filled with meaning and a form of permanence. To think differently is to labor under the old Platonic dualism, the delusion about escaping this mortal body and this world and going to heaven.

For us that dichotomy has been bridged. Heaven has entered earth. All things were created in Christ and for him, and his incar-

nation in our world has changed our world forever. Heaven, or the happiness to which we are called, is, as Pope John Paul II has reminded us, a "living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity." That "meeting with the Father, which takes place in the risen Christ through the communion of the Holy Spirit," has already begun in this world, therefore, in those who have entered into the life of Christ. If heaven isn't in your heart now, it won't be in any future world, either. "For after we have obeyed the Lord, and in his Spirit nurtured on earth the values of human dignity, brotherhood and freedom, ...we will find them again, but freed of stain, burnished and transfigured. This will be so when Christ hands over to the Father a kingdom eternal and universal: a kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love, and peace" (*Gaudium et Spes*, n.39). ☩



*Dorothy Garrity Ranaghan is a founding member of the People of Praise Community. A former member of the National Service Committee and former editor of the Chariscenter USA Newsletter, Dorothy currently does writing and retreat work. She and her husband, Kevin, live in South Bend, Indiana, and have six children and seven grandchildren.*

# Discernment

## Teaching Outline

A. The world: obstacle or challenge?

The "Del Rio" approach: avoidance/escape

B. Engagement together as the body of Christ

What we oppose

What we bring to the world

C. Christ still in—and still loving—the world

Building the kingdom vs. individual pleasure

Eternal significance of our work in and for the world

D. Ushering in the new heaven and new earth

## Reflection Questions

What is the "Del Rio" approach and what do you think of it as an approach to Christian life in the world?

What are some ways to band together for Christian action in the world? Why should we be motivated to do this?

What attitude toward the world is fostered by the realization that "heaven has entered the world?"

In what way does our work in the world really matter or make a difference?

The Halo on the Internet®

www.

# sfSpirit.com

**Articles/Teachings, Scripture, Books, Music,  
The Mass Live, Videos, Prayer Requests,  
Holy Spirit Conference Oct. 5-7, 2001, Registration**  
Evangelization by the Archdiocese of San Francisco,  
Office of the Charismatic Renewal  
Phone: 415.564-PRAY Email: [sfocr@sfSpirit.com](mailto:sfocr@sfSpirit.com)





**The church, which has a capacity of a thousand people, was so packed on the first night that Fr. Lawrence Chua, the pastor of the parish, set up tents outside the church equipped with a wide screen T.V. monitor.**

proximately twenty-eight million and only 5% are Christian. Islam is the official religion of the country. Two successive days of the healing workshop were held at the Continental Hotel and three successive nights of the healing crusades took place at Holy Trinity Church. The church, which has a capacity of a thousand people, was so packed on the first night that Fr. Lawrence Chua, the pas-

tor of the parish, set up tents outside the church equipped with a wide screen T.V. monitor.

Once again, the Lord Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit showed that everything is possible with him. Seven blind people regained their eyesight. Cysts and tumors instantly disappeared, including that of Maureen Voon. Paralyzed people

walked from wheelchairs, including seventy-eight year old Joseph Lim. A twelve year old boy named Thaddeus Sii had a cast around his broken arm. He received prayers and the x-rays taken the day after the crusade showed that the bones had fused together as if his arm had never been broken. Boniface Raweh was completely healed of total deafness, and numerous other healings took place.

**O**n the second day of the crusades, the Holy Spirit impressed upon me to exhort the people to renounce their practice of idolatry and occultism and to refrain from going to Bomohs or mediums and spiritualists, and to stop consulting palm readers and fortune tellers because these practices are an abomination to the Lord. They were encouraged to put their complete trust and faith in the Lord Jesus who can heal them and give them abundant life. Consequently, many threw away their amulets and lucky charms and, as a result, innumerable healings took place including the deliverance of many people from the clutches of evil spirits.

Every night we prayed for the release of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and many, including Buddhists, Muslims and Taoists, received the gift of tongues. Many people rested in the spirit, not only those inside the church but also those outside, many of them praising the Lord in tongues for the first time. This attracted the residents who live around the vicinity of the church, who came to investigate closely what they heard. What they saw for sure was the glory of God being manifested in their midst.

