

# Deliverance and Healing

by Fr. Richard McAlear

One of the gifts of the Charismatic Renewal has been a rediscovery of ministries that have been long neglected, if not forgotten. The openness to charisms has brought about new possibilities for ministry in the Church, ministries sorely needed today. Healing and deliverance are two such works that have been given new life in our time.

Many of us are familiar with the ministry of healing. Deliverance may be less understood or known. Deliverance deals with the powers of evil and seeks to free those who are bound by evil in some way. It is not so much a prayer as a ministry of authority, taking up the command of Jesus to “set the captive free” and “to cast out demons.” In the most extreme cases, which are quite rare, the person is actually possessed. In most cases it is a matter of the person being harassed and tormented by evil spirits. Jesus gave his authority to the Church to cast out these evil entities and set the person free.

Christ sent out the disciples to proclaim the kingdom and to accomplish two other important ministries that would continue and expand his work—healing and deliverance. “He gave them authority to cure diseases and to cast out evil spirits” (Lk 9:1). This they did and when they returned they were enthusiastic because, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name” (Lk 10:17).

Thankfully, the Charismatic Renewal has brought back to the consciousness of the church a new awareness of these ministries. Healing and deliverance need to be placed side by side because they support one another. There can be no deliverance without healing, and healing will often involve deliverance. It is important to note that deliverance must be linked to healing. If it is not, it runs the risk of being

## Charismatic Renewal Today

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healing ministry other than  
an explicit faith in  
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seen as isolated spiritual warfare with ongoing battles and struggles carried out in a virtual vacuum. People who are in bondage to evil spirits are also wounded and hurting and therefore in need of healing. In fact, spiritual bondage is almost always rooted in some deep woundedness that needs to be touched with healing love. Ministry must center on people and not demons. The goal is human wholeness involving all the dimensions of the person—the will, the mind, the soul, the body.

There are several reasons why the Renewal has brought about a revival and renewed interest in these ancient ministries. Here I focus on just three reasons that would lay a groundwork for understanding deliverance. Without this foundation there could be no embrace of this ministry.

First and foremost the Renewal explicitly exalts and proclaims the living Lordship of Jesus Christ, raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of the Father. More than being a teacher, moral guide, miracle worker or example of human potential, Jesus Christ is Lord. The catchphrase for the whole Renewal has always been the cry that “Jesus is Lord.” He reigns over all, is above all and is supreme over every spirit, power, sovereignty, domination and over any name that could possibly be named—in this world or in the world to come. Before him every knee will bend, on earth, in the heavens and even in the netherworld itself. Everyone and everything must acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord of lords and King of kings. His very name makes hell tremble.

Knowing the superiority of his power and authority opens the way to praying for healing and deliverance. There is no other basis for deliverance and healing ministry other than an explicit faith in Jesus as Lord.

Secondly, there is in the Charismatic Renewal a great awareness of the sufferings that afflict people, the spiritual bondages that they labor under and the heartaches they carry within. This awareness flows from the gifts of compassion and love. Jesus had a profound compassion for the multitudes. He was moved by pity and deep compassion be-

Continued page 11

## Madrid 2011: Two million join Pope Benedict for World Youth Day

The Renewal in the U.S. was “represented” at World Youth Day (WYD) in Spain by groups from Franciscan University of Steubenville and the Brooklyn Diocese. Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR of the NSC and Msgr. Joseph Malagreca, a longtime leader in the Renewal, attended.

The theme was “Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith” from Colossians 2:7. The Holy Father consistently challenged the youth

to not be deceived by the enticements of the world, but rather to know that they are capable of much more, they can be recipients and transmitters of Jesus.

Intense heat baked the participants on Saturday and then a mini-hurricane drenched them. Msgr. Malagreca commented, “It sparked a high level of enthusiasm on the part of all of us—for we stayed with the Pope and you could see how much love the young

had for their Holy Father. On Sunday after Mass, as the two million of us left the field, we all knew that together we had seen how great the youth of the Church is together with the Pope, firm in the faith and rooted in Christ.” Fr. Pivonka said, “The Holy Father’s invitation for youth to gather was not without cost, it challenged all to leave their comfort zones, but I was touched by the sacrifice of so many who responded.”

The next WYD will be in Rio de Janeiro in 2013.

Next year, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Brazil will host a World Youth Meeting, July 10-15 in Foz do Iguacu. It is part of the preparation for the Renewal’s Golden Jubilee in 2017. 5,000 are expected to attend.

For more information see our website [www.nsc-chariscenter.org](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org). ♦

cause of their sorrows and sufferings. This is what brought him to teach and heal. He was moved to action by this compassion. The rebirth of the ministry of healing and deliverance is based on the same motive and the same deep compassion that Jesus had. Ministers of healing are moved by compassion to alleviate suffering, break spiritual bondage and touch hurting people.

