

Fueling the Fire of Renewal

Issue 1 2021

PENTECOST *Today*

Magazine of Pentecost Today USA



Photo: Maggie Carmassi

HOPE: REPENTANCE, REVIVAL, RESTORATION

Jessica Navin John Gresham Bart Schuchts

Jim Beckman Louis Brown Jane Guenther Annie Sarlo



Chairman's Corner

by Ron Riggins

“Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer” (Rom 12:12).

Without faith we would struggle as we seek worldly peace, hope and joy in this present darkness. With anxious hearts rocked by the wind and waves, the future would look truly hopeless. St. Paul’s words of rejoicing, enduring and persevering would make no sense, as the meaning would remain hidden.

But we know that God has a different vision. We who have encountered the love of God poured into our hearts are heralds of Good News, harbingers of hope as we testify to the light. With expectant faith we are ready to give the reason for our hope. Blessed with holy boldness we desire others to encounter Jesus so that they too can rejoice in hope and prayerfully persevere and endure afflictions.

This is the essence of Pentecost Today USA!

Having adopted our new name, logo and branding, embraced CHARIS and empowered young adult leaders with enhanced digital communications, we enter 2021 to passionately respond to today’s urgent mission of bringing a personal Pentecost, restoring unity and serving the spiritually impoverished. In a sense, new wineskins for the new wine!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek to dramatically reverse humanity’s plunge into the abyss and exhort others with the truth of Christ to have boundless hope. We encourage others to be transformed by renewing their minds, to seek the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, to courageously hope in the face of uncertainty and to adopt a spirit of unity.

The harvest is abundant! We invite you to join us as we joyfully serve.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the holy Spirit” (Rom 15:13).

Come, Holy Spirit! ♦



Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer, SSND

The first three Issues of *Pentecost Today* magazine in 2021 will continue the series of introductory articles to the Malines Documents. (The original documents can be found under resources on the website, as listed at the bottom of this page.) In this issue, (p 11), Jane Guenther has highlighted the fourth Malines Document, *Renewal and the Powers of Darkness*.

Jessica Navin shares how FOCUS seeks to fulfill the command to “Go and make disciples” through *Evangelization by Relationship* (p 3). John Gresham writes that ecumenical dialogue can be transformed from a mere exchange of ideas to a mutual exchange of gifts (p 6). Bart Schuchts invites us to gain God’s perspective (p 7). Louis Brown (p 10) calls us to walk the road to restoration, renewal and freedom.

Did you have the opportunity to participate online in the JESUS 2020 Conference? See pages 4 and 9 for highlights and how to view (again).

Annie Sarlo (p 15) senses that we are being invited to open doors, to listen, to respond to God’s love and to go out.

Change and Development are words that might describe the name transitions from Chariscenter to Pentecost Today USA, from National Service Committee to Pentecost Today USA Board (and Council). Their action words are BRING, BUILD, and SERVE (p 5).

Thank the outgoing NSC members and meet the new Pentecost Today USA Board members (p 8).

Meet our new Executive Director, Alicia Hartle, her journey (p 13) and her invitation to you to join in the mission of Pentecost Today USA (p 14). ♦



PENTECOST Today

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For Your Information

The mission of *Pentecost Today* Magazine is to serve and be a voice for Pentecost Today USA’s mission “to **bring** opportunities to encounter and live in the love and power of the Holy Spirit, to **build** unity in the body of Christ, and to **serve** the poor.” 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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Evangelization by Relationship

by Jessica Navin



“By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.”

- John 15:8

No one came to his Bible study for a full semester, yet Michael, a FOCUS student leader, persevered in inviting his fellow students until finally one said yes: Ahmad, his fraternity brother and president of the Muslim Student Association.

Ahmad faithfully attended the study and stayed late afterwards, long into the night, to discuss religion with Michael. Throughout the semester, Michael offered Ahmad his friendship and shared life and his faith with Ahmad. When the semester was completed, Ahmad returned home to the Middle East for several months and read the New Testament. When he returned to the United States, he registered for SEEK, the FOCUS National Conference. At the conference, Ahmad was convicted of the truth of the Gospel. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and signed up for RCIA.

The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) is an outreach to college students that evangelizes through friendship. FOCUS sends young adults to universities to form virtuous friendships with the students and then bring the students into friendship with Christ. We call this method of sharing the Gospel the “Little Way of Evangelization”, because missionaries are encouraged to deeply invest in two or three students and then teach them to deeply invest in two or three others. The students are taught that, to truly be disciples of Jesus, it is not enough for them to be prayerful and follow the teachings of the Church. They must share the Gospel and bring others into discipleship.

As Manager of Spiritual Formation, my role is to foster Divine Intimacy. When Jesus called his disciples, their first task was “to be with him” (Mk 3:14), and so teaching our students to pray and to grow in their own relationship with Jesus is of the utmost importance. One ministry within FOCUS where I have seen the students encounter Jesus in a life-changing way and become empowered by the Holy Spirit is our retreat program.

FOCUS offers retreats on discipleship, healing, and empowerment through the Holy Spirit to thousands of students every year. Several years ago, I received a letter from a new missionary named Rick, who attended one of the retreats as a student. Here is what he wrote to me:

“I came to the retreat as a sophomore never having a faith life. At the time, I was going through RCIA but was skeptical that I would continue. I had never been on a retreat before, and I wanted to give Christ one last shot before I quit RCIA. Needless to say, it was the best decision of my life. I spent all three hours of Eucharistic Adoration balling my eyes out, because it was the first time I felt loved by the Father. I had an encounter with the living God—me, a broken non-Catholic. That night, one of the prayer team members asked if she could pray with me. I said yes and was left speechless on my knees in awe. I left that retreat convinced that I was loved by the Father and my brothers and sisters in Christ. Here I am, not only three short years later, and I can say that I am a Catholic, a first-year missionary, and I am SO LOVED by the Father!”

