

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

Issue 4 2020

PENTECOST *Today*

Publication of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal



The Prodigal Son | Design by Buell Stained Glass | buellstainedglass.com
Sky Ranch Ute Trail Family Camp | Lake City, Colorado

Bob and Irene Carubia Tom Scheuring Sr. Linda Koontz, SNJM
Alan Schreck Lue Ortenzio Dottie DiBella Jim Murphy



Chairman's Corner

by Ron Riggins

When one thinks of Walter Matthews, our long-time Executive Director who has faithfully served the Renewal, Moses comes to mind. Moses led the Israelites to the Promised Land, mentoring Joshua who would then take up leadership. Joshua's success, empowered by the Lord, was built upon the solid foundation established by Moses.

Similar to Moses in his service to individuals and organizations in the Renewal, Walter has persevered with faith and trusted in the Holy Spirit. He has exuded sacrificial love and a fervent desire for others to encounter the love of God poured into their hearts and to be empowered with charisms to build the Kingdom. Walter has been both charismatic and orthodox, prayerful and professional, humble in taking charge, a servant and a leader. For Walter, his decades leading the NSC was not really a job ... it was his passion, his ministry, and his response to the Holy Spirit's call.

Another biblical leader comes to mind in reflecting on Walter's legacy – St. Paul. As St. Paul so eloquently wrote in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." Walter, thank you for your impassioned service and leadership. You competed well, finished the race and kept the faith.

On a personal note ... Walter, it has been a blessing to work so closely with you these past few years, especially as we have huddled together in recent months planning the transition now underway. I admire your dedication, organization, long hours and encyclopedic memory, persevering in the face of many challenges and toiling tirelessly like St. Paul. The NSC could not be entering this new season of CHARIS with its bold vision, mission and strategic plan and mentoring our Joshuas if it were not for the strong foundation you have constructed.

Come, Holy Spirit. ♦



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

Issue 4, 2020 continues to introduce the Malines Documents. Document Three, *Charismatic Renewal and Social Action*, is addressed by Alan Schreck in the Theological Corner (p 13). In addition, there are several witness stories of Service to the Poor by people who felt called by the Holy Spirit and who share how they responded to that same Spirit. These include *Jesus Under the Bridge* (p 3), The story of Lamp Ministries, *Evangelization Among the Materially Poor* (pp 4-5, 12), and The Father Rick Thomas Story, *Apostle to the Poor* (pp 6-7). *Sensing the Movement of the Spirit* includes three brief stories: *Clarksburg, WV Mission; Our Father's Table; and Mexico City* (p 8). These may inspire others to allow Christ to pour out his love through them.

The Holy Spirit continues to work among young adults on the Duquesne University Campus (p 9).

Walter Matthews is retiring as Executive Director at the end of December. He, along with his wife, Claire, briefly describe their journey over the years and express their gratitude (pp 14-15). In this issue we are sharing Tributes to Walter, most of which are written by people who once served as the Chairman of the National Service Committee (pp 10-12). Thank you, Walter, from all of us. Be blessed!

See the insert in this issue for a new logo, an introduction to the new Director, Alicia Hartle, an explanation of the change of name from Chariscenter to **Pentecost Today USA**, and the commitment to **"Bring. Build. Serve."** You will also find details for actually and virtually attending *Empowered by the Spirit National Conference: Jesus 2020*, December 11-12 (as well as on the back cover). ♦



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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Jesus Under the Bridge

by Bob and Irene Carubia

Several years ago, at our monthly local ecumenical luncheon, we met Pastor John Rittenhouse. His “church” intrigued us. His “congregation” consisted of those who weren’t wanted or accepted in the typical church. He ministered to those in ragged clothes, the unkempt, many times unwashed and emanating various odors.

We were invited to The Living Room, a day shelter for those who live on the street. Sometimes a few snacks and some clothes are distributed and referrals for other needs are made. Spirit-filled videos, music and books are discussed but most importantly, the love of Jesus is shown to all who come there.

Pastor John mentored us in the love and knowledge of Jesus in a most special way. What causes someone to live on the street? Alcohol, drugs, other addictions and various mental issues cause persons to be outcast. Jesus always reached out to those in need, the outcasts of society, with his love. The Living Room is modeled upon his love that cares for those “outside” of society.

Years ago, the need to increase our outreach to those on the street was evident. We set up monthly services along a nearby rail trail under a bridge that is home to some. “Jesus Under the Bridge” services include music, prayer and food ministries. More and more of those in need were attracted. Several churches, working together, provided food as well as miscellaneous items (toothpaste, brushes, toiletries, winter clothing, and blankets). The one-on-one prayer ministry is the most important aspect of street ministry. Names are learned, issues understood, friendships developed, conversions of heart encountered, follow-up ministry offered. Jesus’ love flows to all present. Praise the Lord!

There are many groups in Morgantown, West Virginia that provide for humanitarian needs (overnight shelter, clothes, health services, daily meals) for those in the street. We realized that on most weekends there wasn’t a meal offered from Friday evening till Saturday evening. So we began *Bible and a Breakfast* on Saturday mornings and have been serving a healthy breakfast with a bible message each Saturday morning since last October. The COVID restrictions have been more severe on the needy (including closed public toilets) and we thank the Holy Spirit for blessing us with persistence to continue during these times. With his help, we have overcome all COVID restrictions on gathering and serving those in need.

Jesus taught in parables so that people could relate his message to their situation. During the dark ages, the church



YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES

taught pictorially with stained glass. Pictures are worth a thousand words. *Bible and a Breakfast* utilizes stained glass images of parables with a short teaching that directly relates to those attending the breakfast. Whether it be the Woman at the Well, the Loving Father/Prodigal Son, the Good Shepherd, or the Good Samaritan, the message of God’s love is clear. Many of those in need never experienced God’s love throughout any part of their life and showing God’s love by our actions continues to change lives. Praise the Lord!

