

Fueling the Fire of Renewal

Issue 1 2023

# PENTECOST *Today*

Magazine of Pentecost Today USA

## HEALING AND DELIVERANCE

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DAVID PETERMAN   JOHN GRESHAM   BISHOP SAM JACOBS  
ALICIA HARTLE   NEAL LOZANO   DEACON RALPH POYO



## Chairman's Corner

by Ron Riggins

## Our Healing Commission

Just before ascending, Jesus gave his healing commission: “lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” The biblical tradition to lay hands was used to bless children, ordain for ministry, dedicate one to the Lord’s service, and empower leadership succession. Jesus laid hands to heal the physically sick, deliver the demonically afflicted, and raise the dead. In Acts, the laying on of hands imparted the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Today the Renewal is recognized for continuing this ministry of laying on of hands for baptism in the Holy Spirit, divine empowerment, and healing.

How many times have we heard others express doubt that God can heal them of spiritual, emotional or physical sickness? Perhaps their skepticism stems from little or no faith, or the perception that God does not love them. Perhaps they are filled with unforgiveness or falsely believe their identity is in sickness. These are our mission territory.

We are called to be instruments of healing, so that the sick may know the love of God and have faith in the Lord’s healing mercy to face their affliction. As we exercise charisms in the power of the Holy Spirit, the faith of those who are sick can be strengthened and with new courage they pick up their mats and walk. While they may not receive the physical healing they seek, our desire is for them to receive the greatest gift—the fullness of the Spirit that reconciles them to God and leads to eternal life.

The harvest is abundant. At a time when many are sick and have little faith, let’s respond to our healing commission by laying hands so they might recover with the fullness of the Holy Spirit and an expectant faith to embrace divine mercy for the deepest healing God desires ... that of salvation.

*Come, Holy Spirit!* ♦



## Editor's Desk

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezner, SSND

Healing is the charism highlighted in this issue as well as in the Chairman’s Corner (p 2). It is often paired with the charism of deliverance. These two charisms are emphasized in *The Story of Unbound Ministry* by Neal Lozano (pp 14-15) and noted in the lives of St. Francis Xavier and St. Catherine of Siena (p 15).

New prayer groups still emerge and draw people to the love that Jesus pours out (p 3).

The story of *Charismatic Renewal in the Twentieth Century and Beyond* undergirds the fact that God is alive and active today (p 4). John Gresham offers theological perspectives on baptism in the Holy Spirit (p 5).

Bishop Sam Jacobs exhorts us to let our light shine. We have been called, chosen and gifted – it is not some other generation that has been called – it is all of us, living now, who are called to make a difference (p 6). Deacon Ralph Poyo expands on three distinct calls that we have received (p 19).

Meet the new Board members (p 13) elected in January. Read about the development of the Joshua Project and the opportunity to dialogue with a variety of national leaders (pp 9-11).

Consider attending *Jesus 2023* which will take place in Kansas City, October 20-22, (pp 12, 17). Whether or not you attended the 1977 Ecumenical Kansas City Conference you are invited to read about it (pp 16-17) to get a sense of *The Grace of the Place*. You can also read articles from the October 1977 Issue of *New Covenant* magazine by going to the Pentecost Today USA Website. Together we proclaim, Jesus is Lord! ♦



# PENTECOSTToday

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**BRING** baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, **BUILD** unity in the body of Christ, and **SERVE** the poor.

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People are searching;  
they want something new.

Forty-six years ago I met someone who changed my life. It was a “chance” meeting of a stranger on a sidewalk who, at the end of the conversation, asked me a question, “Do you know Jesus?”

That was a dark time for me. I balked at the remark but it struck a chord. I noted her address. A few weeks later I joined her at my first prayer meeting. I have been on fire and in love with Jesus ever since. When I moved to Florida, after retiring from teaching, I came to a vibrant parish and have been very active in various ministries. There was just one thing missing. For nine years of retirement I had no prayer community.

I felt a hunger in me to pray in the Spirit with others who share a love for Jesus and the Holy Spirit. After giving my witness at a parish mission right before the Pandemic, some people asked if I would start a prayer group. Two years later that still haunted me. This year I hosted a Parish Synod Listening Session in February. The desire for a prayer group was presented. The Lord was asking a second time to respond to the hunger. Having been in leadership for years, I was well aware of the responsibility of taking this on. In prayer and adoration I sought direction. As I re-read my prayer journal now, I see how carefully Jesus led me and continued to validate the mission.

By the end of May we had a small Core Team who met weekly to pray. Jesus told me he was orchestrating everything. I see how pieces of his plan came together. A new deacon arrived in March; he had been through Life in the Spirit and attended a charismatic prayer

## There Is A Deep Hunger Out There

by Debbie Walker

meeting for a while. He is on the core team. The others, a Faith Formation Lead teacher, and our Parish Music Minister, had experiences in discipleship, but were unfamiliar with the Renewal. We are blessed to have a Baptist minister join us periodically. We shared a craving that only coming together and building a culture of unity in prayer could satisfy. Through openness and mutual trust we became bonded with Jesus and each other.

Just as this process was beginning I stumbled upon the CHARIS website. The Spirit seemed to keep calling me back to the Integral Formation Program. I could not get it out of my head. On my third visit to the website, I enrolled. Little did I know then how significantly it would impact the formation of our core team!

After four months of praying, preparing, and learning together, *Spirit And Grace Prayer Group* was ready to open on the eve of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. There were eleven of us on the first night and six new people came the next week. Hurricane Ian interrupted us but this week we were back singing and praising!

There is a deep hunger out there. I think after the disruption of Covid people are searching. Every week I get another call in response to the ad in

the bulletin. Newcomers to the parish have sought it out. Some people have never experienced praying aloud in a group. We carefully and considerately bring them along, encouraging them to relax and enjoy the experience with no pressure. Today after Mass a member stopped me to say how vital it is for her to come to the meeting and be fed.

A core member recently shared, *I have been involved in other types of worship and fellowship. The one thing that has made all the difference with the Prayer Group is that I have begun to connect with the gift of praying in the Spirit. This has led me to approach situations with less anxiety and has elevated my prayer life beyond all expectations.*

This is the Shepherd’s plan. People are searching; they want something new. They may not know what it is that will satisfy their yearning. When they taste the love that Jesus pours out, and discover a relationship, they are hooked! I know. I have been hooked for 46 years! ♦

*Debbie Walker teaches Faith Formation to middle and high school students, who will receive their First Holy*



*Communion. She serves as a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion and serves on the St. Joseph Pastoral Council. Before moving to Florida, she served on the Service Committee to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*

# Charismatic Renewal in the Twentieth Century and Beyond

by David Peterman

Is God alive and active today? Are the Charismatic gifts real? Does God really want to give *me* these gifts?

As a young adult, I questioned my faith and the bible. I grew up in the Christian Community of God's Delight (CCGD), a Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community in Dallas where everyone around me was visibly living their faith. It was one thing to see faith lived out, but I had to decide for myself.

One day I read an interesting verse in Paul's letter to the Romans (8:28): "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." I was trying to love God, felt called, was attending Community events, and praying...so I decided to put God to the test. If Paul's words were true, then presumably even bad events in my life would work for good. I thought of the worst thing that had ever happened to me, and this event was a great test since I concluded that nothing good had, nor possibly could, come from it.

