

Fueling the Fire of Renewal

Issue 2 2021

# PENTECOST *Today*

Magazine of Pentecost Today USA



*Welcome home!*

**Sr. Mary Gianna Thornby, DLJC**

**Fr. Anthony Ouellette**

**Ron Riggins**

**Bill Marcotte**

**Fr. Boniface Hicks, OSB**

**Robert Fastiggi**

**Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD**

**CeCe Beauchamp**



## Chairman's Corner

By Ron Riggins

Frank Sinatra's signature song "My Way," designated by NPR as the "American Anthem of Self-Determination," underscores the me-generation's arrogant motto: "I will do it my way ... the right way." The song's last verse boasts the secular mindset of not saying "the words of someone who kneels."

This recalls the Pelagian heresy—that we have the free will to achieve perfection without divine grace. We see this in the building of the Tower of Babel as the people sought a name for themselves. By not consulting the Lord, their project that was intended to bring others together resulted in their scattering.

In *Novo Millennio Innuente*, St. John Paul II addresses the primacy of grace, reminding us that "without Christ we can do nothing." He emphasizes that we must cooperate with God's free, unmerited grace and that prayer roots us in Christ's truth and unites our will with his. Otherwise, we can slip into individualism and disunity, and ignore who God

created us to be and what he equips us to do.

In our ministry, we can lose sight of the primacy of grace if we become enthralled with our plans and succumb to the tendency to attribute success to the work of our hands. We can be deceived into thinking that we are doing God's will.

The challenge in our ministry is an effective balance of humility v. zeal, obedience v. creativity. With inordinate humility we may lack zeal and wait to be commanded. If we are too zealous, we may not wait for the Lord's word. We must be obedient but not simply like robots—we must be open to creatively using our spiritual gifts to build God's Kingdom.

Through kneeling in prayer, we open our hearts to the primacy of God's grace so that our signature song becomes "God's Way."

*Come, Holy Spirit!* ♦



## Editor's Desk

By Sr. Mary Anne Schaenzer, SSND

As I consider Issue 2 of 2021, I have an image of bright, clear light; an image of spiritual and intellectual beauty; and a sense of the deep care that God has for each of us.

Pentecost Today USA shares the moving of the national office from Locust Grove, Virginia to The Ark and The Dove. This is a time of both refreshment and newness in the United States (pp 7-10).

Robert Fastiggi addresses the Malines Document, *Nature and Grace, a Vital Unity*, by Cardinal Suenens (pp 12, 13).

Fr. Boniface Hicks describes how growth and knowledge can lead to the experience of surrender to the Lord Jesus (p 11), and Fr. Anthony Ouellette tells of the beauty of Unity, the desire of God for his Bride (p 4).

Sr. Gianna Thornby testifies to how God spared her life when she didn't know who God was (p 3), while Bill Marcotte relays how God partners with a willing person in reaching out to new generations (p 6).

Ron Riggins elucidates how evangelizing charity includes the importance of restoring dignity and giving hope, conveying God's unconditional love (p 5).

Fr. Bob Hogan, co-founder of Brothers of the Beloved Disciple, highlights the journey of Fr. George Montague, co-founder, and how they seek to be fully open to the Holy Spirit (p 13).

CeCe Beauchamp senses that now is a time of magnified grace and the multiplication of gifts. "The grace we need to act is at hand" (p 15).

Let us receive the abundance of God's graciousness and pour it out in loving service. ♦



# 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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# Led by God

By Sr. Mary Gianna Thornby, DLJC

A defining moment in my life was during high school amid a terrible tragedy, that not only touched our community, but shook our entire nation and world. I have heard it said, “Do not allow a tragedy in your life to define who you are.” That being true, I believe God has used a tragedy in my life to define who I truly am—that is, his child, his daughter.

My life changed forever when I was 16 years old. Being a studious student, I had the habit of going to the library to study during my lunch hour every day. However, on April 20, 1999, I had an overwhelming urge to leave school minutes before lunch hour. I ran into my friend Rebekah in front of the library and talked her into leaving with me. We thought we would go to a restaurant and study for our upcoming test. For some reason, there was no way I was going to stay at school and had to leave! As we were driving away from school, I looked in my rearview mirror and noticed hundreds of my schoolmates running out of the school. We soon found out there had been a shooting at our high school, Columbine High School, and most of the shootings happened in the library where we were every other day! I wondered what made me leave school that day. I remember being told, “God must have a plan for your life!”

As a result of that experience, I came to believe God existed; however, I did not know who God was. I turned to many other things to find fulfillment and happiness. As time went on, I experienced a deep emptiness and struggled to find meaning in life. During my senior year, I experienced heart wrenching despair and seemed to lose all hope. It was at this

