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Where we have had difficulty loving certain individuals in the past, we find new delight in allowing God to love them through us.

Transformation

by Virginia King

In 1976, I had an experience of the love of God being poured into my heart that saved my marriage and filled me with joy. For a number of years before that I had been “on the outside looking in” at family members and friends who had experienced baptism in the Holy Spirit. I did not understand what was going on with them and I didn’t think it applied to me. After all, I was a good Catholic, I went to Mass every week, and my sins weren’t any worse than average. This delusion that I had, that I didn’t need any more of God than I already had, set me on a downward path as I began my adult life.

God in His great mercy allowed circumstances that forced me to realize that my efforts to find happiness were failing, and expecting my husband and children to fulfill my needs was equally impossible. I came to a place in my life where I finally confronted the fact that I needed a Savior – I needed to be saved from the mess that I had made of my life. I asked God to help me, to fill me with His love—and He did! I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and my life immediately began to be transformed.

I recently read the ICCRS publication, *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*, which is an outstanding resource to deepen our understanding of the importance of this grace for our lives. We are reminded that the transformation of life that happens to a believer can be dramatic or gradual. But there is no denying that when we surrender to the lordship of Jesus and become consciously yielded to the activity of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives, we are transformed.

Through this amazing grace, millions of individuals like me have grown more in love with God and have become more faithful Catholics. We have experienced the Holy Spirit enabling us to walk in the truth of the Gospel of Jesus—to love one another, to forgive as the Father has forgiven us, to trust in God’s care even when the circumstances look very bad, to give from our poverty and not only from our surplus. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, none of that would be possible.

The astoundingly wonderful good news is that surrendering to the lordship of Jesus and being led by the Holy Spirit is the source of unending joy. When I tried to find happiness by my own efforts, I grew more and more miserable. Now that I depend totally on the Lord for my happiness, I find my joy constantly increasing. It is definitely counter-cultural in our modern society.

The ICCRS publication describes twelve different ways that baptism in the Holy Spirit affects our lives and in turn affects the Church and the world. Rather than list all twelve of these effects, I would like to focus on two of them and urge you to explore the others on your own.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit gives power for sanctification: We long for deeper conversion and growth in holiness. Where we may have been frustrated in the past in trying to overcome sinful patterns we discover the Holy Spirit giving us grace to say “yes” to God and “no” to unholy desires. Where we have had difficulty loving certain individuals in the past, we find new delight in allowing God to love them through us. Scriptures that give guidance in how to live as a Christian may have seemed theoretical in the past but now they come alive as a blueprint for a well balanced lifestyle.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit gives a new zeal for souls: This is a desire to share the goodness of God with others. Just as Jesus promised, when we receive power from on high, we become witnesses on His behalf. We have a story to tell others about the transformation that has happened for us because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. In sharing our story, we increase our own faith while also prompting expectant faith in others.

I thank God for my life transformed—where would I be without His love? ♦



Virginia King is Executive Director of Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal and a past member of the National Service Committee.

NEWSBRIEFS

Pope Francis: Tell them that I love them!

Since his election on March 13 our Holy Father Pope Francis has been encouraging and challenging us to live a deeper life in the Spirit. Here are some of his words:

“Let us ask the Lord for the grace to become baptized persons who are brave and sure that the Holy Spirit who is in us, received at baptism, always moves us to proclaim Jesus Christ with our life, our testimony and even with our words.” *April 17*

“The Spirit pushes us to take a more evangelical path but we resist this....Submit to the Holy Spirit which comes from within us and makes us go forward along the paths of holiness.” *April 17*

“We cannot profess Jesus, we cannot talk about Jesus, we cannot say anything of Jesus without the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that impels us to profess Jesus, to speak about Jesus, to have faith in Jesus. Jesus who is always with us on our life’s journey.” *April 5*

“Newness always makes us a bit fearful, because we feel more secure if we have everything under control, if we are the ones who build, program, and plan our lives....

