

New life in Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit

Issue 2 2020

# PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

## equipped and sent

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## Chairman's Corner

by Ron Riggins

### "For Such a Time as This"

The French government's design debate in rebuilding the Notre Dame Cathedral destroyed by fire last year has raised interesting questions. Why did 13.6 million people visit annually as the world's thirteenth most popular destination? To see a Gothic architectural masterpiece with soaring spires and rosette windows? Maybe check off a bucket list site when visiting Paris? Or to encounter the Lord in a holy place built under the Holy Spirit's inspiration? Sadly, the rebuilding debate has centered on building a monument to attract tourists. I recall my son's amazement in attending Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral years ago: "Where are all the people?"

Cardinal Ratzinger prophesied decades ago that the Church would be much smaller. In this coronavirus lockdown, some Catholic writers have surmised Mass attendance will fall well below pre-crisis levels once parishes reopen, speculating that the dispensation of

Mass attendance has diminished the sense of obligation and that heightened self-focus in today's uncertainty has further weakened faith.

Two words come to mind for us: the words the San Damiano cross spoke to St. Francis, "rebuild my church;" and Mordecai's exhortation to Esther to not remain silent "for such a time as this."

With this backdrop, one marvels at the Holy Spirit's timing for the inauguration of CHARIS last Pentecost that expressly commissions the Renewal to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, build Christian unity and serve the poor.

We have been called according to the Lord's purpose for such a time as this to rebuild the Church. Having encountered the love of God poured into our hearts, and filled with faith, hope and love, we have been equipped to be sent into a world in turmoil to reap an abundant harvest.

Let's embrace this mission now with joy: Here I am Lord, I've come to do your will! ♦



## Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer, SSND

In this and the next two issues we wish to address particular Malines Documents. In this issue you will find articles related to: *Theological and Pastoral Orientations on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal*.

Matteo Calisi takes the journey through this document from a theological point of view but comments that it is like reading the family album (p 11). Using the phrases, Living Waters and Mighty Wind, Jane Guenther shares examples of the power of the Holy Spirit moving as a current of grace in today's Church (pp 4-5). Bob Canton witnesses to some ways in which he has experienced the healing power of God flowing through the ministry that he has received (p 3).

David Neira writes about Emmanuel Community, an international community, with one of its houses in St. Paul, Minnesota. They experience a call to be a merciful presence of God, Emmanuel, in the world (p 6).

Msgr. Joseph Malegreca explains the establishment of CHARIS at Pentecost 2019, and now the development of the National Service of Communion (CNSC) in February 2020. He shares its decisions and composition of the membership (p 10).

Alex Lorio exhorts, in the Young Adult column, to heed the words of St. Pope John Paul II, "Receive the Holy Spirit!" (p 12).

Kendra Von Esh senses the Spirit kindling charisms and gifts afresh throughout the world (p 15).

Jim Beckman beckons us to attend the *Empowered by the Spirit National Conference* in Baltimore in November. It has a new thrust and is called, Jesus 2020 (p 9).

John Beaulieu encourages us to respond in this "moment of grace and hope" by opening ourselves to new growth in the Holy Spirit (p 7). ♦

# PENTECOSTToday

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### For Your Information

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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# Awesome Power!

by Bob Canton

In Mark 16:17-18, Jesus says, “These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name, they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages, they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

I, for one, have witnessed many signs and wonders, healings and miracles through the ministry of preaching, teaching and healing with which the Lord Jesus has empowered me after I had received the release of the baptism in the Holy Spirit in 1985. The Lord has opened doors for me to minister to more than 51 countries so far throughout the world.

Jesus’ first instructions to his disciples had been, “As you go, make this proclamation: The Kingdom of heaven is at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons” (Mt 10:7-8). We read in Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.” Indeed, the same Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus while he was still walking on this earth and raised him from the dead is with us and upon us.

A Catholic priest, Fr. Nick Domocol, who accompanied me during one of the Healing Crusades that I had conducted in the Philippines, wrote, “Great praise and thanksgiving be given for the healings and miracles that God has done through your ministry. I witnessed,

during the Healing Crusade in Negros Occidental, ten people confined to their wheelchairs for years were healed and then climbing back and forth on the stage, walking and running. Many blind people received sight, including a child born blind. The deaf could hear and the deaf mute children could speak and hear for the first time. Two women who had tried to commit suicide more than once had been delivered from the spirits of suicide and self-condemnation. Many testified of the disappearance of their tumors and cysts and other diseases. Jesus is alive and he still heals through the awesome power of the Holy Spirit.”

A lady from Wisconsin, named Mrs. Reyes, testified, “My daughter-in-law had a very difficult pregnancy. After many tests such as sonogram and scans, her doctor told her that the baby she was carrying was dead. Her doctor told her that the dead fetus had to be removed from her womb because it might cause blood poisoning. The night before the doctor had to perform the procedure, we called you, Bob, for prayers. I remember when you spoke life into the dead fetus three times in Jesus’ name and you commanded the fetus to live. The following day in the hospital, the doctors told my daughter-in-law that they detected heartbeats in the fetus, so the procedure was canceled. My grandchild is alive. Her second name is ‘Milagros’ meaning a ‘miracle’ for indeed she is.”