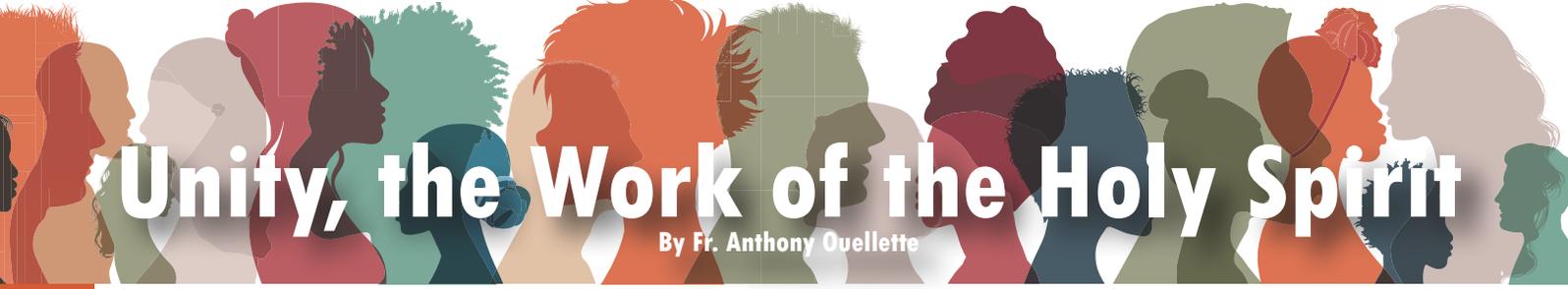
time one of my friends invited me to the Catholic Church. Immediately upon walking in, I met a youth minister there who was so passionate and full of life. I could tell she had something in her life that was missing in my life. We met over coffee where she would tell me about a God who passionately loved me. She shared with me that I am made in God’s image and his likeness, that I am a temple of the Holy Spirit, and that, indeed, God does have a great plan for my life! I began to experience peace, joy, and hope as I came to discover who I truly am! A friend of mine took me to the adoration chapel where I experienced the true presence of Jesus. I realized that not only did God lead me out of Columbine that day—he was also leading me to himself! Our other youth minister encouraged me to attend Franciscan University where I would be immersed in the Catholic faith. It was at Franciscan, at the age of 19, that I was baptized and welcomed into the Catholic Church. I was excited for this new life God had given me!

While at Franciscan University, I was touched by the witness of many students and staff members who shared about their personal relationship with Jesus and their experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit (immersed in God’s love). I longed to have a deep, personal relationship with God as I saw in them. I also experienced a great hunger and thirst to truly discover God’s will for my life.

At the age of 25, I experienced a profound healing and subsequent baptism in the Holy Spirit. God became for me a loving Father so close and so real. I remember being in adoration and resting in God’s love and embrace and knowing what it is to truly be his child. During Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in St. Paul, Minnesota, I experienced the call to the religious life. There was a great freedom to give God everything! I entered the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in August of 2010 and made my Final Vows in August of 2018. One of the great graces I received was having the opportunity to serve at The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, home of Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and opening a house there for our community. I am now currently serving as Director of Family Life and Evangelization for a parish and going to school for nursing. ♦



*Sr. Mary Gianna Thornby, DLJC, was one of the first two Sisters to serve at The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania (2017-2019) home of Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and served as administrative assistant. She currently serves as Director of Family Life and Evangelization for a parish and is going to school for nursing.*



# Unity, the Work of the Holy Spirit

By Fr. Anthony Ouellette

My first pastoral assignment was to three country parishes, about an hour-and-a-half away from Kansas City, and to live in the most isolated rectory in the whole twenty-one counties of our Archdiocese. That being said, I was not disappointed as I had grown up in the country, and after three years in the city, I was looking forward to a slower pace of life.

Shortly after arriving, I had a surprise visit from the Chair of the Pastoral Alliance consisting of six churches: the United Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Community Covenant, Four-square; and to my surprise, my own. He wanted to make sure that I knew about it, the work they were doing, and that I was welcomed and wanted by the others to be an active member of the Alliance. I was genuinely happy to give it a go as it was a great way to meet the greater community and support my parishioners who supported their projects.

As we began meeting regularly, I was encouraged to have others who shared a similar pastoral burden and who could relate with the challenges that I was facing and those of the local community. Two in particular were much endeared to my heart. I was not sure what it was about them, but when we spoke there was always a great deal of understanding between us. When there were opportunities for prayer, I was always touched by how the Holy Spirit moved and the humility with which they prayed. Liturgically, we had little in common, but again, there was just something about the two of them.

After a year-and-a-half, I was asked to be the Liaison to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in our Archdiocese, and

that spring, I traveled to Toronto for my first convocation of liaisons. When I returned, excited about my trip, I asked if any of them had charismatic members in their congregations. There was a very awkward silence, which was followed by the Presbyterian, Lutheran, and the Methodist pastors all saying, “No, we used to years ago, but not

**“True and lasting unity that fulfills the heart of God for his Bride has been, and will always chiefly be, the work of the Holy Spirit.”**

anymore.” I thought this to be a very strange answer since I had heard much about the charismatic renewal happening in many different denominations. After the meeting, the other two pastors, the two I had particularly felt connected to, shared with me that their two churches had begun mainly from former members of the three aforementioned churches who, after their encounter with the Holy Spirit, no longer felt particularly welcomed. Without knowing it, I had touched upon an old wound for that community.

The good that came from that awkward question was that I finally understood that it was renewal in the Holy Spirit that had been the connection experienced with those two pastors in particular. As you might imagine, the Alliance did not spend much time

discussing theological points or moral application. We rather discussed Lenten prayer breakfasts, how to best manage and staff the pantry, summer vacation bible schools, and our mutual support for heating bills for those in our community. We were able to do many good things responding to the common call of Jesus to love one other, but there was always a limit to the fellowship for me with some that I did not experience with the others.

This article, I know, is more story than a theological discourse on Unity, but I look back at this experience of trying to work in unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ, and I realize that “Unity” as Jesus prays for in John 17:21-22, is primarily the work of the Holy Spirit. It has never been and will never be purely a human work. Humans bond over stuff all the time (work, ideas, sports, causes, celebrations, and tragedies,) but true and lasting unity that fulfills the heart of God for his Bride has been and will always chiefly be, the work of the Holy Spirit. I look back with gratefulness for each member of that alliance, but I have found that humble unity in the Holy Spirit is often more profound and truer than any project, plan, or definition of ours. Affirm it when you see it, and praise God for those moments of fellowship in the Holy Spirit when they happen. Amen. ♦



Fr. Anthony Ouellette is the Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Kansas City, Kansas. He is the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Liaison for the Archdiocese of Kansas City and Chairperson of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons. He is a member of

the Pentecost Today USA Board and of the National Service of Communion USA.