Not only is a large visual of stained glass shown at the Breakfast gathering but a business card with the same picture and related scripture verse is given as a reminder of the message. The day after we shared the story of the four young men bringing their paralytic friend on a stretcher, through the roof, to the feet of Jesus, one young man called me over on the street and said someone came to the Sunday soup kitchen in a wheelchair. Since there were five steps into the dining room, he and three others picked up the wheelchair-bound person and carried him so he could eat inside. Praise the Lord!

The direct street outreach has been welcomed and widely accepted by those living in the street and along the byways. Thank you, Jesus! We pray that all continue to encounter the love of the Lord. May his love lead his children to their benefit, whether permanent shelter, clothes, a job or to remain in the street to be loved by him. Continue to lead us, Holy Spirit, as you will. ♦

For more info, go to: https://www.facebook.com/pg/WVLivingRoom/posts/?ref=page_internal



Irene and Bob Carubia lead the weekly prayer meetings of the Light of Life Community founded in Morgantown, West Virginia in 1968. In addition to street ministry, they are also active in campus, hospital, and radio ministries. They reside on their rural (almost heaven) West Virginia homestead where they raised their seven adopted children. Praise the Lord!

Photo: Shutterstock



LAMP Missionary shares a bottle of water and an encouraging word.



Cardinal Dolan with Tom and Lyn, and LAMP's Pastoral Directors Marybeth Mutmanky Greene (was on the Duquesne Weekend) and her husband Ed.



LAMP Missionary prays with a woman who lives in a shelter, with sandwich in hand from the LAMPcafe.

Evangelization Among the Materially Poor

by Tom Scheuring

It was an unusual encounter. We didn't expect it at all. Lyn and I had been married 1½ years earlier (6/68), and individually, even before we met, we wanted to give our lives to the Lord, serving his Church. Lyn didn't want to join a Religious Order and didn't know if her desire was compatible with the married state. It took awhile but I convinced her otherwise.

This encounter took place when a Religious Sister friend invited us to this small Protestant Church next to Madison Square Garden in New York City, to hear Rev. David Wilkerson speak (an Assembly of God minister and author of *The Cross and the Switchblade*). Not having an "altar call" this day, much to Sister's annoyance, she took us up after the service and said: "Brother David, here's a Catholic couple you have to pray with for baptism in the Spirit!" Without hesitation, he took us to the basement. We sat in small children's chairs in the "Children's Room"! He spoke with us for awhile and then prayed over us separately. I had a very strong experience of the Lord, Lyn not so. Hers was a month later at a Prayer Meeting. But what also changed our

life at this encounter was what Lyn said to Rev. Wilkerson: "Is there something we can do to help you?"

A month later we moved from a wonderful, rent controlled apartment overlooking the Hudson, to a small apartment in the heart of the East Village, a poverty stricken section of Manhattan, to which hundreds of runaways would come each month: Rev. David wanted to set up a storefront ministry for them. While I had a "regular" job during the day, Lyn served fulltime with Rev. David's ministry by evangelizing one-on-one on the street, inviting youth to the "Living Room", where we both served in the evening. It was a small storefront outreach to the young runaways, offering conversation, a snack and hopefully some prayer. We were the "Catholic" contingent. We got to know Dorothy Day, who lived in the area and would contribute some of their left over bakery. Efforts were made to connect with the youth that would come in, which didn't seem too successful at first. One day Lyn had the idea of making six small banners (about 4x8 inches) to put on the bare walls, with just the name "Jesus". We were there until 2:00 AM

that evening talking and praying with the young people. It was a most powerful night! However, one youth, upon entering and noticing the banners, stated: "Well, this place couldn't be Catholic," - a frightening observation, but somewhat understandable. The Catholic Church was just beginning to proclaim that, "we are all called to holiness", and that our faith needs to be based on a "relationship" with **Jesus**.

The next few years included a couple years in the East Village and some time in two Houses of Prayer. The last one ended after an early morning fire, when we had to go down using sheets from our 2nd floor room, Lyn being nine months pregnant, and having to drop our one-year-old daughter into someone's arms. The building was destroyed but the other ten were also able to get out safely, by God's saving grace.

For the next eight years we were active members of a Catholic Charismatic Community in New Jersey. They were full years, adopting our infant son from an orphanage in Mexico City, writing two books, numerous articles, giving talks, and assisting in serving the Community. But we also thought it important



Cardinal Dolan, with Tom, visits with a woman at the LAMPcafe, who is homeless.



Adjusting to social distancing, two LAMP Missionaries read Gospel stories to children, with LAMPcafe in background.

to occasionally make sandwiches with our children and together take them to the Bowery section of lower Manhattan, which was well known for its poverty and alcoholism. We would visit with the men on the street, who were so happy to be noticed. Sometimes we helped the Missionaries of Charity feed the hungry at their place in the Bronx. This provided an occasion where we had a wonderful visit with Mother Theresa.

At a certain point we felt a strong urge to be more involved in service to the materially poor, but we were clear that our service should be evangelization. While many Catholic organizations served the needs of the poor, we researched and could not find one that had as its sole mission serving the spiritual life of the poor, and also open to lay persons. For the sake of brevity, I will leave out the two years of struggle, challenges and grace that culminated, by God's grace, in beginning LAMP (*Lay Apostolic Ministries with the Poor*) Ministries in 1981, whose sole purpose was evangelization among the materially poor. "Evangelization" was not a "Catholic" word in those days, so we often used "faith-building ministries." We commemorate March 25th (Feast of the Annunciation), as the beginning of LAMP because it was on that date in 1981, that we received an affirmative response from Cardinal Cooke (Archbishop of New York), to our request to begin LAMP Ministries in that Archdiocese. From that letter we felt

that the Lord's grace through the Catholic Church began to flow into LAMP. Unity with the Church and good communication with the local Diocese has always been extremely important to us. In 1999, Cardinal O'Connor (a wonderful friend of LAMP) approached us regarding a canonical status for LAMP, and saw that through to completion.