Soon afterwards, in a conversation with my mother, I asked her how our family got our start with Community. As if the Lord was smiling on me, she explained the exact event that I had thought of and explained how it had led her and my dad to start attending prayer meetings and eventually to our family joining Community. I was shocked. See, my entire family was deeply involved in the Community, and it was life-changing for all of us.

What God showed me that day was that he could take what I characterized as the worst thing in my life and turn it into the best thing, not only for me, but also for my entire family. Not only did I conclude that Paul was correct, but on that day, I was further convinced that God was alive, intervening in my life, and investing in a relationship of love. So it is with every single one of us, his children!

In the same way that I questioned my family's encounter with the Charismatic Renewal, I asked the broader question "Why now?" Why had God decided to pour forth his Holy Spirit, as in a second Pentecost, in my lifetime? Why not 200 years ago...or 200 years from now?

That led me to the stories of Blessed Elena Guerra, Pope Leo XIII, Topeka Kansas, Bethel Bible College, Charles Fox Parham, Stone's Folly, Azusa Street Revival, and the Duquesne weekend. This short article cannot do justice to those stories, but the more I read, the more it sounded like my own story. God wanted his people to know that he IS ALIVE, that he is very active today, and that he very much

wants to impart his charismatic gifts to every one of us. His eternal hope is that we turn to him, surrender to him, and ask for the extraordinary charisms (1 Cor 12) with which he wants to empower us!

Proof is found in looking into the story of the emergence of the Charismatic Renewal in the twentieth century. It started with Blessed Elena Guerra writing letters to Pope Leo XIII, pleading for him to pray for a new Pentecost. Pope Leo did so on January 1, 1901, calling the whole Church to join him in praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit using the words of: *Veni Creator Spiritus*: Come Creator Spirit. God responded almost immediately by sending his Holy Spirit upon students at Bethel Bible College in Topeka, Kansas at a place known as Stone's Folly. This outbreak of spiritual gifts spread and grew at the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles, recognized as the start of the Pentecostal movement. Later, in a well-chronicled event, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon college students and professors at a retreat in Duquesne at the Ark and the Dove retreat center (now home of *Pentecost Today USA*) who were attending a retreat there in 1967. This event sparked the spread of the Charismatic Renewal to the Catholic Church, where it is now estimated that over 100 million people have been baptized in the Spirit and are living transformed lives.

If we read the details about the people in this story (one source is Lee Defendorf's *It's All in God's Plan*) we learn that Blessed Elena Guerra and all the others were normal people like you and me living out their faith. It was God, who is so in love with his children, who is intervening, answering prayers, pouring out his Holy Spirit and investing in relationships of love with everyone who will engage him.

What is our response to this proof that God is alive and active today, pouring out his charismatic gifts on everyone? Our Holy Father Pope Francis provides the answer. His top priority for the Renewal is that we share baptism in the Holy Spirit with the entire Church (6/8/2019). He was quoted in a morning meditation (5/9/16) as saying, "To many unaware Christians, the Holy Spirit is a perfect stranger." Our Holy Father is asking us to be active in introducing the Holy Spirit and his powerful spiritual gifts to our family and neighbors. To specifically bring our friends and loved ones with us to Mass, prayer meetings, bible studies, healing services... give them our personal testimony and demonstrate the charismatic gifts. This is our personal charge...to demonstrate that God is alive and active today and empowering us with his charismatic gifts! ♦



David Peterman (Jr.), SFO, is married, father of five daughters, and serves as the overall coordinator of the Christian Community of God's Delight in Dallas Texas. David also serves as the President of the Board for Mount St. Michael Catholic School in Dallas, on the council of Pentecost Today USA, and is a leader of the North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities.

# Jesus Baptizes with the Holy Spirit

by John Gresham

All four gospels recount the words of John the Baptist about the coming Messiah who will “baptize with the Holy Spirit.” In Acts, this promise is repeated by Jesus himself. The Greek preposition used in these passages can be translated as “in” or “with.” Thus, we can refer to the baptism “in” or “with” the Spirit. What then does “baptize” mean? Based on the meanings of the Greek word “baptizo,” we can say that Jesus comes to dip, immerse, plunge, drench and overwhelm us with the Holy Spirit!

## The Sacramental View

The sacrament of Baptism is sometimes described as baptism in the Spirit. In contrast to John’s baptism in water as a sign of repentance, Christian baptism is a baptism in water and Spirit. The Sacrament of Baptism makes us temples of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is completed by Confirmation which the Catechism describes as an outpouring of the Spirit to perpetuate the grace of Pentecost in the Church. However, it is one thing to be “given” the gift of the Spirit in the sacraments, it is another thing to existentially “receive” that gift in personal experience. When the disciples were baptized in the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, they experienced a life-transforming immersion in the Spirit. They were anointed with power from on high, interiorly filled by the Spirit within, broke out in praise, spoke in tongues, and began to proclaim the gospel with boldness. For them, baptism in the Spirit was something experienced.

## The Experiential View

Just as the disciples received an experience of the Spirit on Pentecost, we too can experience the Spirit in our own personal Pentecost. In this view, baptism in the Spirit is an experience of

being immersed and filled with the Holy Spirit, characterized by surrender to the Lord Jesus, awareness of the Father’s love, and overflow of the Spirit’s power often manifested by tongues and other charismatic manifestations.

There is debate in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as how best to understand this experience in relation to the sacraments. Some emphasize the connection to the sacraments, describing baptism in the Spirit as a release or actualization of the graces of Baptism and Confirmation. Others distinguish between the sacramental graces of initiation and later free charismatic graces that St. Thomas described as new sendings of the Spirit. They describe baptism in the Spirit as a fresh outpouring of the Spirit bringing new graces of renewal and empowering.

These two perspectives are not mutually exclusive if we understand the sacrament of Baptism as the doorway into a life of ongoing prayer for ever new outpourings of the Spirit. Baptism in the Spirit is a new outpouring but one rooted in our adoption as children of God received in the sacrament of Baptism. As beloved children of God, we cry out with confidence, again and again, “Come Holy Spirit!”

## The Holistic View

There is another way to understand John’s proclamation that is broader and includes both the sacramental and experiential views. When John said the one coming will baptize in the Spirit, he was giving a summary statement of the overall meaning and purpose of the Messiah’s mission. Jesus’ mission is not finished at the cross, nor the resurrection nor even in his ascension. The goal of Jesus’ coming is Pentecost. Jesus longed to cast fire on the earth, the fire

of the Holy Spirit which renews all it touches (Luke 12:49). He told his disciples that if he went away something better would come (John 16:7). Christ ascends in order to continually pour out the Spirit upon his people (Acts 2:33; 1 Cor. 15:45). From this perspective, baptism in the Holy Spirit describes the goal and fruit of Jesus’ mission as forming a people filled with the Spirit and anointed with power to be agents of proclamation, healing, and renewal until Christ comes again. ♦



John Gresham 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.

## Prayer Card



**The Lord your God  
is in your midst,  
a warrior who  
gives victory;**

**He will rejoice over  
you with gladness,**

**He will renew you  
in His love;**

**He will exalt over you  
with loud singing as  
on a day of festival.**



**Zephaniah 3:17**

# Gifted to Make a Difference

by Bishop Sam Jacobs



**It's our turn to be the light of the world!**

A 2018 NSC Conference evangelization team

On the day of Pentecost St. Peter made a prophetic statement. After his anointed homily, the listening crowds asked what should they do to respond to God's message of salvation. He said: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:38-39). Praise God! This gift of the Spirit is meant for every generation.