This is also the case when it comes to God.... It is hard to abandon ourselves to him with complete trust, allowing the Holy Spirit

to be the soul and guide of our lives in every decision.” *May 19*

“The key of every prayer is to feel moved by a father.... Today, we ask the Holy Spirit to teach us to say ‘Father’ and be able to say ‘our,’ and thus make peace with all our enemies.” *June 20*

“It is the Holy Spirit with his gifts, who designs this variety, the richness in the Church and unites everything and everyone, so as to constitute a spiritual temple, where we offer not sacrifice, but ourselves, our lives.” *June 26*

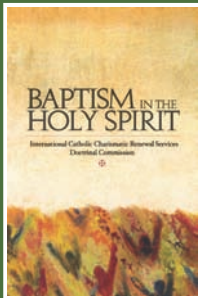
“That’s why the living water that is the Holy Spirit quenches the thirst of our lives, because it tells us that we are loved by God as chil-

dren, that we can love God as his children and by this grace we can live as children of God, like Jesus.” *May 9*

Finally, to the Italian Renewal—and to all of us—Pope Francis sent this message: “Tell them that I love them very much...because I was responsible for Charismatic Renewal in Argentina, and that’s why I love them very much.” ♦



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Baptism in the Holy Spirit NOW AVAILABLE

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Brothers of the Beloved Disciple: Fruit of the Holy Spirit

by Fr. George Montague, S.M.

Father Bob Hogan and I were baptized in the Holy Spirit in the early days of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Shortly after this experience we began to share a dream of living in a charismatic Marianist community. There were individual Marianists involved in the Renewal, but that is not quite the same as having the freedom to use tongues and prophecy and healing prayer and other charisms in the community's daily life. The dream simmered for over twenty years while Fr. Bob and I were involved in the works of the Marianists. Finally, after my return from Nepal, we met again at a priests' conference in Steubenville and decided it was time to begin moving on this dream, which we had come to believe was also the dream of the Holy Spirit. The amazing thing was that, unlike some of the painful experiences of other new foundations, our superiors encouraged us to pursue the dream.

However, it soon became evident that we could not achieve it within the canonical structure of the Marianists but would have to start the process of founding a new community, which would mean going through a diocese. Our superiors were open to our living in this new community and helping it get started. The Archdiocese of San Antonio accepted this arrangement and in 1998 approved the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple as a Private Association of the Faithful, the first step toward a full-fledged religious community. Benefactors poured out beyond our expectations, some with substantial contributions and, among other things, we were given a car, a truck and a home free of rent for two years. But we needed more space. At the end of those two years, the Archdiocese offered us St. Mary Magdalen parish and its

former convent, with ten bedrooms. With eight in the community now, we are serving the parish and also the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in San Antonio and beyond, Father Bob having just finished his term as Chair of the National Service Committee. Like the Marianists, we are Brothers and Priests, four of us ordained, two seminarians and two aspirants planning to serve as Brothers. We ask your prayers that we may be faithful to the vision and the call and continue to grow in fervor and number. ♦

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ADL Conference, 2013

by Deacon Bill Brennan

There was a song, popular in the 50's, whose lyrics longingly proclaimed, "I left my heart in San Francisco." That sentiment captures the universal sentiment of those who attended the annual Liaison Conference this year, which was held at the Valombrosa Retreat Center in Menlo Park, California, April 15-19. It was truly a week-long blessing from the Lord, especially as we received the gifts of amazing hospitality and love from the Renewal of the San Francisco Archdiocese.

This year's theme, "Vatican II and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal: Teachable Moment," was drawn from three important events that occur this year: the 50th anniversary of the convening of the Second Vatican Council, the Year