Bishop Anthony Lee from the Diocese of Miri, who celebrated the Masses with Fr. Chua during

the crusade, commented that the Holy Spirit had started a revival in that city. Pauline Lim, the head servant leader of the prayer community, said, "This is God's visitation to his people in Kuching, and many of us—for sure—will never be the same again. Many people found a hunger and thirst for God like they had never experienced before."

Three weeks later, a Life in the Spirit seminar was conducted by the Emmaus Charismatic Community as a follow up to the healing workshop and crusade. Ms. Lim recently wrote that the Life in the Spirit seminar was the most anointed and the highest attended so far in their diocese. A seminar for the youth was held a month later, and this generated a new youth ministry for their prayer community. Yes, we are in total awe of what we have witnessed and experienced in these two non-Christian countries in Asia, and we continually give glory to the Lord Jesus, the divine physician, who is "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

"Now glory be to God who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinity beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes" (Eph. 3:20). Our God is truly alive and working wonderfully in our midst. ☸

*Bob Canton is a member of the NSC Council. An international speaker*



*and evangelist, Bob ministers through Good Shepherd Ministry in Stockton, California.*

# Opening our ears to God's prophetic whispers

by Joseph DeBlassie

"Is there any word from the Lord?" In Jeremiah 37:17, King Zedekiah asked Jeremiah the prophet this question. This is the question that the world is asking today in the midst of a fast-paced society filled with anxiety, stress and a longing for direction. Are you in a predicament? Do you need answers? Is your heart crying, "I need a word from the Lord?" Know that the Lord is telling you, "I will attend to your faintest cries and will answer you!"

**F**aced with all the challenging moments, financial struggles and many sleepless nights that come with being a husband, father and businessman, I know what it is to yearn for God to speak words of deliverance and be in the immediate presence of my situation. As I have progressed spiritually, I have come to recognize that he, in fact, is near to his people and longs for us to awaken to his prophetic whispers. Our problem is that we do not recognize the way the Holy Spirit speaks. There are parts of our inner workings that have been lost in the culture we live in and our souls have been damaged. What helps us overcome this? Opening our hearts to worship the Lord.

If you are like me, you have petitioned the Lord a million times over for his help. But we fail to realize that we were created to minister to him. We need to lift him up in praise and worship. If we are to hear from God, we must first minister to him, which then places us in an atmosphere of being able to hear his prophetic whispers. Father Robert DeGrandis, in his book *The Gift of Prophecy*, reveals: "Praising God is difficult for most Catholics because we have been reared on petitioning the Lord rather than praising him. The difficulty with petitioning is that it makes *us* the center. It is difficult for people to maintain an attitude of praise for any length of time because people naturally want to go back to petitioning the Lord and talking to him of their needs. However, if we hold up Jesus—if we lift Jesus higher—if we focus on him and worship him, then he will minister to us! If you want to be blessed and hear his message to you, seek him through praise." "And when

I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself" (Jn. 12:32).

As a businessman, I was in a heavy career strait awhile back and had all the associated financial burdens that go along with it. The spirit of poverty was threatening to hang me as I was sweating blood amidst the stress. Sound familiar? Been sweating any blood lately? Start worshipping Jesus!

I went to my spirit-filled neighbor, Eugene, and we began to minister to Jesus in praise and worship. Soon prophetic whispers started to bubble forth out of Eugene: "Stay quietly in my presence and do not rush out in an attempt to salvage your career. The stresses associated with your career have nearly cost you your life. It is the prayers of your wife, Cyndee, that have saved you from premature death."

**W**ives, stand in the gap for your husband! You are his saving grace! I felt a deep sense of relief. Early the next morning while worshipping the Lord, prophetic whispers once again began to come to me revealing that I had done nothing wrong. It was a generational curse that was causing my career to be shipwrecked. With this piece of information now exposed, I quickly moved to put this curse under the blood of Jesus. A few weeks went by and the Holy Spirit again spoke and revealed that the curse of poverty had been broken.