Artwork: Shutterstock

# Evangelization through Charity

By Ron Riggins

## Our Commission

One key element of the CHARIS commission to the Renewal is to “serve the poor.” Cardinal Suenens’ 3rd Malines document, *Charismatic Renewal and Social Action*, and other key papal documents and statements address the intersection of grace and charity for the benefit of the recipient and giver of charity.

## Theological Virtue of Charity

Of the three theological virtues, faith, hope and love (charity), St. Paul says the greatest is charity (Latin, *caritas*), that is, selfless love for another’s benefit because of our love of God and our neighbor as ourselves. St. Thomas Aquinas explains that charity is divinely infused into the soul through baptism and resides in the will. Charity is supernatural self-giving for the benefit of our neighbor, and its fullness can go beyond bodily needs (see Mt 25:35-36) to include caring for their eternal soul. We should seek to form our mind, heart, and spirit so that our charitable outreach not only alleviates physical suffering but restores dignity and gives hope as we convey God’s unconditional love.

## Church or NGO?

Paul VI stated that the Church exists to evangelize, and Pope Francis encourages us to be witnesses of Jesus Christ in serving the poor. Pope Francis warns that unless the Church evangelizes in its charity it can simply become another non-governmental organization (NGO). Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI addressed how charitable outreach effectively evangelizes and reveals Jesus’ truth in *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love) and *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth). Charity is the entry point to bring Jesus Christ to the poor and transform their lives through the love of God. In extending charity, we should seek to witness to the truth of the Gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary – Caritas Model

The five Joyful Mysteries model the essence of *caritas*: Mary, overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, manifests the presence of Jesus in her service to Elizabeth and brings forth the incarnate Jesus so that the truth may be proclaimed to others.

As people baptized (overshadowed) in the Holy Spirit, Mary can serve as our model as we charitably serve so that our witness makes Jesus incarnate and his truth known.

## Dual Benefit

The transformative benefit for the recipient of evangelizing charity has just been described, but what about the benefit for the giver? Will Reagan’s song “Set a Fire” asks for a fire to be set in our soul to have more of God. Charity sets this fire in our soul, renewing us as it increases our love of God and draws us further into the life of the Holy Trinity.

## Evangelization through Catholic Charities – An Example

Years ago, I prayed at length in a chapel seeking God’s will. My prayer was answered when Kenneth, a homeless man, entered the chapel asking, “Sir, can you help me?” This encounter led to years of service on the Board of Catholic Charities and today as Chairman. With the support of Bishop Burbidge, Catholic Charities does not simply operate as the Diocese’s social justice arm but also as an evangelization arm ... to be effective witnesses so that charity givers and recipients can encounter the love of God poured into their hearts. In other words, through *caritas in veritate*, charity in truth, both can be set on fire and receive more of God. ♦



Ron Riggins is Chairman of Pentecost Today USA, with its trifold mission to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to Church, build unity in the body of Christ and serve the poor. He is also Chairman of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, with its mission to reveal Jesus through charitable works.

### Prayer Card

Primacy of Grace

*Be Still*  
“Be still and know that I am God!”  
(Psalm 46:11a)

*God's Word is Light*  
“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path.”  
(Psalm 119:105)

*The Way, the Truth & the Life*  
“I am the way and the truth and the life.”  
(John 14:6)

*Remain in Jesus*  
“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.”  
(John 15:5)

SERVE THE POOR

Photo: Pixabay.com

# Without Christ We Can Do Nothing!

By Bill Marcotte

When prayerfully reflecting on the overwhelming work of “reaching out to future generations” in order for young people to encounter the living Jesus Christ with the hopes that they become lifelong disciples and apostles to their peers, one thing that is absolutely foundational is what Pope St. John Paul II called in his 2001 Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*: The Primacy of Grace.

As one who has worked many years in this apostolate, I have come to rely on it! “Come Holy Spirit!” is all I can say because, as I found out soon after I started, to do this work without being empowered by the Holy Spirit was fruitless. I was just running a “program” and fell into the temptation that Pope John Paul II talks about when he wrote:

*“There is a temptation which perennially besets every spiritual journey and pastoral work: that of thinking that the results depend on our ability to act and to plan. God of course asks us to really*

**“He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.”**  
(Jn 15:5)

*cooperate with his grace, and therefore invites us to invest all our resources of intelligence and*

*energy in serving the cause of the kingdom. But it is fatal to forget that ‘without Christ we can do nothing’” (NMI 38).*

Coming to actually experience that without Christ we can do nothing, I came to rely on the grace received from the Holy Spirit to be led in the work of youth evangelization. I found that it was not just a scripture verse to read and know about, but a truth to be experienced. And I did! God really wanted to be intimately involved. What a thought! And not only that, but without him, I could do nothing!

As I entered into this amazing partnership with Jesus through a daily, divine dialog, I was inspired to do things I would never have thought I could, and I was seeing miracles take place in bringing about visions that would produce the fruit of empowering young people to be apostles to their peers. I have been impacted in such a way that I truly know that *“All things are possible to him who believes.”* (Mk 9:23).

