



Please pray:

- For the continued outreach of the Renewal worldwide and the work and financial needs of ICCRS.
- For the School of Healing Prayer for Leaders at Jacksonville on October 20–25, 2008
- For the National Leaders' Conference in Nashville on November 14–16, 2008
- That this Year of St. Paul will be a special grace for the Charismatic Renewal and the whole Church.
- That the Bishops' Synod on "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church" will bless the Church with a new thirst and love for God's Word.
- That each of us will accept our call to evangelize and use our gifts to build the kingdom of God among us.

The Francis & Judith MacNutt School of Healing Prayer® for leaders

October 20–25, 2008

Wyndham Jacksonville
Riverwalk Hotel
Jacksonville, Florida
Conference registration:
904-765-3332,
Hotel reservations:
904-396-5100

co-sponsored by: ICCRS,
Christian Healing Ministries,
Chariscenter USA

for more information:
www.christianhealingmin.org

How to proclaim and receive the Good News in prayer communities

by *Therese Boucher*

Stop and think about the last prayer meeting, ministry meeting or charismatic gathering you attended. Surely there was praise and listening to the word of God. However, did you have time to dwell on God's word, or to share your particular challenges in bringing the good news of Jesus into daily life? Part of proclaiming God's word is letting it echo in our hearts. As St. Paul exhorts us in Colossians (3:16), "Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts."

Walter Matthews, in his NSC leaflet, *Charismatic Prayer Meetings*, offers a good explanation of how God's word is proclaimed at gatherings. He points out that the first element of praise helps us proclaim God's glory. The second element is listening to the Lord through scripture, prophecy and teachings. The third element applies God's loving care through intercessory prayer. But is our experience of "listening to the Lord" successful; or does "listening" become sharing of a string of scriptures and lengthy silences without the opportunity to apply God's word to our lives?

Ponder and pour over the word

If you find it difficult to take prayer meeting scriptures to heart, leaders might occasionally modify a prayer meeting by adding *lectio divina*, or sacred reading, between proclaiming God's word and intercessory prayer. This approach has been used by monastic communities for centuries and can be helpful at ministry meetings, workshops, bible studies and even at

large charismatic gatherings. Here are the steps. They take about ten to fifteen minutes.

✚ The leader of the meeting chooses and slowly proclaims one of the previous scripture readings. The goal is to allow time for group meditation and sharing.

✚ The passage is repeated again, inviting everyone to listen for a word or phrase that strikes the heart or mind.

✚ These phrases are prayerfully repeated out loud.

✚ Next, invite people to share the personal meaning of each phrase with the group (of ten or less). In a group of more than ten, people can share with someone nearby.

Reasons for this approach:

1. As Pope Paul VI pointed out in *On Evangelization in the Modern World*, the first people we should delve into the word with are each other. "The Church begins by being evangelized herself. She is the community of believers, the community of hope lived and communicated... and she needs to listen unceasingly to what she must believe (13)."

2. Sharing meaningful phrases helps us consider the relationship between our daily lives and God's particular word. It often triggers the gift of prophecy, as well.

3. Scripture based faith sharing provides an entry point into the community for new people, especially those who enjoyed small group sharing during a Holy Spirit Seminar.

4. *Lectio* offers a communal model of receiving God's word and a good transition to intercessory prayer for the needs that have surfaced.

Faith sharing during a Holy Spirit Seminar

It is also important to review how we receive God's word during a Holy Spirit Seminar. Too often we think of talks as the key proclamation. But this is not true. Small group sharing is equally important. It is faith sharing that helps people explore their response to the good news and discover concrete ways to live in the Holy Spirit. Faith sharing is like connective tissue, or glue, linking daily life and God's interven-

tion. The Spirit awakens faith as we share our experiences of accepting or rejecting God's word. Successful faith sharing groups also allow participants to feel at home with community members later on. It is one of the first things participants look for after a seminar. And it is ongoing sharing of our relationships with God that connects all of us as a growing community.

But good faith sharing during a seminar does not happen by accident. It happens through deliberate actions, like befriending new people, rather than spending time socializing with old friends. It happens through training at ongoing team meetings where listening and sharing skills are learned. It happens when we nurture people's daily spiritual lives through phone calls and emails. So let us commit ourselves to deeper, more conscious ways of receiving God's word thru sacred read-

ing and faith sharing. Let us pray with the US bishops, "Awakened and energized by the Spirit, let us strengthen our commitment and intensify our efforts to help the adults in our communities be touched and transformed by the life-giving message of Jesus, to explore its meaning, experience its power, and live in its light... This is the Lord's work. In the power of the Spirit it will not fail but will bear lasting fruit" (*Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*, USCCB, pg 35). ♦



Therese Boucher is a writer and speaker. She has written several books, among them The New Life in the spirit Seminars Team Manual: Catholic Edition 2000 which is available through the National Service Committee.