LAMP's Missionaries, which have included religious sisters and priests over the years, in addition to lay persons, commit a minimum of one year (some have stayed for the rest of their life) to the full-time ministry of one-on-one evangelization through: parish ministry; in shelters for homeless families; Youth Detention Center; street ministry; large city hospitals where most patients are there for the rest of their life; a food/evangelization truck that brings simple food; listening and prayer to poverty areas; prolife street ministry in the South Bronx; etc. There is a strong emphasis on communal and personal prayer life, the Sacraments, and the spiritual growth and formation of the LAMP Missionaries, who live in community.

In the mid-80's, because we are laypersons doing what was usually done by priests or Religious Communities, we felt we should strengthen our own formation and LAMP's credibility so we each pursued and graduated with Ph.D.'s in Theology from Fordham University in 1990. Lyn's emphasis was spirituality, with an emphasis on

Franciscan Spirituality, while mine was Catholic Social Teaching.

Two years later, Fr. Mike Scanlan asked if we would bring LAMP to Franciscan University to strengthen its evangelistic outreaches among the poor, and to teach theology, which we did for three years. The main course I taught was Catholic Social Teaching. There are many social issues that need attention, all fundamentally having to do with acknowledging the dignity of the human person. Sometimes issues are discussed as if they are political issues, and solutions depend on one's political leaning rather than on God's Word. (We can be confident when we consult the American Bishops' stand on these issues – USCCB.org.) An interesting thing happened each time I taught that course. As my class would progress, I felt the students were having a "spiritual conversion", in many cases a second conversion. I believe this happened as they each did research (pre-Google!) on a person from a list I assigned, and saw how that person lived out (through their faith life) what they were studying. They saw Catholic Social Doctrine incarnated in a person who was confronting injustice. That's what touched them and caused them to see the Second Great Commandment in a whole new light – that it is intimately connected to one's relationship with God through Jesus.

continues to page 12



APOSTLE TO THE POOR

by Sr. Linda Koontz, SNJM

I met Father Richard Thomas, SJ in 1977. He was our speaker at the Charismatic conference in Seattle, Washington. He invited me to an evangelization planned for the poor. Father explained that their small prayer group had received a prophecy which said, “I want you to go to the poorest of the poor who have not heard of my salvation and blessings.”

The prayer group was gathered on the second floor of Our Lady’s Youth Center in El Paso, Texas. They could easily see, through the windows, the hills of Juarez, Mexico where thousands of the poor live in desperate conditions. All agreed, we must obey the Holy Spirit.

Sister Briega McKenna and I joined the small team in August of 1977. The first night Fr. Rick said Mass in a small cement building and preached the Good News of the Gospel. “Jesus died for you, so that your sins can be forgiven. God loves you and has sent the gift of the Holy Spirit so that you can live a new life on this earth and be with him for all eternity. God wants to heal you and set you free from oppression!”

The priest who lent the building was not happy that the Mass and prayer meeting went until 2:00 A.M. Several people were healed of sickness and depression and were filled with joy as we prayed with each person. Many were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Signs and wonders were displayed before our eyes. Because the cement block church was no longer available, a tent was set up in the desolate hills to give cover in the one-hundred-ten-degree heat.

The second day hundreds gathered under the “tent cathedral” because word had spread that Jesus’ presence brought miracles. Children reported that they had dreams of wonderful things happening under Fr. Rick’s bean sack tent. It was true! Many committed their lives to Christ and received baptism in the Holy Spirit as physical and spiritual healings took place.

Fr. Rick often said, “We cannot preach good news and be bad news. In this sea of misery, we must act.” With poverty and hunger evident everywhere, we started a food bank that provided much needed food to hundreds of

families. After weekly prayer meeting and Mass each person worked three hours preparing the food distribution, repairing roads and assisting the sick in their shacks. Father instilled a principle from God’s Word for all, “We gave you this rule and charge: If anyone will not work, neither let them eat” (2 Thess 3:10).

Our committed team saw the poor gladly receive the good news as hundreds were baptized in the Holy Spirit and testified to great change in family life. Men left alcoholism and many women left prostitution. The atmosphere in the hills was charged with God’s presence which was evident as we would drive into the area where the revival was taking place.

The plight of the people living in the dump and sorting garbage was made known to Fr. Rick. He had been reading Luke 14:12 (LI): “When you put on a dinner,” Jesus said, “don’t invite friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors! For they will return the invitation. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the Godly, God will

reward you for inviting those who can't repay you." In obedience to Jesus' words, Fr. Rick gathered the community and planned a dinner for the dump workers on Christmas day.

They took a few hams, burritos, sandwiches, and treats. So many came to the dinner/prayer meeting that it was feared there would not be enough food. As the hams began to be cut, the miracle of the multiplication of the food was witnessed by all.

All happily ate ham and other food. There was so much left over that families took some home and two orphanages were blessed with food that day!

We cannot preach good news and be bad news! The Holy Spirit empowers us to alleviate human suffering. Father saw that the dump workers had makeshift shacks, no water source, and also, they were being cheated by vendors who bought their bails of garbage. The children worked in the garbage and had no school.

Fr. Rick gathered other charismatic groups in Juarez into service to the poor. In a few years, the dump workers had a water source, a school, small cement homes, and a union was formed that resulted in a fair wage for the dump workers.

Dump workers, baptized in the Holy Spirit, began to lead their own prayer meetings. "God has chosen poor people to be rich in faith, and the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs, for that is the gift God has promised to all those who love him" (Jas 2:5, LT). Father always taught that the poor are those who lack this world's goods to survive. But the poor are also those who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Fr. Rick's baptism in the Holy Spirit led him to live the Heart of God's plan for all of us, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and



Fr. Rick Thomas offering Mass among the poor.

qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor and afflicted; he has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted" (Is 61:1 AMP).

Father imparted this vision to other followers of Jesus and transformed the lives of thousands. Truly, baptism in the Holy Spirit is designed to break the shell of selfishness around our lives so that we can walk in this unbelievable anointing. The intense revival lasted about six years. The ministry to the poor is still carried on today by the community Fr. Rick founded.

