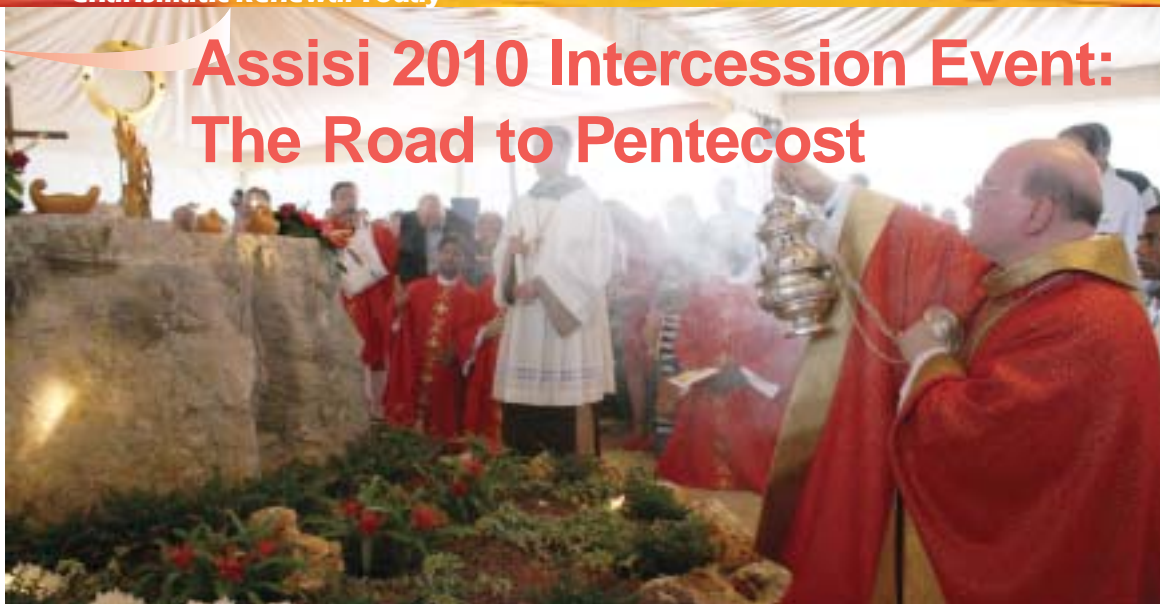


Assisi 2010 Intercession Event: The Road to Pentecost

We experienced a unity that is hard to describe and could only happen through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the closing Mass, presided by Assisi Bishop Domenico Sorrentino.

by Tammie Stevens

What could be better than enjoying the delightful countryside of Assisi, Italy in May? How about attending a “prayer meeting that represents the whole world” in Assisi, in May! This was how Michelle Moran, President of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS), described all of us gathered at the beginning of the Assisi 2010 Intercession Event. The theme for this event was “The Road to Pentecost” and as 300 participants, coming from over 40 countries, gathered for this event, we soon realized that this was going to be more than a conference, it would be a prayer meeting, and an amazing five day journey in prayer.

On Wednesday evening, after we celebrated together the opening Mass, Michelle shared with us the vision for this event. She said that this

event is “for all ministries together... everything we do in the Church needs to be underpinned, needs to have as its foundation, deep prayer.” During these days we were there to learn about the ministry of Intercession, to which some are called, but also to realize the need to have intercession supporting all our ministries so that “our evangelization, our mission, can go deeper, be more effective, be stronger and more rooted in the Lord.” Michelle continued that “this is not only a teaching conference, it’s a time for doing. So we will listen so that we can reflect and then put into action what we’ve spoken about.”

During the worship time on Thursday morning, we received a Word from the Lord which was simple but to the point: ARISE, WAIT, LISTEN INTENTLY. We heard these words echoed throughout the week. At the Thurs-

day evening session, *Return to the Upper Room*, at the beginning of a time of prayer, Kim Kollins (initiator of the Burning Bush Initiative, a call of return to the Upper Room) exhorted us: “However the Lord is guiding us in this moment, the call is very clear: intercessors arise! I invite you to arise and begin to intercede in the Spirit for the Church in this hour that the Lord’s fire will burn through the Church. And that purifying fire will prepare us ever more for his coming. Arise, intercessors, arise.” As Michelle shared about the *Road to Pentecost* she said: “We are waiting for that new outpouring of the Holy Spirit that always comes at Pentecost. How are we waiting? In expectancy? With excitement? Open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit?” To each of these we answered a resounding YES! We, each in our own hearts, answered the call to listen intently, in the teachings, in

the worship times and in the silence of adoration.