A few Saturdays later, during a prayer meeting in Beverly Hills, the leader of the meeting (who did not know me) looked at me and

asked, "Are you a businessman?" Having an MBA and being a business manager, I responded, "Yes." He simply responded with the prophetic words, "You will be doing business for the Lord, big business."

Our dear friend, Laura, later revealed to my wife that we were about to enter a beautiful city but my eyes had been blinded because of the trauma that I had experienced.

The Holy Spirit continued moving and I happened to run across Eugene's sister, Kelly Jo, and we began to pray. The Lord began to speak through her. "You are a vessel broken in a million pieces. I will piece you back together as something beautiful and give you back double for your trouble." The Lord continued to speak: "Before year-end you will sell your house for a healthy profit, obtain a new house that is even nicer than the one you have, and I will grant you another job that will pay as much or more than what you have been making." To add to my faith, my precious brother/mentor in the Lord, Delano, came to my house to pray and bubbled forth the words, "How could I not come through for you when you have come through for me?"

In less than two weeks of being on the market, my house did sell for a healthy profit. Furthermore, the Lord did lead me to another well-paying job in a new city, affording me the ability to buy a beautiful new home.

In retrospect, I stand in awe wondering what type of confusion I would be in were it not for the Holy Spirit's prophetic whispers. Prophetic words can expose strongholds in our lives and show us the way out. It is no wonder St. Paul admonishes us to "follow the way of love, eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy" (1 Cor. 1:14).

Do you desire to have your ears awakened to the Holy Spirit's prophetic whispers? Begin worshipping him and eagerly desire the prophetic gifts. The Holy Spirit longs to speak to you! ☸



*Joseph DeBlassie is a leader in the Charismatic Renewal in Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

## NEWSBRIEFS

### National Service Committee and NSC Council meet

The National Service Committee and members of the NSC Council met briefly at the end of the 2001 National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference in Houston in early June. The meeting was graced by international guests Cardinal Ivan Dias of Bombay, India, and Carmel and Allen Panozza of Australia, the relatively new Chairman of ICCRS. Cardinal Dias had come to the US for the first time specifically to experience the Catholic Charismatic Renewal here.

The NSC and NSC Council business consisted chiefly of prayerful reflection on the experience of the conference, which had been held in the midst of tropical storm Allison. Cardinal Dias shared that "I saw the Spirit working powerfully...the Lord has great plans for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal." His presence and that of the Panozzas was a great encouragement to the leaders gathered.

The National Service Committee then met for two days following the departure of the NSC Council members. Much time was spent in prayer and reflection on the unity, vision and mission of the National Service Committee. This was the first opportunity for three new members of the NSC (Ros Hernandez of San Antonio, Virginia King of Seattle, and Mark Nehrhas of Steubenville) to meet in person with the continuing members.

The Committee considered new initiatives in networking leaders, future national conferences and its own finances, which are always

a challenge. The Committee will meet again with the NSC Council in October.

Recently Deacon Ron Ochner, a member of the NSC since 1996, resigned. His solid wisdom will be missed.

Plans are underway for our 35th Anniversary Conference to be held in Pittsburgh, September 13-15, 2002. See the conference ad on the back cover for more information.

#### In brief:

◆ *Le Conseil Du Renouveau Charismatique Catolique Des Haitiens D'Outre-Mer* (the leadership of the Charismatic Renewal among Haitians in the US and Canada) held their national conference in August in Massachusetts. 2450 people attended.

◆ In May over two thousand gathered in Los Angeles for a conference sponsored by the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Renewal Communities.

◆ The Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Communities and Fellowships held a North American Regional Conference in Tempe, Arizona, in March. Bishop Stanislaw Rylko of the Pontifical Council of the Laity and Bishop Albert de Monleon of France were the featured speakers. Over 200 community leaders and invited guests attended.

◆ On June 9 Dean Condon, former member of the NSC (1992-1999) and currently Pastoral Administrator of Good Shepherd Parish in Rochester, New York, was ordained a deacon. We pray God's blessing on this new servant to the church. ☪

◆ **Regional Leaders' Gatherings** For more information, contact Chariscenter  
 ◆ November 2-4 Phoenix, Arizona  
 ◆ December 7-9 Columbus, Ohio at 1-800-338-2445.