Those of you who are reading this article have already been baptized in the

Holy Spirit. This prophetic promise has been fulfilled in your life. In the understanding of the scriptures the gift you have received is to be given. God didn't pour out his Spirit upon us just to sanctify us. He anointed and empowered us with his gifts to bring others into the awareness of God's promise of the Spirit to them.

Jesus didn't disciple the twelve and the seventy-two just for their sake. He formed them and sent them ahead of him to announce the Good News of God's love. They were to prepare the way for the fuller message of Jesus, which would transform the hearts of the hearers. Jesus has done the same to us for the same purpose.

I remember a prophetic word God gave me at a National Conference of the Charismatic Renewal. At first, I hesitated to give it, because it was so strong of a word. But through the encouragement of another spirit-filled person I spoke this word. "My people, I have blessed you with the outpouring of my Holy Spirit. I have gifted and empowered you. I didn't give you my gifts just to make you feel good. I gave them to you to make a difference in the lives of others. If you do not use my gifts, I will give them to others who will."

What good are the gifts of the Holy Spirit if, after they have been received, they become dormant within us? Could the words of Jesus about salt be applicable here? "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot" (Mt 5:13).

It is God's plan for everyone to be filled with his Holy Spirit. But as is evidenced in the scriptures his plan is accomplished through others to reach those yet to be baptized in the Spirit. We know the effects of baptism in the Spirit in our own lives. We know how we became more "alive" as we yielded ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus and the power of his Spirit. As someone witnessed and evangelized us, so now it is our continual privilege to do the same for the people God puts in our path. It is our turn to be the light of the world. "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" (Mt 5:16).

As someone has said: If not you, who? If not now, when? If not the promise of the Holy Spirit, what? The vision of God given to the Church on the Day of Pentecost, proclaimed by Peter, is in our hands to continue to be spread to this generation. We have been called, chosen and gifted. In the words of St. Peter: "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear" (1 Pet 3:15-16). We are the now generation. With God's grace we can do it. ♦



*Bishop Sam Jacobs is the Retired Bishop Emeritus of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana. He is an Episcopal Consultant to Pentecost Today USA.*

## Intercessions

**May all leaders of Pentecost Today USA and CHARIS, be filled with the Spirit's wisdom, knowledge and discernment as they gather and inspire other leaders worldwide to lead God's people.**

**May the opportunities of the Joshua Project, Legacy of Fire Fellowship and Jesus 2023 fulfill the Father's desires for us beyond our wildest dreams.**

**May all of us hear his song over us that we may daily dance in the joy of the Lord.**

## An Invitation to Diocesan Liaisons to the Annual Convocation April 17-21, 2023

**B**aptism in the Holy Spirit as a current of grace will be our topic for the upcoming ADL Convocation; Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD will be presenting.

I am Jane Guenther, Chair of the Association of Diocesan Liaison's Steering Committee. There are six members of the committee, and we want to represent you well and work for the Association to have better unity and visibility across the Dioceses. I want to invite all Liaisons from across

the country to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, April 17-21, 2023. You can register at this link, <https://adl.regfox.com/2023-adl-convocation>. The Convocation is the annual gathering of those who are the liaison/chaplain to their (arch)bishop for charismatic renewal. This new publication that CHARIS USA has assembled is going to be sent to every (arch)diocese to help educate and foster this current of grace as normative for the whole Church. We gather as an association to help one another in the task we have been given. Praying with one another and learning what is happening across the country in the Renewal is a very blessed opportunity for renewal for each liaison. This year we will be having a time for all new liaisons to be oriented for the responsibility they have been given. Now is the time to encourage your bishop to appoint

someone and be assured they will be mentored at this gathering. We hope you can join us. We have also been having quarterly prayer meetings and those have been a wonderful way for us to remain connected throughout the year. I hope that the Lord will bring us together so that we can be instruments of his glory to one another and to those we serve. ♦



*Jane Guenther is the Director of the Catholic Renewal Center, Archdiocese of St. Louis, on the Executive Committee of the USCCB Eucharistic Revival and Chair of the Steering Committee for the Association of Diocesan Liaisons. She is the ADL delegate for CHARIS, Program Advisor for the Renewal Fellows Program and Director for the Seminary Formation Council.*



### Becoming Holy

FULLY ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT  
WITH BARBARA HEIL

Praise & Worship  
Inspirational Teaching  
Prayer Ministry

Date: Saturday, May 6, 2023  
Time: 8:00am - 4:30pm  
Place: Shakopee Area Catholic School  
2700 17th Ave E, Shakopee, MN

ALL ARE WELCOME!  
COME WITH AN OPENNESS TO BE ABUNDANTLY FILLED!

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH - FREE WILL OFFERING  
REGISTRATION: [WWW.CCRO-MSP.ORG](http://WWW.CCRO-MSP.ORG)

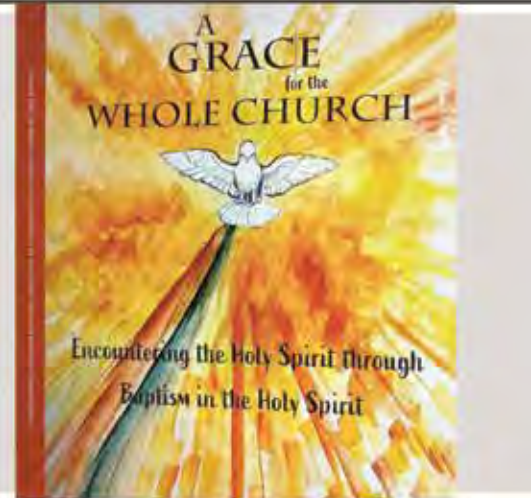
**HEALING SERVICE with Barbara Heil**  
including ADORATION with Father Michael Becker  
Time: 7:00pm  
Place: St. Mark's Catholic Church  
350 Atwood St. S, Shakopee, MN



"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10

**ADL CONVOCATION  
APRIL 17-21, 2023  
CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

Archdiocesan Liaisons gather to discuss the new  
CHARIS Document - Fr. Bob Hogan BBD, Presenter



# A Fruit of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal

by Sister Rita D'Souza, DLJC

When God poured out his Holy Spirit afresh on a group of university students gathered in the little upper room chapel at the retreat center in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania in 1967, little could we have imagined the fruit that this grace would bring to the Church.

## A New Religious Community

After almost 20 years of following the lead of the Holy Spirit and living the religious life, the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ received word from Rome that the Church had approved our constitutions.

This is an excerpt from Mother John Marie's book, *Laying the Foundation*: "In his homily, Bishop Matthiesen spoke of our making history as the first explicitly charismatic religious community to be accepted by the Church. '...this day, Sunday, April 7, 1991, this glorious day, this historic day, on which in a few minutes, we will witness the formal erection of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ as a Religious Institute of Diocesan Right.' He concluded his homily by saying, 'Today we are witnesses to an important ecclesial event in the life of the Diocese of Amarillo as well as in that of the universal Church.'"

## Identity and Charism

Shortly after this event, the then Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan came to the diocese of Amarillo and he wanted to meet us. I so clearly remember the day when he walked into our chapel at Prayer Town. What excitement filled our hearts! These words from a humble and great shepherd of the Church stayed with me: "You should be faithful to your identity, to your charism as a Community..."