I conducted a Healing Crusade in Sacred Heart Church in Gridley, California, near Yuba City, on February 21 of this year. A friend of mine, Rod Guidry, wrote down what he had witnessed. “There was a lady in her early 20’s named Suzie who was in a wheelchair. She woke up one morning and her legs were paralyzed. She was confined for a week in the hospital, and the doctors conducted many tests on her, but they could not find anything that caused her paralysis. She was sent home afterwards. She was very fearful and depressed. So, Bob prayed and he rebuked curses, hexes, evil wishes, spirits of paralysis and bondages and afflictions to leave her in the Name and by the Blood of Jesus. Then, Bob commanded her to stand and walk in Jesus’ Name. She did not only walk, leaving her wheelchair behind, but she also ran inside the Church, completely healed.”

Signs and wonders and miracles and healings should follow Christians, and not the other way around. Jesus says in John 14:12, “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I’m going to the Father.” ♦



*Bob Canton is a member of CNSC, representing the Filipino Alliance. He is very active in the preaching, teaching, and healing ministry worldwide.*

**“These signs will accompany those who believe in my name...”**

YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES

# Living Water, Mighty Wind

by Jane Guenther

*“For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ”  
(1 Cor 10:1-4).*

**M**oses foreshadows the living water of Christ. The Catechism identifies the crossing of the Red Sea as a type of Baptism, “...literally the liberation of Israel from the slavery of Egypt, announces the liberation wrought by Baptism” (1221). We see water bring forth death, for those who brought about slavery; and life, for those who were in slavery. St. Paul teaches, “...our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea” (1 Cor 10:1-2). Origen says, “That which the Jews consider to be the crossing of the Sea, St. Paul calls Baptism. That which they believed to be a cloud proves to be the Holy Spirit.” We all thirst, whether we are conscious of it or not, for peace, joy, happiness and love. We realize that this thirst cannot be quenched by anything in our everyday life. We have an infinitely deep well that can only be filled by he who is infinite and eternal love. Jesus says to the Samaritan women, “...whoever drinks this water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (Jn 4:14).

The Holy Spirit has become truly the current of grace in the whole Church. I have found more and more that this current of grace, this wellspring, can

be found through the many gifts and charisms that individuals have received through their Baptism. Let’s take the dynamic 2nd grade teacher whose passion to prepare her students to receive the sacraments is

operating through her charism of teaching to not only inspire her students but also their parents. She began “Spark” evenings with the parents. Her teachings are supernaturally inspired teachings on the Holy Spirit’s presence in the sacraments, which enticed these parents to engage evermore in their own faith.

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4).

The mighty wind blowing round the house and the tongues as of fire were signs of the Spirit of God, powerful and ardent, bringing strength and blessing to the whole of Creation and particularly to the Church. A sudden change came over the Apostles. They who had fled and been full of doubts and fears when Christ was arrested now became strong and bold as lions. They were now ready and eager to preach the gospel, to proclaim the good news of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The city

at that time was full of people coming from many countries for the religious celebrations: attracted by 'the sound of a mighty wind' they began to gather around the Apostles. They were amazed to hear the Apostles speaking the languages of the various nationalities present. Recently, at a Life in the Spirit Seminar at a local parish, I was presenting baptism in the Holy Spirit and we offered prayer over the groups. I began praying over a man: I could tell the tongue consistently coming through was a language but just continued in the Spirit to pray. After the whole evening was over he came to me and said, "Do you know what you said to me?" I replied, "I got the sense the Lord was encouraging you to say yes to his invitation." He said. "No, do you know what you said to me?" I repeated what I said. He went on to tell me that he had been working in Saudi Arabia the last ten years and that I was speaking perfect Arabic. I told him in Arabic, that the Lord was calling him to be a deacon and that now was the time to answer that call. He had, for the last three years, been contemplating the diaconate but with his job abroad didn't see how it was possible. This particular year however, his job there was coming to an end and so with tears running down his face he said it was pretty clear what the Lord was asking him to do. A mighty wind blew over us that night.

This Holy Spirit is a mystery far beyond the grasp of the human mind, but the Bible tells us much about the Spirit, a divine breath that gives life to the world and wisdom to the minds of men and women. "Spirit" is from a Latin word, meaning air in motion, such as breath or the wind. Ruah is the Hebrew word for breath or spirit or it can mean the Holy Spirit. If someone breathes, it is a sure sign of life, and when death comes it is said we have "breathed

our last." The death of Christ on the cross is thus described in the Gospel. "Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit!' and having said this he breathed his last" (Lk 23:46).

The first words of the Bible tell how the Spirit of God brought design and life into the universe, brought order out of chaos and developed plant and animal life. When the time was ripe God created the human race through a special action of the Spirit. Humanity received a unique gift of the breath of life. The Spirit who gave life to all creatures in the beginning continues to support that life. In our Archdiocese of St. Louis, Archbishop Carlson recently had a mobile health clinic built that a religious sister who is a medical doctor drives and from which she serves in the poor rural areas of the Archdiocese. She is so filled with the charism of service that she has found others like her who donate all their professional services so as to keep the cost to the poor as minimal as can be. She is so full of joy as she brings her gifts to the poor, so much so that her joy has become contagious. Now a mobile dental unit is being built and will be staffed by volunteers donating their time. This deep gift of service to others is shining in the Church, a true breath of life that flows from the current of grace. May the Church live its mission. ♦