"Milagros" Do you believe in miracles?

Come to beautiful Mexico. Pilgrimage from Zacatecas to Mexico City



Fr. Michael Manning, SVD
Founder, Wordnet Productions

December 6-11, 2008

\$1499 per person from Los Angeles
(additional \$100 from New York JFK) plus \$150
departure tax (subject to change till ticketed)



Extend the trip to celebrate the Feast of
Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12!
\$300 Limited seats!

PILGRIMAGE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

(based on 40 pilgrims)

- ▲ Roundtrip airline ticket from Los Angeles
- ▲ Superior tourist class accommodations with private bath including hotel taxes & service chgs
- ▲ Continental breakfast daily
- ▲ Sightseeing (as per itinerary) plus entrance fees
- ▲ Touring by private, AC motorcoach
- ▲ Professional Tour Director
- ▲ Baggage handling for one piece of luggage
- ▲ \$200 donation to WORDNET television ministry



CONTACT FIAT Catholic Pilgrimages
916 N. Western Avenue, Suite 225
San Pedro, CA 90732

310-732-0101

email: SAYFIAT@aol.com

Transformation and evangelization through bible study

by Laurie Watson Manhardt, PhD

Pope Benedict XVI asked a question at World Youth Day 2008 that could be posed to each of us. “How are you using the gifts you have been given, the ‘power’ that the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you? What legacy will you leave? What difference will you make?... At each Mass, the Holy Spirit descends anew, invoked by the solemn prayer of the Church, not only to transform our gifts of bread and wine into the Lord’s body and blood, but also to transform our lives, to make us, in his power, one body, one spirit in Christ.”

Jesus said “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Do you ever feel like you’re powerless and you’re not going anywhere? To whom could you witness? How can you share the love of God with a needy world? What is God calling you to do for him?

Bible study provides a simple tool for discipleship and evangelization. It can enable you to be transformed by God’s word and become a witness for him. You can leave a legacy, even if you are old, or young, or slow of speech or busy. How can this be done?

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). The word of God has power, in and of itself. We hunger for the word. We love the word of God. We want to immerse ourselves in God’s word. But, alas, the busyness of

life, the demands, and the distractions hinder us. We need accountability. We need help. We can’t do it alone. We need someone to stand along side us and to call us on to faithfulness in studying God’s word.

So, gather together a few friends or neighbors. Pray about whom to invite. Pray about who God wants you to serve. Teenagers? Young mothers? Prisoners? Non-practicing Catholics? Couples in mixed marriages? Commit to studying God’s word each week or every other week. Choose a good Catholic bible study plan. Make some refreshments. Open your home and watch God’s power unfold.

God doesn’t need your *ability*. He only wants your *availability*. God wants hearts of service. God is hungry for souls. Are you hungry for souls? Can you open your home for an hour or two each week to invite others to study God’s word with you? You don’t need to be a scripture scholar. You don’t have to have all the answers. Really, nobody but God has all the answers. It is virtuous to be humble. When questions arise, you can say “I really don’t know. But, let me research this, or talk to the pastor and get back to you the next time we meet. This is really a very good question for all of us.”

And, here is what will happen. People will come to your home, maybe only two or three at first. You will break open God’s word together. God’s word has power. The Holy Spirit will transform you into the person he wants you to become. Others will be drawn into God’s love. They will tell their friends and bring others. God will work in power in your life and in the lives of others.

Several years ago, I felt the Lord calling us to have a Catholic bible study for couples in mixed marriages in our home. Being somewhat reluctant, I was dragging my feet. One day driving to the airport with a Protestant woman I hoped to invite, I found the 90 minute drive slipping away. Finally, approaching the terminal, I sheepishly asked, “Would you ever consider coming to a Catholic bible study?” Immediately she responded, “Oh honey, we will be there every single time. We *need* this. What do you want me to bring? Brownies? Cookies?” God made it so easy for her to respond to his grace. What was the cause of my fear and reluctance? Was I relying on myself instead of trusting that God had a plan and that he had everything under control?