Think what could happen if we all cooperated with his grace! Come Holy Spirit! ♦



*Bill Marcotte has served in parish and diocesan ministries since the early 1980s. Bill is acting Assistant Director of the Institute of Catholic Theology in Phoenix. He is a Board Member of Pentecost Today USA and serves on the Pentecost Today magazine Editorial Board. Bill and his wife, Beth, are active members at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Tempe, Arizona.*

## Please join Pentecost Today USA in these prayers:

- Lord, please speak to my heart, your servant is listening. Teach me your way so that I may walk in truth, single-hearted and revering your name.
- Lord, teach me patience and perseverance in prayer, to be stouthearted and to wait for your word, so that I do not think my way is better or that I act according to my will.
- Lord, please help me to say, “Thy will be done,” without reservation, and to respond to your call to discipleship with great joy and peace no matter the cost.
- Lord, help me to know your voice among the many voices in this world.
- Lord, remove my heart of stone and give me a heart of flesh, so that I will trust your word and respond to your abundant grace by loving others as you love.

## NEWSBRIEF

### New Episcopal Consultant

Please pray for **Bishop Peter Smith** who joins Archbishop Emeritus Robert Carlson and Bishop Emeritus Sam Jacobs as Episcopal Consultants to Pentecost Today USA. Bishop Peter Smith is a member of the CHARIS International Service of Communion appointed by Pope Francis.

### New Board Member Appointments

Please pray for our newly elected Board Members who officially joined the Board in March and accepted appointments from Ron Riggins, Chairman of Pentecost Today USA, to these key roles in April.

- **Annie Sarlo** - Member of PT Magazine Editorial Board & Member of Development Committee
- **CeCe Beauchamp** - Chair of Communications
- **Mick Michie** - Chair of Structures and Processes



## NEW WINESKIN FOR NEW WINE

In May 2020, Ron Riggins, Chairman of Pentecost Today USA (NSC), shared with me the vision of the NSC in a series of three conversations. After each conversation, I woke up in the middle of the night feeling an intense sense of urgency and received this word from the Lord: *New wineskin for new wine* (Mk 2:22).

As I prayed with this word, I had a sense that the Lord was going to give precise direction and bring the most highly skilled and anointed people and provision to prepare the new wineskin for the expansion of our mission just as Solomon received direction and provision from the Lord in the building of the Temple of Jerusalem.

In June 2020, the process of discerning a new name began. Since then, the Spirit has moved swiftly and powerfully in the launch of our new name, new logo, new partnerships, new team members, and now in the mighty provision of a sacred and holy new location (see page 8) - new wineskin for new wine!

Glory to God for the Pentecost Today USA (NSC) Board and Council Members, Team Members (see page 10), intercessors, donors, collaborative partners, and the army of devoted volunteers who are working in holy collaboration. They are preparing new wineskin with great zeal for our mission to **BRING** baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, **BUILD** unity in the Body of Christ, and **SERVE** the Poor. Come, Creator Spirit!

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

### Highlights of our first 6 months with a new name and mission.





## A Movement of the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost: **Pentecost Today USA Relocates** **to The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center**

### **The Ark and The Dove Worldwide:**

[thearkandthedoveworldwide.org](http://thearkandthedoveworldwide.org) (724) 444-8055

Pittsburgh, PA: The Ark and The Dove Worldwide announces opening the second floor of “The Dove” building for the new headquarters of Pentecost Today USA (formerly the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the US, or “NSC”) on the Feast of Pentecost, May 23, 2021.

“We are excited to welcome home Pentecost Today USA,” said Johnny Bertucci, Chairman of The Ark and The Dove Worldwide. “It is the natural location for Pentecost Today USA to conduct its national mission in holy collaboration with The Ark and The Dove Worldwide and other organizations fostering baptism in the Holy Spirit.”

Blessings and benefits of our invitation to Pentecost Today USA include:

- Collaboration and shared resources in promoting baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- Fostering unity in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal among the various streams, cultures, and language groups.
- Providing a home to one of the first organizations to serve the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

**About The Ark and The Dove Worldwide:** The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center, which is owned by The Ark and The Dove, Inc., is the historic site of the February 1967 “Duquesne Weekend,” that ushered forth the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Our mission is to foster unity and pass along the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit on a worldwide basis. All are welcome to come by to pray in the upper room chapel and experience a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Our Board and Council are comprised of Renewal leaders worldwide.

### **Pentecost Today USA:**

[PentecostTodayUSA.org](http://PentecostTodayUSA.org) (800) 338-2445

Locust Grove, VA: Pentecost Today USA (formerly known as the NSC) announces the relocation of its headquarters from Locust Grove, Virginia to the second floor of “The Dove” building at The Ark and The Dove, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on the Feast of Pentecost, May 23, 2021.

“The relocation to The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center is a visible sign of our vision and mission and intent for holy collaboration to foster the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit,” said Ron Riggins, Chairman of Pentecost Today USA. “Under the leadership of Executive Director Alicia Hartle, we are making our home at this sacred site that has established Pittsburgh as a major Renewal center.”

Blessings and benefits of this relocation include opportunities for holy collaboration through:

- The grace of being where the Catholic Charismatic Renewal traces its roots.
- Closer proximity to prayer groups and covenant communities in Pittsburgh and Steubenville, as well as Franciscan University, Duquesne University, and St. Vincent College.
- Service to and partnership with The Ark and The Dove in our shared mission to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church.