*Jane Guenther is a member of CNSC, representing a national ministry. She is the Director of the Catholic Renewal Center for the Archdiocese of St. Louis and serves on the Association of Diocesan Liaisons Steering Committee and also as a Director on the Seminary Formation Council: all of these ministries work to bring alive the presence of the Holy Spirit.*

# "It is totally simple." *Lessons from the Emmanuel Community*

by David Neira

**B**orn from the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in 1967, Emmanuel Community is a Public Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right, composed of married couples, priests, deacons, consecrated laity, and singles. Members of the Emmanuel Community are called to be witnesses of Christ where they are, by being "Emmanuel," God with us, in the world. Because God is present among us, members of the Emmanuel Community grow closer to him through Eucharistic Adoration, leading to compassion for the world, which results in explicit evangelization. The call is lived in the communion of states of life. The Emmanuel Community is present on five continents with 11,500 members. Its purpose is to make present the merciful love of the Sacred Heart to the modern world, proclaiming that God is "Emmanuel," with us today. He has not left us orphans!

Though one of the biggest Charismatic communities in the world, the Emmanuel Community has about 200 members in the United States, dispersed throughout the country in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Florida, Georgia, Texas, California, South Dakota, Michigan, and Minnesota, among others. The Emmanuel School of Mission in New York is a nine-month immersive, residential formation for young adults to become missionary disciples through a strong spiritual life, intellectual formation, community life, and missionary formation ([www.esm-nyc.com](http://www.esm-nyc.com)). For us, this smallness and poverty is a grace, as our founder Pierre Goursat would say, and we, as a Community in the USA,

can have confidence and hope since the Lord delights in our poverty.

The Emmanuel Community in Minnesota has seen growth in the past two years, from millennial singles and couples, and more established families who have been exploring and discerning their call to the Emmanuel Community. Members of the Emmanuel Community live their faith through monthly Community days and weekly small groups called "households" during which the group prays together and shares from the Word of God. For newcomers, we created a bi-weekly simple small group for personally walking with them. The local community has also organized a gathering for young adults from six different states and five different countries and has begun to run two Alpha courses at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in St. Paul.

We have witnessed that the charism of the Emmanuel Community, "God with us" in our daily lives, though simple and poor, can be deeply attractive to others. This will look different for different charisms within the Church, of course! Yet for the Emmanuel Community, when asking different members, "What attracted you to the Emmanuel Community?" the following two themes were among the most common responses:

*Our faithfulness to the magisterium and obedience to and service of the Church's hierarchy under the Holy See, the Bishop, and the local pastor and our explicit Catholic identity focused on the Eucharist.*

*The communion of the states of life with priests, consecrated, married, and singles*

*answering the same call and living the same mission of being "Emmanuel" in the world.*

In addition, there is the witness of leadership in the Community which is led by men and women, ordained and laity in complementarity.

Essentially, why I believe our Community is growing is from the encounter with our charism. Our life source as "charismatics" is in re-discovering the charism originally given to us, discerned and approved by the Church, and making it accessible - not in nostalgia but in a spirit of boldness for today. As our founder Pierre Goursat (Servant of God) would say, "C'est absolument simple." It is totally simple. Community grows so long as it returns and dwells in the founding charism: the free grace of God that is a gift to us today. No program, organization, or nostalgia can create this.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal was inspired by the Holy Spirit to answer the needs of the Catholic Church. As the situation and needs evolve, God invites us to constantly stay faithful to our charism: in the case of the Emmanuel Community our call to be a merciful presence of God in the world, and to adapt our expression of that charism. It is truly simple. ♦



David Neira has been a member of the Emmanuel Community since 2013 and resides in St. Paul, Minnesota where he works with refugees. He has done mission across the USA, South America, Europe, and the Middle East.

# A Reason to Hope

by John Beaulieu

**A**lways be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope (1 Pt 3:15).

We are living in extraordinary times. In a matter of a few short weeks, the coronavirus, invisible to the naked eye, tore down our idols.

Our sports stadiums are empty.  
Our concert halls are silent.  
Our malls are ghost towns.  
Our theaters are not open.

The downside is that the pandemic has taken lives and shaken the financial foundation of our country and exposed other things we worship.

Our health  
The personal worth we take  
from our jobs  
The things we buy and hoard  
to make us feel secure  
The shifting sands in which  
we wrongly place our trust

Dark clouds seem to be looming everywhere we look, but are we looking for the light that is breaking through this gloom? Are we noticing the silver lining? One of my favorite quotes from St. Mother Teresa is, "God can only fill that which is empty." Perhaps God is allowing all this to happen so that in our emptiness, in our poverty, we cry out for a new filling of the Holy Spirit. Maybe this is happening in order for people who have never confronted the emptiness of their souls to cry out to God for the first time in a long time, maybe ever.

Yes, we are suffering. But we are in a moment of grace and hope. Let us take heart in the words of St. Paul.

"We boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom 5:1-5).

In the mystery of God's providence, he is able to take our sufferings and turn them to hope. It is not easy. We may need to be stretched. We may need to have our pride broken. We will definitely need to practice docility and yield to his will and grace. But if we say "yes" to the Holy Spirit and endure, God will prevail. Our hope will not disappoint us for God will pour his love into our hearts to give us peace, comfort, and joy.