Even though this was not only a “teaching conference” there were amazing teachings and sharings at each session. Each day had its own theme—Thursday: *Return to the Upper Room in Adoration*; Friday: *The Way of the Cross*; Saturday: *With Mary in the Upper Room*. The teachings were presented by various members of the ICCRS Council and other leaders in the Renewal. We learned about Jesus the Intercessor; the Repentant Intercessor (which applies to all ministries); Spiritual Warfare; Mary, Our Model of Intercession; and about Waiting for what the Father has Promised (these teachings are available on CD). We had an opportunity to attend workshops on various dimensions of intercession such as healing, evangelization, Old Testament models, and spiritual warfare, to name a few. 🐾

Newsbriefs

Jesus Lives! Rally revives Renewal

In July the NSC team of Gerry Mader and Jane Guenther, along with NSC Council members Msgr Ed Griesedieck and Carol Sikorski led a *Jesus Lives! Pour Out Your Spirit Anew!* Praise and Teaching Rally in Kansas City. The day consisted of four talks and Mass built around the spirituality of Pentecost: prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation. The Rally drew 100 participants, twice as many as had been expected.

Carol Sikorski, who organized the Rally, noted, "We have received much positive feedback that the Rally did accomplish its purpose to 'revive' the Holy Spirit's life within the community."

Gerry Mader commented, "This was my second opportunity to speak at our Praise and Teaching Rallies. The Lord moves with such power when we praise and proclaim him." Prior *Jesus Lives! Pour Out Your Spirit Anew!* Rallies have been held in St. Louis and Philadelphia. For more information visit our website or call us. ♦

NSC Announces Catholic Italy Pilgrimage

Partnering again with Unitours and Fr. Patsy Iaquina, a former member and Chairman of the NSC and a seasoned Pilgrimage leader, we invite you to join with us to visit some of the most beautiful churches and cities in the world: Venice, Florence, Siena, Assisi and Rome.

Fr. Iaquina is known for his spiritual leadership, wit and good humor. He most recently led a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land earlier this year.

A Pilgrimage to Italy is an opportunity to deepen one's Catholic faith and to draw closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. The Pilgrimage also offers many opportunities to be moved by the Holy Spirit by seeing great art in spiritually significant settings.

Base cost from Newark is \$3,199 and from Pittsburgh \$3,299. There is an early booking discount of \$50 for reservations made by 12/31. For a brochure or more information visit our website or call 1-800-338-2445. ♦

Each day we celebrated the Eucharist together and at each session there was a time to respond, drawing us deeper into God's heart. We were learning how to have "hearts attuned to God's mercy" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2635), by first experiencing this mercy ourselves. We experienced the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We interceded for each nation, a truly humbling experience as we were each called to stand in proxy for our continent as others poured out their hearts to the Lord on our behalf. We prayed for an anointing on those who desired to be used by our Lord in the ministry of Intercession. We spent the night in vigil before the Blessed Sacrament in preparation for Pentecost Sunday. We then celebrated Pentecost with the Archbishop of Assisi as he celebrated the Sacrament

of Confirmation with some young people from the Archdiocese. Wow!