Even though the pandemic has forced many campuses to move their classes online, our work is thriving. One missionary at a military academy wrote to me, “Praise God that while many universities are struggling right now, it seems like COVID is the best thing that has ever happened for our mission! We have been able to spend even more time with the students since their weekend athletic competitions have been canceled and our men’s movement has exploded. It’s been an unexpected whirlwind of nonstop mission!”

Living in a post-Christian society, many college students feel empty and restless, longing for something more. In FOCUS, it is our privilege to share the Gospel with thousands of students throughout the world, so that we might fulfill the Lord’s command to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19). ♦



Jessica Navin is the Manager of Spiritual Formation for FOCUS. She is a member of the Pentecost Today USA Board.

The Spirit is moving!

In 2019 at the NSC Conference in St. Louis, a powerful word was brought forth during worship: **"See, I am doing a new thing!"** In a tsunami of the Holy Spirit in 2020, we saw the Lord launching us into the grace of our newly discerned name, **"Pentecost Today USA,"** and our new CHARIS inspired mission to **bring** baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, **build** unity in the body of Christ and **serve** the poor at *Empowered by the Spirit National Conference: Jesus 2020*. Here are the highlights. We invite you to experience and share the graces of *Jesus 2020* by visiting our new website: PentecostTodayUSA.org/Jesus-2020

-Alicia Hartle, Executive Director, Pentecost Today USA (formerly the NSC)



1 Launched our new name and logo to embody and communicate our new CHARIS aligned mission to Bring. Build. Serve. at Jesus 2020.



2 Jesus 2020 Conference reached over 7,000 attending virtually from home and local gatherings across the nation in December 2020.

3 Blessing and honoring Walter (and Claire!) Matthews after 36 years as Executive Director of the NSC. Walter retired in December 2020.



4 Blessing and "Passing of the mantle" from Walter Matthews to Alicia Hartle as the new Executive Director. Alicia was hired in September 2020.



5 Jesus 2020 included live Spanish translation and online prayer teams from across the nation and around the world.



6 Interactive CHARIS discussion panel at Jesus 2020 featured baptism in the Holy Spirit and young adult leaders.

7 Scott Hahn shared his own personal witness of the impact of baptism in the Holy Spirit in his life in a Keynote followed by Q&A at Jesus 2020.



8 Bishop Peter Smith, CHARIS member appointed by Pope Francis, presented an overview of the streams of the Renewal and the CHARIS Commission at Jesus 2020.



PENTECOST TODAY USA **BRING. BUILD. SERVE.**

launched at Jesus 2020.

BRING baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church.

- The **new NSC name** "Pentecost Today USA," **new logo, new mission, and new website** launched at *Empowered by the Spirit National Conference: Jesus 2020* on December 11-12 at Franciscan University. 3,050 registered and over 7,000 attended online. Over half of those surveyed had never attended an NSC event and were new to the Renewal. (See Acts 2:41!)
- *Jesus 2020* talks and discussion panel featured baptism in the Holy Spirit, including **Father Dave Pivonka, TOR** (praying for baptism in the Holy Spirit), **Bishop Peter Smith** (understanding the Renewal and CHARIS), and **Scott Hahn** (personal witness of baptism in the Holy Spirit), **Sister Marie Fidelis, DLJC** (History of the Renewal), and **Peter Mallampalli** (Renewal returns to Duquesne University 50 years after Duquesne Weekend)

BUILD unity in the Body of Christ.

- *Jesus 2020* was the fruit of holy collaboration. **Renewal Leaders** hosted local *Jesus 2020* Gatherings, **Association of Diocesan Liaisons (ADL)** supported local hosts, the **Unbound Network** provided online prayer ministry, **The Ark and The Dove** provided marketing communications, and the event was co-sponsored by **Franciscan University**.
- *Jesus 2020* featured workshop talks inviting participants to build unity in the body of Christ through ecumenism (**Matt Lozano** and **Matt Maher**) and through the hierarchical support of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons (**Fr. Anthony Ouellette**).
- In addition to our faithful intercessors who pray for our conference each year, local ecumenical prayer networks including the **Pittsburgh Prayer Network** and the **Upper Room Intercessors** served as intercessors for *Jesus 2020*.

SERVE the Poor.

- In a time when many are facing both spiritual and physical challenges, each powerful session of the *Jesus 2020* **was free to attend and is currently available** and shareable at: **PentecostTodayUSA.org/Jesus2020**

The Path toward Unity Begins in the Heart

by John Gresham

Pope Francis is calling the Charismatic Renewal to remember our ecumenical roots and renew our commitment to pray and work toward Christian unity. To answer this call, we would do well to return to Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical on ecumenism, written 25 years ago, *Ut unum sint* (that they all might be one). In that encyclical, John Paul II emphasized that the path toward unity begins in an interior dialogue with God: before we engage in ecumenical dialogue with other Christians, we must first enter into a "dialogue of conversion" with God. In this dialogue of conversion, Christians are drawn into a "completely interior spiritual space in which Christ by the power of the Spirit leads them all to examine themselves before the Father." In this interior encounter with the Lord, we learn to repent of our own sins and experience healing of memories associated with past divisions.