We also need to take heart in the words of St. Peter:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" (1 Pt 1:3-4).

Be encouraged! Hope is our inheritance, God in his infinite mercy has, through the waters of Baptism, made us his children. Jesus has conquered death. Because of his victory, our hope cannot die. If we cling to Christ, we will rise with Christ – no matter how much we are asked to endure.

Now more than ever we need to be ready to share with any who needs to hear why we have hope. It comes from the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, the Spirit made us children of God. On Easter, the Spirit raised Christ from the dead. Today, a new Pentecost is coming. He has tilled the soil of our souls. Let's get ready for new growth in the Spirit. ♦



*John Beaulieu is the Director of Evangelization and Engagement at Franciscan University. He is a member of the NSC.*

## Prayer Card

Now, assist me, who am all alone, and have not one but you, O Lord, my God. Come to my aid, for I am an orphan. Remember, O Lord; make yourself known in this time of affliction, and give me courage, O King of the gods and Master of all dominion! Put eloquent speech in my mouth before the lion, and turn his heart to hate the man who is fighting against us, so that there may be an end of him and those who agree with him. But save us from the hand of our enemies; turn our mourning into gladness and our affliction into well-being.

Excerpt from Ignatius Bible Edition –  
The Didache Bible:  
Esther's Prayer (14:11-14)

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Dr. Vinson Synan, died March 15, 2020. He was a member of the Pentecostal Holiness Church and is remembered by many as a friend to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. A great portion of his life was focused on a vision of unifying the Church at large in the power of the Holy Spirit. There will be an article regarding his relationship to Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Issue 3.

Please pray for the National Service Committee as we serve the Renewal nationwide:

- ◆ For openness to the new ways the Holy Spirit is leading the NSC in this season as we respond to the call given to St. Francis of Assisi to "rebuild my church."
- ◆ For working unity with others serving the Renewal in support of the CHARIS commission to bring, build and serve.
- ◆ For greater intentionality to raise up new Joshuas to extend the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit to the next generation.
- ◆ For the humility and repentance of Queen Esther, and with her renewed trust, courage and hope in the Lord seeking eloquent speech to be put into our mouths, to fulfill the mission to build the Kingdom in such a time as this.

## Announcing NSC Members Transitions

At its meeting in Miami in February, two of the NSC members ended their terms of service on the Committee.

**Casey Sprehe** was elected for three-year terms in 2014 and 2017, having previously served on the NSC Council (since April, 2013). Casey's service was highlighted by her leadership of the Empower Young Adult Strategic Priority Team that developed a Family Retreat experience, held in August of 2019, in Louisiana (see article in *Pentecost Today*, Fall 2019).

**Matt Bourgeois** was first elected to the Service Committee in 2018, for a two-year term, having served on the NSC Council for three years. Matt provided a young adult's perspective on social media and communications, advised the 2019 Conference Planning Committee on promotion to young adults and led the Communications Priority Team.

Newly elected, for three-year terms, were John Beaulieu, Alicia Hartle and Jessica Navin.



**John Beaulieu** has been sharing the love of Christ and witnessing to the power and person of the Holy Spirit with youth and young adults for the past thirty-six years. His passion for ministry developed during the two years that he travelled with NET Ministries. He then graduated from Franciscan University and has served in a variety of ministries in various states. Having recently served as the Director of Youth Outreach for ten years at Franciscan University, he is currently the Director of Evangelization and Engagement. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor teaching Youth Ministry in the Catechetics Department. John speaks to thousands of teens and adults each year through his ministry,

*Romans 5:5* (www.romans55.com) John and his wife, Lisa, have five children and reside in Steubenville, Ohio.



**Alicia Hartle** lives in an ecumenical household (House of Living Water) in the city of Pittsburgh, and is a member of St. Paul Cathedral Parish. She is pursuing a Masters in Theology degree at Franciscan University, and has studied Christian Leadership, International Business, Marketing, and German. She has lived and worked in Switzerland, and has 15 years of Marketing and Business Development experience on local, national and international levels. Alicia has done mission work in Europe, Africa, and Central America. She co-founded and leads a Prayer Group in Pittsburgh, and is a founding board member of Abba's House, Unbound Pittsburgh-Greensburg, and Pittsburgh Catholic Women's Fellowship ministries. She served as an NSC Council Member for three years before her NSC Election.



**Jessica Navin** is from Omaha, Nebraska. She received a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, with a Minor in Theology from St. Louis University. Jessica is the Manager of Spiritual Formation for FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). She is responsible for organizing FOCUS Leadership Retreats and other events. She was appointed to the NSC Council in May 2017 and served on the Strategic Priority Team Evangelization. Her charisms include teaching, words of knowledge and intercessory prayer. Her gifts/skills/talents include public speaking, project management with some fund raising experience. ◆

A fuller version of this article is available on our website.



6-8  
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EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE*by Jim Beckman*

The planning team for the Fall Conference has been working for months now organizing the November 2020 Charismatic Renewal Conference that will take place in Baltimore, God-willing. COVID 19 and a global pandemic has put everyone in a perpetual state of uncertainty. In light of all that has happened the past couple months, it's amazing how the Lord has been speaking to us about this conference for almost a year.