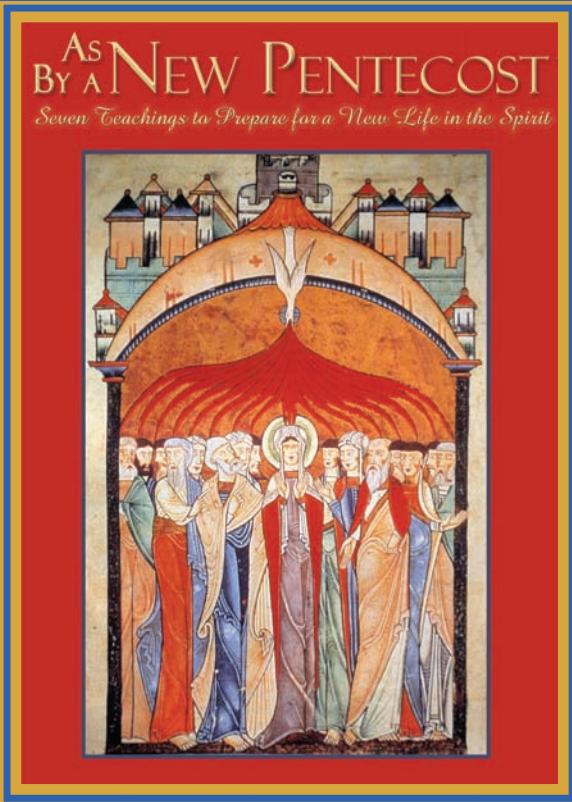
of Faith, and the 45th anniversary of the explosion of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Church of our time. To help us explore the endless possibilities suggested by the theme, we were blessed to have three presenters and speakers: Father David Pettingill of San Francisco, an expert on Vatican II; Father Peter Sanders of Monterey, CA, a local leader and pastor in the Renewal and a published author; and Father Anthony Ouellette of Kansas City, Kansas, who brought us a treasure of life experience. Father Pettingill regaled us with insights on the Council, especially concerning the behind-the-scenes activities of the Spirit. Father Sanders took us through some of the dynamics and issues of the Charismatic Renewal as a prophetic moment in the Church responding to Vatican II, and Father Anthony captured our hearts

with his blending of his life experience and the greatest of all the gifts, love. Each presenter led us through stimulating interchanges on the application of his paper to our lives and ministries.

To add to the blessings of the week, we had inspiring liturgies, rousing prayer meetings, good music ministries, time for quiet prayer, with a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, and hands-on (literally) ministry to one another. What more could we have asked for?

Attendees were greatly blessed and encouraged to carry on living life in the Spirit. The steering committee is already at work planning next year's conference. ♦

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



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**From the
Executive
Director**



by Walter Matthews

Fresh Fire Extravagant Grace

The National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference is upon us. Our theme is Fresh Fire Extravagant Grace. If you are reading this column, you are invited. There is still time and room. We are especially looking for young adults, ages 18-25 and for young adult leaders (35 and under)—those who are already serving as leaders in the Renewal or who are potential leaders. Again I encourage Prayer Group leaders, Liaisons, and Renewal Center Directors to look around and identify those you can bring or send to Denver—even if you have to take a collection to make it happen. The future of the Renewal depends on identifying and developing new leaders.

Fresh fire was also ignited at a Gathering of Movements and New Communities in June. Twenty-nine representatives of sixteen groups gathered, at the invitation of the Catholic Ecclesial Movements and New Communities in the US, in Conversation, led by Bishop Sam Jacobs. The conversations and prayer were rich and diverse but as one commented, "There was the strength of the Holy Spirit pulling us together." As Pope Francis said in his Pentecost homily, "Only the Spirit can awaken diversity, plurality and multiplicity while at the same time building unity... If...we let ourselves be guided by the Spirit, richness, variety and diversity never become a source of conflict, because he impels us to experience variety within the communion of the Church."

Those who gathered were excited to learn of the Celebratory Event for Movements and New Communities that will be held next August 9, 2014 in Washington, D.C. More information will be available soon.

The National Service Committee, in fulfilling our mission to "cooperate with other Catholic organizations and movements," is excited to be a part of the Conversation and these events.

In November, a number of the members of the Service Committee and I, as well as others from the U.S., will join with about 250 leaders from throughout the world in Bethlehem for a Prophetic Consultation in the Holy Land. The purpose is to listen "at this strategic time in the unfolding of the grace of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal...to a unique and truly prophetic 'Kairos moment' where the Holy Spirit...will speak to and prepare our hearts not only for the Jubilee but for all that lies ahead or in the words of Esther 'for such a time is this'" (Est 4:14). Please mark your calendars for November 14-18 and pray for the Consultation.

Since I came to work for the NSC in May 1984, there have been a number of transitions: we moved from South Bend to Locust Grove in 1990/1991, we downsized from an Executive Director and Associate Director to one Executive Director in 1993, and we have had a number of staff transitions, each one a moment of extravagant grace. As I write we will be going through another transition as Kathy Semerling, who has been with us since the summer of 2006, will be moving on to a position in a local parish. Let us pray for her new service and for the transition here—and the grace for this time.