What struck me about this event, which you don't experience by just listening to the teachings on CD, was the journey in prayer that we took together and the fellowship that made us community. The event didn't end with the sessions. The breaks and our common meals, I believe, were a crucial part of this journey that we were on. At each meal we would sit together, talk about our homes and what God is doing. We were getting to know each other. For me, this event put a face on many countries that I had only heard of or seen on a map. It made me wish that I had brushed up on the French I took in high school so I could converse more easily with my brothers and sis-

ters from some of the African countries. Now, when I think of and pray for Malta, Vietnam, Brazil, Kuwait, Cameroon (or other countries), I no longer only see a land but I remember the faces of those I met, their laughter, their prayer and how, when we prayed together in the Spirit, we experienced a unity that is hard to describe and could only happen through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the most recent ICCRS Newsletter they had a report on this event and said: "We have a sense that this special event on intercession was just the beginning of what the Lord is calling ICCRS to do regarding the call to intercession." They also outlined a plan for other events in coming years: "We are building on this year's experience

by offering another Assisi 'The Road to Pentecost' event in 2011 where the special focus will be growing in the Charisms. Please note the dates now and further details will follow; 8th-12th June 2011 plus optional pilgrimages on 12th-15th June 2011." Where will you be NEXT Pentecost?? Assisi? ♦

For information about ordering CDs (within the US) from this event, please contact WWCCR in Seattle: www.wwccr.org, 206-364-2272 or info@wwccr.org.

Tammie Stevens has been active in Charismatic Renewal for over 20 years. She works at



Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal office and is on the NSC Council.

The Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

by Rev. Joseph Mary Marshall

The Brothers of the Beloved Disciple are a charismatic religious community of priests and brothers based in San Antonio, Texas. We are celebrating ten years of leadership at St. Mary Magdalen Church. In those years, the Holy Spirit has breathed new life into this once dying inner-city parish. It is a dynamic and vibrant church where faith is thriving.

At our prayer group retreat I shared that the role of the prayer group in the parish is to be both leaven and hearth. It only takes a little bit of yeast to raise a large batch of dough. In the same way, members of the prayer group on fire with the Holy Spirit affect the whole parish by sharing their joy and enthusiasm.

A person does not have to be a great evangelist to draw others to the prayer group. They simply need to share with others the difference that the prayer group has made in their lives. A simple sharing from the heart touches the heart of another. Then a person can invite others to come to the prayer group so that they may experience the presence and gifts of the Holy Spirit. People need to come to a place where a vibrant faith in God can be seen; where “nothing is impossible for God” is proclaimed. Numerous transformed lives testify to the Holy Spirit’s presence.

As faith grows and matures, people desire to serve. Prayer group members also serve in many other groups and ministries in the parish. By sharing the warmth and love of the Holy Spirit with others the prayer group is the

Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

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(806) 534-2312
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This is a Franciscan and charismatic religious order of sisters, contemplative with evangelistic apostolates.

hearth of the parish as well. They help us fulfill our mission statement: We the members of St. Mary Magdalen Church are maturing in ministry through prayer and the sacraments, the word of God and apostolic teachings, and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit to build community and evangelize. ♦

National Service Committee Catholic Italy Pilgrimage



with Fr. Patsy Iaquina

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May 19–22.

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1-800-338-2445

For information and reservations:
www.nsc-chariscenter.org

Why include the NSC in your will?

As you know the National Service Committee relies almost entirely on gifts from individuals to continue its mission. We ask you to please consider a gift to the National Service Committee when you make your will or update it. Making a gift to the NSC can be as simple as adding a codicil to your existing will or estate plan.

You may use this or a similar statement:
“I/we bequeath \$_____

(or % of my residual estate) to the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc. P.O. Box 628, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0628.”

Please let us know if you have included us in your will so that we can properly thank you.

Why do we do what we do?

by Madre Kuhle
Diocese of Spokane, Washington

The role of the liaison differs from one diocese to another. Some are the heart of the existence of the Renewal. Other liaisons are directors of Renewal centers and offices; some have a place right in the Chancery along with the Bishop. Others work out of a spare bedroom or space in a private home's basement.

Some liaisons are fully funded by the Diocese; some have a small budget, others work with no compensation from official sources, only from faithful people's donations. Many use their own personal funds to travel and work.

Even though the circumstances differ, the role of the liaison provides a vital link to the heart of the Church. That role brings to the Bishop's attention the work of the Renewal, the intent to be faithful, yet listen to the promptings of the Spirit. The role produces validation and opportunity for communication with the broader Church.