"Jesus 2020" is the theme we were led to. Simple, yet powerful. Back to the basics of our faith yet proclaiming the name that is above all names (Phil 2:9). Jesus is the source of our life, he is the truth we so desperately seek, he is the way we are searching for (John 14:6)! Yet we recognize that we can't fully come to know and understand Jesus, and even say his name without the assistance of the Holy Spirit, for no one can say "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:3).

If you are losing hope or feeling burnt out, this conference is for you. If you are looking for the

power of God's Holy Spirit to renew you and your ministry, come to Baltimore and receive the unlimited grace of the Holy Spirit. He will be waiting for you to strengthen you in the zeal and joy that first called you into ministry.

If you want to be a part of the next wave of grace that the Holy Spirit is getting ready to unleash on the Church, come to Baltimore and pray, seek, and receive! If you want to experience a profound level of unity and purpose with other disciples who are fervently seeking to renew themselves and the Church, then come to Baltimore for an amazing weekend of prayer and power.

If you have been living in the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit for some time but are longing to see a New Pentecost for the Renewal, and to see it strengthened and expanded across the United States, then come join us as we fall on our faces and beg the Lord for a fresh outpouring of grace and power to renew our hearts, our ministries, and the Church. For many Catholics, discouragement

and despair have left them disengaged. If you are longing to awaken the Church and see it on fire with the love of Jesus, we want to invite you to come join us in Baltimore and receive the Promise of the Father who will strengthen and empower us to be bold witnesses and a source of renewal in the Church.

We have a powerful line up of speakers who will be leading us: Father Dave Pivonka, President of Franciscan University; Sr. Miriam Heidland, S.O.L.T. and nationally known speaker on healing and conversion; Peter Herbeck, Vice-President and Director of Missions for Renewal Ministries; and myself. There are other speakers we are still pursuing as well. It promises to be a powerful weekend of encounter, healing and empowerment. Come to Baltimore – **Jesus 2020!** ♦



*Jim Beckman is the Executive Director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. He is a member of the NSC.*

# The CHARIS National Service of Communion USA of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

by Msgr. Joseph Malagrea

At Pentecost 2019, in the Pope Paul VI Hall at the Vatican, in the presence of over 2,000 international delegates as well as other charismatics from around Italy, our Holy Father Pope Francis established CHARIS as the One Service on the international level to all Catholics who are involved in Charismatic Renewal. This act incarnates a vision that Pope Francis has—to see all those in the Church who have been touched by baptism in the Holy Spirit united in one pastoral outreach. The Statutes of CHARIS have thirteen reasons for this initiative, including the greater spread of baptism in the Holy Spirit; more unity among the various expressions; the ecumenical dimension; pooling of resources and service to the poor.

CHARIS is now operating from the level of the Vatican, has established some guidelines, and is increasing its services.

One of the structures of CHARIS is that each nation should develop a “National Service of Communion”, which would seek to represent all those in the nation who are under this “current of grace”.

In the United States, we have had a head start because we had already developed a unifying organism which was called the “Gathering of National Leadership Groups: Catholic Charismatic Renewal”. In February 2019, this Gathering designated a Task Force to develop a proposal for the CHARIS National Service of Communion. The Task Force included Bishop Peter Smith of Portland in Oregon and Andrés Arango, a key Hispanic leader, who are US members of the International Service of Communion of CHARIS. The Task Force developed a Draft Proposal which sought to fulfill the goals of CHARIS in the US. The Draft Proposal was sent to many leaders in the United States in the fall of 2019. The Task Force received suggestions and clarifications,

and then came up with a Final Proposal for the National Service of Communion.

In February 2020, in Miami, Florida, the Gathering morphed into a “National Assembly” (another CHARIS Term), to which leaders from all the expressions of Charismatic Renewal in the United States were invited. Of course, the entire National Assembly was carried out in prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Several practical decisions were made at the National Assembly:

1. The proposal for the CHARIS National Service of Communion (CNSC) was unanimously accepted by the National Assembly.
2. The proposal includes appointed members and elected members. The appointed members had been re-nominated by their respective groups. This includes National Committees and Covenant Community representatives.
3. Elections were held for the spots so designated: two Youth; one Religious/Clergy; one Ecumenical Member; one National Ministry representative
4. The new CHARIS National Service of Communion, consisting of 15 people, was established for a three-year term. We have decided to add Bishop Smith and Andrés Arango as Ad Hoc members of the CNSC USA.

Thus, we now have a US National Service of Communion in accordance with the guidelines of CHARIS. The CNSC has begun to meet. During the first series of meetings, I was elected Coordinator, and as such I am pleased to write this article today.

The first desire of the CNSC is to fulfill the vision of CHARIS: we wish to be a body that is in communication with

all those in the US Catholic Church who are members of this great “current of grace”. Our desire is to fulfill the vision of CHARIS - unity; sharing; impacting the Church together with the power of the Holy Spirit; and united efforts in the “New Evangelization”.

## The appointed members are

Two National Service Committee (NSC) members - Ron Riggins and Walter Matthews. Two Hispanic Comité (CNSH) members - Kathia Arango and Msgr. Joseph Malagrea. One from the Haitian Conseil (CRCCHO) - Marie-Josée Joseph. One from the Filipino Alliance - Bob Canton. One from the Association of Diocesan Liaisons (ADL) - Fr. Anthony Ouellette. One from the Korean National Service Committee - Fr. Francis Chung. One member of the Sword of the Spirit - Bob Thornton and one member of the North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities - Chuck Hornsby - in all ten appointed members.