From this interior encounter with the Lord, we are drawn by divine love to prayer in common with other Christians. In this common prayer we experience Christ's own presence and that of his Spirit drawing us toward unity: "When Christians pray together, the goal of unity seems closer... In the fellowship of prayer Christ is truly present; he prays "in us", "with us" and "for us". It is he who leads our prayer in the Spirit-Consoler whom he promised and then bestowed on his Church in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, when he established her in her original unity." Out of this experience of prayer, we learn to see those other Christians with new eyes. We contemplate the "mighty works of God... examples of holiness... immense riches" wrought by the Holy Spirit among other Christian communities. We not only admire their gifts, we receive them to our own edification. John Paul II reminds of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council that "whatever is wrought by the grace of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of our separated brothers and sisters can contribute to our own edification." Ecumenical dialogue is transformed from a mere exchange of ideas to a mutual exchange of gifts. In the words of Pope Francis, "If we really believe in the abundantly free working of the Holy Spirit, we can learn so much from one another!

It is not just about being better informed about others, but rather about reaping what the Spirit has sown in them, which is also meant to be a gift for us."

I have experienced both the joy of sharing and the joy of receiving in this ecumenical exchange of gifts. I was part of a Catholic Pentecostal dialogue at the Assemblies of God seminary in Springfield Missouri when the conversation

The shared proclamation of the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit to an unbelieving world is a rich opportunity for ecumenical cooperation.

turned to the topic of Spiritual Direction. I was amazed at how enthusiastically these Pentecostals embraced the value and benefits of this Catholic practice. As for gifts received, I have been blessed for the past few years to be

part of the Alpha program in a couple of different Catholic parishes. This evangelistic program developed by an Anglican church has been a great gift to Catholics. Alpha helps us with that very first step in evangelization – the proclamation of Christ and the invitation to accept him as Savior and Lord. This initial proclamation is neither uniquely Catholic, nor Protestant, nor Pentecostal but merely Christian. The shared proclamation of the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit to an unbelieving world is a rich opportunity for ecumenical cooperation. May such cooperation grow and increase!

Despite the blessings given and received in the ecumenical exchange of gifts, many obstacles to unity remain and it is easy to become discouraged. John Paul II concludes his encyclical encouraging us to have "hope in the Spirit" and to remember the angel's message to Mary, "with God nothing is impossible." ♦



John Gresham is Executive Director of the Institute for Catholic Studies and Formation in the Diocese of Venice, Florida. He is author of *Jesus 101: God and Man* and *Holy Spirit 101: Present Among us*. He has served on the NSC (Pentecost Today USA) Council since 2015.

Called to Do What Jesus Did

by Bart Schuchts

We are living in a unique time in history, rife with scandal, political divide, uncertainty... Many are troubled, afraid, angry, and unsure what is next; yet we have a hope that goes beyond circumstances. God is equipping and empowering his people for such a time as this.

In light of the time we are living in, perhaps these three lessons could be of benefit to pass along:

1. Proper perspective.
2. Jesus' mission.
3. Holy Spirit is teacher.

1. Proper perspective:

While our human emotion can struggle to grasp the uncertainty around us, a higher ground is available to stand upon. At many of the events where I speak - with John Paul II Healing Center as well as Church On Fire - I start with this simple analogy on perspective:

Have you ever been in the back of a crowded elevator? Imagine being a little child sandwiched in the back. What do you see? Elbows and butts. Imagine if your tall father is in the elevator with you. He picks you up. You now see over the top of people's heads. If the elevator door opens on the edge of a cliff, on a beautiful clear day, you now see the far reaching panoramic view. In the Father's arms, our perspective changes from seeing elbows and butts, to seeing over the top of people's heads, to seeing as far as the eye can see.

The Father wants to lift us up beyond the "elbows and butts" to see what he sees. God is always with us (Heb 13:5), even in the "back of a crowded elevator" sandwiched in behind today's "elbows and butts".

He is inviting us to see him, be with him, and represent him to a world desperate to be uplifted by a good, loving and powerful Father.

2. Jesus' mission:

"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father" (Jn 14:12).

Jesus has empowered and equipped us to do the works that he does... Wow. Think about that for a second. What did Jesus do? What would happen if we actually took Jesus up on this offer? What might the Church look like?

Through our Catholic faith, we have been equipped and empowered through Baptism and Confirmation to live into Christ's mission: "It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost"(CCC 1302).

Pentecost equipped us to live into Christ's mission. Yet how many Catholics even realize we have been equipped through Confirmation? It's as if we have been given a deposit of millions of dollars into our account, yet don't know the account number. Jesus has empowered and equipped us to participate with him in what he is doing; therefore it is important that we understand what Jesus has given to us.

3. The Holy Spirit is our teacher.

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything" (Jn 14:26).

The Holy Spirit is our teacher and he is the One who will reveal what the Father is doing. It's important that we rely upon the Holy Spirit to empower and equip us to fulfill Christ's mission on the earth today.

This is the "secret sauce" of ministry: invite and rely upon the Holy Spirit.

In summary:

1. Perspective: It's crucial that we allow the Father to lift us up and show us what he sees.

2. Mission: We are called to do the things that Jesus did.

3. Holy Spirit: We are to rely upon the Holy Spirit as our teacher.

Enjoy the journey.

"Remember, I am with you always" Jesus (Mt 28:20). ♦



Bart Schuchts has been instrumental in the growth of the John Paul II Healing Center in Tallahassee, Florida. He is a regular speaker at conferences and retreats.
www.churchonfire.live

Prayer Card

Our Hope Is in the Lord!

Repentance

"Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure"
(1 Jn 3:3).

Revival

"Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us"
(Rom 5:5).

Restoration

"All this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation"
(2 Cor 5:18).



Announcing Board Member Transitions

Pentecost Today USA is pleased to announce the election of three new Board members. At the same time, it is with great love that we say goodbye to two devoted Board members – Mother Lucy and Jimmy Archer – who have just completed their third three-year Board terms.