### **About Pentecost Today USA (formerly known as the NSC):**

Officially founded in 1971 to raise up, connect, and equip Renewal leaders to fuel the fire of Renewal. Today over 60 Renewal leaders from across the nation serve as elected Pentecost Today USA Board Members and appointed Council Members to fulfill our mission to: 1) BRING baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, 2) BUILD unity in the Body of Christ, and 3) SERVE the Poor.

# A glance at how The Ark and The Dove and Pentecost Today USA fit into the history of the Renewal.

1st and 2nd Centuries

## Pentecost & Early Church

Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the charisms are part of the teaching and experience of Christian initiation in Scripture and the Early Church when adult baptism was common.

3rd and 4th Centuries

## Rise of Christendom & Rise of Infant Baptism

With rise of infant baptism, the teaching and exercise of the charisms diminishes.

18th and 19th Centuries

## Fall of Christendom

In the midst of division and difficulties in the Church in 1895, Blessed Elena Guerra begins writing a series of letters to Pope Leo XIII asking him to pray for unity among Christians and for a new and ongoing Pentecost.

January 1, 1901

## Pope Leo XIII Invokes Holy Spirit on 20th Century

Within 24 hours of Pope Leo XIII praying "Veni Sancte Spiritus" on behalf of the Church, the Pentecostal Movement is born in Topeka Kansas - reigniting widespread teaching and exercise of the charisms and bringing baptism in the Holy Spirit to over 600 million.

February 17-19, 1967

## Duquesne Weekend

Charismatic Renewal comes into the Catholic Church through an outpouring of the Holy Spirit at The Ark and The Dove in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - bringing baptism in the Holy Spirit to over 160 million.



February 1971

## NSC Established

Founding members of the National Service Committee (NSC) begin to work together soon after the Duquesne Weekend.

June 9, 2019

## CHARIS Launch

ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity merge into a unified service organization called CHARIS in order to serve all expressions of the Renewal from within the structure of the Church under the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life with public juridical personality under Canon Law.

*Pentecost Today USA was instrumental in the formation of CHARIS National Service of Communion in the USA.*

December 2020

## NSC Launches New Name and Mission:



Sources:  
 • ICCRS Doctrinal Commission on Baptism in the Holy Spirit  
 • The Compact History of the Catholic Church by Alan Schreck  
 • charis:international/en/



## "What inspires you to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church?"

Meet our highly-skilled, gifted, and deeply prayerful team members as they answer this question.



JENNIFER  
CISKANIK

### *Office Manager*

Bringing baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church is an amazing way of evangelizing and bringing people to a personal encounter with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at this critical time.



VERONICA  
ALVARADO

### *Communications & Project Manager*

I've always been involved in Catholic ministry but while attending Catholic World Youth Day in 2016, Pope Francis said something that I will never forget: "...As he did on Pentecost, the Lord wants to work one of the greatest miracles we can experience; he wants to turn your hands, my hands, our hands, into signs of reconciliation, of communion, of creation....And what is your response? Yes or no?" This is my yes.



SISTER  
MARY ANNE  
SCHAENZER

### *Magazine Editor*

I would like to bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church because I have experienced how we are taken from the head to the heart in our relationship with the Trinity and with one another. The Holy Spirit creates unity in our diversity.



SHARON  
FOX

### *Magazine Production Manager & Designer*

Baptism in the Holy Spirit can be the beginning of everything! Once the Holy Spirit comes into your life, it opens whole new possibilities of healing, empowerment, mission, community, ... and life to the full. I want to do what I can to help others experience this amazing current of grace.



KATHY  
SEMERLING

### *Accounting Manager*

I started with my children to have an "expectant faith." Expect God to hear you, expect the Holy Spirit to guide you, expect miracles. We do not have to get by on our own. The Holy Spirit will lead us to God the Father and Love.



JIMMY &  
TAFFY  
ARCHER

### *Development Manager & Donor Relations Manager*

**Jimmy:** Because it's the Lord's desire to have everyone know the love of the Father poured out through the Holy Spirit. To realize the power given to us to live this life in the Spirit and be his Presence in the world!

**Taffy:** To see the Church fully alive with the power of the Holy Spirit!

# Surrendering to Jesus

By Fr. Boniface Hicks, OSB



**S**urrender to the Lord Jesus is a matter of experience, habits and knowledge. When our spiritual journey omits one of these dimensions, our Christian life tends to become malformed. This is important for us to keep in mind as we create and deploy programs of evangelization and formation.

**Experience.** The Scriptures describe the path to salvation in various ways including belief, profession, and birth by water and spirit: "...that whoever *believes* in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16b). "...if you *confess* with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom 10:9). "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is *born* of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (Jn 3:5). These passages illustrate the value of an event and highlight how important an experience of conversion can be for beginning a life of discipleship. The event of a profession of faith, a confession of sins, a baptism in the Spirit, or other vulnerable acts of surrender can open the heart to an actual grace of spiritual consolation in which an individual experiences the love of God. Various evangelization programs (Christ Life, Alpha, Life in the Spirit, Unbound, etc.) have incorporated capstone experiences with times of prayer and personal surrender to facilitate these potentially transforming events. Of course, the ultimate pattern for this is in the RCIA process, which culminates in the Sacraments of Initiation. In this way, surrender to the Lord Jesus is a singular, memorable act of self-gift involving belief in the heart, some vulnerable expression of humble devotion, and a commitment to him.