I was privileged to be a part of Fr. Rick's community for a number of years. I and many others have launched a ministry to the poor as the Holy Spirit has led.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit provides gifts and abilities that result in integrating prayer, evangelization, social and political action into the life of every Christian. No truly Spirit-filled believer can be alienated from the real world of human need and suffering. The Holy Spirit empowers us to make a difference and thus the kingdom of God is seen on this earth. God confirms our call by backing us up with his presence, signs and wonders as in Mark 16:17-20.

Our faith must be demonstrated for all to see! "What's the use of saying that you have faith and are Christians if you aren't proving it by helping others? Will that kind of faith save anyone? If you

have a friend in need of food and clothing and you say to him, 'Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat hearty,' and then don't give him clothes or food, what good does that do? So, you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. You must also do good to prove that you have it. Faith that doesn't show itself by good works is not faith at all - it is dead and useless.... anyone can see that I have faith by the way I act" (Jas 2:14-18 LT).

Fr. Rick, Apostle to the Poor, showed us how to serve the poor in the power of the Holy Spirit. ♦



Sr. Linda Koontz, SNJM is Director of Spirit of the Lord International Mission, an outreach to the poor. She also travels as a teacher and evangelist in the Charismatic Renewal.

Prayer Card

**Something New
and Full of Hope!**

"See, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth, do you
not perceive it? In the wilderness
I make a way, in the
wasteland, rivers."
Isaiah 43:19

"For I know well the plans I have
in mind for you . . . plans for your
welfare and not for woe, so as to
give you a future of hope."
Jeremiah 29:11



Clarksburg, WV Mission

Lou Ortenzio, Executive Director

The neon sign on our building that is a homeless shelter and home to a Christian community says “Jesus Saves.” When individuals and families become homeless and come to us we point them to him. Folks suffering like this are desperate and willing to recognize their powerlessness and turn to his power. One of our staff calls our ministry a “Holy Spirit Hot Spot”. We follow Matthew 10:6-8 and “Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons” (The Message). We claim Ephesians 3:20 as God is able to accomplish exceedingly abundantly more than we can think, ask or imagine through his power at work within us and through us. Our people and our city need new life. I pray the Prayer to

- ▶ For Walter Matthews, our long-time Executive Director, who has faithfully served the NSC with great love and dedication that has nurtured the growth of the Renewal, and for his wife Claire, as they enter well-deserved retirement.
- ▶ For the NSC in our time of transition when Alicia Hartle joins the NSC as Director and leads us to fully embrace the CHARIS initiatives to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, build unity in the body of Christ and serve the poor, especially the spiritually poor.
- ▶ For the exciting strategic initiatives the NSC will be revealing in coming months, as the Holy Spirit is doing something new, springing forth and giving us a future filled with hope!

the Holy Spirit daily and I sense his movement in “renewing the face of the earth” and making our residents, staff and our city all new.

Our Father’s Table

Dottie DiBella, Leader of Our Father’s Table

In the fall of 2002, a ministry was formed that would change my life and the lives of countless volunteers forever. The Center of Jesus the Lord Catholic Charismatic Community in New Orleans began to feed the poor and hungry each week. The vision was to provide a hot Sunday meal to those in need. With donations coming in, we were also able to provide socks, toiletries, books, snowballs in the summer and hot chocolate during the winter.

Through the years, as God blessed his poor through our hands, he was also blessing us through their prayers. I sense that the Spirit is crossing the paths of his people for his greater glory. I will praise him forever for this path he chose for me.

Newsbrief

North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities

The North American Network was formed officially on February 27, in Augusta, Georgia, at our first gathering since the dissolution of the Catholic Fraternity at Pentecost, 2019. We have come together in both mutual desire and as a response to CHARIS, which through the Moderator, Jean Luc Moens, has encouraged our birth as a new network of covenant communities.

There are twelve founding communities: Alleluia Community (Augusta, GA), City of the Lord Community (Phoenix/California), Comunidad AMA (Brownsville, TX), Community of God’s Love (Steubenville), Comunidad Deleite de Dios (Dallas), Christian Community of God’s Delight (Dallas), Glory to God Community (Topeka, KS), Joy of the Holy Spirit Community (Los Angeles),

Mexico City

Jim Murphy, Country coordinator, Mexico, Renewal Ministries

work with the poor of Mexico City through a project of Renewal Ministries.

We serve in three venues: the city garbage dump, an orphanage run by a wheelchair-bound nun, and a very poor parish about two hours outside of the city.

We provide food, clothing, care, as well as prayer, proclamation of the Gospel, and fellowship.

We go there thinking we have something to give. After being there, we realize God has sent us there in order that we might receive. The faith and love of these people is amazing! Clearly, God is in their midst.

With the veneer of materialism stripped away, life is pretty raw. It is precisely in that rawness of human suffering that God manifests his presence in a way that changes our lives forever. ♦

Love One Another Community (Calgary, Alberta), Mother of God Community (Gaithersburg, MD), New Creation Community (Virginia Beach) and Presentation Ministries (Cincinnati).

It is an ecumenical network of covenant communities whose common priorities include the building of relationships in mutual love and support, helping one another with common challenges, growing in spiritual formation, personal and communal holiness, supporting youth, raising up new leaders, responding to the Holy Spirit and using the spiritual gifts, collaborating in mission through Christian unity and reconciliation, promoting baptism of the Holy Spirit and the formation of new communities, evangelization and service to the poor—serving the whole Church. ♦

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.”

Acts 2:1



Signal Fire at Duquesne

by Alicia Hartle

How is the Holy Spirit moving in a world that appears to be isolated and engulfed in darkness?

Empowered by the Spirit: Jesus 2020

In a tsunami of the Holy Spirit in this COVID environment, we have a tremendous opportunity to come together. As Renewal Leaders from across the nation raise up their communities to invite family, friends, church leaders, and even strangers to come together at *Empowered by the Spirit National Conference: Jesus 2020* on **December 11-12**, the Holy Spirit is moving us into the profoundly humble and holy action of bringing baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, building unity in the Body of Christ, and serving the spiritually and physically poor.