### NSC honors Rev. Kilian McDonnell

**O**n the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of your ordination to the priesthood, and the soon celebration of the eightieth anniversary of your birth, the National Service Committee, on behalf of all the participants in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States, thanks and honors you for your faithful service to the Lord Jesus Christ, the church and this Renewal.

Through your past and on-going service as a Theological Consultant to the National Service Committee (1973-), your involvement in early theological reflections on the Charismatic Renewal such as the Malines documents, and your more recent very important work with Fr. George Montague, S.M., entitled *Christian Initiation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit: Evidence from the First Eight Centuries*, you have sought to help this Renewal remain firmly planted in the good earth of the Roman Catholic Church.

You have also led the way through your Chairmanship of the Vatican sponsored Roman Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue in helping all of us, and the church as a whole, better understand the grace of this Renewal also as an ecumenical grace.

May the Holy Spirit continue to empower you as you continue to serve and to create, and to use your gifts for the glory of God.

June 2, 2001

*Presented at the National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference, June 8-10, 2001.*

New Life in the Spirit Seminars  
Catholic Edition 2000

## The Catechism and the *New Life in the Spirit Seminars*

**W**e greet you, Holy Spirit, in the words of the Russian bishop and saint, Dimitrii of Rostov: “Come, my Light, and illumine my darkness. Come, my Life, and revive me from death...Come, Flame of Divine Love, and burn up the thorns of my sins, kindling my heart with the flame of your love.”

God has blessed the Charismatic Renewal with a profound confidence in the Holy Spirit as a source of life, light, conversion and faith. We have experienced the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus in John 14:26: “The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.” Hundreds of people have responded to this promise by offering witnesses and teachings for the building up of the body of Christ. Praise God!

Those on Life in the Spirit teams have relied on the inspiration of the Spirit in a particular way. Team members have probed important passages from the Scriptures and meditated on the meaning behind the words. They have sorted through personal faith stories for ones that would bring others to Jesus. Finally, they have prayerfully taken all these pieces and wed them with an outline from a seminar manual. We have all grown as a result of this spiritual approach.

One of the goals of the *New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000* is to add important and exciting church documents like the *Catechism*

*of the Catholic Church* to our repertoire of teaching tools. We are fortunate to have this tool since it is the first universal catechism since 1566! The Catechism is now a primary reference point for teaching. It is like a large quilt on a cold and rainy day, stitched together from all the important pieces of fabric that make us who we are as church—Scripture quotes, writings from the saints, council documents, and church doctrine. In its four parts it explains the four pillars of our faith: creed, sacraments, morality and prayer.

Life in the Spirit teams will have a particular interest in the section on the creed, since the new seminar is written with the creed in mind and because the “creed is the spiritual seal, our heart’s meditation and an ever-present guardian; it is, unquestionably, the treasure of our soul” (St. Ambrose, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 197). Seminar teams might choose to study sections together at their meetings. A person who is preparing a teaching could use related passages for personal prayer and study, or might use the index to look up the Scriptures from a particular talk and see where they are quoted in the Catechism. It is important to realize that the Catechism is *not* a textbook, so we would not normally quote from it during a talk. It is a valuable resource for broadening our understanding of the faith.

Accompanying this article is a list of Catechism sections associated with particular talks from the *New Life in the Spirit Seminars*. They can be used for prayer or study or to deepen an understanding of the material in the seminar. Don’t be surprised if a particular section raises questions. Don’t be afraid of questions and new adventures in faith formation. Those we teach are not only inspired by our love for the Lord and by an openness to God’s voice in Scripture, but also by a desire to learn. Questions can be a sign of someone who is teachable and docile to the Holy Spirit.