**Habits.** At the same time, surrender is an ongoing reality. When one nation surrenders to another, it happens at a particular moment in time, but it brings about a new reality that is lived out indefinitely. The relationship is fundamentally

changed and new habitual behaviors must be adopted. When a person surrenders to the Lordship of Jesus Christ he or she must take up the easy yoke that Jesus offers us (cf. Mt 11:29-30) or the cross that he requires us to carry daily (Lk 9:23). This is a permanent change in our life so that the new love we have discovered and received in Jesus Christ becomes the new standard for the way we act towards everyone, every day. This includes a daily prayer life, a sacramental life, and a life of seeking and choosing the good in each circumstance according to the laws of morality entrusted to the Church by Jesus.

**Knowledge.** Surrendering to the Lord Jesus also provides new knowledge of the sacred mysteries at the same time that it makes us hunger for more. The one who has surrendered starts devouring Sacred Scripture, sacred theology, and popular spiritual authors and speakers. "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples..." (Jn 8:31). We cannot grow in love for Jesus without also growing in knowledge of him. Our surrender in discipleship invites us to greater knowledge of our beloved Lord, Savior, Brother, and Friend. We must revisit all our previous views on life and strip ourselves of a worldly mentality in order to take up a new, godly mentality that we might not suffer the Lord's rebuke to Peter: "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (Mt 16:23b). In our surrender, we give up our former way of thinking and take on a new way of thinking: "transformed by the renewal of your mind" (Rom 12:2).

To summarize, a surrender to the Lord Jesus takes place in a singular experience, often preceded by growth in knowledge and seeking to live the Christian faith to some degree. In the experience of surrender, especially when there is a strong and clear grace of spiritual consolation, we are moved to greater knowledge of God and a closer imitation of Christ in our habits. This corresponds roughly to the first three parts of the Catechism: Part I on the Creed (knowledge), Part II on Sacraments (experience), and Part III on the moral life (habits). Such surrender, both in events and in lived Christianity, is the key to the New Evangelization. ♦



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Why did God make us? The Baltimore Catechism gave a simple but accurate answer: “God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.”

St. Augustine expressed the same wisdom: “You have made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in thee” (*Confessions*, Book I, chapter 1). Scripture reveals to us that we are made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26–27). Our human nature, therefore, is made to know and love God whose image and likeness we bear. Psalm 139: 13–14 expresses the same truth: “You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb, I praise you, so wonderfully you made me” (NAB).

Our human nature refers to all our capacities and feelings as rational creatures of soul and body. Our nature was created good because “God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.” The original holiness and justice enjoyed by our first parents was disrupted, though, by original sin. Vatican II, in *Gaudium et Spes*, 13, vividly describes the tragic effects of this sin:

“Although he was constituted by God in a state of holiness, from the very onset of his history man abused his liberty, at the urging of the Evil One. . . . What divine revelation makes known to us agrees with experience. Examining his heart, man finds that he has inclinations toward evil too, and is engulfed by manifold ills which cannot come from his good Creator. Often refusing to acknowledge God as his beginning, man has disrupted also his proper relationship to his own ultimate goal as well as his whole relationship toward himself and others and all created things.”

Original sin wounded human nature, but it did not totally corrupt it. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC] explains, “Although it is proper to each individual, original sin does not have the

## Nature & Grace: A Vital Unity

By Robert Fastiggi

character of a personal fault in any of Adam’s descendants. It is a deprivation of original holiness and justice, but human nature has not been totally corrupted: it is wounded in the natural powers proper to it, subject to ignorance, suffering and the dominion of death, and inclined to sin—an inclination to evil that is called “concupiscence.” Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ’s grace, erases original sin and turns a man back towards God, but the consequences for nature, weakened and inclined to evil, persist in man and summon him to spiritual battle” (no. 405).

After the fall of our first parents, God revealed the coming of the seed of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent (Gen 3:15). Mary, as the New Eve, conceives and gives birth to the New Adam—our Lord Jesus Christ, who undergoes his passion and death as “expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only, but those of the whole world” (1 Jn 2:2).

Although Adam and Eve lost their original holiness and justice, the human nature they passed on was still oriented towards God. This nature, though, was in need of healing, and that healing would come from the grace of Christ merited by his passion, death, and resurrection—the Paschal Mystery. Father (later Cardinal) Charles Journet taught that: “Immediately after the fall, the mediation of Christ began. It worked in a very hidden manner, by anticipation. This was the age of the expectation of Christ” (*The Meaning of Grace* [1960] chapter 6).

With the coming of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the saving grace of God can now heal and elevate our wounded human nature “because the love of God has been poured

into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Rom 5:5). Baptism or the desire for it is needed to give us the grace of rebirth and filial adoption. The sanctifying grace of baptism, however, must be nurtured and sustained by a life of faith, hope, and charity. Moreover, the Holy Spirit wishes to give us different types of spiritual gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ, which is the Church (see Rom 12: 3–8; 1 Cor 12: 1–11; 14:1–40).

St. Paul tells us that we are saved by grace (Eph 2:5 and 8). What, though, is grace? In the Old Testament, there were two major words for grace. One was *ben*, which expresses the idea of unmerited favor, mercy, or kindness. The other word was *besed*, which is used 245 times in the Old Testament and is variously translated as loving-kindness, steadfast love, covenant love, or simply kindness. The Hebrew words *ben* and *besed* are brought together in the New Testament by the Greek word, *charis* or grace.