That identity and charism is the fruit of the "current of grace" that was poured out upon the whole Church. Our identity is 100% Catholic, 100% Charismatic, 100% Franciscan, 100% Eucharistic and 100% Marian. We embrace and live it all! The charism given to us is prayer, praise and evangelization. We are contemplative by nature with evangelistic apostolates that flow from a life of deep prayer.

As our life revolves around liturgical, communal and personal prayer, for us evangelization then becomes a way of life. We long for people to come to know God who loves them so dearly. Whether on mission or at home, we try to live every moment in silent communion with God and offer every

prayer, sacrifice, and even mundane tasks for the salvation of souls.

## Foreign Missions

In 2004, we were returning from a School of Evangelization with Renewal Ministries in Michigan. On the way, we prayed with the intention of knowing what God was asking of us. Among other things, he wanted us to renew our missionary journeys to foreign countries. So it was decided that if God really wants this he would give us a sign and confirm it through an invitation to go on a foreign mission.

*Our identity is  
100% Catholic,  
100% Charismatic,  
100% Franciscan,  
100% Eucharistic  
and 100% Marian.  
We embrace  
and live it all!*

Hardly a week passed before we received two phone calls. First, Tom Edwards, a country coordinator for Renewal Ministries, called to ask if we could send Sisters to join his team on an evangelistic outreach to the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Then he called again and asked for a Sister to join the team for a mission to Tanzania. That year I went to Tanzania, East Africa; Sister Therese and Sister Joan went to the Czech Republic and Slovakia; and Sister Bernadette to Uganda.

Since then, I went to Tanzania and Kenya every year for the six years that followed with different Sisters accompanying me and then other Sisters continuing to go every year. Among the many blessings of this mission, God sent us Sister Mary Justin, a vocation from Tanzania, who is now a final professed Sister. Our missions continued to Brazil, El Salvador, Trinidad and to the underground church in a country I cannot name.

Foreign missions were part of our beginnings. Mother John Marie went to Japan, Russia, Poland, India, Mexico and other countries when it was not easy to take the Gospel there. She relied on the Holy Spirit to lead her and guide her as she sowed the seeds of faith generously in many different settings.

Our religious community is one fruit of the Charismatic Renewal that has in turn borne and continues to bear abundant fruit in the Church and in the world. ♦



*Sister Rita D'Souza, DLJC has been a member of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ for 37 years. She served on the General Council for 15 years, worked as Director of Mission Advancement and since 2014, is assigned to their local house in Monterrey, Mexico. She has a heart for evangelization and winning souls for Christ.*



# 2022 Highlights

We magnify and praise the Lord for each Board, Council, and Team Member and each Volunteer, Supporter, and Prayer Warrior who worked together to **BRING** baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, **BUILD** unity in the body of Christ, and **SERVE** the poor in 2022. Here and in the following pages are highlights of some of the MANY ways the Lord is opening doors for us to take hold of a NEW and ONGOING Pentecost in our nation. **"...you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."** -Acts 1:5

-In Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior, Alicia Hartle, Executive Director, NSC/Pentecost Today USA



**1** As U.S. publisher, printed 6,000 copies of two CHARIS/ICCRS books: *Doctrinal Commission on Baptism in the Holy Spirit* and *Doctrinal Commission on Deliverance Ministry*.



**2** **Legacy of Fire Fellowship** launched in July 2022 in honor of Walter and Claire Matthews celebrating their 30+ years of serving and leading the NSC/Pentecost Today USA.

**3** The **Renewal Leaders Facebook Group** is growing rapidly with 1000+ participants sharing, asking questions, praying and connecting with each other from across the nation.



**4** **THE JOSHUA PROJECT:** Building a **Phone App** (thanks to the Hawaiian Renewal Center!) making it easy to find and share pastoral and theological resources, prayer meetings, Renewal Centers, Diocesan Liaisons, Covenant Communities and MORE.



**5** Built **CHARIS USA Communications** infrastructure and supported **CHARIS USA Conference** administration - supporting different ethnic streams and realities of the Renewal in working together in unity.



**6** **THE JOSHUA PROJECT: Renewal Fellows Program** "Duquesne Orientation Pilot Retreat" took place in September 2022 with Patti Mansfield sharing her testimony with participants.

**7** Created 44 short videos for the **CHARIS International Integral Formation Program** with Bill Snyder, Fr. Levi Hartle, and Alicia Hartle serving as hosts of the English version of the worldwide courses.



**Integral Formation Program**

**8** **THE JOSHUA PROJECT** surveys inspired adding a **"Bishops Corner"** and emphasis on the **charismatic gifts** in *Pentecost Today Magazine* in 2022.



# THE JOSHUA PROJECT

## NATIONAL LEADERS SURVEY

Each tool, resource, and pilot of THE JOSHUA PROJECT is being discerned and developed in light of the vision, wisdom, prayer, and ideas shared via:

- 1) Overall survey results
- 2) Individual survey responses
- 3) Discussion forums

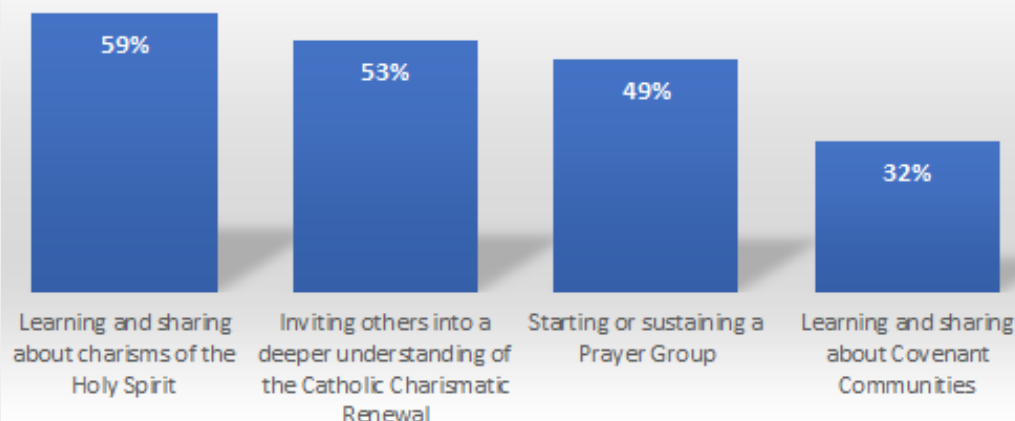
All 777 Renewal Leaders who registered for the 2021 National Leaders Meeting were invited to complete a survey in preparation for THE JOSHUA PROJECT Discussion Forums.

Exactly 695 Renewal Leaders responded, and here are highlights of their Renewal involvement and survey responses.

### Renewal Involvement:



### Areas of Greatest Need & Interest:



## NATIONAL DISCUSSION FORUMS

Over 150 Renewal Leaders from across the nation participated in online discussion forums led by Board and Council Members of Pentecost Today USA at the first National Discussion Forums of THE JOSHUA PROJECT in December of 2021.

Each discussion forum focused on needs and opportunities to BRING. BUILD. SERVE. together and to reach and raise up younger generations in 1) different realities of the Renewal and 2) different parts of the Church.



## NATIONAL LEADERS SURVEY RESPONSE

After THE JOSHUA PROJECT launched with an army of FIRE STARTERS' sacrificial support and prayer, the Lord opened doors for us to initially respond to the 2021 National Leaders Survey with 1) adding charismatic gift teaching, witness, and saint feature pages to the upcoming issues of our magazine, 2) launching weekly quotes from the ICCRS/CHARIS Doctrinal Commission on Baptism in the Holy Spirit to our social media posts (#TheologyThursday) 3) launching a test phase of a Phone App that will feature tools and resources to start and sustain a Prayer Group and connect with local Prayer Groups, Renewal Centers, Ministries, and Covenant Communities.