As we approach the Catechism, let us pray with St. Alphonse Liguori: “Grant me the gift of knowledge, so that I may know the things of God and, enlightened by your holy teaching, may walk, without deviation, in the path of eternal salvation. Grant me the gift of counsel, so that I may choose what is more conducive to my spiritual advancement...Grant me the gift of wisdom so that I may rightly direct all my actions, referring them to God as my last end.” ☩

The *New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000* sells at \$9.95. A bulk discount of 30% is available for purchase of five copies or more (shipping and handling extra). For more information, call Chariscenter USA at 1-800-338-2445.

| Seminar Session                   | Topics   | Catechism Sections                           |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Explanation session               | Importance of the creed in faith, Jesus is Lord, baptism     | 186-189, 194-197, 426, 537                   |
| God's love                        | Belief in the Father, Creator                                | 268-274, 315-322                             |
| Salvation                         | Jesus, Son, Savior, Christ                                   | 430-435, 452-455, 619-623                    |
| New life                          | Holy Spirit, giver of life                                   | 683-701, 1213                                |
| Receiving God's gift              | Holy Spirit, everlasting life, confirmation, gifts, charisms | 733-738, 1025-1029, 797-801, 1285, 1302-1304 |
| Praying for baptism in the Spirit | Gifts and fruits   | 1814, 1817, 1822-1832                        |
| Growth                            | Church, communion of saints, growth, prayer                  | 736, 753-757, 787-790, 946-953, 1116, 2558   |
| Transformation in Christ          | Holiness, mission  | 849-853, 2012-2015                           |

**From the Director . . . .**

by Walter Matthews



NATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE OF THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY**  
for the year ended December 31, 2000

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

In the midst of tropical storm Allison the 2001 National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference in Houston managed to convene. There we heard Cardinal Ivan Dias of India tell us, "The church of the new springtime is already at work in the United States of America and you are the first fruits." Praise God!

On behalf of the National Service Committee, thanks for helping us continue the work on the national level of serving the Lord in "renewing the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the church."

Jubilee Year 2000 was a productive year for the NSC.

★ We published the *New Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000* which by year's end was in its third printing and had sold over 6,700 copies.

★ We gathered over 5000 Catholics in St. Louis to join with thousands of brothers and sisters of other Christian denominations and groups to celebrate Jesus 2000.

★ We published four quarterly issues of *Pentecost Today* which has won awards from the Catholic Press Association. With new color covers and new columns we are working to make *Pentecost Today* the best it can be to strengthen the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

★ We sponsored a major Jubilee pilgrimage to the Holy Land (which became a Catholic Shrines of Italy Pilgrimage in the light of the violence that broke out in Israel last fall).

★ We operated Chariscenter USA as a national office for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

★ We brought together diocesan, community and ministry leaders in various regions, held an end-of-Jubilee Prayer Summit in

**PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

|   |  |                  |
|---|--|------------------|
| Public Support  |  |                  |
| Contributions   |  | \$235,092        |
| (Exclusive of Donor Development Receipts of \$12,680) |  |                  |
|   |  | <u>\$235,092</u> |

|                                       |           |                  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Revenue                               |           |                  |
| Conference registrations and receipts | \$181,912 |                  |
| Interest                              | \$444     |                  |
| Publication and material sales        | \$68,452  |                  |
| Other                                 | \$17,725  | \$268,533        |
|                                       |           | <u>\$268,533</u> |

**Total Public Support and Revenue** **\$503,625**

**EXPENDITURES**

|   |          |                  |
|---|----------|------------------|
| Program Services  |          |                  |
| ICCRS   | \$3,955  |                  |
| Life in the Spirit Team Manual & workshops                                | \$19,158 |                  |
| National Conferences  | \$26,826 |                  |
| NSC Council   | (\$84)   |                  |
| Other Communication   | \$23,504 |                  |
| Pentecost Today   | \$47,912 |                  |
| Pilgrimage  | \$7,989  |                  |
| Regional Leaders' Gatherings  | \$450    |                  |
| Renewal Resources   | \$11,996 | \$141,706        |
| (includes Leadership Directory, Lift Your Voice Jubilee Booklet & videos) |          |                  |
|   |          | <u>\$141,706</u> |

|  |           |                  |
|--|-----------|------------------|
| Supporting Services                              |           |                  |
| Management and general (includes Christener USA) | \$183,712 |                  |
| Fund Raising                                     | \$77,414  |                  |
| Donor Development                                | \$13,084  |                  |
| (cost \$25,764 less receipts \$12,680)           |           |                  |
|  |           | <u>\$274,210</u> |

**Total Expenditures** **\$415,916**

**Excess of Expenses Over Public Support and Revenues** **\$87,909**

This Statement of Accountability follows the format recommended by the National Catholic Development Conference to whose principles of good stewardship the National Service Committee subscribes. It is adapted from an audit prepared by an independent certified public accounting firm. A copy of the audit is available at the office of the National Service Committee upon request.