Catholic theology has distinguished between the various types of grace such as sanctifying grace, habitual grace, actual grace, sacramental grace, and special graces (i.e., charisms or graces freely given—*gratiae gratis datae*). The most fundamental distinction, though, is between the uncreated grace of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us and the created effect of this indwelling. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit brings about a participation in the life of God that is beyond the natural capacity of human nature. This participation is called sanctifying, justifying, divinizing or deifying grace. It is described as “a divine quality that inheres in the soul” (*Catechism of the Council of Trent*) and “a habitual gift, a stable and supernatural disposition that perfects the soul and enables it to live with God, to act by his love” (CCC, 2000). Sanctifying grace is infused into the soul by the Holy Spirit at baptism, and it is “the source of the work of sanctification” (CCC, 1999). It is a “participation in the

life of God” (CCC, 1997). Sanctifying grace is not a substance but a vital, dynamic principle of the supernatural life in us. It is distinct from the theological virtue of charity, but it is the supernatural grace that supports and gives life to charity.

In a real sense, grace restores our human nature to its original orientation towards God. We are not brought back to the “pre-lapsarian” state of Eden, but we are in a state of human nature healed, elevated, and perfected by the saving grace of Christ. There is a vital unity between our human nature and the life of grace. St. Thomas Aquinas (c.1225-1274) provided the classic articulation of this unity when he said: “grace does not take away nature but perfects it”: *gratia non tollit naturam sed perficit* (*Summa theologiae* I, q. 1 a. 8, ad 2).

Our human nature is expressed through all the capacities of a rational nature made in the image and likeness of God. By nature, we have a capacity for God, but our nature, by itself, cannot achieve eternal communion with the Holy Trinity. God, though, has chosen to elevate our human nature to eternal communion with himself, the angels, and all the saints. In heaven, we experience the immediate vision of the Holy Trinity. This beatific vision is the culmination of grace. It is a pure gift of God. We cannot, however, see God by our natural human capacity. Our minds and hearts must be elevated by grace. It is only by God’s grace that we can see him as he is. As Psalm 36:10 makes clear: “in thy light, we shall see light” (Vulgate). ♦



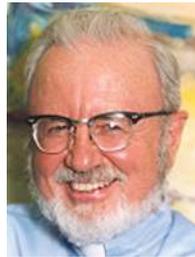
*Robert Fastiggi (A.B. Dartmouth; M.A. Ph.D. Fordham) is the Bishop Britt Chair of Dogmatic Theology and Christology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, MI where he has taught since 1999. Dr. Fastiggi has authored, co-edited, or co-authored 15 books—most recently, Virgin, Mother,*

*Queen: Encountering Mary in Time and Tradition (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2019) with Michael O’Neill.*

## A Religious Community Continuing the Current of Grace of Charismatic Renewal

By Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD

**T**he Brothers of the Beloved Disciple, a Charismatic and Marian Religious Community of Brothers and Priests, was founded by Fr. George Montague, SM and Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD. Fr. George is now over 90 years old. About a year ago, he moved to a Care Center because of some health issues. We miss him living with our community. His spirit and mind are sharp even though he has to



Fr. George Montague

move around with the help of a walker. In fact, Fr. George has just finished another book that will be published soon.

Fr. George has published more than 20 books. He is a Scripture Scholar and the former President of the Catholic Biblical Association of America. He combined a great insight into Scripture with the gift of being a great story teller. He taught Scripture for many years at St. Mary’s University (San Antonio) and one year at the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Fr. George became involved in charismatic renewal in 1970 and wrote a book about his experience called *Riding the Wind*. He has written many books on the Holy Spirit, including *The Holy Spirit: Growth of a Biblical Tradition*; *Holy Spirit: Make Your Home in Me*; *Mary’s Life in the Spirit*; *Christian Initiation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit* (with Fr. Kilian McDonnell); and was the editor with Fr. Kilian McDonnell of *Fanning the Flame: What Does Baptism in the Holy Spirit Have to Do with Christian Initiation?*

Fr. George was a member of the National Service Committee for Catholic Charismatic Renewal and was a theological consultant for the National Service Committee for many years. He has been a speaker at many Charismatic Renewal conferences around the world, including during the few years he lived in Nepal, just north of India.

The Brothers of the Beloved Disciple continue in the spirit of Fr. George with our emphasis on the Holy Spirit. Following the beloved disciple in John’s Gospel, we seek to be fully open to the Holy Spirit, and to take Mary, the mother of Jesus, as our mother in the Holy Spirit. ♦



*Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD is the Co-founder and Moderator of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple; Member of the CHARIS National Service of Communion; Director of the Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal (San Antonio).*

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*This is a Franciscan and charismatic religious order of sisters, contemplative with evangelistic apostolates.*



## From the Executive Director

By Alicia Hartle

**O**n Friday, February 17, 2017, exactly 50 years after the 1967 Duquesne Weekend, I sat facing the altar in the upper room chapel of The Ark and The Dove. I had returned after an evening of intercession there in the chapel to find three priests praying. We prayed for each of the priests, and then they prayed for me. As they prayed, the movement of my heart was: “Lord, show me your glory!”

I had been pondering the audacity of this prayer of Moses for weeks, and was surprised that it was now my own. In that moment and with each step closer to the fire of Renewal, I see the Lord showing us his glory.

As you can see from the *Renewal Timeline* on page 9, both the **founding of the NSC** in 1971 as the first service organization of the Renewal and the **renaming of the NSC in 2020** (now Pentecost Today USA) are responses to two very powerful movements of the Holy Spirit which profoundly parallel the prayer of Moses in Exodus 33:

● *Moses: “...Show me Your Glory.”*

◆ **January 1, 1901** –Pope Leo XIII invokes the Holy Spirit on the 20th Century on behalf of the Church by singing *Veni Creator Spiritus*.

● *The Lord: “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.”*

◆ **January 1, 1901** - Within 24 hours of Pope Leo XIII praying, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurs in Topeka, Kansas – birth of the Pentecostal Movement.