Mother Lucy Lukasiewicz is beloved by all for her joyful faith, gentle spirit and prayerful discernment. With a warm heart for those she encountered, she brought great wisdom and a prophetic voice in leading our efforts to strengthen the Renewal. She was a fearless evangelist, mentoring us on evangelizing those on the street, those who served at restaurants, and those sitting in adjacent plane seats. She blessed many with her inspirational music ministry that opened our hearts and minds to the Lord.

Jimmy Archer may be one of our most seasoned servant-leaders, with years of service even before his election to the Board. With his inspirational worship, prophetic tongue and infectious joy in the Lord, Jimmy served in numerous capacities and in many ways became one of our most recognizable faces. He has been instrumental in our fundraising and facilitating transitional steps in this new season, and he has been a great example to all of us in prayerful devotion and saying yes to Jesus.

Newly-elected, for three-year terms, are Mick Michie, CeCe Beauchamp and Annie Sarlo, whose gifts and talents will support our vision and mission to *Bring. Build. Serve.*



Charles "Mick" Michie, from Tulsa, Oklahoma, is a Diocesan liaison for the Renewal with service on Catholic nonprofit boards, overseas missionary experience,

mentoring and coaching young adults for discipleship. He comes to our Board with deep experience in leadership, training, strategic planning and stewardship practices. With a heart for evangelization and exhortation, Mick has gifts in music ministry and a zeal for unity in the body of Christ and collaborating with others. As a member of the Council, he has been facilitating our organizational transitioning in this new season.



CeCe Beauchamp, of Colorado Spring, Colorado, an alumnus of Franciscan University of Steubenville and having served in NET Ministries, she has been involved in

the Renewal since the 1970s. With strong gifts in music ministry and teaching, CeCe leads many others in the Renewal. She has considerable talent in marketing and communications and using social media effectively to reach large audiences. She also brings to Pentecost Today USA her experience in large event planning and execution. As a member of the Council, CeCe has actively supported our rebranding efforts and greater use of social media to reach a younger generation.



Annie Sarlo, from Allentown, Pennsylvania, brings a vision of evangelization, missionary discipleship and leadership development for the

next generation. She has served on several national and international nonprofit Boards, using her gifts in leadership, development and strategic thinking. Annie has served in ministry around the globe, including ten years in the Philippines and project management in Rome in support of 2009's Synod on Scripture. With a heart for mentoring and empowering young adult leaders in the Renewal, Annie's service on the Council has focused on extending the grace of Pentecost to future generations.

Please join Pentecost Today USA in praying these intentions:

Lord, we pray for an increase in faith, hope and love, and as we turn to you in hope teach us where we need to truly repent as a Church, in the Renewal and individually, to be a metanoia people living holy lives.

Lord, we pray for a fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit, to encounter you in power, so that you are Lord of every aspect of our lives, and with hearts on fire we respond as dynamic disciples to give witness to you so that others will experience revival, and thus your peace and joy will flourish.

Lord, restore us as your people, so that there is unity in the body of Christ, and that as we live to fulfill the call to holiness and mission we may draw into the Church multitudes of people with little or no faith to build your kingdom.



Unity in Diversity Conference

Visit ccro-msp.org to view conference

Bishop Peter Smith - Jane Guenther - NET Ministries
St. Paul's Outreach - People of Praise - Emmanuel Community
Community of Christ the Redeemer - Charismata (Fr. Michael Becker) and more!

"As a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." -1 Cor 12:12



CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OFFICE

in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Visit ccro-msp.org for more information or call 763-571-5314.

JESUS 2020

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT
NATIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

by Jim Beckman

2020 ended with a bang! I hope you were able to join us for the Jesus 2020 Conference that happened December 11th and 12th. But even if you weren't, you still can experience the blessing that the conference was through the recorded talks. Visit our website to see all of the talks, even the praise and worship from the sessions and the healing service Saturday afternoon. God continues to bless people even through the recordings!

In total, we had over 12,000 unique users to the conference. Of that number, over 3,000 (3,050) were consistently plugged in throughout the whole conference. Many of us on the National Service Committee have been commenting that this was one of our largest conferences in years! And all despite the odd and burdensome circumstances of 2020. God led us to Franciscan University, to change "our plans" (Is 55:8-9) and to be open to him doing a "new thing" (Is 43:19). We put our hope in him, and we were not disappointed (Is 49:23)!

On Saturday evening, we added an additional event in collaboration with Franciscan University, a Night of Hope. We had over 21,000 people join us for the Night of Hope. What an incredible blessing! It was an evening of worship, prayer and inspiring messages from Peter Herbeck of Renewal Ministries and Mary Bielski, national speaker and evangelist. Once again, the event was recorded, so if you missed it you can still be blessed with the message.

"Jesus 2020" was the theme this year – simple, yet powerful. Our desire was to get back to the basics of our faith, and to proclaim the name that is above every other name (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 (Jn 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)!

For me, this conference was a powerful way to end what was one of the strangest years I have ever experienced. As difficult as 2020 was, it was also a very powerful time. As one of my kids put it in our annual Christmas letter, "This past year has been filled with so many blessings and unexpected surprises. I may be one of the few people to say this, but this year has been one of the best years of my life!" I was moved by her optimism and finding God's work and blessings even in the midst of difficulty and trial. As I looked at my own experience, I saw that the year held for me unprecedented growth and intimacy in my own relationship with Christ as well. Something

about the "hard" was very good for me! The Jesus 2020 Conference was a beautiful culmination of all that for me. I pray that it held similar blessings for you and your family as well. ♦



NATIONAL CONFERENCE RECAP

Photos: Maggie Carmassi



Jim Beckman is the Executive Director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. He was the JESUS 2020 Conference Chairman. Jim is a member of the Pentecost Today USA Board.