Signal Fire at Duquesne University

As we look forward to the upper room experience of coming together to pray in one place at the conference, we see the Holy Spirit igniting the fire of Renewal again at Duquesne. In 1967, we saw how God used a weekend retreat organized and attended by Duquesne University students and professors to start a spiritual fire that spread to millions of people around the world.

Just over fifty years later, a charismatic prayer group called *Opus Novum*, or “New Work,” has been founded at Duquesne

University! Peter Emmanuel, a seminarian and international graduate student from Nigeria started the group after his initial surprise to find that there were no charismatic prayer groups on campus. He did not know that though the university’s full name is “Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit” and the motto on the emblem is: “*Spiritus Est Qui Vivificat*,” (“It is the Spirit who gives life”) the chaplain’s office had asked that the prayer meetings be held off campus not long after the 1967 Duquesne Weekend.

The group first focused on inviting students to deepen their sacramental life and understanding of Scripture. At the end of their first Life in the Spirit series in March 2020, Peter Mallampalli, a co-founder of *Opus Novum*; a charismatic Benedictine monk from Brazil, Brother João Cassiano, OSB; my brother, Fr. Levi Hartle; and I served on two prayer teams to pray for each one of the students of *Opus Novum*. When I left the Duquesne Chapel around 1am, many of the students remained in the chapel to pray. As we prepare to come together to pray, here is a snapshot of the signal fire blazing at Duquesne University. (See adjacent article.) ♦



Alicia Hartle is the new Director of the NSC. (See the insert in this issue of Pentecost Today.) She has served as a Renewal leader in Pittsburgh and as a member of both the National Service Committee and the NSC Council.

The History of Opus Novum

by Peter Mallampalli

O*pus Novum Catholic Charismatic Renewal* was started on November 15, 2018 at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh by graduate student Peter Emmanuel and undergraduate student Peter Mallampalli. After receiving permission from the campus Chaplain, Fr. Bill Christy, to gather for informal praise and worship, Bible study and communal prayers, the students gathered in the upper room chapel of the Laval House to pray with four other undergraduates. By the end of the Fall Semester, numbers had more than doubled and were continuing to increase. The students received support from Dr. James Swindal, the former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, as a faculty advisor. After many challenges, the students were able to get constitutional approval from the administration to become an officially recognized student organization by the Fall Semester of 2019. The students appointed Fr. Michael Ackerman, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, as the spiritual director for the group, and developed a mission to bring the Renewal to the campus by way of five primary ministries: Praise and Worship, Evangelization, Intercessory Prayer, Stewardship, and Teaching. Today *Opus Novum* holds weekly prayer meetings and annual Life in the Spirit Seminars for Duquesne students and continues to grow in its dedication to the campus community and the mission of the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal. ♦



Peter Mallampalli is a seminarian from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He is one of two founders of the Opus Novum Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He is a speaker at this year’s National Conference.

Walter,

Words cannot begin to express my personal gratitude to you for your years of service for the National Service Committee. There are many qualities I could identify but the ones that are outstanding are steadfastness and perseverance, commitment and dedication, deep love of God, wisdom, vision and tenacity. You have seen the work of the Committee through its ups and downs. You have worked with chairs and members with a variety of personalities, including myself. Throughout it all you were the ballast that kept things going.

Personally, I am grateful for your friendship and all the details you took care of in your capacity as Executive Director. You extended yourself in service, many times behind the scenes, to provide for other people. You have a gift of recall for past meetings, events and situations that amazes me. One of the things I would hope that you will do in your "retirement from the office" is compile a history of the National Service Committee and its endeavors over the time you served. That would be invaluable to the Renewal for the future.

I pray that God will continue to bless you and Claire as you move into the future. Your new ministry has just begun. + *Bishop Sam Jacobs*

The years I worked with Walter as Chairman were years of excitement and challenges for Chariscenter and the NSC during which we were greatly blessed. I could describe Walter as a Faithful Spouse to the Renewal in that he was always there during good times and in bad, in rich and in poor, in sickness and in health. No matter what was happening Walter was the blessed leader who led Chariscenter with a deep faith, steady hand and numerous gifts. Walter is filled with the Spirit and at times of prayer the gifts of the Spirit burst forth from him in praise, tongues, prophecy and wisdom. During the business portion of our meetings these gifts were the foundation for his clear, objective ability to prod the NSC to remain focused on the business before us. I see myself as being truly blessed for the many years we worked together in various capacities and even today I find myself using what I learned from him. - *Fr. Killian Loch*

Tributes to Walter Matthews

As a former member and chairperson of the National Service Committee, I had the privilege of working alongside Walter Matthews for nine years. I know Walter to be a person of deep faith whose life reflects the gospel he preaches. He is quick to forgive and quick to love. He has encyclopedic knowledge of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Our relationship blends a mixture of my Southern culture and his Northern roots. My fondest memory of our time together was during a visit to the Vatican Museum where Walter drew from his vast knowledge to explain to me all the nuances of the artwork. When I reflect on the many years of Walter's dedicated service this scripture comes to mind from Psalm 115: "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to thy name give glory, for the sake of thy steadfast love and thy faithfulness!" - *Johnny Bertucci*

Walter Matthews' service in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the USA has been an outstanding gift to all who have served the Renewal in various capacities. God has blessed him with extraordinary gifts, especially in his capacity to remember - almost total recall of events of the past.

His service to the Renewal is second to none. Many of the qualities he has displayed throughout the years are exemplary: leadership with humility, generosity and availability, loving and a sincere desire to be a beacon of light for all who actively pursue the kingdom of God. Perseverance and encouragement, accompanied with wisdom, have been a hallmark of his service to the Renewal.

Enjoy your retirement, knowing you have given your very best to bringing about the Culture of Pentecost. - *Josephine Cachia*

Walter Matthews has been one of those special people who have been steady in their faith and service to the larger community of the Church. I remember back in the seventies how us younger guys were so filled by the power of the Holy Spirit that we thought life would always be a series of one excitement after another. We learned however that life also gives a lot of baggage for us to carry. Walter has been an example for me over the years of a man who carries well what life has thrown at him.