● *The Lord: “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand upon the rock.”*

◆ **February 1967 – The Renewal comes into the Catholic Church** through an outpouring of the Holy Spirit: occurs on the Duquesne Weekend at The Ark and The Dove in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

◆ **February 1971 – NSC officially launched as service organization.**

● *The Lord: “...and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock...”*

◆ **June 2019 – The Renewal is received into the heart of the Catholic Church** through the formation of CHARIS and sent out with the mission to BRING baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church.

◆ **July 2020 – NSC adopts CHARIS inspired mission and a new name: “Pentecost Today USA.”**

The movements of the Holy Spirit in 1901 and 1967 ignited the first widespread experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit since the days of the Apostles and early Church – ushering in a new Pentecost as Christendom fell apart. *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it”* (Jn 1:5).

At the 2019 Pentecost launch of CHARIS, Renewal Leaders from around the world and each person who has experienced baptism in the Holy Spirit were challenged to not keep the grace to themselves, but rather to **BRING** baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, **BUILD** unity in the Body of Christ, and **SERVE** the poor.

We invite you to respond to the magnitude of this mission with your prayers, support, and participation in the National Renewal Leaders Survey at **PentecostTodayUSA.org**. Highlights of our first six months with a new name and mission, including the announcement of our new location, can be found on pages 8-10.

*Lord, show us your glory! “Therefore, since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us be filled with gratitude, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. For our God is a consuming fire”* (Heb 12:28-29). ◆

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# Magnified Grace

By CeCe Beauchamp



We hear the words of the great commission during the season of Pentecost year after year (Mt 28:19-20) but this year, the message seems to have taken on an urgency that is a resounding call to action – an ‘all hands on deck’ claxon ringing out over the loud-speakers of life! It calls, “Move! Move out, move on, move over, and bring the Holy Spirit to others, so that all can know that they are deeply loved by God.”

How do we share the **Good News** so that it is not just nice information? First, ask the Lord for divine appointments, and second, be open to the Holy Spirit’s prompting of how to respond when they occur. These conversations may trickle in, or may come in a torrent. We’re called to

be ready for either, and always expect the unexpected.

For example, recently, a friend was trying to change his team structure at work and help his staff flourish by using their greatest gifts. Over steak and eggs, he asked me, “What was that word I’ve heard you use, where a person is on fire and loves what they are doing for others?” I responded, “Do you mean ‘Charisms?’” He exclaimed, “Yes! That’s it!”

This one small question led to a wonderfully surprising conversation about using the gifts of the Holy Spirit to serve others; how charisms are more than just skills or talents, but are unique gifts and channels for grace; and how they fill you with

energy as you pour yourself out in love in a fruitful, life-giving way (1 Cor 12:4-6). While the original application was secular, his eyes lit up as we talked and he realized something deeper about how God was working in his life as well.

Talking about Jesus takes courage, but gratefully, we are never asked to do it in our own strength and power. That is a recipe for disaster! The sense we are getting in our prayer community is that now is a time of magnified grace (and multiplying ministry opportunities have borne that out). We’re being invited again and again to share in Jesus’ very own mission to help bring people to the Kingdom, and the Kingdom of God to people. With this acceleration is also the sense that the window is closing quickly. We’re not to dawdle or delay. The grace we need to act is at hand, and to quote DreamWorks’ *Madagascar*, we’ve got to “Move it, move it... Move It!” ♦

*CeCe Beauchamp is a worship leader and pastoral team member in Colorado Springs, CO. She is also a member of the Pentecost Today USA Board.*



## Pentecost Today Partners

**Thank you!** Thank you for your generous support of the NSC dba Pentecost Today USA! Your support made it possible for us to

hire our first full-time communications manager so that we can reach younger generations online and restoratively renovate the second floor of the Dove building for our new office space.

**Friends and Family.** As we move into this new season of expanding our mission, we 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 personally experience and share the fire of Pentecost.

**Planned Giving.** Did you know you can add “NSC dba Pentecost Today USA” to your will?

- *Bequest in a Will.* This popular way of planned giving may take the form of: a specified dollar amount; a percentage of your estate; or a percentage of the

remainder of your estate after other bequests have been fulfilled.

- *Gifts of Investment Securities.* This is an option if you have publicly-traded stocks or bonds with an appreciated value over your investment basis.
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- *Life Insurance Policy.* You may name “NSC dba Pentecost Today USA” as a beneficiary, gift a policy, or purchase a charitable gift rider.

### Why Give?

#### A Testimony from Bishop Emeritus Sam Jacobs.

*“I felt something was missing five years after my priestly ordination. I cried out to the Father and encountered the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Since then, I have sought to lead others to experience this grace. Now retired, I am supporting the NSC [dba Pentecost Today USA] planned giving with their focus on young adults and using media more effectively.”*

*-Bishop Emeritus Sam Jacobs, Louisiana*

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# VIDEO CAMPAIGN

## Pentecost Today USA



Pentecost Today USA (formerly the NSC) is partnering with the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, The Ark and The Dove, CMAX TV, and YOU in answering one life-changing question:

## “How has baptism in the Holy Spirit impacted your life and your ministry?”

*This national and global video campaign will feature the witness of clergy, religious, and lay people in each of the many different streams and realities of the Renewal.*

Visit [PentecostTodayUSA.org](http://PentecostTodayUSA.org) to share your story.



**BRING**

Bring baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church



**BUILD**

Build unity in the body of Christ



**SERVE**

Serve the physically and spiritually Poor