Chicago in February, supported the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services and the work they do in so many countries, and published the *Catholic Charismatic Renewal Leadership Directory* to keep the Renewal connected.

All in all it was a very good year. But in his Apostolic letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, our Holy Father challenges all of us: "What we have done this year cannot justify a sense of complacency, and still less should it lead us to relax our commitment. On the contrary, the experiences we have had should

inspire in us new energy, and impel us to invest in concrete initiatives the enthusiasm which we have felt." He then tells us to "go forward in hope."

With your continued support, we will be able to do so.

In Jesus, our Jubilee,

Walter Matthews  
Executive Director  
National Service Committee

## Friends of the NSC

by Bob Brown



### Thank you, Jack!

Jack left a bequest to the National Service Committee/Chariscenter USA last month. His gift will allow us to bring the life-giving message of Jesus Christ's love and the grace of Pentecost to the hearts, minds and souls of countless others.

Over a period of several years Jack had been a regular contributor, supporting the work of the NSC/Chariscenter USA, helping to bring the good news of Jesus the Christ to thousands of people throughout the country. Through his generosity Jack helped renew the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the church in America and abroad.

Lives had been changed and lives had been empowered by Jack's gifts over the years. Thanks to his foresight and estate planning, more lives will continue to be affected, renewed and empowered. Again thank you, Jack.

### The state made a will for you!

That is, if you have not done so yourself. There are no laws that say you have to make a will or other plans for your estate. However if you do not, the state will decide how to distribute your assets, large or small. Who will receive your property and how much of it varies from state to state.

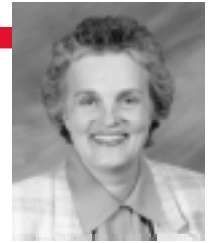
You get to make those decisions—if you plan ahead, as Jack did.

Also as Jack did, we ask that you please consider us, the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc., or Chariscenter USA, when you have your will drawn up or updated. A bequest to the National Service Committee will help continue the work of evangelization and service to the church and the Charismatic Renewal.

If you have any questions, please call 1-800-338-2445. ☞

## Ministry Update

by Aggie Neck



At our January National Service Committee meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, three new members were elected. I would like to introduce them to you and give you some personal information so you may come to know them better.

### Rosbel Hernandez

Ros was born and raised in Raymondville, and now resides in Floresville, both southwest Texas towns. After graduating from high school, Ros joined the Air Force and remained on active duty for twenty-three years. The last five years he was a Senior Management Analyst, a position he held as a civilian employee for ten years after retirement.

A dramatic conversion to Christ in 1977 led him to answer a call to discipleship and he has been involved since then in parish and Charismatic Renewal leadership. Ros currently serves as Associate Liaison of the Archdiocese of San Antonio and as Director for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center there. In 1996 Pope John Paul II invested Ros into the Pontifical Order of the Knights of St. Gregory the Great, an honor that makes him a member of the household of the Pope! Ros and his wife, Elida, have three children and four grandchildren.

**Reflection:** "We are blessed to be living and working in the Lord's vineyard at this time in history. What an opportunity to serve Jesus in this new springtime of evangelization! The angels in heaven rejoice as we on earth proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord. 'Renew us, oh Lord, as in a new Pentecost!'"

### Virginia King

Born and raised in Seattle and still living there, Virginia says, "I live in the most beautiful city in the world!" She was baptized in the Holy Spirit twenty-five years ago and describes it as "when life really begins." She and her husband, Richard, have two adult children.

Virginia is the Executive Director of Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal

and has served in that position for seventeen years. They sponsor conferences, healing Masses, and have a wonderful youth ministry that works closely with parish confirmation classes.

**Reflection:** "I believe that Catholic Charismatic Renewal can contribute a great deal to the church's response to the new springtime of evangelization. We read in the apostolic exhortation *Ecclesia in America* of the need for each person to encounter the living Jesus Christ. We in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal have a responsibility to share with the whole church what we have learned over the years about helping people encounter the living Jesus Christ and experience the guidance of the Holy Spirit. These are exciting and challenging times for all of us."