## NATIONAL DISCUSSION FORUM RESPONSE

Soon after the December 2021 Discussion Forums, many participants shared a desire for further discussion, prayer, and collaboration - some with great needs for help and others with a deep desire to share ideas and tools. This led to the launch of Ongoing Regional Discussion Forums in 2022 and Collaboratives in 2023.

THE JOSHUA PROJECT continues to expand with:

- 1) Tools, resources, and pilots including Renewal Fellows Program, Phone App, & More [BRING]
- 2) Ongoing Regional Discussion Forums [BUILD]
- 3) Collaboratives Serving Specific Needs [SERVE]

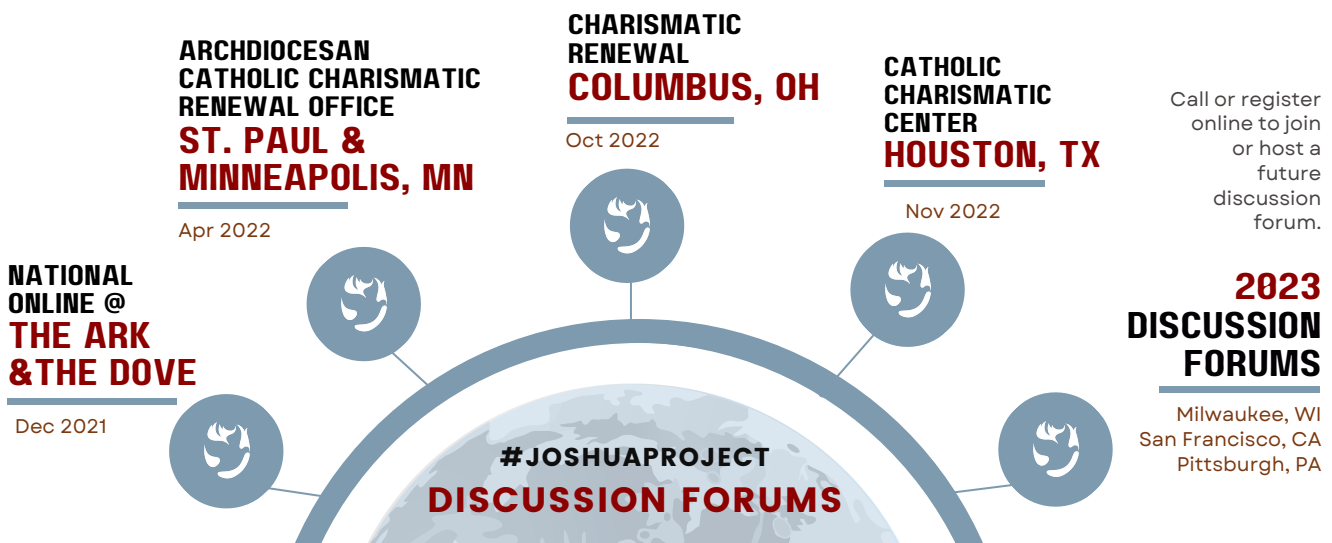
## ONGOING REGIONAL DISCUSSION FORUMS

In 2022, the Regional Discussion Forums of THE JOSHUA PROJECT launched in partnership with Renewal Centers hosting small, informal prayer-filled gatherings.

Renewal Leaders and Church Leaders including clergy, religious, seminarians, and lay persons met, shared, and prayed together in an extraordinary prophetic act of unity - some meeting for the first time ever and some coming together for the first time in decades.

In addition to the wisdom, ideas, and needs shared at each of the ongoing Regional Discussion Forums, major graces of these small in-person discussion forums have included:

- 1) Spontaneous prayer ministry and fellowship among participants.
- 2) Prophetic words received for cities remembered and proclaimed.
- 3) Spontaneous intercession for bishops, dioceses, and regions.
- 4) Powerful testimonies shared proclaiming the work of the Holy Spirit in different realities of the Renewal and parts of the Church.



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Bishop Peter Smith      Yoline Scutt      John Beaulieu      Angelica Macias      Archbishop Joseph Naumann

## Recent Elections

### NSC/Pentecost Today USA Board Election

The NSC/Pentecost Today USA Board Member Election took place on January 14, 2023. Those who were elected as new Board Members of NSC/Pentecost Today USA were:



#### Valeria Alves

*of Warrendale, PA*  
Former Council Member and missionary from Aliança de Misericórdia (Alliance of Mercy – a Brazilian Covenant Community)

#### Dan Dirkes

*of Ann Arbor, MI*  
Former Council Member and founder of www.2TIM4.com Ministries



#### Fr. Killian Loch, OSB

*of Latrobe, PA*  
Former Council and Committee Member and Chairman of the Board and current Prior and Vocations Director of St. Vincent Archabbey.



#### In Memory of Mark Nehrbas

Mark H. Nehrbas died on January 16, 2023.

Mark served on the National Service

Committee for Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States from 2001-2005. Prior to that he represented Franciscan University on the National Advisory Committee to the National Service Committee, a post he held for nine years.

He is remembered as a wonderful human being, a prayerful man, respectful of others, welcoming, loving, and looking out for the other person. He was

**Bill Snyder**  
*of Milwaukee, WI*  
Former Council Member and founder of Patchwork Heart Ministry



#### Sister Michael Marie Truong

*of Prayertown, TX*  
Former Council Member and a sister of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ

Re-elected to an additional term of three years were Deacon Ralph Poyo of Georgetown, TX, and Jorge Samaniego of Honolulu, HI. Completing their terms as Board Members in 2022 and January 2023, we thank and honor: Bill Marcotte, Jessica Navin and Fr. Anthony Ouellette. May Jesus be magnified in and through each one of these mighty men and women of God and their many ministries! Pictures and bios of all current Board and Council Members of Pentecost Today USA can be found at: <https://www.pentecosttodayusa.org/our-team/>

### CHARIS USA Member Election

On January 16, 2023, the Board Members of Pentecost Today USA along with about 55 Renewal Leaders from across the nation and from different realities of the Renewal attended the Charis USA National Assembly. During the meeting, a document called “A Grace for the Whole Church: Encountering the Holy Spirit through Baptism in the Holy Spirit” was discussed and new members were appointed and elected to serve as members of the CHARIS USA National Service of Communion:

- Angelica Macias & Sister Michael Marie Truong, DLJC – *Youth*
- Paul Dinolfo – *Ecumenical*
- Walter Matthews – *National Ministry*
- Bob Thornton and Chuck Hornsby – *Charismatic Covenant Community*
- Fr. Bob Hogan – *Clergy/Religious*
- Jane Guenther – *Association of Diocesan Liaisons*
- Bob Canton – *Filipino Alliance*
- Marie Josee Joseph – *Haitian Council (CRCCHO)*
- Monsignor Joseph Malagrega and Kathia Arango – *Hispanic Committee (CNSH)*
- Fr. Cheong Houg Sik – *Korean National Service Committee*
- Deacon Ralph Poyo and Alicia Hartle – *Pentecost Today USA (NSC)*

Please pray for each representative of the CHARIS USA National Service of Communion as they work together in unity in Christ to BRING baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church.