When I retired at the end of my term as chair of the NSC, Walter and the other members of the committee gave me a picture that hangs today in my living area. It shows two trains approaching a trestle under construction over a gully. It reads "Build bridges, not walls." That is another thing I have admired about Walter: he builds bridges among so many people.

Have a great retirement, Walter! It only gets better. - *Fr. Ken Metz*

Faithful. Walter Mathews has been faithful.

The first time I met Walter was over lunch. I had been asked to serve on the National Service Committee and wasn't entirely sure what this meant. I called Walter and asked if he would meet me for lunch and answer a few questions. Walter was happy to meet with me.

Our lunch probably lasted ninety minutes. During this meeting Walter shared with me the story of the NSC as well as the history of the renewal. It seemed to me as if he knew every significant person involved in the renewal since it's beginning. His vast knowledge was impressive, but it wasn't what impressed me the most. What I remember was at each twist and turn in the story was that Walter was there, like a faithful friend. Walter's life was profoundly changed by the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit and he spent much of his life working to invite others into this transformative encounter. Through times of grace and challenge, Walter continued to spend himself in order to share the grace that had changed him. Countless people's lives have been changed due to Walter's faithfulness. - *Fr. Dave Pivonka*

My thoughts and meanderings about Walter Matthews: A man of God with a servant's heart. WOW!!

The grace of Vatican II was to renew the Church as by a new Pentecost. The people of God were born anew and on fire. The Lord was doing new things.

Lay persons began giving direction and formation to this renewal through teachings and seminars. Unordained leaders stepped forward and convoked conferences. National committees were formed and from this the National Service Committee was born.

Walter ultimately became executive director of the NSC. He grew in this ministry. Working efficiently and effectively, he encouraged the people of God to use our gifts for God's glory, bringing together people in Catholic, ecumenical and ethnic circles. He relied more on grace and trust in the Lord.

Outside the office he presented conferences with clarity and precision, often traveling with family.

I enjoyed our working together, during hard times and blessed times. Truly he is a man of God with a servant's heart. Thank you, Uncle Walter. - Fr. Patsy Iaquina

I have known Walter from the early 1990's from the Advisory Council to the National Service Committee (NSC); as a member of the NSC and its chairperson; and as a member of the NSC Council. Walter has done great work as the Executive Director of the NSC and of Chariscenter. I want to emphasize what a great blessing he has been to the Renewal by being a scholar of Charismatic Renewal. Walter kept up with the writings and activities of the Renewal around the world. He would keep the NSC aware of important literature and events in the Renewal, and in the wider Church, which would help us to better discern the leadings of the Holy Spirit. Walter served on the *Pentecost Today* Editorial Board and the committee that publishes literature for the NSC. I am grateful to him for being the editor of my book, *Celebrating a Charismatic Jubilee*.

- Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

In the almost fifty years of working with Walter, first in the New York Diocesan Charismatic Renewal and then the National and International Renewal,

I have known and loved Walter....

as a Faithful servant of God,
a passionate promoter of the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit,
an anointed prophet, a gifted preacher and teacher
and an extraordinary administrator.

What I have admired most has been:

His unflinching efforts to be positive and charitable in difficult circumstances.

His willingness and ability to adjust to the changing styles of leadership of multiple chairs of the NSC has been awesome!

He will be sorely missed as Director of the NSC:

But I'm so happy he will be free to preach and teach and work to keep the fire of the Holy Spirit going!

There's still more, Walter and Claire! - Sr. Nancy Kellar

I remember when Walter shared with me his experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. He talked about his life before, during, and after that encounter with the Divine.

As I listened to his testimony, I knew I was looking at a man who had been "grasped by Christ," someone who was forever changed by the sovereign action of God.

Walter told me how he wished everyone would experience what he had experienced. He knew if God could touch his life, God could touch everyone and give them this life-giving relationship.

Over the years, I have worked with Walter on many projects. I have heard him speak on several occasions. Behind everything I see or hear from him, I can still hear that testimony of a man touched by God, who strives mightily to share that experience with others.

For Walter, baptism in the Holy Spirit is not a fad or catch phrase. It is the life-altering encounter with God.

He has never shifted from that focus. I don't suppose he ever will. - Jim Murphy

Walter Matthews welcomed this stranger into the midst of the Council meeting in Albuquerque and my life has been so enriched because of it. I was invited by Msgr. Griesedieck to accompany him to the council meeting and attend the Conference in Albuquerque and the Holy Spirit wouldn't let me be quiet during discussions for which visitors were not to speak. Walter saw the Holy Spirit and gave me an opportunity to speak. Well the rest is history, serving with him on the Service Committee and then as Chairman allowed me to see up close the way in which Walter's ability to see the Holy Spirit has guided, enlightened and given direction and discernment to the ministry of the Renewal he has led as Executive Director and I pray that the light of the Holy Spirit will continue to be his beacon in the future endeavors the Lord has for him. - Jane Guenther

My first strong memory of Walter was on the occasion of an Upper Midwest Regional Conference in St. Paul where he was serving as a principal pastoral administrator. I say strong memory because he was so gifted in his service. Wise, learned, discerning, with fine executive skills, he was clearly a Spirit-filled leader. Shortly thereafter he joined us on the staff of the NSC, then located in South Bend, where his work for the Renewal was outstanding in many areas. I want to highlight his service to the Renewal and the Church as a bridge builder. Walter has worked tirelessly to promote Christian unity among the many ethnic expressions of the Catholic renewal. Furthermore, he has facilitated constructive exchanges among many of the different Catholic ecclesial movements. Finally, he has invested himself on behalf of the NSC in many ecumenical efforts along with other Catholics and Pentecostals and Protestant Charismatics. Such work for our Lord is hard yet fruitful. May the Lord continue to empower Walter for service in the future. - Kevin M Ranaghan

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So I wasn't surprised when I began reading the "Third Malines Document" on Social Action, in preparation for this article. Cardinal Suenens stated in the *Preface*, how he and Bishop Camara would be expressing themselves, "...about two emphases responsible today for a false distinction among Christians – the 'socially committed' and the 'charismatics' – we might perhaps help them to overcome certain impoverishing blind spots and to cement 'what God has united': the first and the second commandment."