Watch Conference
Live Sessions at:

[steubenvilleconferences.com/
jesus-2020/](http://steubenvilleconferences.com/jesus-2020/)

Watch All
Breakout Sessions at:

[pentecosttodayusa.org/
Jesus-2020/](http://pentecosttodayusa.org/Jesus-2020/)

Watch the
Night of Hope at:

[steubenvilleconferences.com/
night-of-hope-livestream/](http://steubenvilleconferences.com/night-of-hope-livestream/)



Poverty of Spirit and the Greatness of God's Freedom

by Louis Brown

The road to restoration, renewal, and ultimately freedom runs along the road, the way, of repentance. Since the fall through the sin, of our first parents, every human person struggles with their sin, wounds, and offenses against God. Every human person also struggles with the sins, wounds, and offenses of others. Yet despite our failings, our Lord offers to liberate each one of us from slavery to sin and to deliver us to an eternal life of joy, peace, and freedom. This turning away from sin and turning toward Christ, who is love itself, is called repentance.

Repent! The call to repentance was a significant part of the message of Moses to the Israelites. It was the message of John the Baptist to the Jewish people in the wilderness. It is the message Our Lady of Fatima gives to the world. Repentance was the act and message of St. John Paul II at the Western Wall in Jerusalem in 2000. And repentance is the call our Lord sends to each of us every day: repent, turn away from slavery, turn to him, and be free.

How do we repent? We repent initially through the recognition that something is wrong within us, that something is not quite right. We repent through coming to know the reality of our own personal poverty. We repent by admitting the truth that we have nothing without God and desperately need his grace. We repent through the realization that we can be who we are only through God's grace.

Repentance begins with the sincere recognition that we have nothing without God. Repentance begins with understanding that our nothingness creates extraordinary space for God to fill us with his fullness. We repent by telling our Lord that we can do nothing good of our own accord but that with him, we have everything. When we become more deeply aware of our own poverty – of our own failings, sins, and wounds – we must then communicate to our Lord our sincere sorrow for our failures. Once we become aware of some sin or area in our lives requiring conversion it is good to pray to our Lord immediately and to tell him that we repent. It is ideal to then follow up on this prayer of repentance by seeking to be reconciled with God through the sacrament of confession, that we might receive the supernatural grace of God's mercy and healing, and receive the strength to turn more powerfully towards Jesus Christ. Every day we can seek to turn more fully towards God, to go deeper into his heart of mercy, and to never go back to the sin or failing for which we repented.

In the spirit of poverty we can continue to allow God to fill us with his love. We can open up our mouths wide and allow the Lord to fill it with his grace so as to make our repentance and conversion permanent. We can deepen our act of repentance and draw closer to God's heart through praying the rosary, through fasting in reparation for all the sins of our life and through frequent reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

We can seek further healing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord seeks to more fully restore each of us

to our eternal inheritance as his sons and daughters. He wants us to be free. Through encountering the Holy Spirit, whether it be through inner healing sessions such as the inner healing approach of the *Missionaries of the New Evangelization*, through *Unbound*, or through other prayer sessions, healing retreats, or *Life in the Spirit* seminars, our Lord will remove the lies, unforgiveness, shame, lust, anger, pride, and other evils that have been obstacles, blockages, or

“Repentance begins with understanding that our nothingness creates extraordinary space for God to fill us with his fullness.”

sometimes massive walls that have locked us into a world that is so much less than the fullness of freedom for God's children. The inner healing that Christ wants to give to each of us, every day of every year of our lives, first requires that we give up those things that would destroy.

Healing requires that we “let go” of the ring of power, so to speak, the sin and immoral patterns that we falsely cling to for freedom, but which actually enslave us. These patterns of sin, would, if left unchecked, eventually destroy us.

Freedom, love, joy, and peace lay ahead on the way before us. Yet to get to the destination for which each of us are made, to find ourselves, and ultimately to find Christ, we must first go on the way, on the long but beautiful road of repentance. ♦



Louis Brown serves as the Executive Director of the Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF), a Catholic health care nonprofit whose mission is to share the healing love of Jesus Christ through defending religious freedom and offering pro-life health care options in

the marketplace. Louis is blessed to volunteer with a Catholic healing ministry in the Washington, D.C. area and serves on the Pentecost Today USA Council.

Renewal and the Powers of Darkness

by Jane Guenther

Cardinal Léon Suenens in Malines Document 4, speaks on the *The Powers of Darkness* with an aim to expose two main points:

1 “that of underestimating the presence of the Spirit of Evil in the world”

2 “that of fighting against the Spirit of Evil without the indispensable discernment and safeguards of the Church.”

The myth at the time was that evil was not real – to believe it does not exist defies the Scripture and Tradition of the Church. Cardinal Suenens says that the Devil has managed to pass himself off as an anachronism – his greatest act of cunning. I am happy to say that today teaching and preaching on the subject of the Devil’s existence is not avoided in our Seminary curriculums. The danger to believe evil is everywhere and destroying everything also defies Scripture and Tradition. “The power within you is greater than the power in the world” (1 Jn 4:4), tells us the victory is in the Lord and we share with him through Baptism the ability to be set free from the Evil One. The Evil One is working in opposition to the Messianic Kingdom. It is important to remember that Satan is a creature of God and is the enemy of man (Wis 2:24), the enemy of God’s plan for man. In the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius refers to Satan as “the enemy of human nature”. Ignatius develops the two standards, the Standard of Christ and the Standard of Satan. In opting for one we will find ourselves in direct opposition to and in conflict with the other. Choosing the way of Satan aligns us with the rebel chief and all those driven by self-interest to achieve wealth, prestige and the domination of others. Choosing the way of Christ, the sovereign and true commander, commits us along with others to humble service with Christ on behalf of God’s ongoing plan for creation and the salvation of this world.