### 2022 CHARIS Americas Intercontinental Gathering

The first-ever CHARIS Americas Intercontinental Gathering took place on October 26-27, 2022, in El Salvador. Holy and humble servant leaders came together in unity from countries in North, Central, and South America to pray, intercede, seek the Lord, and establish the CHARIS Intercontinental Service of Communion. See the twenty-seven members' names and picture, visit: <https://www.charis.international/en/charis-continental-service-of-communion-america/>

# Renewal Leads to Freedom: The Story of Unbound Ministry

by Neal Lozano

God has plans for each of us that are bigger than we can imagine. In January of 1970 I was baptized in the Spirit and my life changed. I experienced the love of God rushing into my heart and the emptiness and purposelessness leaving. I led a prayer group, then a small community, and an outreach to college students. Later, I worked for a city wide renewal movement. I was never on the conference circuit as a speaker and most national leaders did not know my name. I was not looking for a spotlight, I just wanted to do the next thing that the Lord had for me. Mostly that meant trying to help the people he brought into my life.

As I sought to grow in my own personal freedom and to help others be set free, the Lord prompted me to write a book—Unbound: A Practical Guide to Deliverance. This changed the direction of my life. Now I lead Heart of the Father Ministries, which brings the message of the Five Keys of Unbound ministry around the world. There are Unbound ministry teams in over 30 nations. Unbound has been translated into 20 languages. God is full of surprises! I have learned that his plans and his timing are always the best.

I would like to share with you a brief introduction to Unbound ministry. Many of you have heard about Unbound and might be wondering what is unique about this approach to healing and deliverance. Unbound offers a fresh perspective on many of the principles of ministry that I learned in the Renewal over many years.

Unbound is a ministry of healing and freedom that helps people to break free from their spiritual bondage. Unbound gives people the opportunity to tell their story in a safe and loving environment, surrender to God's power, offer forgiveness to others, and to experience God's tender love.

In an Unbound ministry session, participants meet with a team that is taught to listen to their story with compassion and love and to recognize the chains that hold them back. The team leads those who seek freedom through the Five Keys, which are five responses that invite the power of Jesus to set hearts free.

Recently I had only ten minutes during a break to pray with a man whom I will call George. He shared with me that he was abandoned by his father while in the womb, and his grandparents shamed him all his life. He wanted freedom because he was not able to bond with his son, whom he really loved and with whom he wanted to connect. Everyone deserves more than ten minutes to be listened to but that is what I had.

Based on what he shared with me I led him through the five Keys of Unbound.

## *The Five Keys of Unbound Ministry are: Repentance and Faith*

Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a changed life. I learned about this a long time ago during a Life in the Spirit seminar. It involves turning from sin and surrendering to God. Faith is receiving God's revelation in Jesus and trusting in him.

## *Forgiveness*

When we walk by the Spirit, he shows us how important it is to let go of resentments. Forgiveness means giving up the right to hold on to our offenses. When we forgive in Jesus' name, we allow God's mercy to heal us by letting go of bitterness and resentment.

## *Renunciation*

Renunciation means we make no place for sin and darkness in our lives. We take our stand against the kingdom of darkness by specifically renouncing sin, deception, idols, and evil spirits in the name of Jesus. Renunciation breaks the power of darkness in our lives.

## *Authority*

Speaking out loud, we command every evil spirit that was renounced to go in the name of Jesus. We dispel the darkness by exercising our authority as sons and daughters of God, and we claim the victory of Jesus over our enemies.

## *The Father's Blessing*

The Father's Blessing is an invitation to experience God's heart toward us as he imparts to us our identity, purpose, and destiny. We speak words of blessing that come from the Father's heart for the person and fill them with God's love. When these Five Keys are applied to a person's story in an Unbound ministry session, addressing their wounds and areas of bondage, the power of Jesus is released to heal and set them free. When I ministered to George, I first led him in a prayer of surrender to the Lord. Then, I led him to pronounce forgiveness towards his father and grandparents. Then, he renounced some things like abandonment, rejection, an orphan spirit, homelessness, and the lie that he does not belong. He also renounced loneliness and isolation. When I gave the command the first time, he was not experiencing freedom. After waiting on the Lord and

reflecting on his story, I asked him to repeat this renunciation: “In the name of Jesus, I break the power of any negative word spoken over me when I was conceived, in the womb and at birth.” I affirmed him by speaking the command again. This time, freedom came over him like a flood. I prayed and spoke to George words of the Father’s affirmation. The Father who loved him from the moment of his conception, breathing life into him. I spoke to him of the Father, who celebrated his birth and wept with him in his pain and so much more. When I hugged him at the end of our ministry time, I noticed that his wife who was present began to cry. In that moment, George received a father’s embrace. As they walked away, she kept repeating, “It was the hug!” I do not know what she saw or felt at that moment, but I know that George receiving a human touch, especially from a father, is what she had been praying for. At Heart of the Father Ministries, we train people to use these Five Keys during Unbound ministry sessions, which are much longer and in depth than the example I have shared. However, the Five Keys can be used in a variety of contexts, and many people are experiencing the power of the gospel as they take hold of the freedom Jesus won for them. ♦

To learn more about the Five Keys of Unbound, visit: [www.heartofthefather.com](http://www.heartofthefather.com) Recommended reading: *Unbound: A Practical Guide to Deliverance, Resisting the Devil, and Abba’s Heart*.



Neal Lozano serves as Executive Director of Heart of the Father Ministries. He is the author of eight books including the life-changing book, *Unbound: A Practical Guide to Deliverance, Resisting the Devil, and Abba’s Heart*. Neal and his wife Janet have four married sons and grandchildren.

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Neal Lozano      Matt Lozano      Fr. Antonio Ritaccio

## St. Francis Xavier equips the children

by Fr. Boniface Hicks, OSB



St. Francis Xavier was one of the founders of the Jesuits and the great apostle to the far east where he brought the Gospel to India, the Philippines and Japan. In India he ministered to the point of exhaustion, baptizing countless people. In his great need he equipped others, even children, to help him:

"As I could not go myself, I sent round children whom I could trust in my place. They went to the sick persons, assembled their families and neighbours, recited the Creed with them, and encouraged the sufferers to conceive a certain and well-founded confidence of their restoration. Then after all this, they recited the prayers of the Church. To make my tale short, God was moved by the faith and piety of these children and of the others, and restored to a great number of sick persons health both of body and soul. How good He was to them! He made the very disease of their bodies the occasion of calling them to salvation, and drew them to the Christian faith almost by force!"

This saint provides a great lesson for us, calling on the lay faithful, even children, to support his apostolic work of deliverance and healing. These faithful children healed both soul and body by calling on the power of God, and their trusting hearts made them instruments of evangelization and salvation for the Indian people.

## St. Catherine of Siena: A Saint for Healing and Deliverance

by Neal Lozano

St. Catherine of Siena was one of the saints that God used powerfully in the ministry of deliverance. She was able to help many people who were afflicted by demons, even those who could not be helped by their priest. She stood in faith and confidence in her authority as a child of God, and did not back down when the demons threatened to hurt her. Patrick Reis, Director of Encounter Ministries, recently wrote a book called *Supernatural Saints*. In the chapter on St. Catherine, Patrick recalls the ways that God was glorified and victorious over the enemy through her ministry. ♦



Art by Tracy L. Christianson

# Kansas City Conference, 1977

## JESUS IS LORD!

by Sr. Mary Anne Schaezger, SSND

**Jesus Christ is Lord!** In 1977, a gathering of about 52,000 people came together for a conference in Kansas City (more than a dozen denominations), of which 50% were Catholic.