## The five elected members are

One National Ministry - Jane Guenther  
Two Youth - Oscar Serrano and Jessica Navin  
One Ecumenical Member - Paul Dinolfo  
One Religious or Clergy - Fr. Bob Hogan

Certainly, with the Holy Father’s love of the Renewal, and with the urgent need to evangelize in this world, the time is ripe for a new move of the Holy Spirit. Please pray that Jesus will help me and the entire CNSC USA to do what he wants for this new time in the Church. ♦

Msgr. Joseph Malagrea is Coordinator of CNSC USA. He is Pastor of Holy Cross parish in Brooklyn, NY. He is the Brooklyn Diocese Charismatic Renewal Coordinator and also the Spiritual Director of CNSH and CRCCHO.



# Theological And Pastoral Orientations On The Catholic Charismatic Renewal

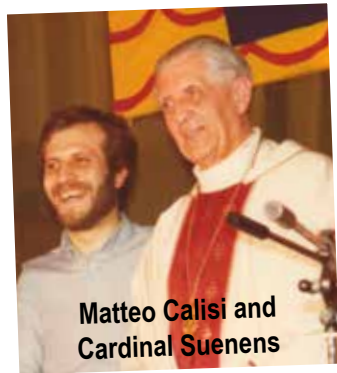
by Matteo Calisi



Cardinal Léon-Joseph Suenens

An international study group promoted by Cardinal Léon-Joseph Suenens, Archbishop of Malines-Brussels and Primate of Belgium, with input from some of the most expert theologians – René Laurentin, Michael

Hurley, Avery Dulles, Yves Congar, Walter Kasper and Joseph Ratzinger – came together in 1974 from May 21 to 26, to take stock



Matteo Calisi and Cardinal Suenens

of the situation of the “Charismatic Renewal” which saw a sudden and rapid expansion soon after the end of the Second Vatican Council. The final and definite version of the Colloquium, formulated by Fr. Kilian McDonnell, O.S.B. and by other members of the international group gathered at Malines, was entitled *Theological and Pastoral Orientations on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal*.

Cardinal Suenens gave the “Charismatic Movement” a unique opportunity to express the riches it offers. The first Malines Document was proposed as an attempt to address the principal theological and pastoral problems that charismatic renewal posed and its integration into the day-to-day life of the Church. Following the Introduction, the Document is subdivided into six chapters and

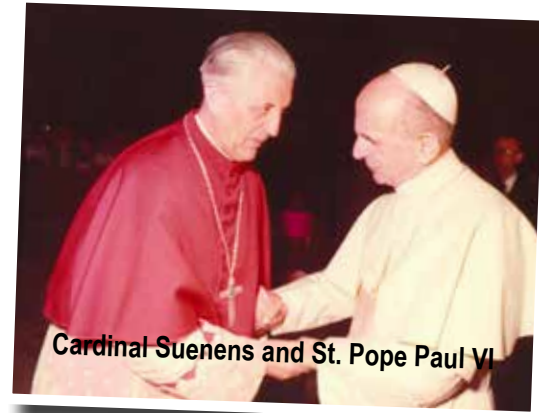
the Conclusion. After carefully describing the birth and development of the Renewal, the Document goes on to briefly analyze the fruits that emerge from those who participate in it. Among them are: “a personal relationship with Jesus as risen and present Lord and Savior, through his Spirit.” The power of the Spirit brings about a radical conversion and significantly transforms lives. This is experienced as the power to serve and witness. With regards to ecclesial commitment the Document notes that, “Like the biblical and liturgical movements, it fosters that love for the church which wishes for her a renewal at the source of her life: the glory of the Father, the Lordship of the Son and the power of the Spirit” (*Introduction: B, p 2*).

The Document rejects the temptation of some to make of the “charismatic renewal” a so-called true ecclesial movement. In fact the charismatic renewal must not become a movement like the others, a new ecclesial association, but it must remain a “current of grace”, as repeatedly affirmed by Cardinal Suenens, bringing the charismatic dimension inherent to the Church to a greater consciousness (*The Holy Spirit, Our Hope*).

Perhaps it would not be correct even to define it as a “movement” even though from the sociological point of view it would legitimately qualify as such. According to the Document, the use of this term presents a drawback: “for the general population, such a term seems

to imply that the renewal is something human persons do and organize and is therefore the result of human initiative. For this reason there is a tendency not to use the term ‘movement’” (*IV D, 1, p 34*).

Following, the Document reviews the principal Conciliar texts which touch on the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believers and the relationship of the



Cardinal Suenens and St. Pope Paul VI

charismatic renewal with Catholic Tradition. The driving force of the Holy Spirit in the Church is manifested in a particular way through those spiritual gifts of grace, which in technical terms are called charisms. They consist in a particular action of the Spirit of God on the individual believer for the edification of the Church, which integrates the sacramental and ministerial structure of the Church itself, as the document *Lumen Gentium* 12 of the Second Vatican Council clearly affirms (*Malines, II, A, p 3*).

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# Receive the Gift

by Alex Lorio



“Today, I would like to cry out to all of you gathered here in St. Peter’s Square and to all Christians: Open yourselves docilely to the gifts of the Spirit! Accept gratefully and obediently the charisms which the Spirit never ceases to bestow on us!”