On another occasion a teenage boy approached a friend of mine. “Mrs. D. we go to bible study on Wednesday nights but, it sure would be nice if we could have a Catholic bible study to attend.” Now, would we commit our time for just a few teenagers? Would we sacrifice one night a week for just a few young people hungry for God’s word?

What about the young families in our neighborhoods? Do you see them at church on Sunday mornings or are they over at the soccer field? Perhaps a neighborhood bible study with free child care would be an opportunity for you to witness God’s love to the young who don’t know the fullness of truth.

Pope Benedict XVI told the youth that there will come “a new age in which hope liberates us from the shallowness, apathy and self-absorption which deaden our souls and poison our rela-



The Renewal lives

Among the many diocesan and area conferences that took place this year there were several significant ethnic gatherings.

In March the Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities held a Regional Conference in Las Vegas with the theme "Lord I'll Go! Send Me." It drew some 400 attendees. Speakers included Bob Canton, Fr. Ramon Valera, Sr. Nancy Kellar, S.C. and ICCRS member Peter Thompson of Canada.

The Alliance has added a number of new regional representatives and named Fr. Ramon Valera as Head Shepherd and Fr. Bill Halbing as

Assistant Head Shepherd. (See www.afccpc.org.)

Hispanic leaders in the U.S. met in Tampa in April for the 23rd annual *Encuentro Católico Carismático Latino Estadounidense* (ECCLE). The theme was "New Pentecost: Healing the Renewal." The speaker was Msgr. Joseph Malagrea of Brooklyn. The *Encuentro* focused on the practical application of charisms, and prayer for renewal of the charisms of tongues, prophecy and healing. At the ECCLE new regional representatives were elected. The new Chairperson of the *Comité Nacional de Servicio Hispano* (CNSH) is Fernando Perales of Michigán. (See www.rcchispana.com.)

Korean leaders in the U.S. met in May for their annual Leaders' Workshop in Federal Way, Washington. Fifty

leaders participated. The theme was "Encounter with God, Community and Mission." Msgr. Augustin Park was elected Chairman of the Korean Service Committee.

In early August 3400 Haitians in the U.S. gathered in Orlando for their Annual Conference whose theme was "God has given us a spirit of love, power and self-control." Speakers were Fr. Jules Campion, head of a Biblical Institute in Port au Prince, Fr. Gaetan Boursiquot, former Spiritual Director of the Renewal in Haiti, Lolia Mondesir and Msgr. Joseph Malagrea. There was a clear sense in the conference of the difference between the power of the Spirit expressed in charisms and the Spirit of love and self-control (fruits). Haitian leaders will gather in November for their Annual *Rencontre*. This gather-

ing of 3 representatives of each of the 100 Haitian prayer groups in the U. S. chooses their national leaders. (See www.crccho.org.)

Twenty-two Hispanic leaders from the U. S. joined nearly 700 others (including many priests, four bishops and an archbishop) from over twenty countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean for the 22nd *Encuentro Católico Carismático Latinoamericano* (ECCLA), held in Honduras in late August. The theme was "Renew the Renewal." Teresa Rosero, past Chairperson of the CNSH, reported that the "teachings were great" and were given by Oreste Pesare, Director of ICCRS, Fr. Vicente Borragán of Spain and Cardinal Oscar Ramírez of Honduras. The next ECCLA will be held in 2010 in Perú. ♦

tionships. Dear friends, the Lord is asking you to be prophets of this new age, messengers of his love, drawing people to the Father and building a future of hope for all humanity." Is God calling you to share his word with others? How will you respond? What legacy will you leave? ♦

Laurie Manhardt is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a doctorate in education. She is a wife, mother and grandmother as well as a catechist and bible study teacher. Laurie is one of the authors of *Come and See* - a Catholic Bible Study. See www.CatholicBibleStudy.net.



Come celebrate the Year of St. Paul Pilgrimage

led by Bishop Sam Jacobs and Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR
March 9-21, 2009

Visit Thessalonki, Philippi, Athens, Patmos and more

\$3399 from JFK plus tips, air tax & fuel surcharges. \$100 discount if deposit is paid by 11-29-2008.

The National Service Committee is joining with Franciscan University of Steubenville to provide this significant opportunity in the Year of St. Paul.

Come celebrate with us!

For more information or to receive a brochure call
1-800-338-2445



Evangelization: Everyone's right, Everyone's duty

People are won to the
kingdom of God,
one heart at a time.

by James Murphy

We have all been to a conference, or watched someone on television speaking eloquently about the things of God. The person speaks with authority, conviction, wit and a finesse that is so compelling. We look at them and say to ourselves "I wish I could evangelize like that."