Many people feel burdened for the sufferings of people; the Renewal adds to that burden an awareness of the gifts of the Spirit—the power and the charisms that can touch the wounded and bring healing. The ministries of healing and deliverance flow from compassion, a deep concern for the suffering of people, and the desire to bring the power of the Spirit to bear, freeing people from their bondages. There is a combination of compassionate love, faith in the Lordship of Jesus Christ and an awareness of the power exercised in the charisms that allows an effective ministry to the wounded and those broken by the dark spirits of evil that afflict so many.

Finally, because the Charismatic Renewal focuses on the gifts of the Spirit and has a practical awareness of their power, it is also aware that it is “not every spirit that you can trust” (1Jn 4:1). Everything spiritual is not authentically compatible with the Gospel. There are occult powers, evil spirits and dangerous spiritual practices that need to be avoided.

No matter how harmless they seem or how much good they promise, discernment will distinguish the good from the false, the spirits that promise life and the Spirit that gives life (Jn 10:10). It is impossible to underestimate the need to discern what is of God and will truly glorify Jesus Christ from what is false and deceitful. People can be looking for spiritual experiences and end up in bondage to evil. The Renewal warns of the dangers that can lead to bondage and deliverance sets the captive free from bondage.

Jesus came to give life. When evil spirits afflict someone they kill and destroy life. Deliverance uses the authority of Jesus Christ to set the captive free and lead those in bondage out of the darkness into the light of true liberty. This ministry of authority is completed with the ministry of healing that restores life and hope to the poor and wounded soul. So the work of Jesus continues and God is glorified. ♦

*Fr. Richard McAlear, O.M.I., a native of Boston, Massachusetts, entered the religious order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1960. In 1972 he became involved with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and entered into the healing ministry in 1976. His gifts of teaching and healing are powerful indicators of the healing love of Jesus being poured out on today’s world. He is a well known speaker for retreats, conferences, and seminars.*



# RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

## The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

by Sister Maria Crucis Koch, DLJC

The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, a vibrant Franciscan institute of diocesan right, is a contemplative community with evangelistic apostolates. Mother John Marie Stewart founded the community in the charismatic tradition and in the penitential life of the Third Order Regular of St Francis of Assisi. She traveled to Mexico, Japan, India, Poland and Russia and helped pioneer the work of the Catholic Char-

ismatic Renewal. Our community has followed in that tradition and will have travelled to every continent of the world by the end of this year, with the exception of Antarctica!

Called to witness to the Gospel, we seek to draw all people into a personal relationship with Jesus through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. This flows from a deep life of prayer, praise, and on-going conversion in loving commitment to one another.

### Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

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[www.brothersofthebeloveddisciple.org](http://www.brothersofthebeloveddisciple.org)  
The Brothers are a Marian and charismatic religious community of priests and brothers.

### Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

P.O. Box 64,  
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[www.dljc.org](http://www.dljc.org)  
This is a Franciscan and charismatic religious order of sisters, contemplative with evangelistic apostolates.

Elements of our way of life include: daily celebration of the Eucharist, Liturgy of the Hours in common, Eucharistic Adoration, personal prayer time, weekly charismatic prayer meetings, and Marian devotion. The community is multicultural. Community life, silence and solitude, and manual labor are essential elements.

Like the first disciples we seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, and to proclaim the Gospel at every opportunity. Our worldwide evangelization includes but is not limited to: teachings, seminars, retreats and parish missions to all ages. We are ready to proclaim the Gospel in any situation from one-on-one (as in door-to-door evangelization) to gatherings of thousands. Our multi-media evangelistic tools include radio, internet, freelance articles, and our own *Praise Him! Newsletter*.

As Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we seek to unite ourselves to Jesus Crucified and to endeavor to live his invitation: "If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and follow after me" (Mt 16:24). Do you have what it takes to be a Disciple? Come and see via our website [www.dljc.org](http://www.dljc.org). ♦

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# DIOCESAN LIAISONS

## Important role of Diocesan Liaisons

by Carlene Inzer, Associate Liaison for the diocese of Memphis, Tennessee

Webster states that a “LIAISON or liaison officer’s position is to link up or connect the parts of a whole, intending to bring about proper coordination of activities, especially, intercommunication between units.” Translating that job description into that of a Diocesan Liaison for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, one would surmise this position to be of great importance between the Bishop, the prayer groups and the larger body of baptized Christians.