Over the years, Lyn and I have been greatly inspired by Catholic women and men who had a deep awareness, conviction, (conversion?) of the Second Great Commandment in their life. These people would embody a deep conviction of a particular injustice and with passion, love and nonviolence work for change. Whenever possible we would attend a talk by one of them, including: Dorothy Day (that's how we first met her), Catherine Doherty, Archbishop Dom Helder Camara,



LAMPcafe outreach with three LAMP Missionaries on the left and a Jesuit Seminarian on the right, assisting.

Sr. Helen Prejean, Caesar Chavez (if you don't know these people, please Google them). When we heard Caesar Chavez was coming to NYC to speak to labor leaders we wanted to try to see and hear him. We had long admired his work for the dignity of migrants and his fasts for the cause (one 38 days) only on water and the Eucharist. We called and were told it was a large dinner and \$100 per person, so I asked if they needed waiters! They did. So Lyn and I waited table at the event, heard his talk, (had a free meal) and went

up and met Caesar. He was so gracious and we both experienced that when looking into his eyes, one could see the depth of his peace that could only come from God's love.

May I suggest something? If your circumstances allow, do some local research into organizations (often affiliated with Catholic Charities) that seek to help the less fortunate, those on the margin, often overlooked. Praying through this, asking God's help and guidance, make an appointment with someone to visit

to find out what they do. Possibly ask the Director how or why she/he got involved. Who knows? Maybe you'll feel led to ask: "Is there something I can do to help you?" ♦



Tom Scheuring is the Director of LAMP Ministries. Lyn went to her *Eternal Life* three months after their 50th Wedding Anniversary in September, 2018.

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For many years Walter Matthews has faithfully and selflessly served hundreds of thousands of Catholics who have been renewed by baptism in the Spirit. I honor him and am grateful for his care for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He brought us together in conferences, fostered leaders, provided us with sound teaching, represented us to the Church, served the worldwide Renewal, kept us informed about the Lord's work, and much more. May the Holy Spirit reward you, Walter, with many years of joy, and peace. And may the Lord enfold you in his love all your days. - Bert Ghezzi

I served on the National Service Committee in the mid-1980's. Afterwards I retreated into my den to write full-time about Scripture, and I largely lost contact with the national Renewal. To try to stay abreast, I would call Walter every October to get his perspective on the state of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, what was happening, where things seemed to be headed. Walter always had his finger on the pulse and would graciously fill me in. Every year I came away from our lengthy conversations with even greater respect for Walter and his service to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I am in grateful awe of his persisting in the vineyard through the long heat of the day, quietly and patiently bringing in the harvest. - George Martin

As I looked back over the years working with Walter, I was impressed by his commitment to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and the National Service Committee. Walter's faithfulness, tenacity, compassion and caring were only a few of the qualities that I so admired in him.

Over the years Walter was challenged in many ways. The changes of Chairpersons and committee members were constant. He had to adapt. He did that so often.

When we gathered, Walter prepared us well and kept us on course. He made sure all that needed to be accomplished at our meetings was completed. He made us feel welcome, comfortable and brought us up to date on happenings within the Renewal.

The times we had to relax and enjoy one another were always so special. He made sure we had time to pray, laugh and play together.

I pray that this gifted, kind and loving man enters into the next phase of his life with joy and is open to the many blessings God has for him and his wife Claire.

A job well done, good and faithful servant, dear friend. - Judith Hughes

Charismatic Renewal and Social Action: A Dialogue

by Alan Schreck

In the 1970's, when the faith of millions of Catholics worldwide had been awakened by a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, many began to ask what this meant for activity in the world around us, including social issues such as poverty, hunger, race relations, the arms race, life issues and others. Some Spirit-filled Catholics became more actively involved in service of various sorts to meet human needs. Critics of the Renewal saw it mainly as a prayer movement that diverted attention away from important social concerns. On the global level, Gustavo Gutierrez's 1974 book, *A Theology of Liberation*, challenged the Church to confront and overturn social structures responsible for the poverty and oppression of two-thirds of the population of South and Central America.

It was in this context that two of the most prominent prelates of the Catholic Church publicly associated with the Renewal produced a document on the relationship between spiritual renewal, as experienced in the charismatic movement, and social concern or 'social action'. Unlike the first two *Malines Documents* produced by a group, this third Malines document consisted of a written dialogue on specific themes between Léon-Josef Cardinal Suenens, Archbishop of Malines-Brussels, Belgium, and Dom Helder Camara, Archbishop of Olinda and Recife, Brazil, whom Suenens wrote, "is known throughout the world as 'the voice of those who have no voice'." Their friendship began when they met at the opening of the Second Vatican Council in October, 1962. Their common concern for the integration of the powerful spiritual grace of the Renewal and the pressing needs of human society, especially poverty and its causes, is evidenced in this document. Suenens summarizes: "In our view, a Christian who is not charismatic – in the full sense of the word, that is to say, open

to the Spirit and docile to his prompting – is a Christian forgetful of his Baptism. On the other hand, a Christian who is not 'socially committed' is a truncated Christian who disregards the Gospel's commandments.... To be a Christian means to be 'tuned in' to both Jesus Christ and the world's events.

The virtue of justice, Suenens explains, means to give what is due to everyone: God is entitled to our worship and praise ("It is truly right and just" to do this, as the liturgy declares). Other people are entitled both to be nourished by the Word of God (through the Gospel and the sacraments) and to receive the necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter.

Before God

Their dialogue centered around three themes, the first entitled, *Before God*. Dom Helder Camara writes of the necessity of prayer "which brings us into direct contact with God". He also speaks of the beauty of communal prayer in the basic Christian communities of his diocese, which are true community celebrations of Baptisms, marriages, and special feast days. In these we "come closer to the ideal...to be one heart and one soul in Christ."