Preacher to the Papal Household since 1980, Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap., writes in his book *Sober Intoxication of the Spirit: Filled with the Fullness of God* (p 131):

The most vivid memory I have of that famous ecumenical charismatic conference in Kansas City in 1977 was the banner that filled the sky from one end of the stadium to the other: “Jesus is Lord.” I knew this title belonged to Jesus, but to see His lordship lived and celebrated by all those people was a revelation for me. The Holy Spirit has raised up the charismatic renewal chiefly for this: to rediscover and proclaim that Jesus is Lord. That is truly the defining act of our Pentecost.

**The Conference:** In the October 1977 issue of *New Covenant* (NC) magazine there are 11 pages devoted to the conference. Conference Chairman, and NSC/Pentecost Today USA Executive Director at the time, Kevin Ranaghan gave the main address on Wednesday night and “discussed the unusual spectacle of Christians from widely divergent – and sometimes antagonistic – backgrounds coming together to proclaim their oneness: ‘We don’t exactly have a reputation for mutual love, unity and brotherhood. We’re known to think differently, to act differently, to pray differently, to sing differently, to dress differently....Yet on all of us, in spite of

our divisions and separation, God has poured out his Holy Spirit” (NC, pp 4-5). Morning sessions were held in downtown Kansas City, by the individual denominations, during which each could express its unique identity. Afternoon workshops were offered by various denominations but open to everyone to attend. The evening sessions were held at the Kansas City Arrowhead Stadium for all. In the *New Covenant* articles (p 6) there is a reference to the fact that nearly two-thirds of the 78,000 seats were filled each of the four nights.

Sharon Poppleton, Covenant Community Member, wrote of her experience, “I know for me, the Kansas City Conference gave a vision and a hope. Every year or so, I watch the video of the conference online. I weep remembering the unity experienced. I weep when I think of the Father’s desire for his children to love each other. I weep for the pain of the Son’s broken body, and the hope that the Holy Spirit has put into all of our hearts is rekindled....You could say that those who were in Kansas City in 1977 experienced a tangible awareness of unity in the Spirit that left you forever changed....For those five days we were indeed one in the Spirit, one in the Lord!”

**Three Rivers of Renewal:** By 1970 there were three major groupings of Pentecostals: The Classical Pentecostals who were the direct descendants of the Topeka and Los Angeles outpourings; the Protestant denominational and independent Charismatics; and the Catholic Charismatics. And they were all talking to each other! (*The Charismatic Century*, [TCC] Jack Hayford, p 232).

**Vision for a Conference of Conferences:** Jack Hayford refers to the 1977 Kansas City Conference, July 20-24, as the “conference of conferences.” “Since so many of the various Charismatic groups in the denominations met for annual conferences, why not have them all meet together in one city and hold their own sessions during the daytime with joint sessions in the evening?” (ICC, p 237). A committee composed of the ten different denominational and non-denominational groups who would be part of the conference planned for three years.

**Holiness:** Friday evening’s session was devoted to the theme of holiness. “Cardinal Leo Joseph Suenens, of Malines-Brussels, Belgium, further advanced the theme of holiness as complete surrender to God. ‘Christians,’ the cardinal said, ‘need eyes to see, ears to hear, a face full of love, hands to reach out, a heart to embrace, and feet to go forth and spread the good news.’”

“Impressing on his hearers the importance of dedicating their lives to God’s service, Cardinal Suenens said, ‘The world is dying because it doesn’t know the name of its Savior, Jesus Christ. We have to be Christianized again, in depth, so that the world will see something of the Lord shining through us’” (NC p 8).

**Holy Ghost breakdown:** *Christianity Today* captured the proclamation of the name and Lordship of Jesus that took place soon after Cardinal Suenens’ exhortation in this way: “Then came Bob Mumford of Cupertino, California, an independent Bible teacher who travels widely in charismatic circles. At one



point he challenged Christians to drop their fearfulness and defensive mentality. He held his Bible aloft and said: ‘If you take a sneak look at the back of the book—glory, hallelujah—Jesus wins!’ The crowd began cheering. ‘Glory to God! Jesus is Lord!’ Mumford shouted, setting off the kind of thunderous response the Chiefs get after a touchdown. The lights on the giant scoreboard flashed repeatedly, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and ‘Praise the Lord.’ Next the scoreboard displayed pictures of the face of Jesus and of a crowd with uplifted arms worshipping him” (August 12, 1977, p 36). This lasted for close to 15 minutes. Dorothy Ranaghan commented, “I’ve never heard anything quite like it. It was the high of the conference and such a show of unity. I’ll never forget it.”

**Worship:** The *New Covenant* article (p 6) relates that “Music was one of the most notable aspects of the worship at

the conference, as well an expression of the unity among the participants.... Traditional hymns and familiar songs of the Catholic charismatic renewal alternated with favorites from other streams.” Dorothy Ranaghan related that, “The worship alone in a gathering that size was extraordinary.”

Rita Dockry shared, “It was amazing because it was a huge stadium full of people who love Jesus, all different denominations, worshipping together.... people were on their knees, praying. You could feel the power of the Lord!” Norma Cahill recalls that it was “so awesome to see that many people from various backgrounds. It was exciting to see what God was doing!”

Fr. Kilian McDonnell, O.S.B. referred to the experience of Spirit baptism as an “ecumenical grace” that created the active pursuit of visible Christian Unity (ICC, p 233).

**Prophetic Word:** During the conference, one of the prophetic Words was proclaimed by Ralph Martin: “Come before me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit for the body of my Son is broken. Come before me with tears and mourning for the body of my Son is broken. The light is dim, my people are scattered – the body of my Son is broken. I gave all I had in the Body and Blood of my Son. It spilled on the earth. The body of my Son is broken. Turn from the sins of your fathers and walk in the ways of my Son. Return to the plan of your father. Return to the purpose of your God. The body of my Son is broken.” ♦



Visit [PentecostTodayUSA.org/events/KC1977](https://PentecostTodayUSA.org/events/KC1977) to view the full *New Covenant* article.

*Sr. Mary Anne Schaezger is Editor of Pentecost Today magazine.*

## JESUS 2023: Drink of One Spirit

On the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, registration was officially launched for the *Jesus 2023 Conference: National Leaders Meeting*. The conference will be held October 20-22, 2023, at Savior of the World Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

The conference will open Friday night with a talk from Ralph Martin entitled, “The Body of Christ is Broken” leading into a **Penance and Healing Service**. Archbishop Joseph Naumann and Bishop Peter Smith will celebrate Holy Mass, and throughout the weekend there will be prayer ministry, fellowship, and intentional opportunities to connect with Renewal Leaders from across the nation.

As one Body in Christ, we will drink deeply of the Holy Spirit with **Praise and Worship** during the breaks throughout the day on Saturday, and throughout the night on Friday and Saturday nights (participation is optional). On Saturday, a **Prophetic Intercession and Worship Workshop** will move into an afternoon of staying and praying (**Intercession**) or going out and sharing an invitation to the evening session in the streets of Kansas City (**Street Evangelization**).