What we may see at a conference or on television is only one very small perspective of a much bigger understanding of evangelization. It is something every Christian can do...and every Christian must do.

Evangelization is the responsibility of every baptized Christian. Our whole purpose as a Christian is to "make disciples of all nations." When Pope Paul VI said that: "the Church exists to evangelize," he was including all of us in the word "Church." Also, through our baptism, we now work with Jesus to "proclaim good news to the poor, open the eyes of the blind, and announce a year of favor from the Lord." Evangelization is not the privilege of a few, but the moral responsibility of the many. We cannot keep good news to ourselves in the midst of souls starving for Jesus!

The problem comes with our perception of evangelization. We often think of it as a dramatic, eloquent presentation to crowds. But people are won to the kingdom of God, one heart at a time. You don't need to speak to big crowds...you need to speak to one heart, a co-worker, a grandchild, an elderly neighbor.

Forget all the flash and polish. What really touches people is sincerity. You don't have to impress people with how smart you are, or how much scripture you can memorize. Speak to them from your heart. Tell them who Jesus is and what he means to you. Tell them how Jesus has helped you through the struggles of life. The main thing is... talk about Jesus. Pope Paul VI said that no authentic evangelization could take place without speaking the name of Jesus.

People often counter that call of Paul VI by quoting Francis of Assisi "Preach the gospel at all times...and if necessary use words." People use this quote as evidence that we don't have to talk about Jesus, just let our lives be a witness.

St. Francis never said the above quote. He instructed his brothers that they should always ask permission from the local bishop before they preached and if they were denied, they should at least try to live holy lives. But Francis wanted his sons and daughters to preach always, everywhere, to everyone. Francis himself journeyed to the Crusades, walked into the Moslem camp and preached Jesus to the Sultan himself!

Another element of evangelization is sincere dialogue with the other person. Whether it was the woman at the well, Nicodemus, or the rich young man, Jesus was willing to really engage people. Listen to people; ask them questions. Let them talk. Show them respect. This helps people open their hearts to hearing the Good News.

Prayer is an important part of evangelization. You cannot convince anyone to follow Jesus, if they do not have that

grace from God to do so. Faith is a gift. So pray, pray, pray. Pray that God will direct you to the right person to speak with. Pray that you may say the right things, at the right time, in the right way that will have the best effect. Pray that the person you speak with has an open heart and is able to receive the mystery you are sharing.

It is a mystery. If you think you can explain all the mysteries of God and answer everybody's questions, you are mistaken. When somebody throws you a tough question and you are not sure how to answer it, be honest and say so. You can say to them that this is a mystery, but maybe together we can look into that and try to find some answers. Invite that person to a bible study or prayer meeting. Take them to meet a priest or someone who is wise and pastoral and can give you some insight to the problem. The very act of "making the journey" with the new person is actually much more powerful than simply giving them some pat answer that neither you nor they understand.

Take a chance and pray with them. Keep it simple and sincere. God will work powerfully in this little leap of faith on your part.

Remember, evangelization is often simple and humble. It is God's work. Do it with the right heart. God will do the rest. ♦

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

Proclamation of the Word of God

by Arlene Apone

As prelude to Jesus' ministry, John proclaimed: "Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; He will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mark 1:2-3). This passage (proclamation) from Isaiah's book of consolation to Israel calls for a time of repentance in preparation for the coming of the Lord.

Jesus first words recorded in Mark were: "The time has come, the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the good news" (Mark 1:15).

From Isaiah to John the Baptist to Jesus, the proclamation calls for the same action in the life of the hearers. We still respond in repentance and in faith, opening ourselves to this call to the good news. The message goes on in every age to all men and women, only now in this age it is proclaimed through us. We are the witnesses of this good news.

St. Paul writes, "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is the word of faith which we preach), for if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rm.10:8-9).

Can there be any mistake in the message, or is there reluctance to respond on our part? For some there is still a need to hear, and so in every age we have the same call. Let it be done, according to his will.

This is the Word of God! What a proclamation! ♦

Arlene Apone is a liaison from the Archdiocese of Detroit. She presently serves as chairperson of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons.



Year of St. Paul

In the spirit of St. Paul proclaim the gospel in season and out. This is the year to reach parishioners, youth, neighbors, family members and non-Christians. Our resources will help you proclaim the gospel.