In the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Memphis, Tennessee Diocese (CCRMD), the Diocesan Liaison was appointed by the local Ordinary. In turn, the Liaison appointed an Associate Liaison to assist in carrying out leadership responsibilities connected with the overall functioning of the Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese. Both felt called by the Lord to so serve. “I implore you in the Lord, lead a life worthy of the vocation to which you have been called. Be careful to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace” Eph 4:1.

Not all Dioceses have a liaison for the work of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. In these few dioceses, God’s people are suffering from a lack of spiritual and communal leadership. A few of these people may gather together for prayer and fellowship, but communication and unity with the diocesan and national levels are greatly limited. Likewise, the fuller vision and charisms needed in the Body of Christ for greater growth in the Spirit are also lacking.

As with all positions in the Renewal, the liaisons will experience “burnout” unless they keep in mind who called them and for what

purpose. All leaders need to be continually lifted up in prayer for the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Calling upon the Holy Spirit in community gives a hint of what the First Pentecost was like in the Upper Room as our Lord’s disciples waited and prayed for this “unknown Advocate” that Jesus promised he would send. “To God, whose power now at

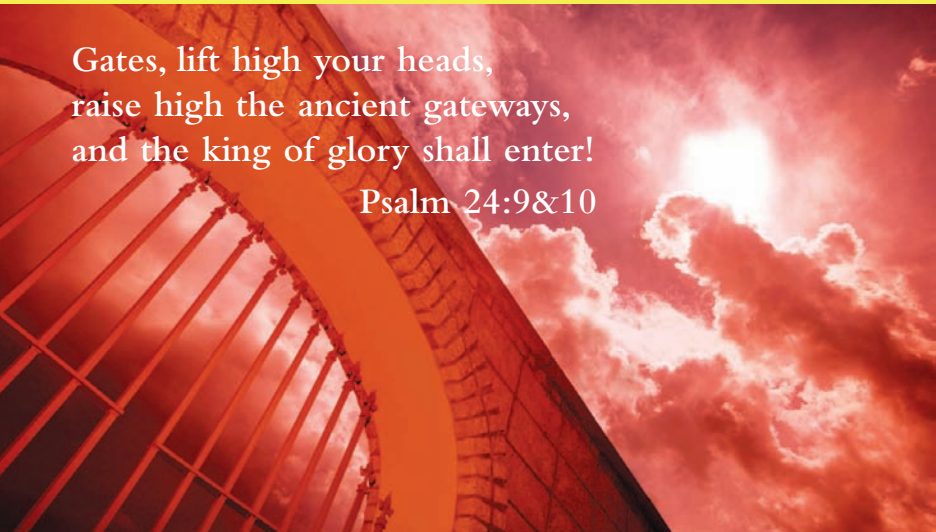
work in us, can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine—“to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end. Amen” Eph 3:20-21. ♦

Coming up: Annual Conference in Memphis, TN. April 16–20, 2012  
Theme: *New Evangelization*.

For more information on the Diocesan Liaison ministry go to [www.NADL.net](http://www.NADL.net).

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Psalm 24:9&10

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MINISTRIES



**From the  
Executive  
Director**

.....  
by Walter Matthews

## Healing and Deliverance

“In his book *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Benedict XVI writes that ‘Healing is an essential dimension of the apostolic mission and of Christian faith in general’” (*Guidelines on Prayer for Healing*, Doctrinal Commission of ICCRS). Since 1974 healing prayer and healing ministries have been a constituent part of the Renewal and a key element of successful evangelization initiatives. The NSC is grateful for the early pioneers in the healing ministry in the U.S. We are grateful too for the many “local,” often unknown, men and women who have made themselves available to the Holy Spirit so that through “charisms of healing” (1 Cor 12:9) many can experience the healing touch of the Lord.

We continue to encourage the spread of healing prayer in the Renewal and in the Church. We list a number of itinerant healing ministries on our Renewal Database on our website. The Healing and Deliverance Working Group of the NSC and NSC Council has gathered a list of “favorite resources” which we have posted at <http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/HealingandDeliverance.asp>. This year again we will have a Healing Service at the National Leaders’ and Ministries’ Conference.

We will soon publish a third booklet of articles that originally appeared in *Pentecost Today* entitled *The Healing Presence of God: Transformed by Love*. In addition to this booklet there are NSC leaflets on *Healing Prayer*, *Discernment*

and *Discernment of Spirits* and *Prayer Ministry*. A new leaflet in this area is being prepared.