Often the Lord places people in our path who are desperately thirsty to receive the Spirit. As you pray about coming to Jesus 2023, will you ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you with three people to intentionally pray to receive the Holy Spirit MORE deeply? May Jesus 2023 ignite the FIRE of God’s LOVE and POWER and PRESENCE in the nation and in the world as the Body of Christ comes together in unity to pray and drink of ONE SPIRIT.

In the world, in the Church, and in the Renewal, we are parched. We long for our thirst to meet Jesus’ thirst... we long to be satisfied. *As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God (Ps 42:1).*

In our lives and in our ministries, we can sometimes feel that our well has dried up and we are wandering in a desert! Are you ready to drink deeply of life-giving water—the Living Water? *When he [Jesus] said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him (Jn 7:39).*

It is the Spirit of the Living God who brings a restoration of HOPE and abundant LIFE in Christ. Come, let us DRINK of one Spirit together at Jesus 2023 in Kansas City, October 20-22, 2023. All are welcome! *Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters (Is 55:1).* ♦



## From the Executive Director

by Alicia Hartle

### Newness of the Spirit

Each Lent (and Advent!) Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, the Preacher of the Papal Household since 1980, delivers homilies to Pope Francis and the Papal Household. In his first sermon of this Lent, Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap., focused on “the newness of the Spirit” and the need for **constant renewal and conversion**, both individually and in the Church as a whole.

Today in the midst of darkness and trials, we see the Holy Spirit bringing renewal and conversion in our nation, in the Church, and in the Renewal! *Veni, Creator Spiritus.*

### In the Nation...

On February 8, 2023, a 16-day **spontaneous spiritual revival** at Asbury University’s campus in Wilmore, Kentucky. Wilmore is home to 6,000 people, but it was hosting 50,000 to 70,000 during the revival. Revival continues as news of how the students (and eventually many people from different denominations and from across the nation and around the world) remained in the chapel continuously in a posture of praise, thanksgiving, and humility. A number of those who attended the Charismatic Leaders Fellowship meeting in Augusta testified to the centrality of the Holy Spirit rather than any one person leading the revival.

### In the Church...

On the Feast of Christ the King on November 20, 2022, following the Synod of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Archbishop Hebda sent a Post-Synodal Pastoral Letter to the Faithful of the Archdiocese. The letter was entitled “You Will Be My Witnesses: Gathered and Sent From the Upper

Room.” A Section was devoted to the importance of the Holy Spirit: “I encourage our pastors and their lay leaders to ask themselves this question: Is our parish ascending to the Upper Room of the parish each week only for the breaking of the bread and not for the outpouring of the Spirit? At stake is whether or not the fire of Pentecost will empower us to ‘go forth’ from the Upper Room of our parishes.” Archbishop Hebda writes that he has appointed a Vicar of Charisms in order to cultivate the charismatic gifts in the diocese and invites parishes to engage the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office and many other ministries within the Archdiocese which “carry the fire of the Spirit at the heart of their apostolates”.

### In the Renewal...

Increasingly throughout 2022 and now in 2023, many different realities and members of the Charismatic Renewal are actively and zealously building unity in the Body of Christ.

This took place through a number of Spirit-filled gatherings including:

- **January 2022 and 2023:** National CHARIS Assembly brought together increasingly wider participation of different realities and ethnic streams of the Renewal in Miami, FL.
- **February 2022 and 2023:** Charismatic Leaders Fellowship ecumenical gathering engaged international and national Covenant Community, Renewal Center, Prayer Group, and NSC/ Pentecost Today USA participants.
- **February 2022 and 2023:** North American Network of Catholic Charismatic Covenant Communities Moderator invited participation and initiated collaboration with NSC/ Pentecost Today USA, Sword of the Spirit, and People of Praise members. (Learn more at: <https://nanccc.org/>)

- **July 2022** – 1st CHARIS USA Conference: Different realities of Renewal and ethnic streams worked together to pray, plan, and serve in unity in Providence, RI.
- **October 2022** – 1st CHARIS Americas Intercontinental Assembly in El Salvador (*See page 11*).
- **The Joshua Project** – Regional Discussion forums brought different realities of the Renewal together (*See page 13*).

As we continue to pray for and take hold of the ever-new graces of the Holy Spirit, may we the Bride of Christ rise up and run to meet the Lord. *Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming* (Jl 2:1). ♦

The National Service Committee dba Pentecost Today USA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions to defray the cost of this publication are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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# Three Distinct Calls from the Holy Spirit

by Dcn. Ralph Poyo

**H**ow does one see what the invisible God is doing? How do we see evidence of the Holy Spirit moving in our lives, in our church, in our world? Jesus tells Nicodemus in John chapter three that in being born from above, one can see the Kingdom of God. Being born of the Holy Spirit connects us to God through our spirits and provides a conduit of communication. Without this connection, we lack the knowledge and power to live in God's kingdom on earth.

Let us consider three distinct calls that the Holy Spirit desires to lead us into.

## 1 Grow In Authentic Faith

For many of us, the covid pandemic revealed how shallow our faith in God really has been. When the world

was gripped by a spirit of fear, the Church reacted very much the same way. How has the Holy Spirit used this to peel away any false or lukewarm Christianity and left us exposed to the truth that we don't have the faith in Christ we thought we did? He is calling us into deeper faith!

## 2 Grow Deeper In My Love

Many in the church have lost the "fear of the Lord" and replaced it with the "fear of man." Are we more afraid of what others think of us than what God thinks? Are we willing to sacrifice our reputations, livelihood, and our lives? If we truly draw closer to Christ, we will draw closer to sacrifice and suffering. He is calling us into deeper love.

## 3 Live More In My Spirit

In the Church, have we moved the Holy Spirit to the periphery of parish life? How often do we hear the Holy Spirit preached about from the pulpit? Are we getting catechesis on the Third Person of the Trinity? The early Church understood real conversion to include the manifestations of the Spirit's presence (Acts 8:16). Are we walking in the power of the Spirit? Jesus is calling us into deeper life in his Spirit! O Lord, give us the courage to respond to your call. ♦

*Dcn. Ralph Poyo is the Founder of New Evangelization Ministries. He is a member of the Pentecost Today USA Board.*



## Honoring 2022 Supporters!

Our mission and work (including *Pentecost Today Magazine!*) are entirely sustained by God's mighty provision through the prayer and offerings of many whose lives have been transformed by the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit. Please join us in honoring and praying for each supporter who gave a gift in 2022. May the Lord return the blessing of their gift to them a thousandfold—and pour out ABUNDANT blessings and LIFE in the Spirit.



## Donor Relations Team Leader

**Fr. Killian Loch, OSB**

We are humbled and overjoyed to introduce Fr. Killian Loch, O.S.B. as our new Donor Relations Team Leader. The Donor Relations Team ministers to our

supporters through phone calls, listening to vision and ideas for our mission, prayer ministry, letters, and more.

Father Killian Loch, O.S.B., is a monk of Saint Vincent Archabbey since 2010, and serves as Prior and Director of Vocations. Prior to moving to Saint Vincent, his work as a priest in the Diocese of Scranton included serving for two years as a director of religious formation and five years as principal of a diocesan high school.

Father Killian has been active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, serving as a Council Member and as Chairman of the National Service Committee, now known as the Pentecost Today USA Board.

Please pray for Fr. Killian and the Donor Relations Team Members (Board and Council Members of NSC/Pentecost Today USA) as they minister to those whose prayer and support are at the very heart of our mission. ♦

OUR MISSION: BRING baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole Church, BUILD unity in the body of Christ, and SERVE the poor.



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