A NEW PENTECOST The Catholic Charismatic Renewal, ICCRS. The video presents the dramatic move of the Holy Spirit in our time. It explains the connection between the first Pentecost and today's charismatic renewal movement. DVD \$14

THE NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS TEAM MANUAL, Catholic Edition 2000, revised by Therese Boucher. This new edition of the Seminar introduces people to a fuller experience of life in the Spirit. \$9.95

A PRAYER JOURNAL FOR BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, Therese Boucher. Uncovering the riches of our sacramental heritage, this journal can be used as a personal retreat, during a Holy Spirit seminar or while preparing for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. \$2.50

THERE'S ALWAYS MORE, Sr. Nancy Kellar, S.C. A Growth Seminar that can be used as a Life in the Spirit Seminar follow-up, as a Retreat Day or during prayer meetings. A 9 week seminar that can be given in three-week modules. \$7.95

National Service Committee **LEAFLETS**
A variety of titles designed to further inform and encourage those living in the life of the Spirit. \$.50 each

- ♦ Living Baptized in the Holy Spirit
- ♦ The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- ♦ Gift of Prophecy
- ♦ Prayer Meetings
- ♦ Prayer Ministry

New titles to be released soon!

Call the NSC office to order: **1-800-338-2445**



INDEX

The Index to the 2008 issues of Pentecost Today is available on our website:
www.nsc-chariscenter.org.



**From the
Executive
Director**

.....
by Walter Matthews

A year of grace

We are now several months into the Year of St. Paul and the Service Committee has been working and will continue to work to foster this time of grace for the Renewal in the United States.

With the other National Leadership Groups we have published a Prayer Card which reads in part, "We ask you to pour out your Spirit during this time of grace to fill the hearts of your people." Copies are available by calling or emailing us or by visiting our website www.nsc-chariscenter.org.

Additionally, as Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner noted in her column last issue, the members of the NSC are providing reflections on different Pauline themes. These are available to you via email or on our website. Reflections by Fr. Richard Loch, Aggie Neck and others are now available.

Several times St. Paul noted that his proclamation of the Gospel did not rest on mere words (1 Thes. 1:5) nor philosophical argument (1 Cor. 2:4), but on the "convincing power of the Spirit" (*ibid*), "but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with great effect." (1 Thes. 1:5).

Several years ago the NSC was challenged by the Lord to make the preaching of the kingdom of God with signs following a constituent part of its ministry. Since then a number of the members have reported new zeal and "effect" as we minister in the power of the Spirit.

At the Jesus is Alive! Pour Out Your Spirit Anew! Rally in St. Louis in early May there was new fire. A similar Rally will be held in Philadelphia in early October.

We expect new fire as we gather for the National Leaders' Conference in Nashville, November 14-16. If you are hungry for more of the Lord, join us there.

We are also cosponsoring the School of Healing Prayer for Leaders with ICCRS and Christian Healing Ministries. Expect new fire.

Pope Benedict XVI told the participants at World Youth Day, "How much our world needs a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

He then challenged the young pilgrims and us in his closing homily:

How are you using the gifts you have been given, the "power" which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you?

What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come?

What difference will you make? The power of the Holy Spirit does not only enlighten and console us. It also points us to the future, to the coming of God's kingdom...

Through the loving intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, may this Twenty-third World Youth Day be experienced as a new Upper Room, from which all of us, burning with the fire and love of the Holy Spirit, go forth to proclaim the Risen Christ and to draw every heart to him! Amen. ♦

A year of grace indeed!

Friends of the NSC

The Olympic torch has been passed. The World Youth Day Cross has been passed from Sydney to the representatives of Madrid. As St. Paul wrote, "Pass on to reliable people what you have heard from me through many witnesses so that they in turn will be able to teach others" (2 Tm. 2:2).

Certainly one of the ways you can ensure the future of the Renewal and pass on this grace to the next generations is by creating a legacy through your gift giving both now and by including the NSC in your will.

In recent years we have received substantive gifts (for us, no million dollar gifts/bequests here): \$45,000 to begin the Third Millennium Fund which continues to grow and whose income contributes to current programs like the Youth Ministry initiatives; three larger bequests totaling over \$78,000; and last year's Challenge Gift of \$25,000.

Without these gifts the work the NSC does in fostering the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the Church would have had to be curtailed.

If you are financially secure and thinking about how you could use your resources for good please think of us.