Cardinal Suenens emphasized that what is foremost in the Church’s mind is not the Devil, but deliverance from sin. His point of understanding the Church’s guidance for

“We come face to face with sin which is a perversion of human freedom and the profound cause of death because it involves detachment from God, the source of life. And then sin in its turn becomes the occasion and the effect of interference in us and our work by a dark, hostile agent, the Devil. Evil is not merely an absence of something but an active force, a living, spiritual being that is perverted and that perverts others. It is a terrible reality, mysterious and frightening”

(St. Paul VI General Audience, November 15, 1972).

deliverance ministry has certainly developed over the years. The Renewal was involved in deliverance ministry in its early days and it was important to rely on the Church for guidance in their approach. The wonderful work of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services in the book *Deliverance Ministry* states well the history and the state of the ministry today.

Our rich tradition of our sacramental life and use of sacraments places accuracy in that the Devil is not at the root of all human sin; sin can come from the world, ourselves or the Devil. The importance of being

strengthened and nourished through the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, is for the Christian the supreme source of healing and liberation. The sacramental grace welcomes God’s vivifying and purifying action.

In the rite of Baptism there is an explicit renunciation of Satan and his works: “We now pray for these children who will have to face the world with its temptations, and fight the devil in all his cunning. Your Son died and rose again to save us. By this victory over sin and death, bring these children out of the power of darkness. Strengthen them with the grace of Christ and watch over them at every step in life’s journey.” The Charismatic Renewal still remains a grace that can revitalize Christians. Through the Renewal there is a continued moving toward a restored depth of our sense of worship, of thanksgiving, of reconciliation through prayer and community fellowship. It is through the gift of the Holy Spirit that a sharper perception enables us to see and to denounce and fight against everything that is not God. ♦

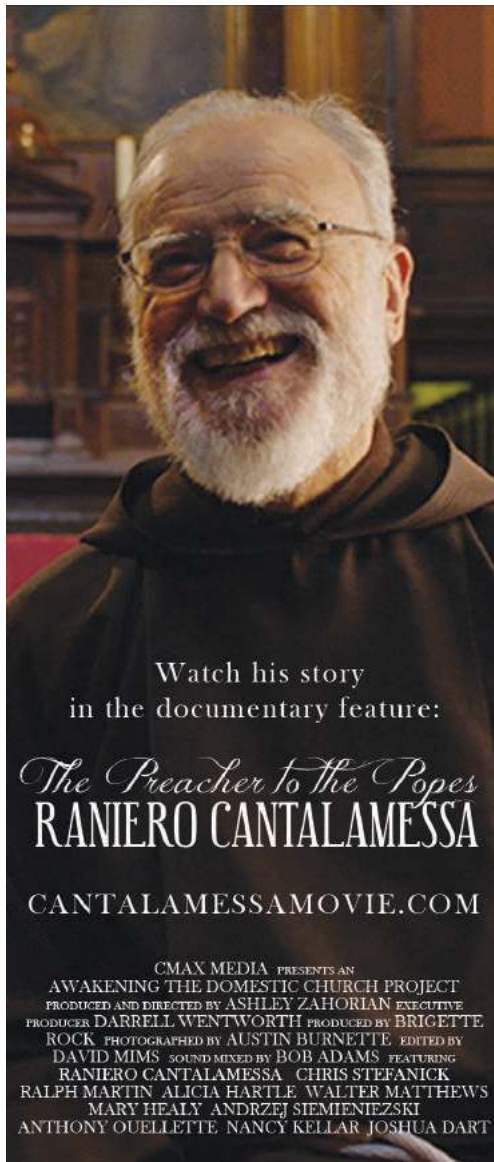


Jane Guenther is a member of CNSC, representing a national ministry. She is the Director of the Catholic Renewal Center for the Archdiocese of St. Louis and serves on the Association of Diocesan Liaisons Steering Committee and also as a Director on the Seminary Formation Council; all of these ministries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



Pentecost Today USA Highlights

In this new season, *Pentecost Today USA* (formerly the NSC) will launch new and dynamic initiatives to serve the work of the Holy Spirit in our CHARIS mission to *Bring. Build. Serve.* Watch this column in upcoming issues to see the latest developments.



Pentecost Today USA is excited to announce that in 2021 we will partner with *Association of Diocesan Liaisons, The Ark and The Dove* and *CMAX TV* in launching a video campaign featuring the witness of clergy, religious, and lay people in each of the many different streams and realities of the Renewal answering one simple question: "How has baptism in the Holy Spirit impacted your life and your ministry?"

Pentecost Today USA is also excited to announce that we will partner with Steubenville Conferences at the Power and Purpose Conference on June 4-6 at Franciscan University. The theme and Scripture for the Conference is: One Thing - "One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek: to dwell in the LORD's house all the days of my life" (Ps 27:4). Stay tuned for how you and your community can get involved.

These two partnerships are the first fruits of *Pentecost Today USA* exploring opportunities for holy collaboration that will fuel the fire of Renewal in our nation. In order to build a strong foundation for reaching younger generations, our goal is to collaborate with the many different streams and realities of the Renewal on regional and national levels and with universities and seminaries across the nation. Serving in unity we will raise up, connect, and equip Renewal Leaders to bring

baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church.