Cardinal Suenens observes how in the modern situation, "Christianity is no longer a heritage handed down from father to son...Instead it is rejected or challenged..." Hence most Christians today have to discover on their own the implications of their Baptism and what it means to have a personal relationship with God. The Charismatic Renewal has been instrumental for many in restoring these foundations of "normative" Christian life.

At the Service of Man

No Christian, Cardinal Suenens observes, can isolate himself from the world.

Yet "social action" – a Christian duty – must be understood broadly. Both he and Dom Helder Camara stress that small, basic Christian communities with a common life of prayer and service are important expressions of "social commitment" today.

Cardinal Suenens insists that the charisms and the fruits of the Spirit explained by St. Paul are essential in battling evils and sufferings of the world today. "... it is not enough to work for the people; one has to work *with* them..."

Apostles of Christ

How do Christians change the world? Cardinal Suenens and Bishop Camara agree that the only way is for "lay apostles" – all the faithful – to be converted ["without a deep personal conversion, no one can become an instrument for the conversion of the world" – Bishop Camara], and to live the Gospel faithfully and radically in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In this document both Cardinal Suenens and Bishop Camara challenge those in Charismatic renewal – and all Christians – to pray and to live our faith more radically. As Dom Helder Camara put it: "To revolutionize the world, the only thing needed is for us to live and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ with real conviction." ♦



Alan Schreck is a professor of Theology at Franciscan University, and has been involved in the Renewal since 1970. He is the author of *A Mighty Current of Grace: The Story of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal* (Word Among Us Press, 2017).



From the Executive Director

.....
by Walter Matthews

Farewell and Thanks

In this my last column I have asked my wife Claire to join me. This past August we celebrated 42 years of marriage. We have three adult children and five grandchildren. We are very proud of them not only for their achievements, but especially for their lives. Thank you, Lord, for them.

I was seized by the Lord in early 1972 at a Catholic charismatic Prayer Group in New York City. I became a leader a year and a half later, then a diocesan leader, got married and moved to Minnesota where Claire is from, worked in a parish, then moved to Minneapolis to join The Servants of the Lord (now Servant Branch of the People of Praise), then we were invited, in 1984, to move to South Bend as members of the People of Praise, to become the Associate Director of the NSC. In 1991 we again moved, this time to Locust Grove, Virginia, and in 1993 I became the Executive Director.

My/our journey has been the outgrowth of the commitment I made when I was prayed with to be baptized in the Holy Spirit: “Lord, I’ve made a mess of my life. It’s yours. I will go wherever you lead me; I will do whatever you ask me to do.”

Claire: In 1974, when I came into a personal relationship with Jesus, I, also, felt a call to give my life for the work of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church. When Walter and I were dating I prayed against the relationship, in that I wanted no part of it if it wasn’t the Lord’s will. At some point, I knew we would be working together on the national level, although I did not know that the office would work out of our basement for a period of time. (This was in late 1990 when some of the staff had moved to Virginia, but we were unable to sell our home until March.)

Earlier, in 1984, we had left a new home, family and supportive relationships to move to South Bend. Over the years the Lord has faithfully given us brothers and sisters (Mk 10:29-30). For me, going to the many national conferences and other Events has always felt like going home to a “family reunion”. I would like to thank the many who have prayed, supported and encouraged me over the years.

Walter: I want to thank my predecessors in this role: Kevin Ranaghan who recruited and hired me, and Bill Beatty+ who took me under his wings and mentored me.

I was privileged to serve with the vast majority of the eighty-four men and women who have served on the Service Committee. Of the other twenty I either had known them or came to know them in other ways. I thank all of them (including the twenty who have died) for their support.

Then there are the ten members who became Chairmen (two of whom have been women) of the Committee during my tenure: Fr. Ken Metz, Fr./Bishop Sam Jacobs, Jim Murphy, Fr. Patsy Jaquinta, Aggie Neck+, Fr. Richard (Killian) Loch, Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD, Jane Guenther, Johnny Bertucci, and Ron Riggins. Each brought to the role unique personalities, natural gifts and experiences, and, of course, charisms. Each helped me to grow and,

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I hope, each I served well to be the best Chairman they could be. Thank you!

To the many other leaders at all levels with whom I have worked as well as Renewal participants who have prayed for and encouraged me over these years, I say thank you.

Finally, I want to thank my wife, Claire, for her steadfast support through many valleys and problems (oops, challenges and opportunities). It was a special blessing when, after volunteering for a while, you came to work for the NSC half-time in 1999. It has also been a special blessing when you have travelled with me to meetings, conferences and speaking engagements. Thank you for loving our children and filling in the gap when I was away and could not be present to them as I would have liked.

I thank Christian, John and Katie for their understanding, love and support, and ask each of you for forgiveness for

the times I wasn't there, or when I brought the problems of the day home and let it or them intrude in our lives.

Allow me to end with three words from Scripture: the first is a theme for me personally, the other two speak to the moment we are living in our society and Church:

“I consider life of no importance to me,
if only I may finish my course and the ministry
I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear
witness to the gospel of God's grace”
(Acts 20:24).

“Fear is useless, what is needed is trust”
(Mk 5:36).

“Go, therefore and make disciples...And behold,
I am with you always, until the end of the age”
(Mt 28:19-20). ♦

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There is, however, still a long way to go to fund the work of the National Service Committee/Pentecost Today USA going forward to respond to the challenge to Bring. Build. Serve. You can read about this elsewhere in this issue and in the insert.

As we approach the end of the year we want to ask those who still need to make mandatory distributions (RMDs) from your IRAs to prayerfully consider us, decreasing your tax burden. Several donors already do this including Claire and Walter Matthews.

Please make a gift from your RMD directly. This transfer can fulfill some or all of your RMD without increasing your taxable income. While such gifts do not provide a charitable deduction, it is ideal for those taking the standard deduction.

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Finally, for those who would like to support us in a regular or long term way, please consider making a **Sustaining Partner Pledge** (see the adjacent ad and our website) and/or including a bequest for us in your will (call or email us for more information). ♦

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