Prayer Group contacts: we encourage you to take a collection for the NSC toward the \$50 for the 50th Jubilee in 2017. Yes, it is 9 years away, but as Bishop Sam Jacobs challenged us at the 40th Jubilee in 2007: we must begin now to think about how we will prepare for and celebrate the Renewal's Golden Jubilee. Please join the many prayer groups that have already responded.

Finally, in this tight economy we could use everyone's year end help. Any donation at this time will help us continue the mission and end the year in the black.

Executive Director

Walter Matthews

Editorial Board

Fr. John Gordon

Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer, SSND

Editor

Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM

Production Manager

Jean Beers

© 2008, National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. Not to be reproduced without permission.

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

National Service Committee members:

Aggie Neck (Chairman)

Josephine Cachia

Caroline Gambale-Dirkes

Fr. John Gordon

Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

Chuck Hornsby

Judith Hughes

Fr. Richard Loch

Gerry Mader

Fr. David Pivonka, TOR

Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer, SSND

A limited amount of advertising space is available. For information call Jean Beers, (360) 730-1740. Advertisements for events not sponsored by the National Service Committee do not imply endorsement by the NSC/Chariscenter USA.

What we have seen and heard

.....
by Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer



You shall be my witnesses to the ends of the earth

I thought of a scene similar to the first Pentecost when I read a report of the Youth Event sponsored by Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Australia at the recent World Youth Day held in Sydney. 150,000 young people participated in "Receive the Power LIVE." The overall theme of WYD was from Acts 1:8: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth."

In the Acts of the Apostles 2:8-11 there is a description of a large crowd of people from 15 countries present in Jerusalem. Describing World Youth Day Allan Panozza of Australia wrote of seeing that vast crowd of young people and flags from 170 different nations being waved in time to the music.

Music, drama and testimony penetrate the heart of youth. An important aspect is always the mystagogia or reflection on what happened at a later time. We can pray that what was experienced by this generation and their chaperones will take root in their whole beings and that they will come to know Jesus who has reached out to the ends of the earth to touch them and invite them into eternal relationship with him and with one another. If we know anyone who attended we can help them to reflect on their experience by being interested listeners and reflecting with them on the meaning of this event.

Over the summer there have been charismatic conferences in various areas of the United States. I was recently present

at a regional conference in Minnesota. The title of the Conference, "From Maintenance to Mission," encouraged, even urged, each of us to reflect on our lives and to ask ourselves whether we are just maintaining our own spiritual life as it is or if we are really listening for the creative word of God to move us out and forward.

The words of Pope Benedict XVI to the youth are a challenge to each of us. "Dear young friends, the Lord is asking you to be prophets of this new age, messengers of his love, drawing people to the Father and building a future of hope for all humanity." He also asked this question: "Are you living your lives in a way that opens up space for the Spirit in the midst of a world that wants to forget God, or even rejects him in the name of a falsely conceived freedom?"

Lest any of us say, "That is for the young, I am too old;" let us also hear these words of Pope Benedict, attributed to St. Augustine: "If you wish to remain young, seek Christ." ♦

CHRISTMAS EVANGELISM

Looking for a fresh idea to reach inactive Catholics?
Try Christmas carols!



For more information go to www.nsc-chariscenter.org/ Resources and scroll to "Christmas Carol Festival: A New Way to Reach Inactive Catholics."

PENTECOST *Today*

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
National Service
Committee

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

October/November/December 2008

Proclaim the Good News

INSIDE:

College evangelization, <i>Chris Kepler</i>	page 3
Learn from St. Paul, <i>George Martin</i>	page 4
Power to evangelize, <i>Bill Brennan</i>	page 6
<i>Therese Boucher</i> on prayer groups	page 8
Bible study and transformation, <i>Laurie Manhardt</i>	page 10
<i>Jim Murphy</i> : The work of proclaiming Jesus	page 12

1-800-338-2445

www.nsc-chariscenter.org

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 please share the duplicate copy with someone else.



A Future Full of Hope

2008 National Leaders' Conference

November 14-16
Nashville



Speakers:

Michelle Moran,
President of ICCRS
Fr. Peter Sanders
Jim Murphy
Fr. John Gordon
Aggie Neck
Fr. Bob Hogan, *BBD*
Tom Curran

Leaders of prayer groups,
those in any ministry or
service, those serving in
parishes, those wanting
to grow- all are invited.

Registration \$89, \$165 /couple

FOR LEADERSHIP GROWTH & HOPE

Call 1-800-338-2445 or visit www.nsc-chariscenter.org