Our prayer is that this work of the Holy Spirit will be a source and fruit of holy collaboration in every facet of the Renewal. Here are some ways to join our mission to *Bring. Build. Serve.*

1. BRING baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church:

Share your story! How has baptism in the Holy Spirit impacted your life and your ministry? Send a 2-5 minute video or write a 300-700 word blog post with pictures via email: contact@PentecostTodayUSA.org.

2. BUILD unity in the body of Christ:

Our **National Renewal Database** of over 2,800 prayer groups, covenant communities, and other Renewal contacts is now live. Add or update your information at: PentecostTodayUSA.org/database

3. SERVE the Poor:

In collaboration with Renewal Leaders across the nation, we will work to identify areas of need and how the Holy Spirit is inviting us to serve in those areas. If you would like to be part of this discernment process, send an email to: contact@PentecostTodayUSA.org.

Stay connected with the latest developments at PentecostTodayUSA.org, and follow *Pentecost Today USA* via Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, and email. ♦



Walter (and Claire!) Matthews, retiring Executive Director, and Ron Riggins, Chairman of the Board, led these pictured holy and humble members of the Board in praying for me at Jesus 2020 as I officially stepped into the MORE, into which the Lord called me, with this “passing of the mantle” from Walter to me.

As they prayed a myriad of blessings, graces, and Scripture stirred in my heart and mind. I experienced a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit — our Heavenly Father’s love and blessing for me and for each precious one he has adopted as his Beloved Son or Daughter through Baptism and the passionate

love of Jesus Christ for me and for his Bride, the Church — spouse of the Holy Spirit.

As I step into serving Pentecost Today USA as Executive Director, I praise God for how he is bringing a new Pentecost and calling each one of us into MORE. May every baptized Christian be raised up, connected and equipped as each one of us enters into the MORE the Lord has in store through our mission to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, build unity in the body of Christ, and serve the poor together.

Though over 7,000 people viewed Jesus 2020, the final event registration number was striking to me. The final registration for Jesus 2020, the event that birthed Pentecost Today USA (new name for the NSC), was: 3050 people. “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day” (the day of Pentecost!) Acts 2:41.

Come, Holy Spirit! The Spirit and the Bride say: Come. Come, Lord Jesus, come (cf. Rev 22:17,20). ♦



Alicia Hartle serves as executive director of Pentecost Today USA (formerly the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US). She founded an ecumenical household (House of Living Water) in the city of Pittsburgh, and is a member of St. Paul Cathedral Parish. She is a founding member of The Oakland Prayer Group, Abba’s House, Unbound Pittsburgh-Greensburg, and Pittsburgh Catholic Women’s Fellowship ministries.

Alicia brings her Marketing and Business Development experience on local, national, and international levels to her work in ministry and has done mission work in Europe, Africa and Central America. In addition, she has served as an NSC council member and NSC member and has studied theology, Christian leadership, international business, marketing and German. A summary of her ministry and work background are available at PentecostTodayUSA.org

Meet the New Executive Director

by Alicia Hartle

Years ago, as I hiked along the Appalachian Trail, I ran and walked alone through a part of the trail called Lamb’s Knoll. The path was surrounded by soft ferns and a light mist rain was falling. In the silence and solitude, I was consoled by Jesus.

I had been praying with great urgency, asking God what his will for me was. I asked again as I walked in sweet solitude along Lamb’s Knoll, and finally heard a reply: “It’s MORE.” Somehow this incredibly simple and open-ended answer satisfied my years of asking, filling my heart with peace and joy and trust in the Lord.

Born into the fire of Renewal, the Lord has cultivated an increasing desire in me to share the consuming fire of Life in the Spirit with those who are hungry and thirsty and lost and blind and broken and lonely and despairing and sleeping and to see the glory of the Lord resurrecting others as he has resurrected me from those places.

Soon after my hike on the Appalachian Trail, the Lord introduced me to what I like to call the “heart” of the Renewal: The National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the U.S., now Pentecost Today USA – holy and humble Renewal Leaders who raise up, connect and equip holy and humble Renewal Leaders.



From the Executive Director

by Alicia Hartle

As I write this, we continue to celebrate the legacy of Walter and Claire Matthews work alongside Renewal Leaders from across the nation. Though Walter and Claire retired in December 2020, it is their faithful service in collaboration with many others that is propelling Pentecost Today USA forward.

In a tsunami of the Holy Spirit, the Lord accelerated the *National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US* (NSC) launching into our new name *Pentecost Today USA* and into the work of our new CHARIS inspired mission at the *Empowered by the Spirit National Conference: Jesus 2020*. Just as Abraham was sent forth with a new name to signify a promise of increase and everlasting possession of the land (Genesis 17:1-8), the Lord abundantly blessed the launch of our new name and mission at *Jesus 2020*.

Through *Jesus 2020*, the Lord brought the fire of Renewal across the nation and around the world in ways that far surpassed what we originally planned. By God's grace, *Jesus 2020* reached over 7000 virtual attendees rather than the initial plan for 700 people to attend in person. Highlights of the many other blessings of *Jesus 2020* can be seen on pages 4 and 9.

Jesus 2020 was truly an Upper Room moment as the Holy Spirit confirmed and launched *Pentecost Today USA* into the action of our mission to **bring** baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, **build** unity in the Body of Christ, and **serve** the Poor. Our CHARIS inspired mission is the work of the Kingdom of Heaven – the work of the Holy Spirit.

About 2,000 years ago, the Holy Spirit descended on those in the Upper Room at Pentecost. Today nearly a third of the total world population has been touched by the name of Jesus. According to 2015 Pew Research figures, Christians form the largest religious group with 2.3 billion adherents or 31.2% of the total world population of 7.3 billion.