These words “cried out” by St. Pope John Paul II on the Eve of Pentecost in 1998 remain an urgent plea for the Church today. As we continue to carry out the task of the New Evangelization called forth by Peter’s successors, it seems important to remember the essential role of the Holy Spirit in the New Evangelization.

**I believe we should hear Pope Francis’s mandate to the Renewal to “share with everyone in the Church, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.”**

Jesus reminds us, “It is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh is of no avail.” Yet, in the work of evangelization, how many times have we seen the role of the Holy Spirit downplayed—if not unmentioned—in the Christian life? Working with high school students, I have been blessed to witness a thirst for and a response to the life-giving waters of the Holy Spirit. No, being “baptized in the Holy Spirit” does not mean a license to forget liturgical rubrics, nor is it an excuse to ignore any dictate of prudence. But, the central experience of surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus Christ can only be carried out and completed with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures do not end with the Ascension of Jesus. He ascends in order to offer

himself to the Father. Furthermore, he ascends so that he might baptize humanity in his Spirit. The Christian life is life in the Holy Spirit.

It is in this context, that I believe we should hear Pope Francis’s mandate to the Renewal to “share with everyone in the Church, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.” The Renewal’s role, it seems to me, is not primarily to make sure we have massive conferences or air-time on EWTN, as helpful as these could be. The Renewal’s role is above all to encourage and intercede that the whole Church is baptized in the Holy Spirit, so that the work of evangelization can truly begin.

Finally, I’d like to bring St. Pope John Paul II’s plea to my fellow young adult Catholics: receive the Holy Spirit! Do not neglect his work in your soul! Do not neglect his charismatic gifts! Do not be afraid to share him with your own generation! ♦



*Alex Lorio is campus minister and theology instructor at Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie, Louisiana.*

*FreeImages.com/Charles Thompson*

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There were times when many Catholics believed that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal was a new group of devotees of the Holy Spirit. In reality, the theological foundation of Catholic Charismatic Renewal is essentially Trinitarian. No single Person of the Holy Trinity is accentuated with the risk of obscuring the other two. The Father reveals him-

self as “personal source”, with Jesus the image, the icon of the “personal source” (Col 1:15; III, A, p 7).

Importantly, from the first Document emerges, following the direction of the Council, the attribution of gifts and charisms in the life of the faithful: “To each is given a manifestation of the

Spirit” (1Cor 12:7) which leads each one to walk in and according to the Spirit (Gal 5:16) and to live as “man or woman of the Spirit”.

Charisms which were previously not considered part of the ecclesial structure – such as the gifts of prophecy,

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# DISCIPLES OF THE *Lord Jesus Christ* **Elect New General Superior**

by Sr. Ana Chiara, DLJC

**O**n January 13, 2020, the Fifth General Chapter of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ was commenced at Prayer Town Emmanuel in the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas, and it is our joy to announce Mother Lucy Lukasiewicz as our newly elected Superior General.

Under Mother Lucy's leadership, the Disciples are wholly committed to carrying on the vision of foundress, Mother John Marie Stewart, who taught us that it begins at the foot of the Cross. The Cross is our symbol and under it LOVE, and with the faithful guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are excited to see where the Lord will lead us next.

One inspiration we have felt strongly urged to follow is a greater exploration of our Community's contemplative side. In the beginning, Mother John Marie envisioned some Sisters living for a determined amount of time in hermitages around the Prayer Town. We hope this to be

an experience of profound intimacy with the Lord that will deepen our fellowship in the Spirit and be a rich source of intercession for our Church and our world.

Community life is of utmost importance to us as Disciples, so we are also making efforts to ensure that we have at least three Sisters in each of our local houses so as to better live communal life. This will mean sacrifice for the Sisters at the Mother House as we are stretched to maintain the needs of the Prayer Town, but we are hopeful that God will answer our prayers for more vocations, that we may spread his Gospel to the ends of the earth!

God is faithful from age to age and we trust in his promise that he will complete the good work he has begun in us. We perceive that he is doing something new, something beautiful. Even during this time when the world is suffering together the effects of the pandemic, we know that he is with us. Though we don't know the future and we do not have a "roadmap" so to speak, we do have the Lord Jesus leading us by the hand. So, too, do we have the words of our Blessed Mother, resounding in our hearts in the voice of Mother John Marie to "Do whatever He tells you." And that is enough for us. ♦

*Sr. Ana Chiara has been a member of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ since 2009.*



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healing, glossolalia, interpretation, miracles, and discernment of spirits – are considered normal manifestations (although not exclusive) of the Holy Spirit at the level of the local Churches, by a growing number of Catholics and other Christians today (IV A, p 27).

*(In preparing this article, the occasion to*

*read the first Malines Document has stirred up in me the enthusiasm and the boldness of the "first love": it was like going through a family album with old pictures. I am grateful to the memory of a great father of the Church, Cardinal Suenens, innovator and charismatic, as well as to the pioneers of this "current of Pentecostal grace", as defined by Pope Francis, an eloquent sign of the presence of the Spirit in his Church.) ♦*



*Matteo Calisi is a Founder and President of Community of Jesus in Bari, Italy and a Founder and President of United in Christ, an ecumenical outreach with headquarters in Dallas.*



## From the Executive Director

by Walter Matthews

### PRUNING

A few days ago a laborer knocked on our front door inquiring if we wanted our bushes trimmed. He noted the obvious: they needed trimming, as my wife had pointed out many times. It is one of my least favorite tasks that I had avoided for some time, but after all was said and done, not only did our bushes get trimmed, but two dead trees came down and a fresh layer of mulch spruced up our landscaping. I was exhausted!