### Mark Nehrbas

Originally from Long Island, New York, Mark now lives in Steubenville, Ohio, with his wife, Carol, and their nine children who range in age from 22 to 4½. Mark serves as Senior Director of Ministry and Outreach at Franciscan University in Steubenville. He has worked with the FIRE Ministry for ten years, is currently a volunteer consultant for the National Resource Center for Catholic Men, and served as a charter board member of the organization. At the university's annual employees award ceremony this year, he was the recipient of the Spirit of St. Francis Award. Mark's oldest daughter just graduated from Franciscan university and one of his sons is currently attending the university, a fact in which Mark and Carol find great joy.

**Reflection:** "I was baptized in the Holy Spirit at age 19. It was a life-changing experience that set my heart on fire with love for Jesus Christ, brought me back into the Catholic Church, and gave me a passion for sharing the Gospel. I believe baptism in the Holy Spirit is the most effective means for personal conversion and the most powerful force for evangelization in the world today. It is humbling and exciting to serve on the NSC to help foster this grace in the church." ☞

Japan from p. 4

new gifts in helping—unobtrusively—to revitalize their parishes, especially by contributing to the formation of genuine Christian community there. We have had some success in this: many of our people are active in parish pastoral committees, religious education programs, music ministry, evangelical outreach, social welfare programs, care of the sick, etc. And their help is much appreciated.

**T**he Holy Spirit has been drawing us into more intensive prayer in private and into greater praise at our prayer meetings. The praise often leads to deep adoration in the strongly felt presence of the Lord. The charisms, especially prophecy and the other word gifts, have become more and more manifest. There is a growing devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and many quiet hours are spent before the tabernacle.

At a time when converts are becoming fewer and fewer, a great number of Japanese have had their first encounter with Christ in our prayer groups, especially the small home groups, and have gone on to baptism and a full church life.

The theme of our upcoming Tokyo conference is *Duc in altum*, (put out into the deep), one of the principal themes of Pope John Paul's recent apostolic letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*. This is the very direction in which the Holy Spirit seems to be leading us. Our experiences until now, to paraphrase the Holy Father, "inspire in us new energy, and impel us" to draw up an effective pastoral plan for the new millennium according to the lines he proposes in his letter.

Upon reconsideration, the Renewal in Japan is not so much like a *bonsai* as it is like the mustard seed of Jesus' parable. The slender stems that have grown out of that seed are still too small to call much attention to themselves, but promise—in God's time—to shoot up and reach to the sky. The ground in which the seed is sown is most fertile: it has been fertilized by the blood of several thousand martyrs (of the 17<sup>th</sup> century) that has not yet seen its harvest. ☞

*Fr. Francis Mathy is a Jesuit missionary priest and leader in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Japan.*

## Pentecost Today Volume 26, 2001

*The following is an abbreviated listing of articles from Volume 26 of Pentecost Today. For a full listing, visit our website at [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org) or call Chariscenter at 1-800-338-2445.*

### Chairman's Corner

*Beyond Borders*, Fr. Patsy Iaquina; 26:4, Oct./Nov./Dec., p. 2

*Extending the boundaries*, Fr. Patsy Iaquina; 26:1, Jan./Feb./March, p. 2

*Kicking it up a notch*, Fr. Patsy Iaquina; 26:2, Apr./May/June, p. 2

*Living on the edge*, Fr. Patsy Iaquina; 26:3, July/Aug./Sept., p. 2

### Charismatic Renewal

*Called to be a prophetic people*, Aggie Neck; 26:3, July/Aug./Sept., p. 9

*Miracles in Asia*, Bob Canton; 26:4, Oct./Nov./Dec., p. 6

*The prophetic role of the Charismatic Renewal*, Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa; 26:3, July/Aug./Sept., p. 3

*What in the world is going on? A glimpse at international Catholic Charismatic Renewal*; 26:4, Oct./Nov./Dec., p. 3