Fifty-four years ago, in 1967 the Holy Spirit descended on Duquesne students in the upper room chapel of The Ark and The Dove. Today the Vatican estimates that there are between 110-120 Million active Charismatic Catholics.

Aware of the mighty work of the Holy Spirit in the past, we boldly and humbly invite the Holy Spirit to ignite a new and ongoing Pentecost in our hearts, in our homes, in the Church, in the nation, and in the world. *Come, Holy Spirit! Enkindle in us the fire of your Love. Make us one as you are one, Father and Son. Help us to serve you, Lord Jesus, in the least of these. Show us your glory, Lord!*

Glory to God for how the 1977 United States Bishops' Conference statement will become a living reality: "It is our conviction that baptism in the Holy Spirit is part of the normal Christian life."

Will you join the joy of the CHARIS mission to **Bring. Build. Serve.** with Pentecost Today USA? We need you. In the Newsbrief on page 12, we invite you into holy collaboration with Renewal Leaders from across the nation!

Last week I received a joyful phone call from Jean-Luc Moens, Moderator of CHARIS. He shared with me his thanks, praise, and blessing of the work of Pentecost Today USA as well as an urgency to raise up younger generations in our work to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church. Glory to God for how the past work of the NSC to raise up, connect, and equip Renewal Leaders will be multiplied through the new work of Pentecost Today USA.

"As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. 'My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever,' says the LORD" (Isaiah 59:21). ♦

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✝
IN
MEMORIAM

Kerry J. Koller, member of the NSC 1975-1977, died on September 30, 2020, at the age of 79. He was a member of People of Praise and a founder of Trinity Schools, established in South Bend, Indiana; Eagan, Minnesota; and Falls Church, Virginia. This was a nationally recognized and award-winning institution, introducing students to the good, the true, and the beautiful. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; five children; eleven grandchildren and eight siblings.

More information is available at www.kaniewski.com/obituary/DrKerry-Koller



Jesus is knocking

by Annie Sarlo

“Behold I stand at the door and knock” (Rev 3:20).

Christ approaches a closed door. He stands. He reaches out. He knocks. He waits. He remains present until the knock is heard, acknowledged, and answered. He stands, looking at the door with love (cf. Mk 10:21), and waits until the door is opened. He enters with a tender gaze fixed on the one who opened the door. He sits down. He communes and communicates. He consumes and is consumed. He abides - forever.

I believe that the time that we are in right now is one where Christ is standing at the door of the Church and is knocking. He’s knocking on the doors of our institutions and structures, on the doors of our patterns of thinking and decision making, on the doors of programs and methods, and on the doors of every human heart. He knocks

because he desires to enter in and share his Life. He knocks because he desires to heal and bring life. He knocks because he wants to share truth, goodness, and beauty. He knocks and declares, “The time is fulfilled, behold the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel” (Mk 1:15). Always present he stands before us, knocks on the door, declares his love, and invites us into communion through repentance. “Those whom I love, I reprove and chasten; so be zealous and repent” (Rev 3:19). Christ is inviting us to open the doors, to hear his voice, to respond with great zeal and conversion of heart, and to then go and do the same for others (cf. Mt 28:19-20). “Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ” (Pope Benedict XVI, 2005). ♦

Annie Sarlo is Deputy Secretary for Evangelization and Formation in the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Pentecost Today USA Board.

Friends of Pentecost Today USA

Thank you!

We are especially thankful to our donors for your generous support of the NSC now Pentecost Today USA. We praise God for you and for his provision through you. Your support made it possible for us to bring the witness of baptism in the Holy Spirit to over 7,000 people without cost through the Empowered by the Spirit National Conference: Jesus 2020.

Friends and Family

As we move into this new season of expanding the work of the NSC,

we want to invite you to pray about inviting one friend or family member to consider supporting our mission to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church through prayer and giving. We believe that the Lord will raise up abundant provision as he prepares the way for every baptized Christian to profoundly experience and share the fire of Renewal.

A New Way to Give

Did you know Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon-Smile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice? If you

already shop at Amazon.com, you can visit **PentecostTodayUSA.org** to click on our Amazon “Give While You Shop” link. With one click you will be enrolled to automatically give to Pentecost Today USA, then shop as normal!

Why Give? A Testimony.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit was and is the greatest blessing of my life, giving me a thirst for Scripture study, frequent Mass and the Eucharist. I want to support the NSC (Pentecost Today USA) as it works to bring this grace to new generations so I have included them in my will. - Lois M. Pflieger, IL ♦

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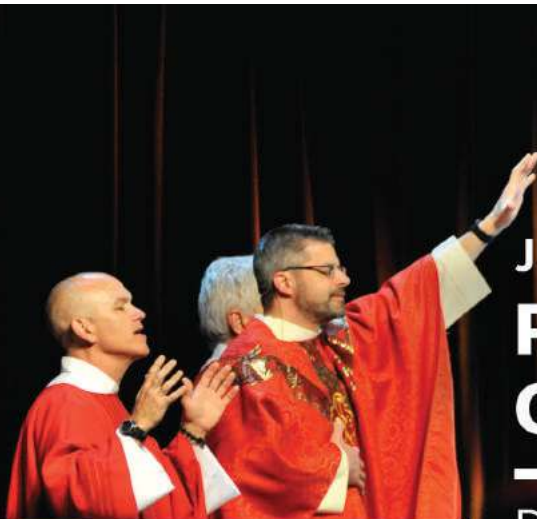
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Bring baptism in the Holy Spirit.
Build unity in the Body of Christ.
Serve the poor.

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