Connected to healing is often the need for deliverance, that is, freedom from evil spirits that oppress (hold down, bind up) even Christians in certain areas of our lives. There is a key distinction, however, between deliverance and the Church’s official exercise of exorcism. “The Catholic Charismatic Renewal recognizes an important distinction between these. ‘Exorcism is directed at the expulsion of demons or the deliverance from demonic possession through the spiritual authority which Jesus entrusted to the Church’ (*Catechism*, 1673). Since this is an exercise of the spiritual authority given to the Church, only those authorized by the Church can perform an exorcism (cf. *The Code of Canon Law*, canon 1172). Prayer for deliverance, on the other hand, is directed to God, asking God to free someone from the influence of evil spirits. In the Lord’s Prayer we ask the Father to deliver us from the evil one. This would seem to authorize us to pray for the deliverance of someone else who seems to be under the influence of the evil one” (*Guidelines*, ICCRS, p. 38).

The Service Committee will continue to encourage balance and growth in the Healing and Deliverance Ministries rooted in the Renewal so that our proclamation of the “Lordship of Jesus Christ and the love of the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit” will not be without “the convincing proof of the power of God’s Spirit” (1 Cor 2:4): “for we brought the Good News to you, not with words only, but also with power and the Holy Spirit” (1 Thess 1:5). ♦

## Friends of the NSC

With the debt crisis on everyone’s mind and the stock market reacting to our country’s downgraded rating the summer months have been lean. Your generosity in the recent *Pentecost Today* Appeal will be much appreciated. In the midst of the dryness we did receive a generous donation of \$5,000 from a couple who had not been active donors. They wrote, “[we] are happy to make a contribution toward the financial needs of the NSC.” As St. Paul wrote so long ago, “If you are eager to give, God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give, not on what you don’t have” (1 Cor 8:12).

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

Over the last three months we have received a gift in honor of Sr. Frances DeMott and Fr. Ray Zeugner. Gifts *in memoriam* were given for Rita Matthews and Samuel Trombino.

If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of someone you can download a form on our website or simply send a note with your gift.

**A special notice to those 70½ and older:** Among the provisions in the tax bill that was signed into law in December is a popular charitable gift planning tool extending the IRA Charitable Rollover until December 31, 2011.

For taxpayers age 70½ and older, federal law requires annual distributions from IRAs to be included in the taxpayer’s adjusted gross income (AGI) and taxed. The IRA Charitable Rollover allows taxpayers to directly transfer their contributions to the National Service Committee without paying taxes on them.

Transfers must come directly from your Regular or Roth IRA to the National Service Committee. Retirement assets in a 401 (k), 403 (b), etc. must be rolled into an IRA before the IRA provider can transfer the gift directly to the National Service Committee.

# PENTECOST *Today*

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

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## What we have seen and heard

.....  
by Jane Guenther



## Hope does not disappoint

"Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:3-5).

Sometimes we find ourselves asking what is hope?

Hope is a theological virtue that allows me to live for the future without knowing what the future will bring. We look forward with faith for all that God has planned for the work of the Renewal as we come upon our 45th Anniversary and look toward the Jubilee Year. With hope and expectation the work of the Holy Spirit will continue to bring about the "new springtime."

We look forward to the new NSC Council members serving the National Charismatic Renewal. They are Deacon Bill Brennan, Fr. Minh Bui, Thuc Vu (California), Colin LaVergne (Minnesota), Tom Mangan (Pennsylvania), Deacon Larry Oney (Louisiana), Carol Razza (Florida), Fr. Michael Scherrey (Texas), Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner (Minnesota), Jackie Temple (Ohio), and Angelus Virata (Virginia) bringing the total council members to 49. They offer themselves in hope. See full list on our website <http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/nscouncil.asp>.

We look to the gathering in Philadelphia, June 1-3, 2012 as a time to gather the NSC, the Haitian, the Hispanic and

the Filipino Renewal members as we join with one heart in the upper room with Mary to celebrate our 45th Anniversary. It will be a wonderful time as we are graced with Msgr. Joseph Malagreca, Fr. James Kelly and Michelle Moran as speakers and Mark Nimo as emcee of the main conference, with youth and English, Haitian, Hispanic and Filipino tracks on Saturday. Let us use this time as a preparation for the Jubilee year in 2017. Jubilee years have been a part of the Jewish and Christian tradition and are known as a time of great joy. They also mark a year of remission or universal pardon. It is interesting to note that the year was earmarked as a time to recover its absent members from the household. May we plan to gather together in 2012 and seek to go out and recover the many whom the Spirit has baptized and lead them to be with us in 2017 to celebrate a truly joyful and blessed Jubilee.

It is in hope that we open ourselves up to the new ways in which we are called to share the message of the Holy Spirit, whether that be through using new media technology or the call of the "New Evangelization." We hope that we can convey the love of God that has been given to us through the Holy Spirit to all with whom we come in contact. ♦

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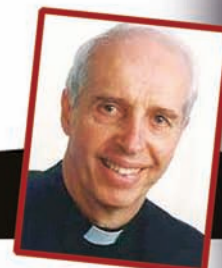
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