I hope to see you in Denver. ♦

Friends of the NSC

Jim Archer, a member of the Service Committee since January 2011, has moved into the role of Assistant Development Manager to assist Gerry Mader who has served as Development Manager for a number of years. Jim has been and will continue to reach out to you, our Donor Friends. Please welcome his call.

On a recent call Jim introduced us to Fr. Henri Nouwen's *The Spirituality of Fund Raising*. He writes, "Fundraising is also always a conversion. And this call comes to both those who seek funds and those who have funds. Whether we are asking for money or giving money we are drawn together by God, who is about to do a new thing through our collaboration.... Fundraising as ministry involves a real conversion" (pp. 17-18).

He continues, "From beginning to end, fundraising as ministry is grounded in prayer and undertaken in gratitude.... As our prayer deepens into a constant awareness of God's goodness, the spirit of gratitude grows within us" (pp. 55, 57).

We are truly grateful for all of our donors and pray that others will join you in our support of this work of fostering "the dynamic grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit."

To donors and others: did you know that you can make a secure credit card donation on our website, www.nsc-chariscenter.org? Donations are simple for you to make and cost effective for us. Please consider using this mechanism in your giving.

We want to thank those who made gifts in **honor** of Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD, in **memorial** of Mike Jordan, and in **thanksgiving** for Fr. Barry Dawd's 40 years of being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Finally, for those making or changing a will, please consider including the National Service Committee. Leave a legacy. Let us work together to pass on this grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit to the next generations.



What we have seen and heard

by Caroline Gambale-Dirkes



Intergenerational Ministry

Pope Benedict XVI, quoting Pope John Paul II's *Familiaris Consortio* (65) said that the new "evangelization depends largely on the Domestic Church." The Catholic Charismatic Renewal recognizes the urgency to reach out to all generations. We have witnessed a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit in families as leaders in the Renewal have opened their events to all ages.

Johnny Bertucci of the NSC is a member of the Steering Committee of the Southern Regional Conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal which offered, in this year's conference, an afternoon family session. After praise and worship the children were dismissed into a special session, just for them, while the adults entered into deeper worship and listened to an inspiring message. The session concluded with a powerful prayer service during which prayer teams prayed over families. The session was so successful that they are now thinking about offering children's ministry throughout the entire conference.

Jacob Wackerhausem/Photos.com

2Tim4 Ministries (a ministry of NSC member Caroline Gambale-Dirkes and her husband Dan Dirkes) worked alongside the local Renewal in Syracuse, New York to put on an inter-generational "Fire It Up" parish mission for Holy Family Church based on the Life in the Spirit Seminar. After praise and worship each night, the children under 12 years of age were blessed and dismissed to a separate children's ministry. Using multimedia, interactive talks, games, praise and worship, a Eucharistic healing service and the sacrament of reconciliation, over 500 parishioners were led to baptism in the Holy Spirit for the first time. Many conversions and healings happened as a result of this fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their parish.

In the Trenton Diocese, NSC members Caroline Gambale-Dirkes, Fr. Jeff Kegley, Johnny Bertucci and Jim Archer, along with Dan Dirkes and Leslie Bertucci, worked together to put on a "Fire It Up" family retreat at Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish in Middletown, New Jersey. By offering

dinner, a bounce house, carnival games, face painting, married couples' small groups, and a small children's ministry, this retreat attracted many young families that were new to the Renewal. The retreat culminated with small group leaders praying over the adults and children for baptism in the Holy Spirit.

For the past 31 years, Bob Valiante, the Liaison to the Renewal in the Scranton Diocese, has offered children's ministry for 5-10 year-olds, 11-14 year-olds and 15-18 year-olds at their yearly conference. Drawing over 1800 people from the northeast and coordinating 180 volunteers, Bob is committed to making sure that the conference is accessible to all ages to insure that the next generation will experience the power of the Holy Spirit.

The NSC has realized the need to reach out across generations in offering baptism in the Holy Spirit. These are just a few examples of how that can and has happened. ♦

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2013 INDEX
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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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National Leaders' and Ministries' Conference

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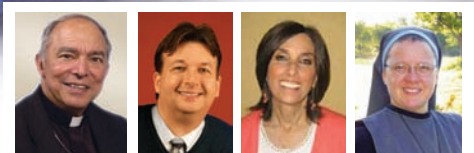
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