### Evangelization

*Called through reconciliation to mission*, Mark Nimo; 26:2, Apr./May/June, p. 6

*A movement of evangelization: Evangelii Nuntiandi—Twenty-five years later*, David Thorp; 26:2, Apr./May/June, p. 3

*Setting kids on fire: Prayer meetings and seminars for pre-teens*, Katrina J. Zeno; 26:3, July/Aug./Sept., p. 5

*What a "yes" can do*, Jan Heath; 26:2, Apr./May/June, p. 5

### From the Director

*And the word became flesh*, Walter Matthews; 26:3, July/Aug./Sept., p. 14

*Go forward in hope!* Walter Matthews; 26:2, Apr./May/June, p. 14

*Jubilee healing continues*, Walter Matthews; 26:1, Jan./Feb./March, p. 14

*NSC 2000 Financial Statement*, Walter Matthews; 26:4, Oct./Nov./Dec., p. 14

### Laity

*Cooperators in the work of the Lord: Thirty-five years after the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, Walter Matthews; 26:1, Jan./Feb./March, p. 3

*"The soul of the world"*, Dcn. Keith A. Fournier; 26:1, Jan./Feb./March, p. 6

### Life in the Spirit Seminars

*The Catechism and the New Life in the Spirit Seminars*; 26:4, Oct./Nov./Dec., p. 12

*Charisms and the New Life in the Spirit Seminars*; 26:3, July/Aug./Sept., p. 12

*Using the New Life in the Spirit Seminars in the parish*; 26:2, Apr./May/June, p. 12

### Spiritual Formation

*Discernment*, Dorothy Ranaghan; 26:3, July/Aug./Sept., p. 7

*Faith*, Dorothy Ranaghan; 26:1, Jan./Feb./March, p. 7

*Hope*, Dorothy Ranaghan; 26:2, Apr./May/June, p. 7

*The world and the Christian*, Dorothy Ranaghan; 26:4, Oct./Nov./Dec., p. 7

### Spiritual Gifts

*Discerning spiritual gifts*, Sherry Weddell; 26:2, Apr./May/June, p. 9

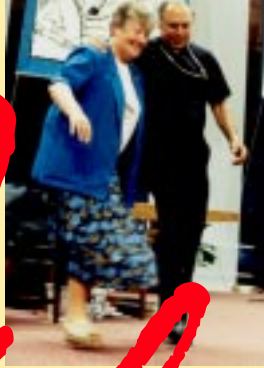
*Gifts for the church or gifts for the kingdom?* Fr. George Montague, SM; 26:1, Jan./Feb./March, p. 9

*Opening our ears to God*, Joseph DeBlassie; 26:4, Oct./Nov./Dec., p. 9

### Pope John Paul II on the Holy Spirit

Fr. Bill McCarthy has compiled all 120 discourses of Pope John Paul II—including his encyclical on the Holy Spirit. This most charismatic of Popes states clearly that the charismatic dimension is an essential element of the church's life. This is the most all-embracing, systematic and authoritative book on the Spirit—MUST READING! Write for: *The Holy Spirit in the Writings of John Paul II* by Fr. Bill McCarthy. Paperback \$19.95

P.O. Box 22, Moodus, CT 06469  
Fax: 860-873-2357



# Celebrate! 35 YEARS

## National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference

The 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is upon us! The celebrations of our 25<sup>th</sup> (1992) and 30<sup>th</sup> (1997) anniversaries were anointed times of great blessing and joy! The Bishops' Committee, Association of Diocesan Liaisons, Ethnic Committees on Charismatic Renewal and others are joining with the National Service Committee to plan a momentous event in 2002 to thank the Lord for 35 years. Call or visit our website to receive your invitation for our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference.



**David Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh  
September 13-15, 2002**

website: [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org)  
phone: 1-866-NSC-CONF  
(1-866-672-2663)

### **PENTECOST Today**

PO Box 628 ♦ Locust Grove, VA ♦ 22508-0628

If you have received more than one copy of this publication, please return all the mailing labels and we will make the necessary corrections. Meanwhile, don't hesitate to share the duplicate copy with someone who would benefit from it.

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
National Service  
Committee

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Published by the National Service  
Committee of the Catholic Charismatic  
Renewal of the United States, Inc.