The challenge comes in riding the 'Wind of the Spirit' yet listening and discerning God's will. Sometimes that can cause tension and pain. But tension and pain can be instruments of growth, causing us to reach for a thoughtful balance. Jesus loves the Church and her people. Mary exhorts us to "do what he tells you to do."

So, why do we do what we do? Fr. John Corapi encourages us to reach out, explaining that the work of the Spirit involves one person, one soul at a time. A healing mass here, a Life in the Spirit Seminar there, a workshop on prayer then, a changed life and new direction now.

Recently, I attended the funeral of a woman whose beautiful life took on a new direction last fall. She was raised a Catholic, but walked away from her Catholic faith. When she became ill with terminal cancer, a close friend invited her to attend a Charismatic Renewal sponsored healing mass. She came and was blessed with the music, heard angels singing in the tongues,

and was inspired to return to the Church. No, she wasn't cured of her cancer, but she received a much deeper healing.

Pray for the Renewal, pray for your liaison. Pray for all Church leaders because the Church is made up of one fragile, precious person after person. That's why we do what we do. ♦

**The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans
Invites You to Two Spirit-filled Events**

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"Draw Near with Confidence
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Again, O Lord

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Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans

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From the Executive Director

.....
by Walter Matthews

Pentecost Today: Ten years and going forward

One of the principal means the National Service Committee uses “to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit” to bring about a renewal in “the grace and culture of Pentecost” (Mission Statement) is in the publication of *Pentecost Today*. From the earliest days of the Renewal getting the word out was vitally important. This was done in a number of ways: the convening of conferences, the duplication of audiocassettes from conference talks, and in written publications.

In the earliest days, *Pastoral Newsletter* was begun by the Word of God Community in Ann Arbor. *New Covenant* replaced it, as officially published by the NSC, in July 1971.

In 1975 it was decided to add the *National Communications Office Newsletter* as a simple means of communicating with the growing number of prayer groups, communities and renewal centers associated with the Renewal.

In May 1981 the *NCO Newsletter* became the *National Service Committee Newsletter* with the adoption of a logo for the NSC. In March 1983 the *Newsletter* became more of a teaching publication. In 1986 the *Newsletter* again changed names: this time to the *Chariscenter USA Newsletter* as the NSC headquarters became Chariscenter USA.

In 2000, the name and focus changed again: to *Pentecost Today*. The new name sought to express the Service Committee’s then Vision Statement:

“Renewing the grace of Pentecost in the life and mission of the Church.”

Sr. Martha Jean McGarry, IHM, who at that time chaired the Editorial Board, said “*Pentecost Today* captures something of the urgency we feel about helping the whole church experience the great grace which the Holy Spirit is pouring out upon the world. We feel that the beginning of the Great Jubilee and the new millennium is an appropriate time to do this. It emphasizes our focus on a new springtime for Christianity.”

When *New Covenant* magazine ceased publication in January 2002, *Pentecost Today* became the only national publication in the Renewal in the U.S. This past January we celebrated its tenth anniversary.

We look back to remember and give thanks, but we are not stuck in the past. With the adoption of new Vision and Mission Statements by the NSC in the last two years the Editorial Board has been challenged to find ways to communicate their meaning. The new colored banners are part of that effort.

We have also been challenged to make it more relevant to young adults and we are prayerfully considering how to do this.

In this issue we have included a sign up card which we ask you to give to someone in your prayer group, parish or family, or a participant in your next Life in the Spirit Seminar. We will send *Pentecost Today* free for a year. We hope that all such recipients will value it and desire at the end of the year to continue to receive it by sending a donation.

It is our sincere hope that *Pentecost Today* is serving your needs and that of the Renewal in the U.S. at this time. ♦

Friends of the NSC

Over the last three months we have received a number of memorial/honors gifts. We thank the donors (individuals, couples and prayer groups) for their support. To make a memorial or honoring gift you can download a form from our website at www.nsc-chariscenter.org/donations.htm then click on Memorial Form, or simply write with your donation who you want to give in memory of or in honor of (and the address of the family or of the person/couple) and we will send you an acknowledgement (and a card to them).

Even though the Year for Priests is over we will continue to send a copy of *Catholic Charismatic Renewal: Papal Affirmation and Priestly Witness* to any priest honored by a gift.