This got me thinking about what we are experiencing in this coronavirus moment and in the transitions here at the NSC.

Undoubtedly, the Lord has been pruning and reshaping us. In the words of Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, “The coronavirus pandemic has abruptly roused us from the greatest dangers individuals and humanity have always been

susceptible to: the delusion of omnipotence... It took merely the smallest and most formless element of nature, a virus, to remind us that we are mortal, that military power and technology are not sufficient to save us.”

Jesus said, “I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more” (Jn 15:1-2). We err, however, when we interpret all such pruning as the result of our sin. Surely, if we sin there will be pruning, but the pruning of our household bushes, of our lives, of our Church and even our world is more about bearing more fruit. To those of us who seek in our daily lives to follow the Lord he says, “You did not choose me, no I chose you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last” (Jn 15:16).

I am not saying the pruning doesn't hurt. On the contrary, it is hard for us to “let go” of old patterns of behavior and antiquated ways of doing things.

In this regard, it reminds me of what is happening in the office. One of the many tasks as we prepare for my transition and the new calling of the NSC, is

determining what to do with boxes of archival materials, administrative and financial files, and books. We are asking: Will the NSC going forward be the caretaker of its history? How do we identify the nonessential? What should be digitalized; what needs to be kept?

#### Pruning is difficult.

A month after my retirement, the two most senior members of the NSC in terms of years served, Jimmy Archer (10 years) and Mother Lucy Lukasiewicz (9), will end their terms. The average tenure of the remaining 11 members will be 3 years. In effect, a new generation with new ideas and new energy will emerge, pruned and ready to go forward, grounded by its deep roots.

#### Pruning is rewarding.

This is what Pope Francis has asked of the whole Renewal in this CHARIS transition: to find again (or perhaps for the first time) in the Malines documents “a guide, a reliable path to keep you from going astray.” Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches, whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing” (Jn 15:5). ♦

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Thank you to all of you who have given recently as we have lived this coronavirus moment. Our donations have been steady and have been, by God's grace, close to our projected budget.

We are especially thankful for those who have been faithful to their pledges, as well as those who give regularly (even monthly) without a pledge.

We are grateful for those who have made extra-large gifts (for us) so far this year, those who have given a single gift of \$1,000 or more, or those who have given a number of gifts that total \$1,000 or more.

We want to thank the donor who gave a large gift In Memory of her parents Louis and Agnes O'Connor, and her sister Mary O'Connor. May they rest in peace.

Then there are the donors who accelerated their giving to earlier in the year to help us with our cash flow.

Additionally, we thank those who responded to our Giving Tuesday Now Campaign in support of the work we do in fostering baptism in the Holy Spirit and new life in Christ – the only hope and anchor of our souls. Nearly 50 donors responded. We honor the donor who gave us a \$5,000 Match Gift for

the Campaign and the donor who gave us \$5,000 so we would cover the Match Gift. We raised a total of nearly \$13,000.

If you did not hear about our Giving Tuesday Now Campaign you can still go to our website to make a donation or mail a check – in either case just mark it “Giving Tuesday.”

Finally, we thank the donor who called to get our address so she could update her Trust. If you have not, please consider us in your Will or other Planned Giving.

May your Pentecost be filled with a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. ♦

# The Spirit of God Building Up the Church

by Kendra Von Esb



In the beginning of my journey, I was not very familiar with the Charismatic Renewal. I was uncomfortable with hands in the air and singing modern music as a form of praise and worship. Praying in tongues and other charisms such as words of knowledge, healing and prophecy were also foreign to me. Someone once told me, “You should stay away from those charismatics because they are heretical, and your soul could be in jeopardy.”

But then I had my own experiences with being baptized in the Spirit. It was not a formal declaration, prayer or through a Life in the Spirit Seminar. When I was speaking at a Marian Conference, I stayed for the healing service because I didn’t know what one was. I “rested in the Spirit” that night and that supernatural peace remained with me for almost a year. I had a new devotion to the Holy Spirit, but that warning still remained in the back of my head.

Then I was asked to join the NSC Council and I thought, “Well, no better way to learn about this than to join it.” At the Annual Conference I learned about the biblical nature of the charisms and gifts. I was no longer “blocked” and was delivered of my fear.

“Now in regard to spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be unaware” (1 Cor 12:1).

Before I left the conference, I received the gift of tongues and his peace brought me to tears. The following week I

went into a five-day silent retreat. The Holy Spirit showed himself in a supernatural and physical way. He answers me with a supernatural sensation to this day. I found myself dancing like David throughout the house, hands in the air, praising and singing all day.

“But when he comes, the Spirit of Truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming” (Jn 16:13-14).

I am sensing the Spirit is enkindling different souls with his charisms and gifts throughout the world so each of us can glorify him through our witness. ♦

*Kendra Von Esb is a Speaker, Radio Host and Author who has a passion to inspire others to deepen their relationship with God and the Catholic Faith. She is an NSC Council Member.*

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