In Honor of

- Fr. Michael Cannon
- Fr. John Fiore
- Fr. Bernard Gaudreau
- Fr. Lance Harlow
- Fr. Patrick Henry
- Fr. James Hreha
- Fr. Edward Kealey
- Sr. Nancy Keller, S.C.
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- Fr. Robert Lariviere (2x)
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- Fr. Gerald Ragis
- Msgr. Dennis M. Regan
- Fr. Peter Routhier
- Fr. Soccorso Saldutti
- Msgr. Wendell Searles
- St. Mary’s Prayer Group
- Fr. Michael Steber
- Fr. Roy Tvrdik, SMM
- Fr. Charles Weber (2x)

In Memory of:

- Fr. Donald Bean
- Ann Boffa
- Fr. Henry F. Kern
- Fr. Gerard G. Pelletier, S.M.
- Fr. James Scheuer
- Fr. Leo Sullivan
- Fr. William Zwiefka

The summer months have been lean and the economy is still impacting donations. We especially ask that those who receive *Pentecost Today* who are not already donors make a donation either by mail or at our secure website. To all our “Friends” we say thank you for your ongoing support

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Walter Matthews

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Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer, SSND

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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 National Service Committee is to foster the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5) which empowered the members of the early Church at Pentecost.

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What we have seen and heard

.....
by Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer



Prayer group wisdom

Over the past months I have been reading a number of articles that have to do with prayer groups, what they are, what their purpose is and some of the many qualities that make them strong. Most of these articles have been written and published in *Pentecost Today* over the past ten years. Think back with me to over 40 years ago. We learned about being baptized in the Spirit, having prayer groups and prayer meetings and most of this happened by word of mouth. The greater population of a prayer group consisted of people in their 20's through 40's. Now we are challenged to allow the Spirit to lead and to open up the experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit to a younger generation.

There is much wisdom to be shared from the life experience and the prayer group experience of those who have been in the Renewal for many of these years. We do not want to lose this wisdom and learning, and so, several years ago, we formed an NSC Publications sub-committee which has been gathering and sharing that wisdom over the past few years in the forms of leaflets and booklets. Many of you will recall that that is how we gathered much of our learning and growing in the early years of the Renewal. As people began to be able to articulate their various experiences they wrote them down in leaflet, book, or booklet formats. Now it is the time to share *our lived experience*.

You are invited to look at the Resource section of our website, www.nsc-chariscenter.org in order to find the

titles already written. More leaflets and a booklet on *Strengthening Prayer Groups* will be available at the upcoming National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference in St. Paul at the end of October. If we expect growth we need to share with others and perhaps we need to be refreshed ourselves in our articulation of our experience.

Thank you to all who have shared their wisdom in *Pentecost Today*, and earlier similar newsletters of the Renewal, in leaflets, booklets and books over the years.

As we consider our experience of God let us never forget that it is due to the gracious love of God for us and not because of anything that we have done. Recently I watched a man place a tracking band on a hummingbird. He held the bird so carefully in his hand and spoke with so much care about a hummingbird he had fed one year after the first frost. Later on I reflected on how we are held in the hand of God with more love and care than we can appreciate. ♦

2010 INDEX

Find each article published in the 2010 edition of *Pentecost Today* on our website: www.nsc-chariscenter.org.

Some of the categories available for your resource material include:

- ◆ Fruit of the Spirit
- ◆ A Dimension of Vision
- ◆ Join the Journey
- ◆ Charismatic Renewal Today
- ◆ Strengthening Prayer Groups
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The Vision Statement of the National Service Committee

Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all people to experience the Holy Spirit who opens us to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and the love of the Father. The Holy Spirit empowers us for personal holiness, renewed Catholic life, and evangelization.

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If you have received more than one copy of this publication, please return all the mailing labels and we will make the necessary corrections. Note: we send Prayer Group contacts a copy. If the contact is also a donor you will receive an individual copy. There is no need to send us your two labels.

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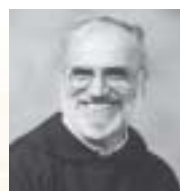
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